

<https://www.nhl.com/jets/news/three-things-jets-blow-three-goal-lead-in-loss-to-leafs>

***THREE THINGS: Jets blow three-goal lead in loss to Leafs  
Mark Scheifele has three point performance in Jets 6-5 loss to Leafs***

By Jamie Thomas

Auston Matthews scored three times helping the Toronto Maple Leafs overcome a 4-1 deficit to beat the Winnipeg Jets 6-5 at Scotiabank Arena. 12 different Jets had at least one point led by Mark Scheifele who had two goals and an assist in the loss. Eric Comrie made his first start since December 11 and finished with 24 saves. The Jets will wrap up their three-game road trip on Saturday in Ottawa against the Senators.

***GREAT START***

Puck luck has not been on the side of the Jets during their seven-game losing streak including last night where the Red Wings game winning goal went off of Luke Schenn and into the net. That puck luck finally went to the Jets especially to start Thursday night. First Max Domi beat Eric Comrie but not the crossbar. The Leafs hit a goal post later and could have been up 2-0 early. Then the top line went to work as Mark Scheifele carried the puck from the Jets end into the Leafs before hitting Gabe Vilardi in full flight, Vilardi ripped a quick shot past Joesph Woll.

A much-needed friendly bounce came the Jets way on their 2-0 goal, Dylan DeMelo's point shot went off Leafs captain Auston Matthews and behind Woll.

***POND HOCKEY GAME***

The Jets continued their assault on Woll in the second, Auston Matthews got the Leafs on the board at 1:34 of the second. But Alex Iafallo and Mark Scheifele scored goals 3:13 apart to give Winnipeg a three-goal lead and the Jets looked like they were well on their way to ending their winless skid. The Jets were 12-1 when scoring four or more goals this season with the only loss coming on opening night when Dallas beat them 5-4. Jets coach Scott Arniel said he felt the game turned about halfway through the middle period.

"We did all the right things to get it to 4-1 and then the game turned into a pond hockey game. We turned pucks over, made some blind plays into the middle, got caught on some rush chances against," said Arniel.

"Just, all the things we have been doing so well since the break, that game without the puck it went out the window for the last 30 minutes."

***SHOCKING FINISH***

Toronto scored two goals in the second period to pull within one of the Jets including a late power play goal from Matthews at 19:57. In the third period, Matias Maccelli tied the

game with a perfect shot at 6:30 but Scheifele gave the Jets back the lead while on the power play just over two minutes later.

That lead held for just over four minutes, Troy Stecher tied it at 13:13 before Matthews completed the hat trick after Comrie had trouble playing the puck and the Leafs captain jumped at the opportunity to put the puck in the open net. Scheifele had a chance to tie the game late, but Dennis Hildeby made the save of the night lunging over and getting his blocker on the puck.

Afterwards, Gabe Vilardi talked about the Jets getting away from their defensive structure after the team was up 4-1.

"I think today probably the structure wasn't as good. The last two games, you could say were probably our best defensive games of the season," said Vilardi.

"Obviously, we didn't get the scoring, and then tonight, we get the scoring, but the structure isn't there. So, it's another game, another loss, and it's frustrating."

<https://www.nhl.com/jets/news/blog-morrissey-honoured-to-be-an-olympian>

### ***BLOG: Morrissey "honoured" to be an Olympian***

By Jamie Thomas

Just over 24 hours after being named to Canada's men's Olympic hockey team, Winnipeg Jets defenceman Josh Morrissey was still smiling at the thought at representing his country in Italy next month.

"It's pretty incredible for sure. I remember '02, obviously '06, '10, '14, specifically '10, the golden goal. But it was kind of that age where, just in high school and watching every moment. So, yeah, I mean, it's just beyond the hockey as well," said Morrissey from the Jets hotel in Toronto.

"I mean, to be part of the Olympic Games with all the athletes and be a part of Team Canada as a whole. It's special."

Of course, the golden goal was scored by Penguins superstar Sidney Crosby in overtime against the United States in the gold medal game at the 2010 Vancouver Olympics. Morrissey finally got to play with Crosby at 4 Nations Face-Off last February, an experience he will never forget.

"He's so calm. Obviously, he's been in every situation multiple times, Olympics and Stanley Cups. So, just the calm element that he brought, no situation seemed to rattle him whatsoever. And I think that really radiated through the group," said Morrissey.

“And I think he just did a great job of kind of encouraging guys to play their game. You're there for a reason. And yeah, it was, it's pretty special. So, I'm excited to play with him again.”

There is behind the scenes footage of Canadian forward Brad Marchand introducing the starting line before Canada's first game against the Americans in Montreal last year at 4 Nations. Before Marchand announced Morrissey he started with 'he has the best hair in the league'. The 30-year-old appreciated how great of a job Marchand did keeping things light ahead of pressure packed games.

“It's not a surprise why he's been such a great player for a long time and been, like I said, captain and leader on every team he's been on, internationally and in the NHL, so definitely just a great teammate,” said Morrissey.

“And he brings an element that I think, makes you feel as though we have an edge with Marshy there for sure.”

There are a lot of familiar faces on this Canadian roster from the one that won the 4 Nations in Boston. All eight defencemen including Morrissey will be returning, Drew Doughty, Thomas Harley, Cale Makar, Colton Parayko, Travis Sanheim, Shea Theodore and Devon Toews.

“Yeah, I think, obviously, there's so many great players, Canadian players, in the league, but I think specifically the eight guys. I thought we had really chemistry, that there's a good mix of, obviously, puck movement, skill, everybody can defend,” said Morrissey.

