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**December 4-5, 2025**

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## The Athletic / Kirill Marchenko returns, Kent Johnson awakens in Blue Jackets' shootout win

**By Aaron Portzline – Decemeber 5, 2025**

COLUMBUS, Ohio — You might say the Columbus Blue Jackets welcomed two players back into their world on Thursday: one literally, one figuratively.

Kirill Marchenko, who missed the past four games with a knee bruise, and Kent Johnson, whose high-level offensive production had gone missing early this season, each scored in regulation and in the shootout as the Blue Jackets came back to beat the Detroit Red Wings 6-5 before 16,818 in Nationwide Arena.

It was Marchenko's snap wrister, which split the pads of Red Wings goaltender Cam Talbot in the third round of the shootout, that ended the game.

"I feel fresh. I go on vacation," Marchenko joked. "I had energy, I had power, and yeah, happy to win."

Johnson, whose shootout goal in the first round counts as his fifth career game-deciding goal, had gone 19 games without a goal and 10 games without a point when he scored midway through the second to give the Blue Jackets a 3-1 lead.

"It's been too long, and it's always fun to score," Johnson said. "Yeah, it definitely felt good. I was trying not to (think about the scoring slump), but I know (it's happening). Every game we lose and I'm not producing, it's frustrating. But, like I said, we're in the NHL and we play so many games, so I just try to move past it and keep working and stay positive and stay hungry."

The game was a wild affair that saw the two teams combine for five power-play goals in the second period, three by the Red Wings and two by Columbus.

The Blue Jackets lost leads of 1-0, 3-1 and 4-3, and they fell behind 5-4 when the Red Wings scored two soft goals on goaltender Elvis Merzlikins only two minutes apart in the middle of the third period.

Another third-period lead blown?

Nope. Adam Fantilli scored his second goal of the game with only 1:31 remaining, and Merzlikins pulled for an extra skater, tying the score at 5 and sending the Blue Jackets beyond regulation for the ninth time in 13 games.

Ivan Provorov also scored for the Blue Jackets, while Zach Werenski had Sean Monahan each had three assists. For Werenski, that's three straight multi-point games. Merzlikins, making consecutive starts for the first time this season, stopped 28 shots.

Of all the young talent the Blue Jackets have acquired in the last five seasons, Marchenko has emerged as the most dangerous goal-scorer. He played 19:43 in his first game back and led the Blue Jackets with 10 shot attempts, though only four on goal.

The Blue Jackets survived without Marchenko, going 1-1-2 while he was sidelined, but they didn't consistently thrive.

"It was great (having him back)," Fantilli said. "He's a huge part of this locker room, a huge part of our team on the ice. And personally, I think we play really well together. We work off each other really well. We think similarly. I was really happy to have him back."

As Marchenko was having his post-game conversation with the media, Fantilli walked past on his way to the showers and twice shouted: "Superstar!"

Fantilli's not slouch himself, of course. He scored a blistering power play goal from the right circle at 13:50 of the second period to give the Blue Jackets a 4-3 lead.

His next goal was even bigger.

The Blue Jackets pulled Merzlikins while coming out of a media stoppage with 2:28 remaining, with veteran center Charlie Coyle taking the ice as the extra skater.

Fantilli was skating above the right circle when Werenski found him in stride, allowing him to skate high in the zone while a crowd gathered before Talbot. Fantilli's wristed through traffic, perhaps aided by a Dmitry Voronkov screen, found the net.

"I mean, do you want to get to that point? No," Blue Jackets coach Dean Evason said of having to play without a goaltender. "But you want to get reinforced (as a team), that you can (score like that). Do the right things, and we did. We got the puck to the net, got people at the net and scored a goal, like you're supposed to in those situations."

The Blue Jackets improved to 4-1 in shootouts this season, converting 10 of 16 attempts. Marchenko is an NHL-leading 5-for-5 so far this season, while Kent Johnson is 3-for-4. You could feel their confidence as they approached Talbot.

Johnson, shooting first, skated through the right circle, carried the puck wide to the far post, then switched it back to his backhand and roofed under the crossbar while Talbot scrambled to shift his weight back to follow him.

