

***THREE THINGS: Toews makes emotional return to Chicago, Jets lose  
Toews and Jets can't beat Spencer Knight in a 2-0 loss to the Hawks***

By Jamie Thomas

Spencer Knight stopped all 32 shots he faced giving the Chicago Blackhawks a 2-0 win over the Winnipeg Jets at the United Center. The regulation loss saw the Jets point streak end at five games and it also marked the first time in ten games that the Jets failed to score the first goal of the game. Isaak Phillips made his Jets debut on short notice as Elias Salomonsson came down with an illness. Winnipeg will return home to host the St. Louis Blues on Tuesday night.

***THE RETURN***

A special day for Jonathan Toews as he returned to the rink where he had his greatest success over his career, the United Center. When the 37-year-old said goodbye in his final game as a Hawk in April of 2023, Toews was cheered when he was introduced in the starting lineup and anytime, he was shown on the scoreboard. In his first appearance in Chicago as a member of the Jets, it was no different:

Toews played 18:06 and had two shots on goal and after the game he said he was blown away by the reception. Toews also admitted he didn't have that hard of a time getting focused on the game afterwards.

"Honestly, surprisingly, I was just kind of excited that I could just play hockey after that," said Toews.

"And, felt like our line was creating tonight, we had our chances just, I think they did a good job of clearing second chance pucks around their net and didn't quite sustain enough in their zone to find a way. So got to give them credit for how they played defensively."

***PLENTY OF CHANCES***

During the Jets five game points streak, scoring goals was never a problem, in fact they scored 23 times over that stretch. Winnipeg generated plenty of offensive chances throughout the night with 56 shots attempts and had a huge edge in high danger scoring chances at 5-on-5, 13-4. However, in the third period with the Hawks holding onto their 1-0 lead, the home side locked things down and Winnipeg missed out on a chance to get inside and get some greasy goals like they had the previous five games. Logan Stanley gave some credit to Spencer Knight but felt the Jets missed out on a great chance to make a move in the standings.

"He played great in net. We got to bear down a little bit, find, find a way to score," said Stanley.

"You know, it was one goal games. We got to come away with two points."

***RIGHT BACK AT IT***

The Jets hectic schedule continues as they will play their third game in four nights hosting the Blues at Canada Life Centre. St. Louis is another team in the Western Conference that the Jets are looking to get in front of in their bid for a playoff spot. The Blues are two points in front of Winnipeg, and the Jets have a game in hand.

“Again, Central Division, we've got to get after them, we've got to come home, make sure we get a rest, get ourselves ready,” said Scott Arniel.

“Again, we're in these three-in-fours, like everybody's doing. We've got to make sure that mentally we're strong and then we've got to go out and get ourselves some points.”

**NHL.com**

<https://www.nhl.com/news/winnipeg-jets-chicago-blackhawks-game-recap-january-19-2026>

***Knight makes 32 saves, Blackhawks shut out Jets to spoil Toews' return  
Dickinson, Bedard score for Chicago; Hellebuyck stops 22 for Winnipeg***

By Bruce Miles

CHICAGO -- Spencer Knight made 32 saves, and the Chicago Blackhawks won 2-0 against the Winnipeg Jets at United Center on Monday to spoil the return of Jonathan Toews.

Toews was playing in Chicago for the first time since his last game with the Blackhawks on April 13, 2023. He had 883 points (372 goals, 511 assists) in 1,067 games with the Blackhawks, captaining the team to a Stanley Cup championship in 2010, 2013 and 2015. The Blackhawks chose not to re-sign Toews following the 2022-23 season. He took the next two years off before returning to the NHL this season with his hometown Jets on a one-year contract.

“It blew me away, obviously,” Toews said. “Yeah, it’s a crazy moment, again, getting that reception from the fans. Pretty special. Something I’ll remember forever.”

The Blackhawks honored their longtime captain with a video tribute during the first TV timeout at 7:37 of the first period. The crowd responded with an ovation that lasted 3 1/2 minutes.

