

WinnipegJets.com

<https://www.nhl.com/jets/news/topic/Barron%20scored%20lone%20goal%20for%20Winnipeg,%20Hellebuyck%20made%2031%20saves/jets-play-third-straight-ot-game-lose-to-sharks>

***Jets play third straight OT game, lose to Sharks
Barron scored lone goal for Winnipeg, Hellebuyck made 31 saves***

By Jamie Thomas

Michael Misa scored at 1:40 of overtime to lift the San Jose Sharks past the Winnipeg Jets on Sunday afternoon. Morgan Barron scored the lone goal for the Jets who got four out of a possible six points on their three-game road trip on the west coast. Connor Hellebuyck made 31 saves in his second straight start. The Jets will return home for an eight game homestand that starts Tuesday against the Chicago Blackhawks.

OVERTIME AGAIN

Winnipeg has now seen three consecutive games end in overtime after Sunday afternoons loss in San Jose. The Jets have now posted a 3-10 record in overtime this season, including a 2-8 record in games decided in three-on-three and a 1-2 record in games decided in the shootout. Michael Misa snuck by both Adam Lowry and Haydn Fleury and beat Connor Hellebuyck short side for his first career overtime goal and first career game winner 1:40 into the extra period. Winnipeg's ten overtime losses this season are the most since 2021-22 (11).

"Yeah, it's usually how it goes, you get one chance one way, and it goes down the other way," said Kyle Connor who had a great chance in OT.

"And unfortunately, they were able to score on that one and we weren't able to get another one. That's just how it goes sometimes."

MISSED OPPORTUNITY

The Sharks had played yesterday afternoon when they beat the Edmonton Oilers on home ice outlasting the Oilers 5-4. The Jets were a little sloppy in the opening period which feed into the Sharks transition, Scott Arniel was happy with his group's effort in the middle frame but in the third period Winnipeg made it easier for the younger Sharks especially during the first three shifts.

"We gave up a breakaway, we gave up a 3 on 2 and then we gave up the 2 on 1 which became the goal," said Arniel.

"That's just...if you're trying to gain points, you're on the road, you can't cheat it like that. We fed that. We've just got to be more mindful of that."

BEAR GREAT GAME

Morgan Barron, Cole Koepke and Tanner Pearson had themselves quite the afternoon, as the trio combined for seven shots and the Jets only goal against San Jose. In the first period, the Jets fourth line opened the scoring when Pearson spotted Barron racing through the neutral zone, and he beat Alex Nedeljkovic over the glove hand of the Sharks goaltender.

"It was a great play by my wingers, honestly," said Barron.

"They kind of blow it up after I lose the faceoff and all of a sudden they turned a lost faceoff for us into a win and it was a neutral zone transition and I kind of shot it and (it went in the net)."

Barron had a chance to win the game in the third period on a shorthanded break, but Nedeljkovic got over with his right pad. The 27-year-old was a big part of the penalty kill which was a perfect four-for-four.

NHL.com

<https://www.nhl.com/news/winnipeg-jets-san-jose-sharks-game-recap-march-1-2026>

Misa's OT goal caps Sharks comeback against Jets Forward wins at 1:40 after Smith gets tying goal early in 3rd

By Max Miller

SAN JOSE -- Michael Misa scored at 1:40 of overtime to give the San Jose Sharks a 2-1 win against the Winnipeg Jets at SAP Center on Sunday.

Misa took the puck into the zone and split two Winnipeg defenders before beating Connor Hellebuyck blocker side.

"First shift I ever got in OT and tried to make the most of it," Misa said. "[William Eklund] made a nice drop pass to me, and I figured I'd just wheel in there and see what happens. Puck ended up right back on my stick."

Misa, who was the No. 2 pick in the 2025 NHL Draft, has four points (two goals, two assists) in three games since returning from the Olympic break.

"He's earned it. He has earned it by the way he's played," San Jose coach Ryan Warsofsky said. "That's something we talked way back in training camp. You earn your ice, you earn your spot on this team. He certainly has earned the ice he's getting."

Will Smith scored the tying goal early in the third period for the Sharks (29-25-4), who were coming off a 5-4 win against the Edmonton Oilers on Saturday after going 0-4-1 in their previous five games. Alex Nedeljkovic made 27 saves in his first start since Jan. 31.