It's a move Johnson has scored on at least twice already this season. If the goalie follows him across the mouth of the goal, it's almost impossible to recover when Johnson makes his move.

Fantilli attempted a similar move in the second round, but Talbot snuffed it out.

Merzlikins stopped Detroit shootout shooters Lucas Raymond and James van Riemsdyk, who spent last season with the Blue Jackets. Once Marchenko scored to give the Jackets a 2-0 lead in the shootout, a third Red Wings shooter wasn't necessary.

Still, Marchenko was able to use those shots to his benefit in the third round.

"I just closed my eyes," Marchenko joked. "I know right away (after Johnson's move) that I will shoot five-hole."

## The Athletic / Blue Jackets push back against Devils coach Keefe's fight criticism: 'Things were provoked'

**By Aaron Portzline – December 3, 2025**

COLUMBUS, Ohio — The Columbus Blue Jackets got back to practice on Wednesday with an eye toward Thursday's matchup with the Detroit Red Wings. However, there were aftershocks from Monday's momentous win in New Jersey that needed to be addressed.

Following the Blue Jackets' come-from-behind 5-3 win at Prudential Center, a game that included four fights, Devils coach Sheldon Keefe questioned the integrity of Blue Jackets forwards Dmitri Voronkov and Adam Fantilli, charging them with jumping two of his players who weren't prepared to fight.

Blue Jackets coach Dean Evason addressed the matter briefly on Wednesday before moving on to questions about the Red Wings.

"(Keefe) has no bearing on what happens in our room," Evason said. "Our guys know what happened. Of course, we've had a chance to hear the comments. I don't think they're accurate. Yeah, no. We don't put a lot of stock in it."

At 1:01 of the second period, the Blue Jackets and Devils engaged in a nasty scrum in front of New Jersey's net after Fantilli followed his own shot to the crease. Devils defenseman Brenden Dillon engaged him there, along with teammate Jonas Siegenthaler.

Voronkov then gave Dillon a bear hug from behind to pull him away from Fantilli, while Luke Glendening also grabbed Voronkov. As Dillon spun around in Voronkov's grasp, he threw a left jab that Voronkov interpreted as the start of a fight.

It didn't go well for Dillon, who was celebrating his 1,000th NHL game. Voronkov landed two huge uppercuts before Dillon fell face down to the ice in a scary scene. He returned briefly to the game later in the second period, but did not play at all in the third.

"(Dillon) would never do something like that to another player," Keefe said. "That I know, for certain. Yeah, I don't like it at all. I don't think Dilly knows he's in a fight. I think he's tackled from behind, and before he knows it, his helmet's off, his jersey's over his head and ... we saw what happened from there."

Voronkov, who is not a native English speaker and is rarely available for interviews, has not commented on the incident.

Less than three minutes after the Voronkov-Dillon fight, Fantilli engaged in the first fight of his NHL career while sticking up for Blue Jackets defenseman Zach Werenski, who was cross-checked twice and slashed once in the middle of the zone by Devils forward Connor Brown.

Brown slashed at Fantilli, and then the two traded slashes as they came together, but Blue Jackets fourth-liner Zach Aston-Reese stepped in to grab Brown. That sent Siegenthaler reaching through a crowd to grab Fantilli as the two separated from the scrum.

Fantilli landed multiple punches and had Siegenthaler's sweater pulled over his head before Siegenthaler regained his balance and returned a couple of rights. In addition to the fighting majors for both, Siegenthaler was given a 10-minute misconduct because his sweater wasn't tied down.

"Siegenthaler received seven punches before he removed his gloves," Keefe said. "So ... for me, there should be an extra penalty there (for Fantilli).

"I don't know how that (penalty) works, whether that affects the fact that his jersey should be tied down because he wasn't a willing fighter, until he just had to protect himself."

Not surprisingly, Fantilli saw his scrap with Siegenthaler much differently.

"The way I saw it, Brown was slashing our best player (Werenski)," Fantilli said. "I went in to get in the middle of that and Aston-Reese came over the top. I already had one glove off with the Brown thing, and then Siegenthaler came over top and grabbed me.