“It felt like forever,” he said. “I’m not sure what to do after awhile in that situation. The boys kept telling me to do another lap. So, yeah, pretty special.

“I tried to do my best to take it all in, really savor it, to really appreciate the love from the fans. Obviously, I spent some special years here in Chicago, and that’s what made playing for the Blackhawks so great. Winning championships and all that stuff aside, just playing for a sports team in this city, calling this home for as long as I did, it was just incredible. Can’t thank them enough. It will always be home and have a special place in my heart.”

Knight got his third shutout of the season and eighth in the NHL. Jason Dickinson and Connor Bedard scored for the Blackhawks (20-22-7), who had lost three in a row and four of five.

“We talked [Sunday] just about the understanding that we’re kind of in that last stretch, whatever, 30-plus games, 40 games or whatever, and they’re only going to get harder,” Chicago coach Jeff Blashill said. “This is what it starts to look like, and you have to find ways to win games 2-1, 3-2, be comfortable in those games.

“So, it was kind of fitting that that’s the way the game went tonight, because that’s the reality of it. If we want to end up becoming a playoff team and winning in the playoffs, that’s where you

have to do it. You have to be OK sometimes with nothing happening on a shift and taking what's given, and I thought we did a pretty good job."

Connor Hellebuyck made 22 saves for the Jets (19-23-6), who had their five-game point streak end (4-0-1).

"Our zone time was great," Winnipeg coach Scott Arniel said. "The opportunity to attack the net, I think in the second [period], we could have done that a little more frequently. I thought in the first period we did a great job of getting it out of the piles in the corners, getting it to the top. The 'D' were feeding into the net front. There were a lot of rebounds, a lot of loose pucks that we didn't get to, Chicago got to."

"At the end of the day, we get in games like that, they're tight like that. Chicago was really defending the net front. We've got to find a way. We've got to find a way to get inside, get those rebounds, get the greasy goals. We've been doing a really good job of that recently. We've got to find a way to even that score."

Dickinson put the Blackhawks ahead 1-0 at 13:21 of the second period. He picked up a bouncing puck in the offensive zone after it was flipped in by Ryan Donato and scored with a wrist shot between Hellebuyck's pads.

"They've got a really good team over there," said Blackhawks defenseman Alex Vlasic, who had the secondary assist on both goals. "They're really disciplined and we knew it was going to be a low-scoring game. We took the chances given to us and tried our best to kind of shut down their offense and knew it was going to be a playoff type of hockey game where it's 1-0, 2-0. We need to learn how to win those games, and we did a good job of that tonight."

Bedard scored into an empty net at 18:40 of the third period for the 2-0 final.

It was Bedard's 20th goal of the season and his first since Dec. 10. He missed 12 games from Dec. 13-Jan. 7 because of an upper-body injury.

"It matters," Blashill said. "I thought he certainly had a number of chances since he's been back. I think he's set up a number of people. He could have certainly more points. It feels somewhat similar to the beginning of the season when he was playing good hockey and probably not getting rewarded production-wise with the way he was playing. So, it was good for him and good for (Ilya Mikheyev) to be unselfish there and pass him the puck, and good for 'Bedsy' to bury that. Hopefully that just starts a waterfall of production."

**NOTES:** Toews was minus-1 with two shots on goal in 18:06 of ice time. ... Jets defenseman Elias Salomonsson was a late scratch because of an illness. He was replaced by Isaak Phillips. ... Bedard became the fifth player in Blackhawks history to begin his NHL career with the franchise with three consecutive 20-goal seasons. He joined Patrick Kane (13 seasons), Toews (12), Denis Savard (10) and Darcy Rota (four).

## **Winnipeg Free Press**

<https://www.winnipegfreepress.com/breakingnews/2026/01/19/not-much-else-to-cheer-about>

### ***Not much else to cheer about***

### ***Toews' return to Chi-town about the only highlight for Jets on the night***

By: Ken Wiebe

CHICAGO – The process of picking off the team in front of them just hit a significant speed bump.

