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THREE THINGS: Jets blanked in Edmonton Jets fall to 0-3 in the preseason dropping a 4-0 decision to the Oilers

By Jamie Thomas

The Winnipeg Jets dropped their first road game of the preseason as they fall 4-0 to the Edmonton Oilers. The Jets (0-3) will get right back to work as they will host the Calgary Flames at Canada Life Centre where it is expected Mark Scheifele, Kyle Connor, Gabe Vilardi, Josh Morrissey and Connor Hellebuyck will play their first game of the preseason.

NOT MUCH HELP FOR DIVINCENTIIS

Dominic DiVincentiis made his first start of the NHL preseason looking to build off his impressive 38 save performance back at the Bell Centre when the Jets prospects beat the Canadiens prospects 3-2. The Jets structure was a little loose in their own end which is to be expected with a younger roster on the ice, DiVincentiis ended up making 16 saves on 20 shots.

"We had some veterans, a couple of guys that hadn't played games yet. And there was some rust. More of our veteran guys made some mistakes that they don't usually do," said Scott Arniel.

"So it's just everybody kind of getting them, getting the rust off of from the summer, young guy still trying to, you know, show that they deserve another game."

SPECIAL TEAMS GETS SOME WORK

After the focus being on five-on-five play for the majority of training camp, special teams work began over the past couple of days. Tonight, in Edmonton, both the power play and penalty kill get some work against the Oilers. The Jets went 0-for-4 with the man advantage (with no Scheifele, Connor or Morrissey) but generated eight shots on goal with the power play. Meanwhile, the penalty kill was perfect shutting down four Oilers power plays and surrendering just one shot during (the Oilers did not dress McDavid, Draisaitl or Bouchard).

SOME EMOTION

A rare show of emotion in a preseason game with Ty Bauer and Joshua Brown dropping the gloves for an entertaining scrap in the second period that had both benches tapping the boards with their sticks. In the third period, after Edmonton made it 4-0, Logan Stanley was ambushed by multiple Oilers, and the big Jets defenceman was visibly upset with the Oilers Kasper Kapanen. After the dust settled, both players were given double minors for roughing and ten-minute misconducts.

Winnipeg Free Press

<https://www.winnipegfreepress.com/breakingnews/2025/09/26/jets-depth-players-fall-flat-in-4-0-pre-season-loss-to-oilers>

Jets' depth players fall flat in 4-0 pre-season loss to Oilers

By: Mike McIntyre

The Winnipeg Jets have reached the midway point of their six-game pre-season schedule — and the reigning Presidents' Trophy winners are still searching for their first victory.

That's no reason for panic, of course. These September contests are, by definition, exhibitions. The club has yet to dress its top forward line, top defence pair or starting goaltender for even a single shift.

Still, there wasn't much to like about their most recent outing: a flat 4-0 loss Friday in Edmonton that dropped Winnipeg's record to 0-2-1.

The Oilers sat most of their biggest stars, too, but were clearly the better team on a night when the Jets iced a roster full of depth players trying to earn jobs. In that sense, chalk it up as a swing and a miss.

"A little scrambley," is how Jets forward Morgan Barron described it in a post-game radio interview with CJOB.

"We've only got a small number of these games before we start going for real. So there's some things we've got to look at and try to learn from. Play a little bit more connected, a little bit tighter with support. I thought we were chasing the puck a lot tonight. Obviously we'll have to get that cleaned up here in the next week or two."

BUBBLE TROUBLE? Does this mean the bubble players who struggled Friday have skated their way out of contention for the opening-night roster? Not necessarily.

While Winnipeg is expected to dress a more seasoned lineup on Saturday night when they host the Calgary Flames — Connor Hellebuyck, Mark Scheifele, Kyle Connor, Gabe Vilardi, Josh Morrissey and Dylan DeMelo are all expected to make their preseason debuts — there's still two more dress rehearsals set for next week in Minnesota and Calgary.

"There are some veterans that will probably only play two games (total) and we are trying to get the kids in three, some in four games," Jets coach Scott Arniel said prior to puck drop.

"We have to see how we get through the weekend on the injuries and stuff like that. We have to thin the herd a little bit getting into next week. There are still opportunities. That is part of what I mentioned: go out there, play well and earn yourself another opportunity."