"I don't think you come over top, grab someone and go away if you're not ready for something. I had my gloves off. Keefe says I threw seven punches before (Siegenthaler) takes his gloves off. I don't know how you take seven punches before throwing your gloves off. That's a pretty long time."

Voronkov and Brendan Smith had fights later in the second period, and the Blue Jackets pulled away to win 5-3, snapping a four-game losing streak.

"I'm not going to lie, I'm proud of what our team did, especially the way we started," Fantilli said. "We came back, we played a great game.

"Listen, you hate to see what happened to Dillon. That sucks, especially in his 1,000th game. You don't want anything like that to happen. He's a great player. That sucks to see. But again, he hit (Voronkov) in the face first, if you watch the video."

The Blue Jackets are playing without injured veterans Mathieu Olivier and Erik Gudbranson, which made the display even more impressive. But the charges by Keefe seemed to question not only the character of Voronkov and Fantilli, but also that of the Blue Jackets. That's what seemed to irritate Evason and Fantilli most.

"We don't want that kind of rap because we don't think that's the way it went down," Fantilli said.

"Things were provoked. I don't think there's much to (Keefe's comments), to be honest with you."

Asked if he's heard from Olivier in the last 48 hours, Fantilli smiled. The Blue Jackets and Devils play on Dec. 31 at Nationwide Arena, he noted.

"Oh, yeah," Fantilli said. "Ollie's fired up. He's got that game circled on his calendar, for sure."

## The Columbus Dispatch / Columbus Blue Jackets thank shootout stars for another win: Takeaways

By Brian Hedger – December 5, 2025

Where would the Blue Jackets be without the NHL's last-ditch methods of deciding wins?

Hockey purists may feel the NHL's 3-on-3 overtime periods and shootouts are gimmicky ways to dole out points, but the Blue Jackets aren't complaining. They are 4-1 in shootouts after downing the Detroit Red Wings 6-5 on Dec. 4 at Nationwide Arena and have added points in 11 of their first 27 games beyond regulation time, including nine of the past 13.

They have dropped to last place in the Metropolitan Division after coughing up a slew of late leads but are just three points out of third with 31. That wouldn't be so without six of their 13 wins decided by overtime or shootout.

The NHL's 82-game grind of a schedule will determine whether that's a sustainable way to chase a playoff spot, but it's working for now.

Here are four takeaways:

### **Kirill Marchenko, Kent Johnson and Columbus Blue Jackets goalies are shootout aces**

There's a good reason the Blue Jackets are confident once a game gets to the shootout stage.

Actually, there are four reasons: Kirill Marchenko and Kent Johnson as shooters plus goalies Elvis Merzlikins and Jet Greaves. Marchenko, who usually shoots third, is 5 for 5 and Johnson improved to 3 for 4 with his leadoff goal against Detroit.

That's an 89% combined success rate that goes a long way toward winning shootouts within the first three rounds. The Blue Jackets' 4-1 shootout record ranks second in the NHL, trailing only the Philadelphia Flyers' 5-0 mark.

"The (confidence) comes from KJ and Marchy scoring every time," said Adam Fantilli, who usually shoots second. "I think they're like 90% this year, so, yeah ... that's where the confidence comes from."

Merzlikins and Greaves are factors, too, splitting the Blue Jackets' four shootout wins evenly at two apiece. Merzlikins stopped Red Wings shooters Dylan Larkin and Lucas Raymond in the first two rounds to give Marchenko a chance to win it, which he did by beating goalie Cam Talbot.

### **Columbus Blue Jackets overcome more blown leads vs Detroit Red Wings**

The Blue Jackets have let too many wins and points slip away by losing late leads but still added valuable points by getting most of those games to overtime.

That's the bright side.

More concerning is the fact it keeps happening, including three more times against the Red Wings, who had already overcome a 3-1 margin Nov. 22 in Detroit to down the Blue Jackets 4-3 in overtime. In the rematch, the second of three games this season, the Red Wings overcame two leads in the first two periods and a third on Patrick Kane's tying goal to make it 4-4 in the third.