“And I think just a lot of the pairs kind of seem to work out pretty well. So, I'm excited to run it back with those guys. And like I said, they're great group of guys and great players.”

It is the Olympic Games after all and there will be many other great athletes representing Canada in their respective sports. Morrissey said he hasn't had time to think about what other events he will take in should he have the time to do so.

“It's quite a bit spread out from what I remember (from orientation camp) in the summer. So, I think in Milan there'll be, I think it's speed skating, figure skating, and then obviously men's and women's hockey, and then I think maybe curling as well,” said Morrissey.

“So obviously, whichever sports are in Milan, and they were able to go to it'd be fun to check out some other sports when we have the time, but I think we'll learn a lot more about all that in the coming weeks.”

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<https://www.nhl.com/news/winnipeg-jets-toronto-maple-leafs-game-recap-january-1-2026>

***Matthews has hat trick, Maple Leafs rally from down 3 to top Jets  
Breaks tie late in 3rd, gets assist for Toronto; Winnipeg drops 8th in row***

By Dave McCarthy

TORONTO -- Auston Matthews scored his 14th NHL hat trick, and the Toronto Maple Leafs rallied from a three-goal deficit to defeat the Winnipeg Jets 6-5 at Scotiabank Arena on Thursday.

Matthews, who also had an assist, made it 6-5 at 15:38 of the third period. He backhanded a shot from the slot with Jets goalie Eric Comrie out of position after he mishandled the puck at the left side of the net. The goal was Matthews' 419th in the NHL, leaving him one from tying Mats Sundin for the most in Toronto history.

"That was great, always fun to win but a game that's really back and forth," said Matthews, the Maple Leafs captain. "We got down early, stuck with it, I don't think we were necessarily playing bad but catch a couple bad breaks, but we just didn't give up. We kept pushing shift by shift and clawed our way back into the game. That's a big one."

Matias Maccelli and Oliver Ekman-Larsson each had a goal and an assist for the Maple Leafs (19-15-6), who are 4-0-1 in their past five games. Joseph Woll allowed four goals on 17 shots before being replaced by Dennis Hildeby, who made 22 saves in relief.

"I'm not pulling [Woll] because it's all on him. I made a change just to try and change the momentum more than anything," Toronto coach Craig Berube said. "... I don't like pulling goalies but I just thought it was the right move at the time."

Mark Scheifele scored twice and had an assist, and Gabriel Vilardi had a goal and an assist for the Jets (15-20-4), who lost 2-1 at the Detroit Red Wings on Wednesday and are 0-5-3 in their past eight. Comrie made 24 saves in his first start since Dec. 11.

"We finally score some goals and then implode the other way," Winnipeg coach Scott Arniel said. "That has kind of been our group right now, trying to find that consistency in all areas, both offensively and defensively. Players being consistent, not just shift to shift but period to period. If you see a shift that was awesome, guys doing all the right things, then the next time that same group went out there it was the opposite. That is a tough one. A tough one for our group."

Hildeby preserved the lead with five seconds left, stretching to make a blocker save at the right post on Scheifele, who shot from the bottom of the left face-off circle.

"An incredible save," Scheifele said. "Desperation. That was pretty incredible."

Maple Leafs defenseman Troy Stecher credited Hildeby for giving his team a chance to recover.

"'Beast' was awesome, especially at the end there. That was a huge, huge big-time save," Stecher said. "But it's the NHL, man. You expect your goalies to come in when there is a change like that. I can't imagine it's easy, you'd have to ask him, but he gave us a fighting chance. The boys are really pumped with him."

The Jets went up 1-0 at 14:09 of the first period when Vilardi took a pass from Scheifele and shot between Woll's pads from above the right hash marks.

Dylan DeMelo made it 2-0 at 17:38 when his slap shot from the point was inadvertently deflected by Matthews.

Matthews cut it to 2-1 at 1:34 of the second period, chipping a backhanded redirection over Comrie's glove at the side of the net on a give-and-go with Max Domi.

Alex Iafallo pushed the lead to 3-1 at 2:11 when he spun and put a backhand along the ice and past Woll's right pad from the slot.

Scheifele then made it 4-1 at 5:24. He took a pass from Vilardi, who was behind the net, and shot from the top of the crease.

"We did some good things in the first and couldn't capitalize," Ekman-Larsson said. "Maybe not the way we want to do things but it worked out tonight. Coming back in that game was huge for us."

Ekman-Larsson cut it to 4-2 at 11:04, using Vilardi as a screen when he took a pass from Scott Laughton and scored from the high slot.

Matthews made it 4-3 on the power play at 19:57 when he shot from the slot after taking a pass from Morgan Rielly.

"That power-play goal was a bit of a stinger to cut it to 4-3 with [three] seconds left," Scheifele said.

The Maple Leafs tied it 4-4 at 6:30 of the third. Matthew Knies sent a no-look pass to Maccelli from the right boards, and Maccelli shot high to the blocker side from the right face-off dot.

Scheifele responded by giving the Jets a 5-4 lead with a power-play goal at 8:50 when he shot over Hildeby's blocker from the right dot.

Stecher tied it 5-5 at 13:13. He took a pass from Bobby McMann and scored with a shot from the top of the left face-off circle that went off Comrie's right pad and through the five-hole.

"That's a stinky one," Scheifele said off the loss. "Yeah, not many words for that one. That stung. You know, didn't put a full 60 minutes together. We had good shifts, we had bad shifts, we had bad plays, good plays. That's a tough one."

