

**Winnipegjets.com**

<https://www.nhl.com/jets/news/three-things-toews-scores-first-goal-as-a-jet-in-win>

***THREE THINGS: Toews scores first goal as a Jet in win  
Toews scored game tying goal in third period, Mark Scheifele added game winner in 2-1  
victory over Flames***

By Jamie Thomas

Mark Scheifele scored the game winning goal with 4:54 left in the third period to lift the Winnipeg Jets past the Calgary Flames 2-1 at Scotiabank Saddledome. Jonathan Toews scored his first goal with the Jets (5-1) who have won five straight games, Connor Hellebuyck made 32 saves. Josh Morrissey moved into top spot on the franchise list for most assists by a defenceman. The Jets have won each of their first three road games of a season for the third time in franchise history, following 2024-25 (7 GP) and 2006-07 (3 GP). The Jets will come home to play three consecutive contests at Canada Life Centre starting Thursday against Seattle.

***FIRST FOR JT***

Jonathan Toews had two glorious chances Saturday night against the Nashville Predators to get that first goal as a Jet. Tonight, in the third period with the Flames leading 1-0, the Jets went to the power play and Neal Pionk floated a shot to the net that Toews redirected past Dustin Wolf to tie the game at 2:41.

Per NHL Stats, Toews scored his first goal as a member of the Jets and first overall since April 13, 2023 – a span of 2 years, 189 days. The 37-year-old became the third Winnipeg native to score a goal for the Jets since 2011-12. The others: Eric Fehr (2x; March 14, 2012 & Jan. 10, 2012) as well as Cody Eakin (March 9, 2020).

"As the saying goes with finding pucks in and around the net I was able to get the stick on that one and it is nice to see one go in." said Toews.

***ANOTHER ONE***

Scheifele continued his torrid pace to the start of the 2025-26 season scoring his seventh goal of the campaign with the game tied at one. Connor Hellebuyck made the save and the Jets broke out of their zone, Scheifele gave the puck to Kyle Connor in the neutral zone and made his way to the front of the Flames net. Scheifele outraced Nazem Kadri and tapped in a perfect feed from Connor for the game winner. Afterwards, Scheifele gave all the credit to Connor.

"Yes, I trust in that guy with the puck every single time," said Scheifele.

"You know he's an amazing player, and I'm lucky to play with him."

***MORRISSEY SETS FRANCHISE MARK***

Josh Morrissey came into the night one assist away from passing Dustin Byfuglien for the franchise mark for most helpers by a defenceman in franchise history. Morrissey got the second assist on Scheifele's game winning goal in the third period and he did it in his hometown, Morrissey now has 295 assists.

**NHL.com**

<https://www.nhl.com/news/winnipeg-jets-calgary-flames-game-recap-october-20-2025>

***Toews scores 1st goal with hometown Jets in win against Flames  
Scheifele breaks tie in 3rd; Calgary drops 6th in row***

By Laurence Heinen

CALGARY -- Jonathan Toews scored his first goal in more than two years, and the Winnipeg Jets won their fifth straight game, 2-1 against the Calgary Flames at Scotiabank Saddledome on Monday.

It was the Winnipeg native's first goal since April 13, 2023, a span of 921 days.

"I just kept telling myself to be ready for that one chance," Toews said. "We were talking (about) the power play, obviously it wasn't going our way in the second. When we got our chance in the third, it was nice just to get a stick on it. Sometimes those go in, sometimes they don't, so it was nice to get that first one and start to build some confidence in the offensive zone."

Mark Scheifele scored what proved to be the game-winner at 15:06 of the third period for the Jets (5-1-0), extending his season-opening point streak to six games (10 points; seven goals, three assists). Connor Hellebuyck made 32 saves.

"I play with amazing players and I'm lucky to play with them," said Scheifele, who is tied for the NHL lead in goals. "I owe it all to them."