One of the leads the Red Wings overcame was a 3-1 margin in the second that vanished with two power-play goals on Dmitri Voronkov's double minor for high-sticking. It was the second two-goal lead Detroit has overcome against the Jackets, who've made fumbling two-goal leads an art form by failing to hold nine of them in 27 games.

The NHL is the world's best league, filled with elite talent, and that accounts for at least a portion of those woes. Solving the issue of blowing leads, however, remains the Jackets' biggest priority. The good news is they're still getting chances to protect leads regularly.

### **Kirill Marchenko impresses in return for Columbus Blue Jackets**

Marchenko slammed into the boards Nov. 22 in Detroit and missed four games with a leg injury. He returned to the Jackets' top forward line and power-play unit against the Red Wings in Columbus and had an immediate impact.

The most obvious was a power-play goal that put the Blue Jackets up 2-1 in the second, but Marchenko's intensity in puck battles was also big for his line.

"He's a huge part of this locker room and a huge part of our team on the ice," said Fantilli, who centers Marchenko's line. "Personally, I think we play really well together. We click off each other, we think similarly, so I was really happy to have him out there."

### **Kent Johnson relieved to end scoring drought vs Detroit Red Wings**

Johnson finally got a fortunate break when the rebound of Cole Sillinger's shot landed close enough to him for an easy tap-in goal to make it 3-1 in the second.

It was just the third goal and sixth point of the season for Johnson, who hadn't scored one since Oct. 21 against the Dallas Stars, a span of 19 games. Johnson finished last season with 24 goals, 33 assists and 57 points in 68 games, so his offensive slump weighed on his mind.

"I try not to (think about it) but obviously I know," he said. "Every game that you lose and I'm not producing, it's frustrating. But we're in the NHL. We play so many games, so just try to move past it, keep working, stay positive, and stay hungry. We have so many games left, so I just want to look forward."

## The Columbus Dispatch / Marchenko returns for Columbus Blue Jackets vs Detroit Red Wings

**By Brian Hedger – December 4, 2025**

It's been a while since the Blue Jackets have gotten good news with injuries, but they received some after their morning skate Dec. 4 at Nationwide Arena.

After missing four games with a lower-body injury, star forward Kirill Marchenko will return to the lineup against the Detroit Red Wings. Marchenko, 25, is second on the team with 22 points in 22 games on eight goals and 14 assists, second only to defenseman Zach Werenski's 9-17-26 in 26 games.

Marchenko is expected to return to his spot at right wing on the top forward line with center Adam Fantilli and left wing Dmitri Voronkov, who've skated with Kent Johnson during his absence.

"He's a good pro," Blue Jackets coach Dean Evason said. "He competes his butt off, so to have another proven NHL guy in our lineup is great."

Blue Jackets captain Boone Jenner, who also skated during the Jackets' optional morning workout, will miss his 11th straight game with an upper-body injury. After returning for one full practice Nov. 30, Jenner missed a Dec. 3 practice at Nationwide Arena.

In other lineup news, goalie Elvis Merzlikins will start consecutive games for the first time this season, center Sean Monahan will play after an undisclosed injury caused him to exit in the third period Dec. 1 against the New Jersey Devils and rookie center Luca Del Bel Belluz will play against the Red Wings after being recalled Dec. 2 from AHL Cleveland.

Luca Pinelli, who made his NHL debut while playing the past three games, returned to Cleveland to continue his AHL rookie season.

How to watch Columbus Blue Jackets vs Detroit Red Wings

The Blue Jackets' second of three games against the Red Wings won't be televised by FanDuel Sports Network. It will be streamed exclusively by Hulu/ESPN+ in the Jackets' second national broadcast appearance of the season.

John Buccigross will handle the play-by-play and AJ Mleczko will provide analysis. Former NHL referee Dave Jackson will act as rules analyst, while the studio broadcast will feature Steve Levy, Arda Ocal and former Blue Jackets coach John Tortorella.

Fans can listen to the broadcast on radio on The Fan 97.1 FM with Bob McElligott on play-by-play and Dylan Tyrer as studio host.