With the Chicago Blackhawks clearly in their sights, the Winnipeg Jets missed out on a valuable opportunity to leapfrog them to escape the basement of the Central Division after falling 2-0 on Monday night before a raucous crowd of 19,894 at the United Center.

Instead of passing the Blackhawks with a regulation win, the Jets are now three points behind them, though they do hold a game in hand.

“A big missed opportunity,” said Jets defenceman Logan Stanley. “We’ve got to bear down a little bit, find a way to score. It was a one-goal game. We’ve got to come away with two points.”

The Jets, who slipped to 19-23-6 on the season, are back in action on Tuesday at Canada Life Centre against the St. Louis Blues.

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

#### ***The return***

The first game back in the United Center for the former captain of the Blackhawks generated plenty of attention and it lived up to the advance billing.

Following a video tribute that chronicled the time he was chosen third overall in the 2006 NHL Draft to the outpouring of support during his final game in a Blackhawks jersey, the crowd saluted Jonathan Toews with a rousing standing ovation that lasted longer than three minutes.

Toews showed his appreciation on multiple occasions as the cheers got louder and louder, culminating with the crowd chanting “John-ny, John-ny, John-ny.”

“It blew me away, obviously. It’s a crazy moment. To get that reception from the fans is pretty special. It’s something I’ll remember forever,” said Toews. “It felt like forever. I’m not sure what to do after a while in that situation. The boys kept telling me to do another lap. Pretty special.

“I tried to do my best to take it all in and really savour it. To really appreciate the love from the fans.”

That love was clearly reciprocated, as Toews skated to each corner of the building, touching his heart on multiple occasions to show exactly what the moment meant to him.

“The video tribute was special. I know that he was trying to get it to end, but I thought it was great that the fans wouldn’t stop,” said Jets head coach Scott Arniel. “He’s a first-ballot hall-of-

fame guy. He's done an awful lot for this organization, I'm talking about the Blackhawks, and they showed their appreciation."

The only disappointing part for Toews was the end result.

"You want to have your cake and eat it too," said Toews. "When you have a game like this, to go out there and have a productive night and get a big win, but aside from everything, it was a big division game for us, with where we are in the standings. Every chance we get, we've got to gain some ground. Obviously, we didn't get that job done."

The crowd was filled with No. 19 jerseys and there were plenty of signs in the building welcoming Toews back.

Toews had a number of friends and family members in attendance, including his parents.

"It's always nice when they come back," said Toews. "They're enjoying it, maybe just as much, if not a little more, than I am. Good to see them having fun and reconnecting with some people here at the United Center and just around town."

#### *The key play*

Jason Dickinson's shot off Jets defenceman Dylan Samberg was the only one to beat either goalie.

#### *THE THREE STARS*

Spencer Knight, Blackhawks, Made 32 saves for the shutout.

Jason Dickinson, Blackhawks, Scored the lone goal.

Connor Bedard, Blackhawks, Scored an empty netter and was dangerous throughout.

#### *The (Jets) debut*

Defenceman Isaak Phillips was a late addition to the Jets' lineup after Elias Salomonsson was scratched due to illness.

Phillips, who was chosen by the Blackhawks in the fifth round of the 2020 NHL Draft, suited up for the Jets for the first time since he was acquired in a trade last January.

The physical blue-liner was used on the third pairing with Logan Stanley (who played on his off-side).

Phillips finished with nine shifts for 6:29 of ice time, recording two shots on goal and a blocked shot.

"He's obviously a good skater," said Stanley. "Big guy. handles the puck pretty well. So a lot to like about his game."

There's a chance Phillips could be right back into the lineup on Tuesday, depending on how Salomonsson is feeling.

"Yeah, that was real short notice for him," said Arniel. "Might have helped him, not coming in here too nervous. He handled himself well, used his size, skated well, made some nice plays. He did what he had to do."

### *The salute*

One of the questions for Toews was during his pre-game press conference was about whether he saw any parallels for the new face of the franchise, 2023 first overall pick Connor Bedard.