Morgan Barron scored the lone goal for the Jets (23-26-10), who were coming off a 5-4 overtime loss at the Anaheim Ducks on Friday. Hellebuyck made 31 saves.

"I thought the first period we had a few high turnovers coming into their zone. I thought in the second we were a lot better in that," Winnipeg coach Scott Arniel said. "Bad start in the third period. For our veteran group to let that happen, that was embarrassing."

Barron gave Winnipeg a 1-0 lead 2:44 into the first period. While skating down the left wing on a 2-on-1, Barron beat Nedeljkovic over his glove.

"Just a great play by my wingers to blow it up after I lose a face-off. All of a sudden, they turned a lost face-off for us into a win," Barron said.

Smith tied it 1-1 at 1:47 of the third period. Macklin Celebrini sent Collin Graf and Smith in on a 2-on-1 before Graf's shot from the left slot rebounded off Hellebuyck to Smith, who knocked the puck out of the air and into the net.

"Just a 2-on-1 developed, and we wanted to have a shooting mentality, and it popped up in the air and I got a piece of it," Smith said.

NOTES: Misa scored his first career game-winning goal. He is the third teenager in Sharks history to score an overtime goal, joining Celebrini (three) and Jeff Friesen (one).

Associated Press

<https://www.tsn.ca/nhl/article/misa-scores-in-overtime-as-sharks-beat-jets/>

Misa scores in overtime as Sharks beat Jets

By The Associated Press

SAN JOSE, Calif. (AP) — Michael Misa scored 1:40 into overtime, and the San Jose Sharks topped the Winnipeg Jets 2-1 on Sunday for their second straight win.

Misa scored for the second straight game when he drove down the slot before beating Winnipeg goaltender Connor Hellebuyck. It was the fourth goal of the season for the No. 2 overall pick in last year's NHL draft.

Will Smith also scored for San Jose, and Alex Nedeljkovic stopped 27 shots. The Sharks had lost five in a row before Saturday's 5-4 victory over Edmonton.

Morgan Barron scored for Winnipeg, and Hellebuyck finished with 31 saves. The Jets lost for fourth time in five games.

Barron put Winnipeg in front when he beat Nedeljkovic from the left circle 2:44 into the first. It was Barron's first goal since Dec. 21 and No. 8 on the season.

Smith tied it at 1 with his 18th goal 1:47 into the third. Macklin Celebrini picked up his team-high 54th assist on the play.

Hellebuyck and the Jets lost their second straight in overtime after falling 5-4 at Anaheim on Friday night in the goalie's first game since backstopping the United States to Olympic gold.

Up next

Both teams are at home on Tuesday night. The Jets face the Chicago Blackhawks, and the Sharks take on the Montreal Canadiens.

Winnipeg Free Press

<https://www.winnipegfreepress.com/breakingnews/2026/03/01/more-jets-ot-troubles-in-loss-to-sharks>

More Jets OT troubles in loss to Sharks Second straight setback after 60 minutes caps three-game trip

By: Ken Wiebe

SAN JOSE, Calif. — Close, but not quite close enough.

That will go down as the overarching theme for this three-game road trip for the Winnipeg Jets after closing the swing out with a 2-1 overtime loss to the San Jose Sharks on Sunday afternoon at SAP Center.

For the second time in as many games, the Jets were unable to bring home a lead after two periods.

As a result, they're taking home four of six points as they slipped to 23-26-10 for the season.

"I really believe that should have been six of six points on the road," said Jets head coach Scott Arniel. "But at the end of the day we've got to go home and take care of business now."

The Jets open an eight-game homestand on Tuesday against the Chicago Blackhawks.

Although the Jets were pretty stingy through two periods, they were loose to start the third period, allowing a breakaway for Philipp Kurashev that was stopped and a pair of odd-man rushes, the second of which resulted in the tying goal for Will Smith.

"That start to the third period, the first three shifts, for our veteran group to let that happen... that was embarrassing," said Arniel, who was visibly frustrated. "If you're trying to gain points and you're on the road, you can't cheat like that. We fed that. We've just got to be more mindful of that."

Rookie Michael Misa ended the three-on-three session at 1:40 of overtime.