## The Columbus Dispatch / Blue Jackets overcome Red Wings' late lead to win 6-5 in shootout

**By Brian Hedger – December 4, 2025**

Turnabout is par for the course when it comes to the Blue Jackets and Detroit Red Wings coughing up leads against each other.

Almost two weeks after Detroit overcame a two-goal deficit in the third period to down Columbus 5-4 in overtime Nov. 22 at Little Caesar's Arena, the Blue Jackets turned the tables Dec. 4 at Nationwide Arena.

After coughing up three leads and trailing 5-4 with goalie Elvis Merzlikins on the bench for a 6-on-5 advantage, the Blue Jackets tied it 5-5 with 1:31 left in regulation on Adam Fantilli's second goal of the game. It went to overtime and then a shootout decided by goals from Kent Johnson in the first round and Kirill Marchenko in the third to capture a 6-5 victory in front of 16,818.

Ivan Provorov, Marchenko and Johnson scored the other goals for the Blue Jackets (13-9-5), who got three assists each from Zach Werenski and Sean Monahan. Marchenko played for the first time since missing four games with a lower-body injury.

Alex DeBrincat put the Red Wings up 4-3 with 8:22 left in the third and Detroit's other goals were scored by Dylan Larkin, Lucas Raymond, Patrick Kane and former Blue Jackets forward James van Riemsdyk. Cam Talbot started in net for the Red Wings (14-11-3).

Columbus went 2-for-3 on power plays, while Detroit went 3-for-5 and scored all three in the second period.

The Jackets coughed up eight third period leads prior to the game, and Kane's goal made it nine in the season's first 27 games to tie it 4-4 at 9:35 of the third. It was the Blue Jackets' third blown lead of the game and led to DeBrincat's go-ahead goal.

Luckily for the Jackets, Fantilli's shot from the high slot during 6-on-5 with time running thin in regulation hit a Red Wings defender and bounced past Talbot to tie it, forcing another game to OT.

Everything prior that was a rollercoaster too.

Provorov's goal was the only one in the first period, which ended with the Blue Jackets leading 1-0, but each team scored three times in the second. That included the Red Wings scoring all three of their goals on power plays to stay in the game.

Two were scored during Dmitri Voronkov's four-minute penalty for accidentally high-sticking Andrew Copp in the face while falling to the ice trying to check him. Raymond and van Riemsdyk capped both ends of that double-minor with goals, pulling the Red Wings even, 3-3, to overcome their second two-goal deficit in as many games against Columbus this season.

Detroit also overcame the Blue Jackets' 1-0 edge on Larkin's power-play goal at 1:09 of the second, just 31 seconds of game time after Provorov was sent to the penalty box for intentionally dislodging the Columbus net.

Marchenko, who scored on a power play, and Johnson tallied goals 1:53 apart to give the Jackets a 3-1 lead at 7:11 of the second, and Fantilli closed out the scoring in the period with 6:10 left on a power play for his 10th goal of the season.

That set the stage for the third with the Blue Jackets leading 4-3, needing to protect another lead that ultimately vanished. Good thing turnabout was fair play.

## The Columbus Dispatch / Blue Jackets feel Devils share responsibility for fight fueled antics

**By Brian Hedger – December 4, 2025**

- The Columbus Blue Jackets defeated the New Jersey Devils 5-3 in a game marked by numerous fights and penalties.
- A contentious second period included four fights, 16 penalties, and a combined 64 penalty minutes between the two teams.
- Devils coach Sheldon Keefe accused the Blue Jackets of instigating the altercations, a claim disputed by Columbus players.
- Both teams anticipate a heated rematch scheduled for New Year's Eve in Columbus.

If you're a Blue Jackets fan, do yourself a favor.

Locate your pocket or refrigerator schedule for this season, grab a marker and draw a few circles around the game against the New Jersey Devils on Dec. 31 at Nationwide Arena. Apparently, the Devils and Blue Jackets will do the same after their fight filled game won by Columbus, 5-3, on Dec. 1 at Prudential Center in Newark, New Jersey.