"I can't compare anything that I went through to the pressure he's been under since he was a junior hockey player. I can't imagine," said Toews. "Only one guy knows what that's like, and that's him. It's pretty incredible to see how he keeps raising his game, too. What is he, 20 or whatever he is now, and he's been in the league for almost three years now. The pressure that's on him, what he walks around with every day, it's not an easy way to grow up as a young man. But from afar, it looks like he's doing a heck of a job."

Bedard, who scored an empty-netter, is having an excellent season, with 20 goals and 48 points in 36 games.

But it's the improved two-way play that has caught the attention of Arniel.

"He's been fun to watch. He's a dynamic kid," said Arniel. "You see maturity in his game, which you usually do from young kids. His game has really evolved, that's why his name was mentioned a lot (in relation) to the Olympic team. (Jeff Blashill) is putting (Bedard) out in all situations and he can rely on him."

"That's probably one of the biggest things for young players, especially centremen. It can be a heavy, hard league for centremen. The offensive side, the skill side is there, it's the defending side that all young guys have the learning process that has to happen. He's done a really good job of getting better (at that)."

### *Extra, extra*

The Jets survived a two-man disadvantage in the first period that lasted 83 seconds.

The Jets healthy scratches were forwards Danny Zhilkin and Gustav Nyquist, who sat out for a seventh consecutive game.

The star-studded crowd included Chicago Bears quarterback Caleb Williams and Chicago Cubs outfielder Pete Crow-Armstrong.

Pittsburgh Penguins general manager Kyle Dubas was among the observers, though it was unclear if he was there to scout for his team or Team Canada's men's Olympic team.

### **Winnipeg Sun**

[https://www.winnipegsun.com/sports/jets-come-up-empty-on-toews-big-night/article\\_6f29b971-3e8a-43fa-9496-b8cc83924106.html](https://www.winnipegsun.com/sports/jets-come-up-empty-on-toews-big-night/article_6f29b971-3e8a-43fa-9496-b8cc83924106.html)

### ***Jets come up empty on Toews' big night***

by Paul Friesen

This one could hurt for a while.

Given a chance to climb a rung on their steep ladder to a playoff spot, the Winnipeg Jets stumbled and slid back down instead.

Facing a Blackhawks team that had lost three straight and was just one point above them in the Western Conference, the Jets dropped a 2-0 decision on Monday, ruining Jonathan Toews' return to Chicago and putting yet another dent in their slim postseason hopes.

"You want to have your cake and eat it, too," Toews told reporters, post-game. "Go out there and have a productive night and get a win. But aside from everything, it's a big division game for us with where we are in the standings, and every chance we get we've got to try and gain some ground.

"So we didn't get the job done."

It's a second straight loss for the Jets, coming on the heels of Saturday's overtime defeat to the Leafs, negating at least part of the four-game win streak that had revived them.

"A big missed opportunity," is how defenceman Logan Stanley put it. "We've got to bear down a little bit, find a way to score. They don't get any easier."

The Jets return home to face St. Louis, two points ahead of them, on Tuesday.

"We've got to get after them," head coach Scott Arniel said. "We've got to make sure that mentally we're strong and then we've got to go out and get ourselves some points."

The Jets fall to 19-23-6, while the Blackhawks won their 20th.

### *The story*

A dozen minutes into the game, Nino Niederreiter and Luke Schenn took penalties 37 seconds apart.

The Jets killed them both off and got their own power play seconds later, but neither team could light the lamp through the entire opening 20 minutes. Shots were 12 apiece in the first.

It took until 13 minutes into the second for someone to score, Chicago's Jason Dickinson collecting a bouncing puck after a long flip-pass and firing a shot through defenceman Dylan Samberg and goalie Connor Hellebuyck.

Thanks in part to Hellebuyck, most notably his sprawling glove save on Connor Bedard, it stayed 1-0 going into the third.