That could mean one more look for forwards Brad Lambert, Colby Barlow, Danny Zhilkin, Samuel Fagemo, Phil Di Giuseppe and David Gustafsson, who made up the Jets' bottom six against Edmonton, along with some or all of the six defencemen dressed: Logan Stanley, Ville Heinola, Isaak Phillips, Haydn Fleury, Tyrel Bauer and Ashton Sautner.

"There's some good things that happened with some young guys. We had some veterans, a couple of guys that hadn't played games yet. And there was some rust," Arniel told Jets social media following the game.

"More of our veteran guys made some mistakes that they don't usually do. So it's just everybody kind of getting the rust off from the summer, young guys still trying to show that they deserve another game. And there's some good efforts out there."

THE GOALS AGAINST: Oilers defenceman Darnell Nurse, one of the few household names in the game, opened the scoring just past the nine-minute mark with a seeing-eye shot through traffic that goaltender Domenic DiVincentiis never saw.

Josh Samanski, an undrafted free agent forward from Germany, doubled the lead late in the first after capitalizing on a brutal turnover by Vladislav Namestnikov, roofing a shot over DiVincentiis.

It was the kind of play you wouldn't expect from a veteran like Namestnikov, who along with linemates Nino Niederreiter and Alex Iafallo was making his pre-season debut.

Noah Philp, another undrafted player who has spent most of his career in the AHL, made it 3-0 early in the second by exploiting more shaky defensive-zone coverage.

Kasperi Kapanen snuffed out any comeback hopes midway through the third, burying a rebound after DiVincentiis made the initial stop.

SOME GOOD WITH THE BAD: To take a glass-half-full approach, a few positives stood out.

DiVincentiis, the second-year pro, was solid in net despite a stat line (16 saves on 20 shots) that suggests otherwise. The loss was hardly on him.

Winnipeg's new-look fourth line of Barron and free-agent additions Cole Koepke and Tanner Pearson made an impression. They generated several good chances, and Koepke drew a pair of penalties. He and Barron also helped anchor a penalty-kill unit that finished a perfect four-for-four.

"There were some good moments," said Barron. "I think probably all three of us feel like we have another level being connected and finding ways to get more chances offensively. I like the way both of those guys play, and I think as we get settled here with the group of us that's going to be playing together for the first little bit, we can be effective."

Fagemo, a free agent signing from the summer who scored 43 goals in 50 AHL games two years ago, led the way with four shots on net for the Jets and looked dangerous at times.

And tip your cap to Bauer, who went toe-to-toe with Oilers defenceman Josh Brown in a spirited tilt. Bauer is a fan favourite with the Manitoba Moose and is as tough as they come.

HOMETOWN BOY: Finally, a tip of the cap to Winnipeg's own Calvin Pickard, who stopped all 21 shots he faced to record the shutout for Edmonton. Some of his best work came with his team shorthanded as the Jets went 0-for-4 on the power play.

Pickard is in a battle with Stuart Skinner for playing time in the Oilers' crease, and an outing like this certainly won't hurt his case.

<https://www.winnipegfreepress.com/breakingnews/2025/09/26/jets-ticket-sales-continue-to-improve>

***Jets ticket sales continue to improve
Encouraging increase brought on by new package types, player signings***

By: Mike McIntyre

On the ice, the Winnipeg Jets are looking to raise a Stanley Cup. In the seats, fans can now sip from a Slurpee cup — the latest addition to Canada Life Centre's concessions and a syrupy-sweet symbol of the organization's broader push to keep fans in their seats.

"It's been very, very well received to date," Rob Mullenney, the senior vice president of ticket sales and service for True North, told the Free Press in a wide-ranging interview on Friday.

Who knew a brainstorming session aimed at boosting the box office would include adding brain freezes to the menu? But an official partnership with 7-Eleven makes plenty of sense in the Slurpee capital of the world.

That's just one of several changes this year as the Jets try to keep heating up sales which had grown cold and put them on the National Hockey League's radar.

No disrespect to frosty concoctions, but the bigger news is the team's season-ticket base, which is expected to hit 10,500 this season. That's up from 10,000 a year ago and a franchise-low of 9,500 in 2023-24 — a number that prompted an in-season visit from NHL commissioner Gary Bettman to publicly sound the alarm.