"Yeah, not bad. I definitely thought we left a couple out there, having that lead in Anaheim, dropping that one, and then this was definitely a winnable game," said Jets left-winger Kyle Connor, asked about the trip as a whole. "So, we've got to stay hungry. And we're getting points here, but we're not at the luxury of just getting one point right now."

Let's take a closer look at this one:

EXTRA TIME WOES – For the 10th time in the past 11 games that went beyond regulation, the Jets left a second point on the table.

The lone victory in that scenario came on Wednesday against the Vancouver Canucks when Cole Perfetti scored in overtime.

For a team that's trying to stay in the playoff chase, the inability to cash in during three-on-three action or the shootout has massive implications on where the Jets find themselves in the standings.

Arniel has tried a number of different combinations in overtime, but the winning formula has been hard to find.

When asked about the differences between the outcomes at three-on-three this season and the past several, Arniel gave a quick, yet pointed answer.

"Personnel," said Arniel. "Personnel has a lot to do with it."

Connor also weighed in with some thoughts on the subject.

"Yeah, it's usually how it goes, you get one chance one way and it goes down the other way," said Connor, who had the best chance in overtime for the Jets. "Unfortunately, they were able to score on that one and we weren't able to get another one. That's just how it goes sometimes."

THE SLUMP BUSTER – Jets forward Morgan Barron got things started in the first period, taking a pass from Tanner Pearson before streaking in and beating Alex Nedeljkovic with a wrist shot high to the glove side.

For Barron, it was his eighth goal of the season but first in 21 games.

Barron had another glorious chance to put the Jets back on top during the third period, bursting in on a shorthanded break but he was robbed by Nedeljkovic on the play.

"Just trying to beat him to the post," said Barron. "I came in with a good head of steam. He made a good save on it and that is a big one. Kind of one I would like to have back."

Barron has been used primarily as the fourth line centre this season, but he's on the verge of another 10-goal campaign and is making a case for an expanded role.

"He's been playing great for us all year," said Connor. "He puts in a lot of work. And the (penalty) kill was great (on Sunday) and he was a big part of that. And you see the type of skill that he has to get that shot off in his first goal."

The Jets penalty kill finished four-for-four, though the power play was zero-for-three.

THE KEY PLAY – Misa snuck a shot past Connor Hellebuyck on the short side at 1:40 of overtime.

THE THREE STARS

Michael Misa, Sharks, Delivered the decisive goal.

Morgan Barron, Jets, Scored the lone goal for visitors.

William Eklund, Sharks, Assisted on game-winner, had five shots on goal.

THE DEBUT AND RETURN – Walker Duehr made his Jets debut, skating mostly on the third line with Jonathan Toews and Gustav Nyquis.

Duehr used his speed effectively and got in on the forecheck, finishing with 14 shifts for 8:20 of action.

It's been a productive season with the Moose for Duehr, who has 12 goals and 26 points (to tie his career high) in 39 games.

Duehr, who signed a one-year deal as an unrestricted free agent on July 2, is one of the few right-handed shooting wingers in the organization, so it wouldn't be a surprise to see him get a longer run to show what he can do.

"You see his size, you see his speed. He gets in, he gets in heavy on the forecheck," said Arniel. "Just him getting comfortable again, kind of playing up here, that will certainly help."

The Jets made one other change to their skaters, inserting defenceman Haydn Fleury into the lineup for the first time since he crashed heavily into the end boards in a game against the Vegas Golden Knights on Jan. 6.

Fleury was used mostly on the third pairing with Luke Schenn, though he did see some brief time running the second power play unit and took a shift in overtime, finishing with two hits and a blocked shot in 12:47 of ice time.

EXTRA, EXTRA – Jets goalie Connor Hellebuyck made 31 saves in his second start back after the Olympic break. Hellebuyck wasn't made available to the media during the past several days since he rejoined the team and he's expected to speak about his Olympic experience and visit to the White House early this week.

Jets forward Vladislav Namestnikov is officially listed as week-to-week after suffering a lower-body injury early in the second period of Friday's game.

The Jets lone healthy scratch was Ville Heinola, as Kale Clague was reassigned to the Manitoba Moose of the American Hockey League prior to the game. Don't be surprised to see the Jets recall a forward at some point prior to Tuesday's game.