Rasmus Andersson scored for the Flames (1-6-0), who have lost six in a row after starting their season with a 4-3 shootout win at the Edmonton Oilers on Oct. 8. Dustin Wolf made 26 saves.

"Frustration does no good for anybody," Calgary coach Ryan Huska said. "It's just a matter of rallying around your teammates and playing harder the next game and make sure we get the job done. That's what we have to do."

Andersson gave the Flames a 1-0 lead at 13:22 of the second period when his point shot through traffic beat Hellebuyck with Ryan Lomberg providing a screen in front.

"Obviously, it [stinks]," Andersson said of not being able to hold onto the lead. "We're bringing the positives with us. We battled a full 60 [minutes] tonight. We didn't do that the last few games, so bring the effort and get a couple more greasy ones, I guess."

Toews tied it 1-1 on the power play at 2:41 of the third period when he tipped Neal Pionk's point shot past Wolf.

"I'm happy for him to get that one out of the way," Winnipeg coach Scott Arniel said of Toews. "His game's been getting better every game. It's probably a big weight off his shoulders, but at the end of the day we're not looking at these early games. We're just trying to get him up and running, playing and being comfortable with how we play and him feeling good about himself and when you score goals that certainly helps."

Scheifele put the Jets up 2-1 at 15:06. He collected a pass from Kyle Connor as he drove the net and lifted a shot past Wolf's left pad to extend his goal-scoring streak to five games.

"It wasn't the prettiest of games, but that was an unbelievable pass by 'KC' [Connor]," Scheifele said. "I trust in that guy with the puck every single time. He's an amazing player and I'm lucky to play with him."

The Flames had a late power play and pulled Wolf for an extra attacker but were unable to find the equalizer.

**NOTES:** Scheifele recorded his third career five-game goal streak and tied Patrik Laine for the second-most in Jets/Thrashers history, behind only Ilya Kovalchuk (five). ... Jets defenseman Josh Morrissey assisted on Scheifele's goal and surpassed Dustin Byfuglien (294) for most assists by a defenseman in franchise history. ... Andersson scored his 49th career goal and surpassed TJ Brodie (48) for eighth-most goals by a Flames defenseman.

### **Canadian Press**

<https://www.sportsnet.ca/nhl/article/scheifele-scores-late-as-jets-burn-flames/>

### ***Scheifele, Toews score as Jets burn Flames***

By Canadian Press

Jonathan Toews' first NHL goal in more than 2 1/2 years was a pivotal one on Monday night.

Toews' power play marker at 2:41 of the third period came off a deflection of a Neal Pionk point shot to tie the game 1-1. Mark Scheifele notched the game-winner at 15:06 as the Jets rallied for a 2-1 decision over the struggling Calgary Flames.

"The No. 1 thing was the chemistry and the energy in the locker-room that this team has, that was a big selling point, and playing for a team like this that can contend and have a chance to win a Stanley Cup," said Toews, playing his 16th season in the NHL.

After missing the past two seasons due to health issues, the longtime Chicago Blackhawks star signed a one-year deal in the summer.

"On top of all that, to do it in my hometown in Winnipeg, that's a big part of it too," said Toews. "So when I really came down to it, I couldn't really see myself wearing any other sweater."

So far, so good with his new team. After Winnipeg dropped its season opener, 5-4 to the Dallas Stars, the Jets have reeled off five consecutive victories with Toews looking more and more comfortable every night.

"These last few games, I feel like I'm really starting to settle in, and just think less," said Toews. "Now that some of the systems, and the play calling, and the draws, and what we do off faceoffs, all those little details of our team game have finally become second nature, I can go out there and maybe not overthink but start to relax with the puck and feel a little bit more comfortable and not as afraid to make mistakes.

"And then from there, the offence comes."

Toews' last goal was on April 13, 2023.