"We had a really strong renewal rate this summer of 95 per cent. We were very pleased with that. And then we built on top of that with new sales," said Mullenney, who is about to begin his second full season at the helm after coming over from the Vancouver Canucks organization.

Still, there are no victory laps at the downtown headquarters. Co-owner and chairman Mark Chipman has said the ultimate goal is to get back to a season-ticket base of 13,000 — a level not seen since the pandemic.

"We feel that we have momentum, but we're not where we need to be," Mullenney cautioned. "We need to continue to build, and that's what we're focused on."

That's more important than ever with the NHL salary cap jumping to US\$95 million this year — up from US\$83.5 million just two years ago and projected to hit US\$113.5 million by 2027-28. For a Winnipeg organization trying to remain competitive, that's a steep price to pay if the building is less than packed.

To that end, the club has revamped its approach to ticket sales. No longer are fans required to choose between just full, half or quarter-season packages. Instead, the new "Jets Passport" allows ticket holders to select which games to attend based on a set budget.

"It's our most flexible program we've ever offered," said Mullenney, noting it was a direct response to feedback they've received from both current and former customers.

Think of it like the old multi-person partnerships which were the norm around here when the NHL returned back in 2011, then largely fell apart around the time COVID struck. Now, individuals don't have to worry about finding enough friends to split a season. The Jets essentially become the partner.

There are four price levels of investment — \$750, \$1,500, \$3,000 and \$7,500 — which can be used however the fan chooses. Season-ticket totals are calculated by "equivalents," meaning, for example, selling four 10-game packages equals one full seat.

“This is an evolution within the broader sports and entertainment marketplace with ticketing. And we feel this is a really good step forward within our program for what we’re trying to do in our market,” said Mullowney.

Corporate support has been another focus. Two years ago, only about 15 per cent of the Jets’ season-ticket base was tied to businesses; now that number has climbed to north of 20 per cent. By comparison, some Canadian clubs, like the Toronto Maple Leafs, are well above 50 per cent corporate.

“It has grown, which is encouraging,” said Mullowney.

“Over the past year, when I was personally reaching out to potential (businesses), I’d learn that some actually have tickets already in their personal name. So it could be the business investment is higher. At the same time, this remains an area we are very focused on and need to continue to grow for our long-term success.

Striking now, while the proverbial iron is red hot, would seem to be a sound strategy.

The Jets are coming off a season in which they set franchise records for wins (56) and points (116), captured the Central Division, the Western Conference and the Presidents’ Trophy, and advanced to the second round of the playoffs for only the third time, thanks to the “Manitoba Miracle” in Game 7 against the St. Louis Blues.

The Jets sold out 15 straight games to end the year — the final eight in the regular season and all seven in the playoffs — while average regular-season attendance jumped to 14,366 per game, up from 13,370 the year before. Winnipeg recorded the largest year-over-year rise in crowd size of any NHL city.

“You always consider performance when talking about ticket renewals or ticket growth,” said Mullowney. “I would say it’s really been a combination of things: obviously team performance, but also customer and fan experience and positive growth there. And an enhanced sales culture around our approach and our work.”

Civic pride was on full display during the Whiteout street parties.

“We’re seeing more folks that were attending those events that are not necessarily ticket buyers today, but they were very engaged and came away with a really, really wonderful experience,” said Mullowney. “It’s about opportunity and the potential for growth we have in the future.”

Chipman is on record as saying perhaps True North took its customers for granted in the past. Those days, they hope, are long gone.

Rewards for season-ticket holders have expanded, with recent examples including attendance at Jonathan Toews’ first public media conference this summer to joining the team on the road for pre-season games in Edmonton and Calgary. Reduced concession pricing and early access to playoff tickets are also perks.

“It really comes down to it being an experience as opposed to just being a ticket. And I think that’s something we want to continue to tweak and improve,” said Mullowney.

Speaking of Toews, signing one of the most decorated player in Manitoba hockey history and playing host to his comeback story certainly doesn't hurt the cause.

"That's just another example of momentum and a really positive, encouraging thing for our market," said Mullowney.