There was an interesting name on the waiver wire on Sunday in winger Andrew Mangiapane, who has endured a frustrating season with the Edmonton Oilers, with seven goals and 14 points in 52 games. The Jets were one of the teams linked to Mangiapane in free agency this past summer and given the injuries up front to Namestnikov and Nino Niederreiter, he could be a consideration. The soon-to-be 30-year-old has one more season left on his current contract with an AAV of US \$3.6 million. Mangiapane has 130 goals and 257 points in 550 NHL games with the Calgary Flames, Washington Capitals and Oilers, plus 82 playoff games on his resume.

The Oilers also placed defenceman Alec Regula on waivers on Sunday. Regula, a right-handed shot, is 6-foot-4, 211 pounds and moves pretty well, so he could draw interest from a team like the Jets as well for a third pairing role. Regula, 25, has one goal, four points and 51 penalty minutes in 51 NHL games.

Winnipegger Ryan Reaves was scratched against the Jets, but the rugged right-winger is a popular member of the Sharks. Reaves has three goals in 47 games with the Sharks and he's up to 959 career NHL games in his quest to eclipse 1,000.

Winnipeg Sun

https://www.winnipeg.sun.com/sports/winnipeg_jets/winnipeg-jets-bitten-by-the-ot-bug-lose-2-1-to-the-sharks/article_8e6af9ca-7774-4cfd-b3fb-442d69a63b85.html

Winnipeg Jets bitten by the OT bug, lose 2-1 to the Sharks

By Gordon Anderson

Michael Misa scored the game-winner as the San Jose Sharks beat the Winnipeg Jets 2-1 in overtime on Sunday afternoon.

Misa split between Haydn Fleury and Adam Lowry, before his tight angled shot beat Connor Hellebuyck to the short side at 1:40.

The Sharks have now won nine-straight overtime games. The Jets have won two overtime games this season against eight losses.

“Yeah, it’s usually how it goes, you get one chance one way, and it goes down the other way and unfortunately, they were able to score on that one and we weren’t able to get another one,” Kyle Connor told reporters in San Jose. “That’s just how it goes sometimes.”

The Jets gathered four points on their three-game road trip. Every game on the trip went into overtime. Cole Perfetti scored the winner against the Vancouver Canucks on Wednesday, and Chris Kreider scored for Anaheim on Friday night. Winnipeg’s road record is 11-15-5.

The Jets held a 1-0 advantage heading into the third period, but Will Smith tied the game at 1:47 when he bunted home a rebound from a Collin Graf shot on goal.

The Jets dropped to 16-3-6 when leading after two periods of play. The Sharks improved to 5-19-1 when losing after 40 minutes. The Jets also held a one-goal lead, 2-1, against the Ducks on Friday night.

More importantly, in the chase for the final wildcard spot in the Western Conference, the Jets are nine points behind the Seattle Kraken for the final wildcard spot heading into league action on Sunday night. The Sharks are three points behind Seattle. The club has 23 games remaining in the regular season.

Morgan Barron scored for the Jets. (23-26-10). The goal was Barron’s first in 21 games. Coming into the game, the Jets had the fourth worst third period goal differential in the league at –19.

Hellebuyck (13-16-9) stopped 31 shots in the loss. The Jets number one netminder has lost eight straight overtime games this season.

As of game time, Macklin Celebrini had scored 42-points more than the second leading point getter on the team in Smith, who had 39 points. That point differential between players on the same team leads the league. Coming into the game, the Sharks (29-25-4) had the third worst third period goal differential in the NHL at –20.

Alex Nedeljkovic (11-9-2) turned aside 27 of 28 shots. He stopped one shot in overtime.

The Jets begin an eight-game homestand on Tuesday night when the Chicago Blackhawks come to town.

Ice Chips

Kale Clague, Ville Heinola, and Vlad Namestnikov were scratched. Namestnikov is listed as week-to-week with a lower-body injury. He collided with Adam Lowry early in the second period against the Anaheim Ducks on Friday night.

"There is a chance that maybe it is one of those things that heals a bit quicker," Jets head coach Scott Arniel told reporters in Anaheim on Saturday afternoon. "So, we will just get him home, get him looked at, and take it from there."

Namestnikov logged 3:51 of ice time over six shifts. His last shift ended at 1:38.

Debut long over Duehr

Walker Duehr made his Jets debut on Sunday.