**NOTES:** Matthews passed Pat LaFontaine for the most hat tricks by a United States-born player in NHL history. He also tied Charlie Conacher for the third-most hat tricks in Maple Leafs history, trailing Darryl Sittler (18) and Babe Dye (16). And with his 17th four-point game, Matthews tied Mitch Marner for the second most in Toronto history. Sittler is the leader with 26. ... Maple Leafs forward John Tavares had an assist to extend his point streak to five games (six points; one goal, five assists). ... Knies had an assist to extend his point streak to five games (seven points; four goals, three assists). He had a three-game goal streak end (four goals). ... DeMelo ended a 29-game goal drought.

### **Winnipeg Free Press**

<https://www.winnipegfreepress.com/breakingnews/2026/01/01/another-game-another-loss>

#### ***'Another game, another loss'***

#### ***Defensive implosion sees Jets blow three-goal lead, losing streak stretches to eight games***

By: Ken Wiebe

TORONTO — If it were simply a matter of rinse and repeat, it would be a lot easier for the Winnipeg Jets to attack the root cause of this recent tailspin.

On this night, however, the Jets looked nothing like a team that had been struggling to score goals, but also looked nothing like a team that had come out of the holiday break playing a determined style when it came to the commitment to defensive structure.

Despite scoring five goals and chasing Maple Leafs starting goalie Joseph Woll after building a 4-1 advantage in the second period, the Jets got loose defensively and dropped a 6-5 decision on Thursday at Scotiabank Arena.

"How do we turn it around? I don't have a single answer for you. It doesn't involve me talking here for five minutes," said Jets forward Gabe Vilardi, who scored a goal and added an assist. "There's a lot of things that we can clean up and continue to talk about and work on and it's got to translate to the game, though."

“Today the structure wasn’t as good. The last two games, you could say, were probably our best defensive games of the season. Obviously, we didn’t get the scoring, and then tonight, we get the scoring, but the structure isn’t there. So, it’s another game, another loss, and it’s frustrating.”

The season-high losing streak has reached eight games (0-5-3), with seven of those being one-goal losses and the eighth was only by two because of an empty-net goal.

“Man oh man. In the last three years, we were one of the best teams in the league in one-goal games and a lot of the same guys are here. To me that’s a mindset,” said Jets head coach Scott Arniel. “That means you’re doing the right things to get yourselves there and now all of a sudden, now you’ve really got to dig in. It’s got to be the shot blocking, the wall plays, the netfront battles, having the responsibility of making sure the puck gets out of our zone into their zone. Those are all things that, when you’re on your game, they become habits and it’s continuous habits.

“Right now, we’re trying to get guys to be consistent with it.”

Instead of finally finding a way to win, the Jets are left to decipher another game that got away in dramatic fashion.

One that included Maple Leafs captain Auston Matthews scoring a power-play marker with 2.9 seconds to go in the second period to make it a one-goal, to name one of the many things that helped cue the comeback.

“We finally score some goals and then implode the other way,” said Arniel. “If you see a shift that was awesome, guys doing all the right things, then the next time that same group went out there and it was the opposite. That is a tough one. A tough one for our group.”

The Jets are scheduled to take Friday off and they’ll close out this three-game road trip on Saturday against the Ottawa Senators.

Let’s take a closer look at what transpired in this game:

### *THE SNUB*

For the second time in as many years, Scheifele was not included on Team Canada’s roster for a best-on-best tournament, despite being one of the top-scoring players in the NHL.

After missing out on the 4 Nations Face-Off last February, Scheifele went on a mission to try and show that he deserved to be an Olympian.

During the calendar year, Scheifele scored 35 goals and recorded 88 points.

On Thursday, he scored twice and added an assist to move him to 20 goals and 48 points in 39 games — leaving him on pace for career-bests in most offensive categories.

Scheifele spoke to reporters for the first time since getting the news and he handled the questions with class.

“Yeah, it sucked. Pretty dark day. It’s hard to think about now after kind of turning the page to this morning. Obviously it was a tough day. News that you don’t want. It just shows the amount of talent in Canada. There’s so many great hockey players, so many great guys. It’s an honour to be a part of this country, just because there are so many great hockey players. I obviously wish I was picked. But God’s got a plan and I’ve just got to trust it.”

Scheifele confirmed he will remain in the Olympic testing protocol, meaning he’s one of the players under consideration to be added in case of an injury.

Did Scheifele feel there was anything else he could have done to bolster his case to be on the team?

“Yeah, I don’t know what else I could have done. I’m proud of the way I played all season to now,” said Scheifele. “I think I’m probably playing the best hockey I have in my career.”

### *THE RETURN*

After watching Connor Hellebuyck make eight consecutive starts, Eric Comrie was back between the pipes in a game for the first time since Dec. 11 against the Boston Bruins.

Comrie looked calm early, outwaiting Matthew Knies on a breakaway chance and making several stops, but by the time the final buzzer had sounded, he allowed six goals on 30 shots on goal.

There was some indecision and miscommunication on the game-winning goal as Comrie mishandled the puck behind the net as he tried to push it to Neal Pionk initially and then was unable to cover it.

Easton Cowan stole the loose puck and got it in front for Matthews as he completed the hat trick.

That dropped Comrie’s save percentage to .880 and raised his goals-against average to 3.49 in his 16 starts as his record dropped to 6-9-1.

It’s a busy month for the Jets, who appear in 16 games in January, so Comrie is going to have to shake this off, since he’ll need to make several more starts before the Olympic break.



### *THE KEY PLAY*

Auston Matthews scored his third goal of the contest with 4:22 to go in regulation time for the game-winner.

### *THE THREE STARS*

1. Auston Matthews, Maple Leafs, 3G, 1A
2. Mark Scheifele, Jets, 2G, 1A
3. Dennis Hildeby, Maple Leafs, 22 saves in relief.