Arena upgrades, enhanced game-day entertainment, trying to reach new fans through culture and heritage nights, and proactive outreach to former season-ticket holders are all part of the strategy to continue growth.

"We still have a lot more work to do, but we hope we can encourage more of those lapsed customers to return in the future," said Mullowney.

<https://www.winnipegfreepress.com/breakingnews/2025/09/26/i-wanted-to-continue-to-be-part-of-a-winning-culture>

***'I wanted to continue to be part of a winning culture'
Jets' Di Giuseppe jumped at opportunity to sign with team***

By: Ken Wiebe

Phil Di Giuseppe had to wait a dozen seasons as a pro hockey player before experiencing what it was like to finally reach the top of the mountain.

So, while Di Giuseppe is more than happy to discuss the fresh start he's getting with the Winnipeg Jets organization during his first training camp, you can understand why he's so appreciative of his recent run to the Calder Cup title with the Abbotsford Canucks of the American Hockey League.

"It was awesome. It took me 12 years to win a championship," said Di Giuseppe. "So, you learn that the chances are tough to come by. Everything needs to go right and you have to have all of the pieces in place to do it."

Di Giuseppe, who signed a one-year, two-way deal with the Jets on July 1, had appeared in 101 NHL games with the Vancouver Canucks during the past three seasons and at one point was skating on a line with J.T. Miller and Brock Boeser.

But the energetic winger was limited to 20 NHL games last season, while suiting up in 22 games with Abbotsford before the magical playoff run — one that included a best-of-three play-in round that went the distance.

Instead of being eliminated in late April, the Canucks followed up an incredible finish to the regular season by winning five rounds and capturing the first title in the 96th game of the campaign.

"We were a tight-knit group. I had played with those guys for parts of four years," said Di Giuseppe, who has 302 NHL games on his resumé to go along with 14 more during the Stanley Cup playoffs. "It was cool to see a lot of those young guys grow in those four years. There was a collective group of guys that had been there for four years. They kind of carried that culture that we had been building the whole time."

By the time the final buzzer had sounded with a Game 6 victory over the Charlotte Checkers, Di Giuseppe had appeared in another 24 Calder Cup playoff games — notching six goals and 11 points as an important secondary scorer that won a ton of battles and supplied plenty of leadership.

“I got sent down and we went on a run where we were something like 30-3 to end the year,” said Di Giuseppe. “You can see that something special was starting to happen. I would say that the genuine love for the game kind of erupted in me. We had 22 guys that were all in on winning. They didn’t care who scored or this or that. It’s hard to manufacture, but circling back to the point of not being in the show, winning something, even if it was in the AHL, was a very beautiful moment.”

The playoffs ended just a few days before Di Giuseppe became an unrestricted free agent and he seized the opportunity to join the Jets when they came calling on July 1.

“As soon as I got word from my agent that this was available, I jumped on it right away,” he said. “When you win something, you kind of crave it. All summer, you almost miss those do or die moments. We accomplished it, so that rush you get from it, I wanted to continue to be part of a winning culture. Obviously, here they’ve been building that for quite some time.”

Di Giuseppe will suit up in his second exhibition game tonight against the Edmonton Oilers and will start the game on a line with David Gustafsson and fellow free agent signing Sam Fagemo.

Although he’s still getting to know the player, Jets head coach Scott Arniel says Di Giuseppe has come as advertised.

“From all of the other teams he’s played for, we knew that he was a hard-nosed guy,” said Arniel. “He plays the right way, can move well. He knows his role. You talk about guys — and we have great examples on our team — but you talk about a guy who plays to his identity each practice and each game, that’s what you ask (of players). That’s what we’re expecting of you. Do that first and then hopefully the bonus side is that the goals or the other things come from that.”

Now 31, Di Giuseppe is well versed in the importance of understanding his role and adjusting to whatever situation he finds himself in — whether that’s as a regular in the NHL lineup, busting his behind as the 13th forward or serving as more of a mentor in the AHL while logging a bit more ice time.

“I will lean on my experience, wherever I am,” said Di Giuseppe. “If I’m with Winnipeg, I could help with the PK and with shutting down lines. If I get sent down (to the Manitoba Moose), just play my game and help younger guys and try to build a winning culture down there.”