Wearing No. 71, Duehr had one legitimate opportunity in the first period when he took the puck hard to the net off the right wing and went straight through Nedeljkovic. In that way, he did exactly what he said he would do with his pre-game comments.

"I just want to play my game, play a simple game, fast, hard, and be disruptive out there," he said. (I want to) be physical, be good in my own end and play a simple and fast game."

Duehr was credited with two hits and one shot on goal. He logged 8:20 of ice time.

"I think he's earned it," Arniel said. "He's been up here and been able to practice last week and was helpful for him. We'll throw him in there tomorrow and let him go out and do what he does best."

The Jets promoted the South Dakota resident on Feb. 17.

Duehr's last NHL game came as a member of the Sharks, when they played the Calgary Flames in February of 2025.

By the numbers

Jets netminder Eric Comrie has faced a total of 523 shots through 20 games played this season. In five-on-five situations, he has faced 420 shots. He has a .910 save percentage on shots against at five-on-five and faces an average of 27.8 shots per game at five-on-five ... Colin Miller has registered the hardest shot for the Jets this season, 102.47 miles (164.91 km) per hour shot against the Washington Capitals back in November. The shot is the sixth hardest shot in the league this season. Of his 15 shots on goal, three of them were clocked at 100 mph (160 km) or greater ... As a team, the Jets have skated 2,630.7 miles (4233.70 km) this season. As a team, they skate an average of 9.16 miles (14.74 km) per game. As of game time against the Sharks, Mark Scheifele skated a total of 203.40 miles (327.34 km). Josh Morrissey is second on the team with 203.21 miles (327.03 km) skated, playing in three fewer games than Scheifele.

https://www.winnipegssun.com/sports/that-was-embarrassing-arniel-on-jets-ot-loss-in-san-jose/article_a988afca-5b38-48b9-bf52-2bf47aa17a40.html

'That was embarrassing;' Arniel on Jets OT loss in San Jose

By Gordon Anderson

The Jets head coach didn't mince words in the minutes following a 2-1 overtime loss to the San Jose Sharks on Sunday afternoon.

"That start to the third period, the first three shifts, for our veteran group to let that happen...we talked about it, that was embarrassing," Scott Arniel told reporters in San Jose.

The Jets held a 1-0 advantage heading into the third period, but Will Smith tied the game at 1:47 when he bunted home a rebound from a Collin Graf shot on Connor Hellebuyck.

The Smith equalizer was the result of an odd man rush, just one of several in the early stages of the period.

Arniel was noticeably irked with his comments minutes after Michael Misa buried the Jets with a short-side marker on Hellebuyck at 1:40 of the extra session.

"We gave up a breakaway, we gave up a 3-on-2 and then we gave up the 2-on-1, which became the goal," Arniel said. "If you're trying to gain points, you're on the road, you can't cheat it like that. We fed that. We've just got to be more mindful of that."

Though Arniel didn't point a finger at any group of players in particular, the folks over at the NHL website certainly have the information available to those with the inquiring minds.

Adam Lowry, Cole Perfetti and Alex Lafallo started the third period, giving way to the Mark Scheifele, Kyle Connor and Gabe Vilardi unit. Connor had been on the ice for 1:00 prior to the goal, Scheifele for 1:19 and Vilardi for 1:02.

Either way, all six players had an equal hand in giving the Sharks momentum early on.

The Sharks improved to 5-19-1 when losing after 40 minutes, and the Jets dropped to 16-3-6 when leading after two periods of play. The Jets held a 2-1 lead after 40 minutes against the Anaheim Ducks on Friday night and lost 5-4 on Chris Kreider's overtime goal.

The Jets are 1-10 in their last 11 games that have gone beyond regulation this season.

"(San Jose is) a really skilled team, and they want to use their speed, and they want to go," Morgan Barron said when asked about the start of the third period. "It happened a few times throughout the game too. It is not just those first three or four shifts in the third period that kind of had an emphasis. We know the style of hockey we need to play and we kind of got away from it for stretches."

Having said that, the Jets must muster more than one goal against a team that is 26th in the league in goals against, surrendering 201.

The Sharks had lost five of six games coming in, giving up 21 goals in those games. Before game time, San Jose was third worst in the league with a - 20 third-period goal differential. To be fair, the Jets were fourth worst at -19.