### *EXTRA, EXTRA*

Alex Iafallo and Dylan DeMelo also scored for the Jets.

Jets centre Jonathan Toews chipped in an assist, giving him three helpers during his past four games coming out of the holiday break.

The Jets made a pair of changes to the lineup, inserting Colin Miller for Luke Schenn on defence and Cole Koepke for Nino Niederreiter up front.

Niederreiter is one of several Jets forwards stuck in an offensive funk, having gone 14 games without recording a point. It's the first time he's been a healthy scratch since joining the Jets. Arniel said scratching Niederreiter was related to the Jets busy schedule, which includes three games in four days.

<https://www.winnipegfreepress.com/breakingnews/2026/01/01/morrissey-eager-to-make-olympic-history-of-his-own>

### ***Morrissey eager to make Olympic history of his own Jets D-man says getting Team Canada nod an 'amazing feeling'***

By: Ken Wiebe

It didn't take long for Josh Morrissey to remember where he was when Sidney Crosby scored the goal that won Olympic gold for Team Canada 2010.

This time around, Morrissey might be on the ice when another magical moment occurs for his country.

The Winnipeg Jets defenceman was among the 25 players chosen to the men's Olympic hockey team that will chase a gold medal in Milan next month.

"In 2010, I was pretty early in high school when Sid scored the golden goal. So, that one would rank pretty high," Morrissey said Thursday when asked about his fondest Olympic memories before facing the Toronto Maple Leafs. "I think I know exactly where I was when he scored that goal. So yeah, just kind of remember almost watching that game and then going out on the outdoor rink and dreaming of having that chance to be on Team Canada go for a gold medal. So, it's pretty, pretty surreal."

Given how well he's played during the past several seasons, Morrissey was virtually a lock to be named to Team Canada, but given his humble nature, he wasn't about to take anything for granted.

"You kind of know when the deadline is, and as the weeks and days start to kind of wind down. So yeah, I was definitely there a little bit," said Morrissey. "Going through it last year with 4 Nations and sort of the same evaluation process, all you can do is go out there and play your best game, and you can't focus on anything else. But definitely it's in the back of your mind."

Morrissey got the good news from Dallas Stars general manager Jim Nill on Wednesday morning, letting him know that he would have another opportunity to represent his country — only this time on the grandest stage.

"It's a pretty unbelievable feeling," said Morrissey. "The anticipation, the hope that you get that call and it's a dream come true. Probably still hasn't set in but just an amazing feeling that I get to be a part of that group."

Sharing the news with several family members was special for Morrissey as well.

"It's special," said Morrissey. "They were excited for it. Obviously, asked me if I was hearing anything throughout the process. But of course, it's a team effort to get to the NHL, and obviously to have success and to now be selected for this team wouldn't be there without the support of my family growing up and everybody (being) in my corner. So, definitely special for me, but special to share with all of them."

So, what is it like to be an Olympian?

"Yeah, it's incredible," said Morrissey. "In the summer, at the orientation camp, they really did a good job of explaining to us that you're part of a broader Team Canada. Obviously, the hockey team and our team will be focused on what we're doing and trying to win a gold medal, but when you look at the entirety of Team Canada, with all the different athletes, talking to the guys that have been through it, it's a special feeling."

"It's hard to put into words, to be honest."

Morrissey helped Team Canada win a gold medal at the 4 Nations Face-Off, though he was unable to suit up in the final against the United States after coming down with the flu.

"Josh is a player we obviously know very well from being in the (Central) Division. His game is getting stronger every year," Canadian general manager Doug Armstrong said. "What he went through at the 4 Nations and the pain he was in not being able to participate in that final game showed his love of country and his passion for the game. I just think he's a heck of a hockey player."

Jets head coach Scott Arniel has had a front-row seat for Morrissey's evolution into one of the best defencemen in the NHL during the past four seasons.

"He isn't just one dimensional," said Arniel. "He's gone through phases in his career here in Winnipeg, where he was more of a shutdown to start, and then he got the offence. He's always had the offensive skills.

"He takes a lot of pride in matching up the other against the other team's top offensive guys, and then when he gets the puck, he can do special things. He's a power play quarterback, has good vision, obviously has good instincts. He's put it all together is the best way to say that."

Morrissey joins Winnipegger Mark Stone and Elkhorn product Travis Sanheim on the team.

Stone is having another excellent season for the Vegas Golden Knights, with 10 goals and 31 points in 22 games, while Sanheim is a minute-muncher for the Philadelphia Flyers that is a mobile defender that excels in all three zones.

There's also a local connection when it comes to goaltending as well as former Brandon Wheat Kings netminder Logan Thompson of the Washington Capitals was named to the team along with Jordan Binnington and Darcy Kuemper.

Jets teammate Mark Scheifele was not among the 14 forwards named, though he is believed to be on the short list of players under consideration as a potential injury replacement.

"That was a tough one. I really thought he had a real good chance of being on the team," said Arniel. "I know there's really, really tough decisions out there, a lot of great players. I just felt that he was so close last year (for the 4 Nations roster). He's having a fantastic season, a great start. I'm not in that coaching room, (to know) what they're looking for, what they're after. But I really felt that (Scheifele) would be a big bonus for Canada."

Winnipegger Seth Jarvis was also left off the Canadian roster, despite an excellent start to the season and winning gold at the 4 Nations Face-Off.

Sanheim is part of the eight returning defencemen that suited up for Canada last February in Montreal and Boston.

After the news was made public, Sanheim said the well-wishes have been pouring in from his town of roughly 500 people.