Di Giuseppe, who once played on a line with former Jets forward Andrew Copp when they were with the University of Michigan Wolverines, recognizes his strengths and plans to lean into them.

“My focus, first of all, on being a pro and being a good teammate,” said Di Giuseppe. “The forecheck is my MO. I love corner work and winning battles. When I’ve been given the opportunity to penalty kill, I’ve done a really good job (with that). I take pride when you’re up 2-1, being on the ice and closing that game down. I like to score but that’s what I would consider my bread and butter.”

The Jets are the fifth organization Di Giuseppe has been a part of and he realizes the importance of doing what it takes to earn the trust and get the attention of a coaching staff — especially one that doesn't have a lot of job openings at the NHL level as a team that views itself as a Stanley Cup contender.

"You've got a new set of eyes, so you just go do what you think you're capable of doing," said Di Giuseppe, who was originally chosen in the second round (38th overall) of the 2012 NHL draft by the Carolina Hurricanes. "If you do that at a high intensity and you execute and then you let the pieces fall where they may."

LOOSE PUCKS: Jets top defence prospect Elias Salomonsson was scheduled to suit up on Friday night, but came down with an illness and was replaced in the lineup by Moose veteran Ashton Sautner. Salomonsson is one of the players in a battle for work on the blue line and Arniel said it's only a matter of time before the Swedish D-man becomes an NHL regular — though it's too early to tell when exactly that might be.

"We are trying to make him a 15-year pro, we are not trying to make him a one-year pro," said Arniel. "I don't know, it might be Game 1 against Dallas, it might be Game 20, it might be the end of the season. It might be next year, I am not sure when it will all start for him but, at the end of the day, he is a heck of a prospect that has grown through last year."

"You need that youth to come and fill the holes for you. It can't be all about free agency and trades. It has to be the young guys stepping in."

Arniel also provided an update on the status of Jets forward prospect Kieron Walton, who remains in concussion protocol "after he failed his last test." Walton was injured during the opener of the prospects showdown in Montreal earlier this month and hasn't been able to participate with the main group during training camp.

The Athletic

<https://www.nytimes.com/athletic/6652332/2025/09/27/winnipeg-jets-training-camp-prospects-playoffs/>

Are the Winnipeg Jets built for playoff hockey? Prospect timelines? Mailbag, Part 1

By Murat Ates

Sound the alarm: The Winnipeg Jets have yet to win a preseason game.

Their 0-2-1 record puts them on pace for ... just kidding! This is our training camp mailbag, where all of your questions were about job opportunities — or the lack thereof — or big-picture items that will affect the Jets' long-term plans.

You wanted to know about Winnipeg's playoff readiness. You were concerned about how the Jets stack up in terms of age, speed and even their expected levels of violence.

You really wanted to know about Elias Salomonsson, Winnipeg's other top prospects and their realistic chances of winning a job.

Note: Some questions have been lightly edited for clarity and length.

Is there any thought that any of the Jets' prospects will get a legitimate chance at a job? — Paul G.

I don't think any of Winnipeg's top prospects make the Jets roster at training camp. When I projected prospect timelines for Salomonsson, Sascha Boumedienne, Colby Barlow, Brad Lambert and more, I didn't think anyone would win a job in time for opening night.

Salomonsson, to my way of thinking, is the closest. Here's what Scott Arniel told reporters about him at hockey for all centre on Friday.

"For him, we're trying to make him a 15-year pro. We're not trying to make him a one-year pro," Arniel said. "And all these things that he learns as he moves forward, whether it's practice or exhibition games, that's all growth for him."

What's his timeline?

"I don't know. It might be Game 1 against Dallas. It might be Game 20. It might be at the end of the season. It might be next year. I'm not sure when that will all start for him, but at the end of the day, he's a heck of a prospect."

I'm not sure if that feels like a legitimate shot at making the team to every reader. I can't predict if anyone gets hurt or if Salomonsson (who's been good, but not spectacular) elevates his level to the point of winning a job outright. I think the odds of him making the team are quite low.

For some players, everything comes together at the right time to earn an NHL roster spot. For others like Ville Heinola, it's not so simple.

What is the upside for Ville Heinola at this point in his career, and is there any chance that it can still be fully realized with the Jets and not another organization? — Liam D.