Based on those numbers alone, it was likely one of these teams was going to give it up. It was the Jets this time.

As it seems to be going for the locals this season, and certainly in the last two games on the road trip, they are making just enough mistakes to lose, while not scoring enough to overcome mistakes

“We got a little bit loose and gave up some chances and Hellebuyck made some big saves, but it is going to be tough to win games when you are not scoring more than one goal,” Barron said. “If we are going to play like that, we have to be really stingy defensively.”

Barron’s goal, which staked the Jets to a one-goal lead at 2:44 of the first period, was his eighth of the season and his first in 21 games.

“It was a great play by my wingers, honestly,” Barron said. “They kind of blow it up after I lose the faceoff and all of a sudden, they turned a lost faceoff for us into a win, and it was a neutral zone transition and I kind of shot it and (it went in the net).”

A successful trip?

The Jets grabbed four of a possible six points on the three city-trip.

“We left a couple out there, having that lead in Anaheim, dropping that one, and then this was definitely a winnable game,” Connor said. “We have to stay hungry. We’re getting points here, but we’re not at the luxury of just getting one point right now.”

Every game on the trip went into overtime. Cole Perfetti scored the winner against the Vancouver Canucks, prior to Kreider’s dagger and Misa’s winner. Winnipeg’s overall road record is 11-15-5.

“That should have been six out of six points on the road,” Arniel said. “But at the end of the day, we’ve got to go home and take care of business now.”

The Jets begin an eight-game homestand on Tuesday night when the Chicago Blackhawks come to town.

The Athletic

<https://www.nytimes.com/athletic/7077700/2026/03/02/winnipeg-jets-trade-deadline-stays-goes/>

Winnipeg Jets 2026 trade deadline decisions: Who stays and who goes?

By Murat Ates

There is no question that the Winnipeg Jets should be sellers at this year’s trade deadline.

It’s impossible to watch their performance this season — including the three games they’ve played since the Olympic break — and believe in a miraculous run to the playoffs. They’re

simply too far back in the standings, too beat up in terms of injuries, and not nearly good enough to run the table from now through season's end.

But how much will they sell?

If you're looking for a full teardown, prepare to be disappointed. As much as outside observers can advocate that the Jets should recoup assets for as many UFAs as possible, acquiring draft picks and then packaging them in an effort to pick more useful veterans for next seasons' team, Winnipeg appears likely to remain patient.

Will they sign Logan Stanley or shop him? How likely are they to trade Luke Schenn, Tanner Pearson, and Gustav Nyquist? And what are the odds they move on from prospects looking for playing time, like Brad Lambert or Ville Heinola?

Today, we sort through Winnipeg's roster from top to bottom, dividing them into tiers based on my read of the Jets' point of view.

Who's untouchable and who's headed out the door?

Untouchable core players

Connor Hellebuyck

Winnipeg's franchise goalie stole an Olympic gold medal, then visited the White House and spoke to Jets in-house media about the experience. Not every Jets fan agreed with the decision, but that's no cause for Winnipeg to part ways with its single biggest difference-maker. Hellebuyck has five years left on his \$8.0 million AAV contract and the Jets are intent on returning to the playoffs during that window. He's not going anywhere.

Josh Morrissey

Josh Morrissey has two years left on the \$6.25 million AAV contract that he's crushed for several seasons now. He's emerged as a perennial top-10 recipient for Norris Trophy votes, made Team Canada at the 4-Nations Faceoff and again at the Olympics, and is one point away from tying Dustin Byfuglien for most points by a defenceman in franchise (and Winnipeg) history. If the club's oft-repeated "Jet for life" phrase applies to anyone at all, it applies to Morrissey too.

Mark Scheifele

Mark Scheifele's contract matches Hellebuyck's, meaning five more years at \$8.0 million AAV. He's on pace to eclipse the 87-point career high he established last year — and come awfully close to 100 points by season's end. Team Canada may not believe in his all-around game — and Paul Maurice's famous "captain of his team, multiple Cups, statue outside the building" quote may not come true in the end but Scheifele is part of the Jets' foundation.

Kyle Connor

Winnipeg signed Kyle Connor to an eight-year, \$12 million contract extension in the fall. You can make a case that \$12 million is too expensive for a player whose value comes predominantly from point production, but no one would listen: Winnipeg drafted, developed, and then retained its star scorer with an eye on keeping him for the long haul.