"They're super proud and supportive," Sanheim said. "I've already received over 100 text messages that I haven't quite caught up on. Very proud to come from a community

like that. I'm sure that when the games are on, they'll be watching every second and the town will be (wearing) red and white."

## **Winnipeg Sun**

[https://www.winnipeg.sun.com/sports/nhl/jets-squander-4-1-lead-lose-6-5-to-the-toronto-maple-leafs/article\\_720d80a3-b311-42ec-a4cd-b6b9daa3ad9e.html](https://www.winnipeg.sun.com/sports/nhl/jets-squander-4-1-lead-lose-6-5-to-the-toronto-maple-leafs/article_720d80a3-b311-42ec-a4cd-b6b9daa3ad9e.html)

### ***Jets squander 4-1 lead, lose 6-5 to the Toronto Maple Leafs***

By Gordon Anderson

The number eight was the prime number as the defeat pushed the Jets to their eight consecutive loss and eighth consecutive road loss.

"We did all the right things to get the 4-1 lead, then the game turned into a pond hockey game," head coach Scott Arniel told reporters in Toronto after a 6-5 loss to the Leafs. "We turned pucks over, made some blind plays into the middle, got caught on some rush chances against. All the things we have been doing so well since the break, that game without the puck, it went out the window for the last 30 minutes."

Seven of the eight consecutive losses are of the one-goal variety. The team's last road victory was a 5-2 win over the Nashville Predators on Nov. 29. The team's road record is 7-12-2.

Auston Matthews netted the game-winner at 15:38 of the third period when Eric Comrie mishandled the puck near the right post. The puck leaked out to the front of the net where Matthews was waiting with an empty cage to shoot at.

Matthews earned his first hat-trick of the season and the 14th of his career. The Toronto captain also earned an assist for the victors.

The day after getting snubbed by Team Canada for a position on the Olympic squad, Scheifele scored his 19th and 20th goals of the season.

His third goal of the game looked like a sure bet, but Dennis Hildeby flashed out the blocker in the dying seconds to stop a shot that was destined for the top half of the net.

"(That was) an incredible save," Scheifele said. "Desperation. That was pretty incredible."

Hildeby, who replaced Joseph Woll early in the second, stopped 22 of 23 shots to pick up the win in relief.

Gabe Vilardi, Dylan DeMelo and Alex Iafallo also scored.

Making his first start since Dec. 11 against the Boston Bruins, Comrie stopped 24 of 30 shots.

Oliver Ekman-Larsson, Matias Maccelli and Troy Stecher also scored for Toronto.

Woll stopped 14 of 18 shots before he was pulled after the Scheifele goal at 5:24 of the second period.

The Jets conclude their three-game road trip on Saturday night in Ottawa against the Senators.

Get all the stats from the game right here

### *Ice Chips*

Nino Niederreiter was a healthy scratch. Niederreiter is currently in the midst of a 14-game scoring slump. His last marker came against the Predators on Nov. 29. Haydn Fleury and Luke Schenn were also scratched.

### *By the numbers*

On Jan. 1 of last year, the Jets had the best record in the NHL at 27-11-1. On New Years Day this year, Winnipeg was 15-19-4 prior to the game against the Leafs. Heading into league action on Thursday night, the Jets were rooted in the basement of the league standings with 34 points. The Jets picked up their 15th win of last season on Nov. 12, following a victory over the New York Rangers.

### *Living dangerously*

Looking for a good start to help snap their lengthy losing streak, the Jets were fortunate to leave the first period with a 2-0 lead.

Early on, Max Domi had a glorious chance in front of Comrie, but his backhand banged off the crossbar. Nicholas Roy then missed on a short-handed breakaway as Comrie made the save. Finally, Matthew Knies watched his shot ping off the post behind Comrie. With 8:24 remaining in the first period, the Leafs had four shots, all of them considered high danger chances against by Natural Stat Trick. The Jets had no high danger chances until Vilardi scored his 17th of the season at 14:09 of the first period.

By the end of the opening 20 minutes, the Leafs held a 5-2 advantage, in terms of HDCA.

[https://www.winnipegssun.com/sports/josh-morrissey-living-out-his-olympic-dream-with-team-canada/article\\_5c7cc55b-2d39-4fca-af98-81493e6d345c.html](https://www.winnipegssun.com/sports/josh-morrissey-living-out-his-olympic-dream-with-team-canada/article_5c7cc55b-2d39-4fca-af98-81493e6d345c.html)

### ***Josh Morrissey living out his Olympic dream with Team Canada***

By Gordon Anderson

As far as hockey is concerned, Josh Morrissey lives out his dream every day, but the key is to not get distracted by those dreams. .

The good news came fast and furious on Wednesday morning as the Jets defenceman was among the 25 players selected to represent Canada at the upcoming Olympic Winter Games Milano Cortina 2026.

"It's a dream come true," Morrissey told CJOB following a 2-1 loss to the Detroit Red Wings on Wednesday night. "It was a whirlwind of emotion (on Wednesday). Obviously, just going back to last night and those days leading up, I mean, you know, everybody says you're not thinking about it and just focusing on your day to day, but obviously it's in the back of your mind."

Morrissey represented Canada at the 4 Nations Face-Off last year. He also played for Canada at the IIHF U20 championships, aka the world junior championships, on two separate occasions. He also represented the maple leaf at the IIHF world championships in 2017.

The 30-year-old says the feeling never wears off. He is humbled by the opportunity that was presented to him once again.

"Anytime you can represent your country, last year, obviously, at four nations, but here at the Olympics, it's incredible," Morrissey said. "It's an incredible honor. (I am) just really excited to have that opportunity, honored to have that opportunity. And obviously, I can't wait to get there with those guys and with that group and go try and do something special."