I think Heinola's best-case scenario is that a team with less depth claims him on waivers, taking a chance on him the same way Minnesota did with Declan Chisholm in 2024.

I think Heinola could succeed with the Jets if:

- He passes through waivers when inevitably cut at training camp
- He excels with the Moose
- Multiple veterans get hurt
- He excels in a third-pairing role with the Jets
- The Jets are so wowed by that third-pairing excellence that they prioritize Heinola over the veterans they played instead of him when he returned from his second ankle surgery

He says all he needs is a chance. I don't think there's a chance he reaches his potential with Winnipeg, because that list has too many "ifs" in it. I'm not sure that his work with Logan Stanley on Friday helped either player's case, but I know Dean Chynoweth values depth defencemen who can play on either side.

Over the past couple of seasons, we've seen a decline in the effectiveness of Dylan DeMelo on the top pair with Josh Morrissey, which was amplified by the pressure Morrissey endured in the

playoffs. ... What are your thoughts about the Jets' need and options for improving the top pair?
— James B.

Jonathan Toews' return gets more attention, but DeMelo's ability to re-establish himself as the perfect top-pair complement for Morrissey is one of the most important questions facing Winnipeg this season. While I used to argue that DeMelo needed more opportunity, advocating for the Morrissey-DeMelo partnership prior to the Jets running with it, now I think DeMelo is in a difficult spot.

At his best, DeMelo's quick decisions and consistent 5-to-10-foot exit passes help the Jets escape pressure in the D-zone. He puts his teammates in great positions, reading the play such that the puck gets to the right player's stick — someone with time and space, in a good position. He's an intelligent defender who reads attacks well, shutting down plays with brains more than brawn. However, even at his best, DeMelo gives up size and strength in net-front battles. His underlying numbers have been markedly worse in the playoffs, with scoring chances piling up from dangerous areas.

Now 32 years old, DeMelo is at an age at which most defencemen see a steep decline in performance. His balance of strengths and weaknesses used to work out decidedly in the Jets' favour; there's a risk that last season's struggles are a warning sign more than an aberration.

Here's my plan for the Jets and DeMelo:

- Give it until January. He had a uniquely busy offseason last summer; he signed a contract with Winnipeg instead of going UFA and then had his second child. If there's any chance his middling 2024-25 was about having more on his plate during prep than it was about his ability, it would be good to find out early in the year
- Look for upgrades anyway. The Jets project to have cap space, the defence corps could use another top-end talent — ideally with size — and DeMelo is such a smart, versatile player that I expect he'd succeed further down the lineup.

Who, then? Famous right-handed defencemen are approaching UFA status — John Carlson, Brent Burns — along with Rasmus Andersson, who was a quality all-around defenceman earlier in his career. That doesn't make those players likely acquisitions (or likely upgrades, in some cases, even if acquired). I enjoy physicality, but don't know that Anaheim's Radko Gudas would help Winnipeg keep more pucks out of the net, even at playoff time. I've wondered about Chicago's Connor Murphy in the past, too, but I don't know that he's the solution.

Winnipeg may do better to target a younger right-handed defenceman — ideally, with term left on his contract — or wait for the market to develop beyond what is obvious now. An alternative approach would be to try Salomonsson by fire, starting him on the third pair instead of veteran right-shot D such as Luke Schenn or Colin Miller, with the hope that he excels — and makes progress — in a sheltered role. Dylan Samberg crushed third-pairing minutes for a season before emerging as a top-four, shutdown stalwart last year.

I think Winnipeg is more likely to let Salomonsson percolate in the AHL, meaning the solution is either a brilliant resurgence from DeMelo or a trade for someone I can't think of quite yet.

Are the Jets too nice? I feel like the Jets roster has a lot of class and plays a relatively respectful game, which is great given their role in the community and as role models, but is it holding them back from the ultimate goal? — Dagger 7.

I included this among the most burning questions facing the Jets this season. In that piece, I aimed for a measured discussion. Here, I will aim for a hotter take.

It has nothing to do with their involvement in the community, but the Jets, as we know them today, are too nice for playoff hockey.