Secondary core: No one's going anywhere

Adam Lowry

Winnipeg's captain wouldn't be untouchable in every market but he's a foundational piece of the Jets on and off the ice in Winnipeg. The team is playoff-bound the moment the 32-year-old

centre returns to the two-way excellence of years past. Hip surgery recoveries take time and Lowry will ideally be back at his best before his \$5.0 million AAV kicks in next season. (If not, his five-year contract isn't going to age well.)

Gabriel Vilardi

Gabriel Vilardi proved this season that he's not solely a product of time spent with Connor and Scheifele. In limited minutes apart from the top trio, Vilardi was productive alongside various combinations of Lowry, Jonathan Toews, and Cole Perfetti. That's a big deal — and could make Vilardi a driver of second line success in the future — and cements his importance to this Jets core. He turns 27 this summer and Winnipeg needs more players at his age to play at his level.

Dylan Samberg

Dylan Samberg is Winnipeg's best bet at an elite shutdown defenceman. At his best, he's a player whose reads and defensive intelligence match his physical ability to shut down attacks and get the puck going the other way. It hasn't always been that way this season — Samberg has won his minutes with Neal Pionk but no other partner — but Samberg's autumn was derailed by injury and there's more to his game than what we've seen at times this season.

Neal Pionk

Neal Pionk is Winnipeg's No. 2 defenceman in terms of all-around usage and Samberg's most consistent partner on Winnipeg's second pair. His point production has suffered this season, but there are good reasons for that. Consider that Pionk has played 200 minutes compared to Morrissey's 523 minutes with Winnipeg's top line — and then consider the degree to which Winnipeg has been a one-line team. He's going to be back next season and then some.

The next wave, almost definitely staying put

Cole Perfetti

Don't read into the Cole Perfetti trade rumours. When a team struggles, it is normal for rival teams to inquire about pieces that may have value — and, if Winnipeg is trying to add prime-aged players who might help for several seasons to come, Perfetti is perhaps the only sensible asset for teams to ask for in return. Perfetti is a priority for the Jets this offseason. Note that the Jets' youngest regular is only two years away from UFA eligibility — Winnipeg needs to offer Perfetti term, whether during this summer's RFA negotiations or next.

Elias Salomonsson

There are no Elias Salomonsson trade rumours, nor should there be. Winnipeg isn't rich in prospects with top-four potential, nor is it typical for them to give 21-year-old defencemen the kind of NHL experience he's picking up with Morrissey and Pionk injured. Salomonsson scored his first goal against Anaheim this week and has likely earned a full-time job in the fall.

Morgan Barron

It's dangerous to treat 27-year-old players like prospects with exciting upside. That said, Barron's size and speed combine with limited usage to make some observers wonder what he might do further up the lineup — especially after a surprisingly hot start to the season offensively. Note that Barron is set to become a UFA next summer. It's hard to imagine Winnipeg moving on from Barron early, but the extra year left on his \$1.85 million contract would add to his on-ice value, making him an appealing asset.

Veterans with term: Perhaps more unmovable than untouchable

Alex Lafallo

All five players in this section are veterans with at least one more season left on their contract after this one. The first four, Alex Lafallo included, were players Winnipeg acquired by trade and then re-signed when they had a chance to pursue UFA status. Combine their desire to play in Winnipeg and Winnipeg's aim to compete for the playoffs next season and I can't imagine that any of them will be traded.

Lafallo doesn't score enough or drive play to dominant effect so as to be untouchable. He does score between 10 and 20 goals with remarkable consistency, playing a committed two-way game while accepting any role he's asked to play. A team that plans to win should hold onto him.

Nino Niederreiter

Nino Niederreiter wasn't going to be shopped prior to getting hurt. Now that he's out week-to-week following lower-body surgery, it's certain the 2027 UFA will remain a Jet.

Vladislav Namestnikov

Vladislav Namestnikov's offensive production disappeared when Nikolaj Ehlers signed in Carolina, but he's under contract next season after signing an early extension last season. He's hurt now, too, but I don't expect he would have been shopped either way.