The men's tournament begins on Feb. 11 when Slovakia takes on Finland. Canada's first game is Feb. 12 against Czechia. The NHL season will take a break, starting Feb. 6. The gold medal game is scheduled for Feb. 22.

"I'm so proud of Josh," said Jets head coach Scott Arniel. "That's such an honour for him to be a part of that group. With Team Canada, and the number of players that were eligible to be picked for that team, and for Josh to be there for 4 Nations last year and again this year, hats off."

The Calgary native has six goals and 24 assists in 38 games this season. Heading into Thursday's game against the Toronto Maple Leafs, Morrissey is tied for seventh in league scoring among defencemen. Morrissey is third in points among Canadian born defenceman with Avalanche d-man Cale Makar leading the charge with 45 points. Evan Bouchard of the Edmonton Oilers is second with 37 points.

The men's tournament begins on Feb. 11 when Slovakia takes on Finland. The gold medal game is scheduled for Feb. 22. Canada's first game is Feb. 12 against Czechia.

John Cooper is the head coach for Team Canada. Pete DeBoer, Rick Tocchet, Bruce Cassidy and Misha Donskov are the assistant coaches. Doug Armstrong is the general manager for both the men's national team and the St. Louis Blues.

"Morrissey is a player that we know very well from being in the same division," Armstrong said in a previous interview with the media. "We played Winnipeg in the first round (of the Stanley Cup playoffs last April), and he was a phenomenal player. He is one heck of a hockey player."

## **Global Winnipeg**

<https://globalnews.ca/news/11597108/analysis-shannon-winnipeg-jets-last-place/>

### ***ANALYSIS: Last-place Winnipeg Jets need some help***

By John Shannon CJOB

You can see it on their faces, and hear it in their voices. The reigning President's Trophy winners have no explanation of what has happened to them. They have gone from No. 1 to No. 32.

If I had told you in October that the Winnipeg Jets would be last in the NHL, you would have laughed me out of the city.

Quite simply, it is inexplicable.

No better example of the team's fate occurred on back-to-back nights, on the last day of 2025 and the first of 2026. One night, they play strong defensively and don't score enough and lose. And the next night, they score five and blow a three-goal lead and lose — again. If you score five goals, you should win.

In Detroit, it was a strong last 30 minutes that gave the team a chance to win. In Toronto, it was a porous last 30 minutes that allowed the Maple Leafs to claim victory.

Quite simply, we have seen very few complete games from this hockey club. That Saturday night versus Washington, a 5-1 win at home, is a distant memory. That was 20 days ago. It was their last victory, and only one of two in the month of December.

What made this team so good last season — solid team defence, depth scoring, a tenacious forecheck — those things don't exist right now. The most noticeable part of their game is that they have been consistently inconsistent. And now they appear unable to dig themselves out of this hole.

And while the players won't say it, you can see it with every unpredictable shift. This eight-game losing streak is a cry for help. The players can't correct the problem. And it's not the coaching. This team is as well-prepared for battle as any in this league.

But that said, this team is too good to wave the white flag. Too proud to just give up. Too professional to turn on each other.

But they do need some help.

### **Canadian Press**

<https://globalnews.ca/news/11597074/matthews-shines-bright-as-leafs-keep-rolling/>

### ***Matthews shines bright as Leafs keep rolling***

By Tim Wharnsby The Canadian Press

TORONTO – On the day before the United States Olympic hockey team roster unveiling, Auston Matthews exhibited why he will be one of the Stars and Stripes' leading men.

The Toronto Maple Leafs captain scored three times, including the game-winner with 4:22 remaining, to lead his club to a 6-5 come-from-behind win against the struggling Winnipeg Jets on Thursday.

"Yeah, it's exciting," Matthews said. "You see Canada's team and some other teams that have come out. It feels like (the Winter Olympics) are right around the corner, only five or six weeks away. So definitely, I'm very anxious to see (the U.S. roster)."

Matthews registered his 14th career hat trick and 66th career game-winner. His second goal, on the power play, with two seconds remaining in the second period to pull the Maple Leafs within 4-3 after falling behind 4-1, was his 232nd goal on home ice, allowing him to pass Darryl Sittler's 44-year-old franchise record.

"It's fun to watch," said Bobby McMann, who has played on Matthews right wing in recent outings. "It shows his leadership."

Toronto Maple Leafs hold state of the union amid middle of winless skid  
"He's our captain for a reason," added defenceman Troy Stecher, who slapped home the tying goal earlier in the third period. "He's our leader. It was a heck of a performance."

Matthews missed the Maple Leafs' previous game with a lower-body ailment. He wanted to suit up, but with the heavy schedule, Toronto head coach Craig Berube convinced his captain to take a night off and heal.

"You want to play every game and fight through some stuff," Matthews said. "Sometimes it just doesn't work out that way. Like I said this morning, we're playing a lot of games in



not a lot of time. So sometimes you'll have those two days to kind of rest or try to get some manage, whatever you're dealing with."

In his three games since the Christmas break, Matthews has checked in with four goals and eight points. He now sits only one goal behind Mats Sundin's franchise record of 420.

"It's special just to be in the same sentence as him," Matthews said. "Guys like him and a number of others that have come before us paved the way to wear this jersey. I think we all take a lot of pride in wearing the jersey and realize how special it is.

"It definitely means a lot. I have been trying not to think about it. It's hard when you guys (reporters) bring it up every day."

The Maple Leafs have won three of four in six nights since returning from the Christmas break. They have moved to within two points of the Buffalo Sabres, who hold down the second wild-card and final playoff spot.