Nino Niederreiter, Adam Lowry and DeMelo led the Jets in hits last season. Depth players such as Schenn, Brandon Tanev, Jaret Anderson-Dolan and Parker Ford led them in hits per minute. Winnipeg got bullied by St. Louis. It got bullied in front of the net against Colorado (as well as beaten by speed). There's room for improvement in this area of the game.

To be clear: I wouldn't advise the Jets to go out and acquire a replacement-level enforcer to play a feature role. They're a really good team that's given up the fewest goals against in back-to-back seasons, and I don't think they plan to follow Toews' homecoming with one for Ryan Reaves. I do think they'd be better off if more of their top-end players played closer to the edge. Any incoming truculence has to be able to play.

With the additions of Toews, Gustav Nyquist and Tanner Pearson and the departure of Nikolaj Ehlers and Rasmus Kupari, is this possibly one of the oldest and slowest rosters in the league? And how do you think that will translate in the modern game? — Grant P.

If Winnipeg opens the season with 13 forwards, eight defencemen, two goalies, and one Lowry on injured reserve, as I'm projecting, the Jets' average age will be 30.2 years old. Last year, that would have tied Winnipeg for the second-oldest team in the NHL. It's not all bad news. Last year's oldest team — Edmonton — made the Stanley Cup Final for the second straight season.

Still, there are questions about Winnipeg's speed — even if head coach Scott Arniel hasn't been worried about it when I've asked him at camp.

"We can play whatever game gets thrown at us," he said in response to a question about playoff hockey. "We'll obviously try to dictate the game, but if it's a big, heavy game, we have the roster for that. If it's a fast game, we're still there."

Let's poke at some numbers and make some guesses, though. Kyle Connor, Mark Scheifele and Gabriel Vilardi are back together this season. Lowry and Niederreiter will eventually find each other, and their line's speed won't have changed too much, whether it's Vladislav Namestnikov or Alex Iafallo playing on their wing.

So really it's about Cole Perfetti-Toews-Nyquist vs. Ehlers-Namestnikov-Perfetti — a line that beat its opponents 24-14 at five-on-five last season. If Winnipeg's new second line breaks even at five-on-five — and, for some reason, there are no other changes to any other line's stats — the Jets will finish with the NHL's second-best goal differential.

Now, there might be other impacts of a loss of speed. It's possible one of the lines gets so slow that it ends up making the next line over the boards start in its own zone more often than not, creating a bigger downstream effect.

I think Winnipeg's age and pace are noteworthy items — definitely something we should watch. I still think the Jets are a good, playoff-bound team.

Global Winnipeg

<https://globalnews.ca/news/11453630/winnipeg-jets-lose-4-0-in-edmonton-in-third-preseason-game/>

Winnipeg Jets lose 4-0 in Edmonton in third pre-season game

By Christian Aumell & Russ Hobson Global News

Wins and losses are not that big of a deal in the pre-season, which is a good thing for the Winnipeg Jets.

The Jets lost their third straight game to begin the exhibition slate, dropping a 4-0 decision to the Oilers in Edmonton on Friday night.

With both teams resting their big guns, the Oilers scored twice in the first frame and added a goal in each of the final two periods for the four-goal win.

While the shots were fairly close at 21-20 in favour of the Jets, that really didn't tell the whole story as the Jets barely had any grade-A chances.

"We had some veterans, a couple guys that hadn't played games yet and there was some rust," said Jets head coach Scott Arniel. "More of our veteran guys made some mistakes that they don't usually do, so, it's just everybody kinda getting the rust off from the summer, young guys still trying to show they deserve another game, and there was some good efforts out there."

Story continues below advertisement

"Yeah, I don't want to lose games but there's some positives there and also some things we got to work on."

The Jets only dressed a handful of players from last season's roster, and Connor McDavid and Leon Draisaitl both sat out for Edmonton.

Both teams only had five shots on goal in a mostly uneventful third stanza.

"It was a little scrambly," said Jets forward Morgan Barron. "I'm sure there'll be some things we can look at and try to learn from, playing a little bit more connected, and a little bit tighter on support. It just kinda felt like we were chasing the puck a lot tonight, so obviously we'll have to get that cleaned up in the next week or two."

The Jets have three pre-season games left to work out some of the kinks, and they're expected to dress a more veteran lineup on Saturday against Calgary as Mark Scheifele, Kyle Connor, and Gabriel Vilardi have yet to make an appearance in the pre-season.