Winnipeg's power play, with Toews up front, got a chance to tie it 6:35 into the final 20, but didn't generate a whole lot and 'Hawks goalie Spencer Knight shut the door when they did get a shot.

"We've got to find a way to get inside, get those rebounds, get the greasy goals," Arniel said. "We've been doing a really good job of that recently. We've got to find a way to even that score."

Knight closed it the rest of the way and Bedard closed things out with an empty-net goal.

The Jets out-shot Chicago 8-4 in the third, 32-24 overall.

Hellebuyck's record fell to 12-13-5.

### *Man of the hour*

With his parents, Bryan Toews and Andree Gilbert, in the crowd, Toews was honoured with a video tribute during a first-period break, stepping onto the ice to acknowledge the fans.

The cheering wouldn't stop, fans unfurling banners, wearing his No. 19 and chanting his name, a scene that lasted for more than three minutes but what must have seemed like three hours for the 37-year-old Winnipegger.

"It blew me away," Toews said. "It felt like forever. The boys kept telling me to do another lap."

"That was awesome," Arniel said. "Awesome to be a part of that, hear and watch the reaction from the fans. The video tribute was special. I know that he was trying to get it to end, but it was great that the fans wouldn't stop."

Toews led the Blackhawks to three Stanley Cup titles. Health concerns took him out of hockey the last two seasons, making this his first game in Chicago wearing different colours.

"Nobody deserves it more than him," Stanley said of the lengthy tribute. "I think he was trying not to get emotional. We were all trying not to get emotional. Would've liked to get a win for him in this building and for our hockey club, but really cool to see it."

### *Blue-line swap*

When defenceman Elias Salomonsson fell ill, it opened the door for Isaak Phillips to suit up for his first game as a Jet.

"That was real short notice for him," Arniel said. "Might have helped him, not coming in here too nervous. He handled himself well, used his size, skated well, made some nice plays. He's going to probably have to go back in (Tuesday), we'll see where we're at with Sal. But he did what he had to do."

Phillips skated for just 6:29, as Arniel leaned heavily on his veterans.

Josh Morrissey logged more than 28 minutes, Dylan DeMelo 23-plus.

### **Associated Press**

<https://www.sportsnet.ca/nhl/article/jets-blanked-by-blackhawks-in-toews-return-to-chicago/>

### ***Jets blanked by Blackhawks in Toews' return to Chicago***

By Associated Press

CHICAGO — Spencer Knight made 32 saves, Jason Dickinson scored and the Chicago Blackhawks beat Jonathan Toews and the Winnipeg Jets 2-0 on Monday night.

Connor Bedard added an empty-net goal in the third period as the Blackhawks stopped a three-game slide. It was Bedard's first goal since returning from a right shoulder injury.

Knight recorded his third shutout this season and the eighth of his career.



Toews played his first game in Chicago since signing with Winnipeg on July 1. The 37-year-old centre played for the Blackhawks for 15 seasons, winning three Stanley Cup titles.

Toews was cheered all night long in his return to his first NHL home. The Blackhawks showed a video of Toews' highlights in the first period, and the crowd of 19,894 responded with a lengthy standing ovation.

Connor Hellebuyck made 22 saves for Winnipeg, which dropped to 5-11-5 in its last 21 games. The Jets went 0-for-2 on the power play.

Chicago played without forwards Teuvo Teravainen and Andre Burakovsky. Teravainen missed his third straight game with an upper-body injury, and Burakovsky was scratched with an illness.

Chicago jumped in front on Dickinson's sixth goal. Dickinson settled a lofted pass from Ryan Donato and beat Hellebuyck 13:21 into the second period.

The Blackhawks had another prime scoring opportunity late in the second, but Bedard was robbed by Hellebuyck with a sprawling glove save.

#### *UP NEXT*

Jets: Open a three-game homestand Tuesday against the St. Louis Blues.

Blackhawks: Visit the Carolina Hurricanes on Thursday.