Berube credits the team's improved forecheck and improved drive to the net for the good run. On Matthews' game-winner, his other linemate, Easton Cowan, hurried Winnipeg netminder Eric Comrie to freeze the puck at the side of the net. When Comrie messed up, the puck slid to Matthews out front for an easy goal.

"I like our forecheck, like the last goal," Berube said. "It's that kind of stuff we're forcing teams into bad turnovers.

"And then offensively, I think we're connected right now. On the rush, we're driving to the net really well right now."

### **Toronto Sun**

<https://torontosun.com/sports/hockey/nhl/toronto-maple-leafs/auston-matthews-hat-trick-dennis-hildebys-relief-goalkeeping-key-startling-leafs-comeback-win>

### ***Maple Leafs kick off new year with startling rally from three goals down to edge Jets***

By Lance Hornby

Someone should have thrown a fancy New Year's top hat on the ice amid the lids that came down following Thursday's hat trick by Auston Matthews.

The last of his goals gave the Maple Leafs a 6-5 rally win over the Winnipeg Jets and brought the captain to within one of Mats Sundin's franchise record of 420.

Toronto took its foot off the gas after points in four straight games with a horrendous start against the 0-7 Jets and trailed 4-1 at one stage in the middle period.

The spirited comeback, with Dennis Hildeby replacing Joseph Woll, kept the Leafs right in the thick of an increasingly tight Eastern Conference to start the new year.

It was Matthews' 14th career hat trick and the Sundin mark could tie or fall Saturday on Long Island.

Woll was pulled after four goals on 18 shots. Matthews' tip had made it 2-1 in that eventful second period, but Alex Iafallo took advantage of a failed relay between Philippe Myers and Morgan Rielly for a quick reply, before Myers left the dangerous Mark Scheifele alone in front to give the Jets a three-goal lead.

Hildeby, summoned five times from the bench for injuries or a flat start, made nine saves including a huge 2-on-1 stop on Tanner Pearson. Oliver Ekman-Larsson, then Matthews on the power play with two ticks remaining in the period, cut the Jets' margin to 4-3 before Matias Maccelli tied it in the third.

Max Domi, recipient of two great passes that didn't result in shots, was in the box when Scheifele restored the Jets lead, only to have Troy Stecher tie it with less than seven minutes to go.

Matthews then completed the hat trick with 3:22 remaining when a miscommunication between Jets goalie Eric Comrie and a defenceman off the left post, sent the puck sliding out front to the Leafs captain who collected it and slid a backhand into the empty cage.

Matthews also drew an assist on Stecher's tying goal for a four-point night.

Toronto looked dominant early, Matthews returning from a one-game absence and immediately giving Domi a sweet backhand feed which the latter rang off the cross bar.

The Jets sprang to life, catching the Leafs on a pinch and change of defence during a 3-on-2 that Gabe Vilardi buried. Matthews then lost an offensive draw and in trying to block a shot tipped Dylan DeMelo's blueline delivery past the surprised Woll.

Matthews is getting through a sore leg from a Sunday shot block in Detroit.

"It was worrisome at the time, because you never know (the severity)," the captain said Thursday morning. "But we're playing almost every day (in January), so it's one of those things I just have to manage."

Indeed, it's a full slate for them before the NHL breaks for the Olympics in early February. It includes 16 games from New Year's Day to Jan. 31 and a Western

Canadian road trip to finish. And the Leafs must be careful not to abuse that line about 'lots of hockey left' because the halfway mark of the schedule arrives Saturday.

## **The Athletic**

<https://www.nytimes.com/athletic/6934959/2026/01/01/mark-scheifele-team-canada-snub-olympics/>

### ***Mark Scheifele holds head high despite Team Canada snub: 'Don't know what else I could have done'***

By Chris Johnston

TORONTO — The immense disappointment of being passed over for Team Canada won't keep Mark Scheifele from remaining in the Olympic testing protocol in case he's called on as an injury replacement ahead of next month's Milan Cortina Games.

The Winnipeg Jets center was one of the top players left off the 25-man roster unveiled on Wednesday.

"Obviously it was a tough day. News that you don't want," Scheifele said after a two-goal, three-point performance during Thursday's 6-5 loss to the Toronto Maple Leafs. "It just shows the amount of talent in Canada. There's so many great hockey players, so many great guys. It's an honor to be part of this country just because there are so many great hockey players, and obviously I wish I was picked. God's got a plan, and you've just got to trust it."

After being one of the final cuts for last year's 4 Nations Face-Off roster, Scheifele is having the most productive season of his NHL career. His 1.23 points per game ranks sixth among Canadian skaters — trailing Nathan MacKinnon (1.79), Connor McDavid (1.71), Macklin Celebrini (1.55), Connor Bedard (1.42) and Mark Stone (1.41).

Bedard was the only other player from that group passed over by Doug Armstrong's management group, but he's also currently sidelined by a shoulder injury.

Scheifele has shown himself to be a reliable 200-foot performer despite playing on the NHL's 32nd-ranked team, and his 38 points at even strength are currently the third-highest among Canadian skaters. As a result, he's holding his head high after setting the goal of playing in his first Olympics this year.

"I don't know what else I could have done," said Scheifele. "I'm proud of the way I played all season to now. I think I'm probably playing the best hockey I've ever played in my career. That's all you've got to do is just trust in God's plan and know there's a reason for everything."

There is still a chance he could be called upon since injury replacements are permitted right up until the start of the Feb. 11-22 tournament. That's why it's significant that Scheifele is choosing to remain in the drug-testing protocol mandated by the International Olympic Committee.