"There's a pretty big roster coming in tomorrow night," Arniel said. "Our last three — it's going to be a lot more of getting down to sorta where the battles are for positions and who's going to be on our roster at the end of camp. The last three games will be a lot of our top guys."

"We got a couple more days here to keep pushing and get things really sorted out," said Barron. "I know everyone is excited to go for real here."

Defenceman Elias Salomonsson was supposed to be in the Jets' lineup but he didn't make the trip after coming down with an illness and Flin Flon's Ashton Sautner dressed instead.

Just shy of the midway point of the first, one of the few veterans in the Oilers' lineup got on the scoreboard. Darnell Nurse took a pass in transition and blasted a shot from the point that went off the post and in to beat Domenic DiVincentiis at the 9:12 mark.

After a failed power play by the Jets, Edmonton doubled their lead thanks to a miscue from one of Winnipeg's veterans.

Vladislav Namestnikov collected a loose puck in front of his own net and skated with it behind the net. As he skated towards the corner, he tried to send a pass to Sautner on the near boards, but it was picked off by David Tomasek. He fed a wide-open Josh Samanski who roofed it past DiVincentiis from in close to make it 2-0 after 20 minutes.

Edmonton added to their lead early in the second. As the Jets went for a line change, Troy Stecher took the puck in the neutral zone and dashed into the Winnipeg end, skating it in fairly deep before dropping it back to Noah Philp. Using Danny Zhilkin as a screen, Philp ripped a shot past DiVincentiis to make it 3-0 at the 2:26 mark.

Winnipeg was unable to generate much in terms of offence in the period, with their best chance coming on a shorthanded 2-on-1 with Morgan Barron and Cole Koepke, who were perhaps the most impressive Jets forwards on the night.

The standout moment in the middle frame was when Tyrel Bauer dropped the gloves with Josh Brown and the two engaged in a long and spirited tilt.

Edmonton made it 4-0 at the 9:50 mark of the third thanks to a major defensive breakdown in the Jets' end. The puck found its way to Andrew Mangiapane in front of the net, and two Jets defenders went to him as he shot the puck. Nobody was around to deal with a rebound as Kasperi Kapanen calmly collected it and roofed it past a helpless DiVincentiis.

Winnipeg managed to get 21 shots on goal but none of them beat Calvin Pickard, while DiVincentiis stopped 16 shots in defeat.

The Jets will play their third and final home pre-season game on Saturday night against Calgary. Pregame coverage on 680 CJOB begins at 5 p.m. with game action starting just after 7 p.m.

<https://globalnews.ca/news/11452477/analysis-winnipeg-jets-kyle-connor-contract/>

ANALYSIS: No panic in Winnipeg for Kyle Connor's contract

By John Shannon CJOB

The noise in Edmonton and Minnesota about their superstars and their contracts have dominated the news cycle for the past few months.

Kirill Kaprizov and Connor McDavid have earned the right to decide when (and if) they sign with the clubs. In Winnipeg, the story of Kyle Connor's contract situation appears to be a different story.

Following his career high of 97 points, and with one year to go in his deal, Connor and the Winnipeg Jets have done an amazing job of playing down the whole issue.

Both Mark Chipman and Kevin Cheveldayoff have been vague, yet positive about an extension, and Connor has basically said the business of hockey is for others to discuss. And funnily enough, there appears to be little or no panic in the market to get it done.

The team loves Connor, and he enjoys Winnipeg. His personality and lifestyle fit well into the market. Of the four superstars looking for new contracts (Kaprizov, McDavid, Jack Eichel and Connor), this one in Winnipeg would appear to make the most sense for both sides. Hence, no panic.

It also reflects the attitude that this organization has for its players. Last week, Chipman told me that the biggest attribute this team has is family. He believes the team culture is such a strength, it helps retain players and create a winning attitude.

It's that family attitude that helped resign Scheifele and Hellebuyck ... and it's the family that helped the team, and most importantly, Scheifele get through the tragedy surrounding game six in Dallas last spring after the passing of his father.

The family attitude will help the team keep Connor. The Jets have handled the negotiations well, and it should pay dividends for the team in the long run.