#### **Global Winnipeg**

<https://globalnews.ca/news/11620309/winnipeg-jets-shutout-by-blackhawks-2-0-in-toews-return-to-chicago/>

#### ***Winnipeg Jets shutout by Blackhawks 2-0 in Toews' return to Chicago***

By Christian Aumell & Russ Hobson Global News

It was a night a long time in the making for Jonathan Toews, making his highly anticipated return to Chicago on Monday.

But after all the buildup and an unforgettable ovation for the longtime captain of the Blackhawks, a game still needed to be played, and the Winnipeg Jets failed to score in a 2-0 loss.

The Blackhawks took the lead midway through the second period, and it stood up as the game winner as an empty netter in the final two minutes sealed the win for Chicago.

"They ended up flipping a puck out in the neutral zone and winning the race to it," said Jets head coach Scott Arniel. "But at the end of the day, we get in games like that, they're tight like that. Chicago was really defending the net front. We got to find a way. We got to find a way to get inside, get those rebounds, get the greasy goals. We've been doing a really good job of that recently. We got to find a way to even that score."

It was the first time the Jets surrendered the first goal of the game in their last 10 outings.

It was a memorable night for Toews in his first game back in Chicago after playing 15 seasons for the Blackhawks. Toews received a more than three-minute standing ovation following a video tribute during a first period TV timeout.

"It blew me away obviously," said Toews. "It's a crazy moment to again get that reception from the fans. And pretty special, something I'll remember forever."

"It felt like forever. Not sure what to do after a while in that situation. The boys kept telling me to go do another lap and so, yeah, pretty special."

The regulation loss ended a five-game point streak for Winnipeg. The Jets had an opportunity to pass the Blackhawks in the standings with a win but fell three points back with the loss.

"A big, missed opportunity," said Jets defenceman Logan Stanley. "We got to bear down a little bit and find a way to score. Those one-goal games, we got to come away with two points."

Defenceman Isaak Phillips made his Jets debut against his former team after Elias Salomonsson came down with an illness. But Phillips was used very sparingly with just 6:29 of ice time.

"That was real short notice for him," Arniel said. "It night of helped him not coming in here too nervous. But I thought, yeah, he handled himself well. He used his size, skated well, made some nice plays, so, yeah, he's gonna probably have to go back in tomorrow. We'll see where we're at with Sol, but at the end of the day, he did what he had to do."

By far the most memorable part of the first period came during the first media timeout when a 'thank you' video played in the arena to mark the return of Toews. Toews then skated around the ice while fans stood and cheered for their longtime captain during an ovation that lasted several minutes.

Toews tapped his chest to show his gratitude several times and raised his stick during the outpouring before it eventually subsided and play resumed.

Neither team managed to score in the opening 20 minutes, with Chicago squandering a lengthy 5-on-3 and the Jets failing to generate much on a power play of their own. Both teams registered 12 shots on goal.

The second period looked much like the first with the Jets creating more high danger opportunities than Chicago but it stayed 0-0 until the Blackhawks broke the ice at the 13:21 mark.

The play began in the Chicago end and seemed innocuous enough as Ryan Donato sent the puck floating in the air down the ice from his own end. The puck landed in the slot in the Winnipeg zone with Dylan Samberg and Jason Dickinson arriving to the puck around the same time.

But as Samberg tried to knock it away with his stick, Dickinson collected it and whipped a shot that beat Connor Hellebuyck high to open the scoring.

Connor Bedard nearly made it 2-0 late in the period on a power play but Hellebuyck made a sprawling, highlight-reel glove save to take a sure goal away and keep the deficit at one goal heading to the third.

Winnipeg got a third power play at the 6:35 mark of the third but again failed to get much done against one of the top penalty killing units in the NHL.

The Jets pulled Hellebuyck for an extra attacker with less than two minutes to go but Bedard sealed the win into the empty net with 1:20 remaining.

Spencer Knight stopped all 32 shots he faced to earn his third shutout of the season while Hellebuyck was saddled with the loss after making 22 saves.