Dylan DeMelo

There may be a "sell high" opportunity available with Dylan DeMelo, given multiple seasons playing alongside Josh Morrissey. His game has declined from quiet brilliance, consistently making the right five-to-10 foot exit passes, to something less than that in recent seasons, but he and Morrissey still win their minutes. It's more likely that the 2028 UFA stays with Winnipeg and gradually moves down the lineup.

Haydn Fleury

I think Winnipeg got excited about Haydn Fleury's potential when he showed well on the third pair early last season. He's under contract next year, too, and I fully expect the Jets to keep him now.

Veterans without term: Will they trade more than three of them?

Luke Schenn

The Jets won't recoup the second- and fourth-round picks they paid for Luke Schenn just one year ago. I still think he's the most likely pending UFA to be traded before Friday's deadline, whether for a depth draft pick or a minor league veteran. I expect that Schenn will be moved.

Logan Stanley

Flip a coin. Remember that this team prioritized Logan Stanley over other defencemen, including Johnathan Kovacevic, Declan Chisholm, and Ville Heinola and above DeMelo for the Seattle expansion draft. They believe in the person and the player, especially now that he's contributing to their offence. There may even be a way for Winnipeg to sign Stanley to a long-term contract at an AAV that matches his third-pairing role. (If he's committed to full market value, the Jets need to move him — and I think Jets brass will understand that.)

Eric Comrie

I've read fan theories that Winnipeg should trade Eric Comrie and then re-sign him this summer. I understand those theories, but I'd be stunned if they came true. Comrie has the 45th-best save percentage among goalies who have played at least 20 games this season. He's not returning much by way of trade, nor will the Jets jump through hoops to commit Thomas Milic or Dom DiVincentis to an NHL job at this stage of their careers.

Cole Koepke

Cole Koepke is the kind of fourth-line player Winnipeg should want to re-sign. He has the pace, the work ethic, and the good relationships with fellow Minnesotans (Pionk, Samberg) to fit into the locker room. This might be one UFA the Jets keep and then sign to an affordable contract this summer.

Tanner Pearson

Scheifele's junior teammate in Barrie was a sensible depth signing for Winnipeg. He's not fleet of foot but can play a hard, heavy game and has touch when he gets close to goal. One could argue Winnipeg needs someone to fill that role next year, too, but he has more brand-name appeal than Koepke and a Stanley Cup on his resume. One suspects he could be moved fairly easily; I just don't read Winnipeg's intentions as committing to selling all of their UFAs.

Jonathan Toews

Jonathan Toews told The Athletic he wouldn't consider a move. That should end the conversation right there, although Jets brass could theoretically pitch him on changing his mind.

Gustav Nyquist

Gustav Nyquist will be shopped. I don't expect him to have much value, given his lack of goals this season, but I don't expect the Jets to need tremendous value to move on. A 36-year-old veteran without deep ties to the organization should be an easy "L" to accept.

Colin Miller

I'm less inclined to believe Colin Miller will be moved. Winnipeg could run DeMelo, Pionk, and Salomonsson as right-shot defencemen next season, with Miller slotting in as a No. 7 again if he re-signs for the second time. (If not, then Winnipeg's seventh-defenceman role could belong to Fleury, who is under contract next season.)

Depth pieces, prospects, Ville Heinola

Ville Heinola

A lot of things have gone wrong for Ville Heinola since a barrage of injuries (and Byfuglien's departure) led to him playing in the NHL at 18 years old. Now he's a pending UFA who has averaged 39 professional games per season, total (including the NHL, AHL, and Liiga.) I'd expect this player to want a fresh start with a new organization, likely signing elsewhere as a free agent, but not to have trade value now.

Brad Lambert

Winnipeg has no reason to honour his trade request at this time. He's not dominating the AHL and he has another year left on his ELC. I'd expect him to continue his season with the Moose (and perhaps earn a short NHL call-up) more than to be sold off at this deadline.

David Gustafsson

David Gustafsson hasn't played in the NHL this season, despite being an NHL regular for most of his Jets career. He's second in Moose scoring and seems to have accepted his minor league role with grace. I expect that to continue and for Gustafsson to remain with the organization.

Walker Duehr

Walker Duehr skated for the Jets for the first time on Sunday, following a season of AHL excellence for Manitoba. His one year, \$775,000 AAV contract is as affordable as it gets and his 92 career NHL games may have appeal as a depth rental.