After engaging in four fights, committing 16 penalties and serving a combined 64 penalty minutes during a raucous second period, each team gave their side of what happened.

Devils coach Sheldon Keefe blamed the Blue Jackets for everything and accused Dmitri Voronkov and Adam Fantilli of forcing two of his defensemen, Brendan Dillon and Jonas Siegenthaler, to engage in fights that didn't go well for either one.

Dillon, playing his 1,000<sup>th</sup> NHL game, left the ice wobbling after two massive uppercuts from Voronkov, who dropped his right glove to punch him after first taking a gloved sucker punch to the face first. Fantilli, Damon Severson and Zach Werenski spoke about it Dec. 3 at Nationwide Arena, and the latter two offered a suggestion for Keefe.

"The video doesn't lie, right?" said Severson, a former Devils defenseman. "When somebody comes after you, you've got to be ready to protect yourself. It's just common sense. So, if you go after somebody and you don't want to fight, that's on you."

Reviewing the video shows, clearly, that Dillon and Siegenthaler ignited each fire and instantly regretted the smoke.

Dillon broke out of Voronkov's bear hug and connected with a gloved left cross to the unsuspecting 6-foot-5, 234-pound power forward's face after getting pulled away from a scrum where he attempted to cross-check Fantilli in the head. Dillon paid a big price when Voronkov, who rarely fights, grabbed his collar with a gloved left hand, shook off his right glove and fed two huge uppercuts to his face, dropping Dillon to the ice.

It was Fantilli's jab at goalie Jake Allen's left pad, following up his own wrist shot, that prompted Dillon's over-the-top response during a special night for an impressive milestone. He appears to be fine,

physically, after briefly returning to the game at the end of the second period, but that was just the start.

Voronkov also obliged a fight invitation from Stefan Noesen later in the period and, after twice allowing Noesen to get to his feet, took punches immediately after falling to the ice himself. Fantilli soon fought Siegenthaler, defenseman Brendan Smith scrapped with Devils forward Paul Cotter and Sean Monahan got into altercations that stopped just short of punches.

That was all related to the Devils seeking retribution for Voronkov dropping Dillon, including their targeting of Blue Jackets star Zach Werenski. He didn't have anything to do with what happened, but he's the Jackets' best player and, thus, wore an invisible target. Connor Brown drilled Werenski with a clean hit along the wall, which was fine, but also smacked him in the face with a gloved right hand before dishing out cross-checks and a slash that ultimately got him sent to the box.

Brown then went after Fantilli with a cross-check, slash and shoving to start a scrum not long after Monahan tied it 2-2 with a 4-on-4 goal.

"I just don't think that math adds up," Werenski said. "I had no part in any of it. I was just so confused on how it was handled, because it's one thing to finish checks and all that. That's part of the game. I'm all for that, but when you're swinging your stick and cross-checking guys, I don't know, I don't feel like that's the right way to go about it."

Neither did Fantilli.

He was dealing with Brown's rage before Siegenthaler spun around the Blue Jackets' Zach Aston-Reese, who'd grabbed Brown, and connected with his gloved right hand while trying to grab hold of Fantilli. The young Blue Jackets center sensed a fight coming and began to pound Siegenthaler with his right hand after his glove had already come off in his encounter with Brown.

Keefe "didn't like" that one either.

"I mean, we can all watch the game back," he told reporters. "Siegenthaler receives seven punches before he removed his gloves, so, for me, there should be an extra penalty there."

Actually, upon review, it was eight. He missed Fantilli's final uppercut, but who's counting?

"I don't think you come over top, grab someone, and go away if you're not ready for something," Fantilli said. "I had my gloves off. Keefe says I threw seven punches (eight, but again, who's counting?) before he takes his gloves off. I don't know how you take seven punches (eight!) before throwing your gloves off. That's a pretty long time."

Even longer was the amount of time Siegenthaler missed afterward. Since his jersey came off during the tussle, it was clear that he hadn't tied it down in the back, as per NHL regulations. That prompted an automatic ejection, and the Devils played most of the remaining game with only four defensemen.