The Jets will try to get back into the win column Tuesday night when they host St. Louis. Pregame coverage on 680 CJOB begins at 5 p.m. with play-by-play just after 7 p.m.

### **Canadian Press**

<https://www.chrisd.ca/2026/01/19/jonathan-toews-chicago-return-winnipeg-jets/>

### ***Jonathan Toews Gets Standing Ovation in Return to Chicago with Winnipeg Jets***

By Jay Cohen, The Canadian Press

CHICAGO (AP) — Jonathan Toews exhaled and then laughed and shook his head in disbelief as the standing ovation continued for four-plus minutes. “All right, all right,” he said before taking another lap in front of the cheering crowd.

Toews returned to Chicago on Monday night with his hometown Winnipeg Jets, but it was clear that his first NHL city still counts him as one of its own.

Toews waved and patted his heart as he was showered with cheers and chants of “Jonny! Jonny!” during a timeout in the first period. It was his first game at the United Center since he signed with the Jets on July 1.

The 37-year-old center spent his first 15 seasons with the Blackhawks, winning three Stanley Cup titles.

“I tried to do my best to take it all in and really savor it. To really appreciate the love from the fans,” Toews said. “Obviously, I spent some special years here in Chicago and that’s what made playing for the Blackhawks so great. Winning championships and all of that stuff aside, just playing for a sports team in this city and calling this home for as long as I did was just incredible. I can’t thank them enough. It will always be home and has a special place in my heart.”

There was a noticeable buzz when Toews and the Jets took the ice for pregame warmups. There was a big cheer when he was introduced with the starting lineup and once again when he was shown on the videoboard during Canada’s national anthem.

The Blackhawks showed a Toews highlight video during a break in the action with 12:23 left in the first. Dotted with No. 19 Toews jerseys and holding posters that read WELCOME BACK 19, the crowd of 19,894 stood and cheered throughout the tribute.

When the video ended, Toews jumped on the ice to acknowledge the ovation, and it just kept going as the rest of the Jets and the Blackhawks looked on.

"It felt like forever. I'm not sure what to do after a while in that situation," Toews said after Winnipeg's 2-0 loss. "The boys kept telling me to do another lap. Pretty special."

Toews was selected by Chicago with the No. 3 pick in the 2006 draft, one of the first big moments in the team's rise to the top of the NHL. He was just 20 years old when he became the 34th captain in team history in July 2008.

Toews was part of a core group that helped Chicago put together the best stretch in franchise history, winning the Stanley Cup in 2010, 2013 and 2015. The Blackhawks also made it to the Western Conference finals in 2014, losing to the Los Angeles Kings in an epic seven-game series.

"I definitely had a lot of will, a lot of energy coming into my career as a young kid here in Chicago, but it was just a perfect storm," Toews said. "We had so many great players that were finding themselves and finding their careers at the same time."

The Blackhawks celebrated those Stanley Cup teams on Saturday night as part of the festivities surrounding the franchise's centennial season. Toews caught up with a handful of his former teammates on Sunday, and Kris Versteeg and Andrew Shaw sounded the horn before the opening faceoff on Monday night.

Once nicknamed "Captain Serious" — a reputation that faded away as he showed more of his personality over the years — Toews missed the 2020-21 season and part of the 2022-23 season with what he described as symptoms of long COVID-19 and chronic immune response syndrome.

The Blackhawks announced before their 2023 season finale that it would be Toews' last game with the team, and he was showered with cheers throughout a 5-4 loss to Philadelphia.

"He's the one teammate I've ever had where you go out with him in public and people won't just say they're a 'big fan.' They'll almost give an emotional thank you to him," Blackhawks defenseman Connor Murphy said. "They'll literally say, 'Thank you for making my life better.' That's what people will say to him."

After taking a couple years off, Toews is adjusting to life with Winnipeg in his return to the NHL. He scored in four consecutive games before he was kept off the scoresheet during Saturday's 4-3 overtime loss to Toronto.

"I think as time went along I've been able to feel more comfortable and just find my game and settle in and find a role on this team," he said.