For example, New York Islanders forward Bo Horvat left Thursday's game with an undisclosed lower-body injury after being named to Team Canada. While the initial hope is that it won't be a long-term issue for Horvat, according to league sources, the Islanders expect to have more clarity on Friday.

The NHL is using a condensed schedule this season to account for the Olympic break, and other issues could arise with players selected ahead of Scheifele.

If it were up to those who see what the 32-year-old does daily in Winnipeg, he'd already have a ticket to Italy booked.

"I really thought he had a real good chance of being on the team," said Jets coach Scott Arniel. "I know there's some really, really tough decisions out there — a lot of great players — but I just felt that he was so close last year. He's having a fantastic season, a great start.

"I mean, I'm not in that coaching room (listening to) what they're looking for or what they're after, (but) I really felt that he would be a big bonus for Canada."

### **Sportsnet.ca**

<https://www.sportsnet.ca/nhl/article/jets-mark-scheifele-on-missing-canadian-olympic-team-pretty-dark-day/>

### ***Jets' Mark Scheifele on missing Canadian Olympic team: 'Pretty dark day'***

By Sportsnet Staff

Mark Scheifele had no reason to celebrate on New Year's Eve.

The Winnipeg Jets forward was one of the top Canadian forwards to be snubbed for the country's Olympic team when it was announced Wednesday. He acknowledged it wasn't easy.

"Yeah, it sucked. Pretty dark day," Scheifele told reporters after the visiting Jets lost 6-5 to the Toronto Maple Leafs on Thursday night.

"It's hard to think about now after kind of turning the page to this morning. Obviously, it was a tough day. News you don't want. But it just shows the amount of talent in Canada, so many great hockey players, so many great guys."

Scheifele has the most points this season of any Canadian not to crack the team.

The former Barrie Colts star added to his total on Thursday with two goals and an assist while playing about 90 minutes away from his hometown of Kitchener, Ont. He was robbed of a hat trick and a tying goal by Leafs goalie Dennis Hildeby in the dying seconds.

Scheifele has 20 goals and 28 assists in 39 games this season, but his team sits last overall in the league after suffering its eighth consecutive loss.

"I don't know what else I could have done (to make Team Canada)," Scheifele said. "I'm proud of the way I've played all season until now. I think I've probably played the best hockey I've ever played in my career."

Scheifele also wasn't selected for Canada's 4 Nations Face-Off team last February.

The two-time NHL all-star has represented Canada at three world championships and two world junior championships, and played for Team North America at the 2016 World Cup of Hockey.

### **TSN.ca**

<https://www.tsn.ca/nhl/article/jets-scheifele-on-olympic-snub-i-dont-know-what-else-i-could-have-done/>

### ***Jets' Scheifele on Olympic snub: 'I don't know what else I could have done'***

By TSN.ca Staff

Winnipeg Jets star Mark Scheifele believes he did all he could to make Team Canada's Olympic roster, but ultimately it wasn't enough.

Scheifele was among the most notable omissions when Canada released its roster on Wednesday, along with reigning Conn Smythe trophy winner Sam Bennett and Chicago Blackhawks star forward Connor Bedard.

"Obviously it was a tough day. News that you don't want," Scheifele said Thursday, per TSN Hockey Insider Chris Johnston via The Athletic. "It just shows the amount of talent in Canada. There's so many great hockey players, so many great guys. It's an honour to be part of this country just because there are so many great hockey players, and obviously I wish I was picked. God's got a plan, and you've just got to trust it."

Scheifele spoke after adding two goals and an assist in a loss to the Toronto Maple Leafs to bring his season totals to 20 goals and 48 points in 39 games. The 32-year-old forward is eighth in the NHL in points this season and fourth among Canadian players.

"I don't know what else I could have done," Scheifele added. "I'm proud of the way I played all season to now. I think I'm probably playing the best hockey I've ever played in my career. That's all you've got to do is just trust in God's plan and know there's a reason for everything."

Scheifele was also left off of Canada's roster for the 4 Nations Face-Off last winter, finishing the season with 39 goals and a career-high 87 points in 82 games. He added five goals and 11 points in 11 playoff games for the Jets.

"I really thought he had a real good chance of being on the team," Jets head coach Scott Arniel said Thursday. "I know there's some really, really tough decisions out there — a lot of great players — but I just felt that he was so close last year. He's having a fantastic season, a great start."

"I mean, I'm not in that coaching room [listening to] what they're looking for or what they're after, [but] I really felt that he would be a big bonus for Canada."

Scheifele could still be added to the Olympic roster as an injury replacement. Canada may be forced to make a change just days after submitting their roster if Bo Horvat is ruled out long-term after exiting the New York Islanders' loss Thursday with a lower-body injury.

<https://www.tsn.ca/olympics/video/2025/12/31/are-scheifele-and-schaefer-glaring-omissions-from-team-canadas-roster/>

### ***Are Scheifele and Schaefer glaring omissions from Team Canada's roster? (VIDEO)***

TSN Hockey's Craig Button, Jeff O'Neill, Mike Johnson and Darren Dreger join James Duthie to debate whether or not Mark Scheifele and Matthew Schaefer are glaring omissions from Team Canada's roster for the 2026 Winter Olympics.

### **CityTV News Winnipeg**

<https://winnipeg.citynews.ca/video/2026/01/01/jets-fans-react-to-mark-scheifele-being-left-off-canadian-olympic-roster/>

### ***Jets fans react to Mark Scheifele being left off Canadian Olympic roster (VIDEO)***

Team Canada announced their men's Olympic hockey roster on Wednesday. Jets forward Mark Scheifele was left off the roster and left fans puzzled. Koby Mitchell with more.