Again, according to Keefe, that was all the fault of the Blue Jackets, who are now getting tested each game while playing without injured enforcers Mathieu Olivier and Erik Gudbranson.

"It's kind of an identity thing," Fantilli said. "Yeah, we have Ollie and we have Guddy who can take care of that stuff., but when they're not in our lineup, it's still a part of our identity. It's part of the way we

play. Maybe we don't fight four-to-five times every game, but when things need to be taken care of, it's in this locker room. We care about each other and we've got each other's backs, and I think we kind of proved that, too."

Asked if the New Year's Day rematch might be a chance for further retribution, Cotter said this: "I'm sure it's going to be, uh ... quite the match next time we play them, yeah."

Werenski attempted to dial things down while talking about what happened, but the Jackets won't be intimidated going into that game. They're currently more concerned with their upcoming schedule, including a game Dec. 4 against the Detroit Red Wings, but they'll be ready for whatever the Devils bring to Columbus.

That includes Olivier, who's one of the NHL's top enforcers. His status is week-to-week with an undisclosed injury that occurred Nov. 24 in Washington, but he watched what happened in New Jersey closely.

"Oh, yeah, he's fired up," Fantilli said. "He's got that game circled on his calendar, for sure."

## The Hockey Writers / Blue Jackets Rally Late to Defeat Red Wings in Shootout

By Mark Scheig – December 4, 2025

The Columbus Blue Jackets were hoping to exact some revenge for their recent game in Detroit against the Red Wings. They were ultimately able to turn the tables in their favor.

Adam Fantilli scored twice including the game-tying goal with 1:31 left in regulation. The Blue Jackets prevailed in the shootout and won the game 6-5 on Thursday night.

Dylan Larkin - Goal vs. Columbus Blue Jackets

The story of this game was both team's power plays.

### **Game Recap**

The first period started out slow for both teams trying to find their groove. An early penalty gave the Red Wings a chance to score on their power play, which came into the game 11th in the league at 21.6%.

But it was the Blue Jackets' improved penalty kill that got the upper hand at the start. They played keep away and successfully killed the tripping penalty to Brendan Smith.

The Blue Jackets were able to grab the lead with just 2:05 left in the first when Ivan Provorov's point shot beat Cam Talbot. Seconds before, Ben Chiarot swept the puck off the goal line. That was the only goal of the period with the Blue Jackets holding an 8-6 shot advantage in the first.

And then the second period got crazy on special teams. The two teams combined for five power-play goals between them. The Blue Jackets got one at even strength as well.

Just 1:09 into the period, Dylan Larkin tipped a Moritz Seider shot past Elvis Merzlikins on the power play. The Blue Jackets answered with a pair to build a 3-1 lead.

Kirill Marchenko returned to the lineup and scored a power-play goal on a shot Talbot would want back. Then Kent Johnson scored his first goal in 19 games off a rebound. That was his third of the season and the only even strength goal of the second.

With Dmitri Voronkov in the box for high sticking, the Red Wings converted both ends of the double minor. First it was Lucas Raymond to cut it to 3-2. Then former Blue Jacket James van Riemsdyk scored from his traditional spot to make it 3-3.

The Blue Jackets restored their lead 4-3 with yet another power-play goal. This time, Fantilli blasted a Zach Werenski pass for his 10th of the season. Fantilli became the first Blue Jacket to the 10-goal mark this season.

The Red Wings struck quickly in the third to take a 5-4 lead. Patrick Kane scored his 496th career goal to tie it. Alex DeBrincat scored about two minutes later to give the Red Wings the lead.

The Blue Jackets pulled Merzlikins late. Fantilli got the puck in the middle of the ice. His shot eluded Talbot to make it 5-5. Overtime and the shootout were needed.

The Blue Jackets got goals from Johnson and Marchenko to win the shootout 2-0 and the game 6-5. With the win, the Blue Jackets jumped to 31 points. It ensured every team in the Metro had at least 31 points. The difference from first-eighth place is just five points.

The Blue Jackets will now head to Florida to take on the Panthers Saturday. The Red Wings are flying out to Seattle and will take on the Kraken on Saturday night.