"His game has been getting better every game," said Jets' coach Scott Arniel. "It's probably a big weight off his shoulders, but at the end of the day, we're not looking at these early games, we're just trying to get him up and running and playing and being comfortable with how we play, and him feeling good about himself."

In addition to logging more than 18 minutes in ice time, the 37-year-old was a deadly 15-6 at the faceoff circle against the Flames, bumping his season win percentage to a stellar 63.5 per cent.

"That's a huge asset for us. We weren't the best faceoff team over the years and he's helped us in that area, and it's helped everybody pick up their game," said Arniel.

But the intangibles the three-time Stanley Cup champion brings extends far beyond that.

"That leadership, the hockey sense that he has. He's got a great mind for the game. You can hear him when he talks to his linemates, talks to his teammates. He has drive," said Arniel. "All that stuff we've seen in the past, but now he's real good for our group in the sense that he passes on that knowledge."

At this stage in his career, slotted in as the club's No. 2 centre, Toews is no longer relied upon to lead the offence. The team has Mark Scheifele and Kyle Connor to lead the way on that front, both of whom are off to a superb start.

Scheifele (7-3-10) and Connor (3-6-9) have both opened the season with six-game point streaks. Scheifele has goals in five straight games to pace the club with seven.

"The game nowadays, there's no space, it's so fast, but they just have that connection. And a guy like Gabe (Vilardi) goes out there too and just finds that empty space. He's such a good catalyst for those two. So it's fun to watch that line," said Toews.

Scheifele welcomes Toews' veteran presence.

"He's a guy that wants to get back in the rhythm of things. He wants to excel each and every game and I think that's the coolest thing," said Scheifele. "A guy with as much experience as he has is still wanting to grow his game each and every night. He fits right into this group and we're lucky to have him."

Toews sees great things ahead for his new club.

"Everything I had heard was that they've got an experienced group, and you saw what they did in the playoffs last year, and experience like that only continues to build, and especially their success in the regular season," said Toews.

## **Winnipeg Free Press**

<https://www.winnipegfreepress.com/breakingnews/2025/10/20/hellebuyck-the-difference-as-jets-edge-flames>

### ***Hellebuyck the difference as Jets edge Flames Toews scores first as Jets, Connor and Scheifele combine for game-winner***

By: Mike McIntyre

CALGARY — It was fitting, really, that on a night Winnipeg Jets goaltender Connor Hellebuyck stood so tall, one of his 32 saves would ultimately lead to the game-winning goal for his club.

With time winding down in the third period and the score tied 1-1 on Monday night inside the Saddledome, defenceman Josh Morrissey quickly scooped up a rebound that came after a stellar Hellebuyck stop. In the blink of an eye, he sprung Kyle Connor, who streaked up the ice on an ensuing 2-on-1 rush with Mark Scheifele.

It was like muscle memory at that point for the dynamic duo, as Connor fed Scheifele for a beautiful one-timer that eluded Calgary Flames goaltender Dustin Wolf.

“Unbelievable pass by K.C.,” said Scheifele, who knew exactly what was coming. “I trust in that guy with the puck every single time. You know he’s an amazing player, and I’m lucky to play with him.”

Not to be overlooked is Morrissey, who passed Dustin Byfuglien to become the all-time franchise leader in assists by a defenceman (295). And, of course, Hellebuyck, who reminded everyone why he’s the reigning Hart and Vezina Trophy winner.

Their collective effort with just under five minutes left in regulation was the difference in a 2-1 victory by the Jets, who have now taken five consecutive games to improve to 5-1-0. The free-falling Flames dropped a sixth in a row and are now 1-6-0.

Scheifele — who passed Blake Wheeler on Saturday to become the all-time franchise leader in points — has hit the scoresheet in all six games this season, with a team-leading seven goals and 10 points.

Although this appeared to be a mismatch on paper, it didn’t play out that way on the ice. Calgary gave Winnipeg all it could handle and might have skated away with two points if not for Hellebuyck’s heroics.

Let’s break this one down further.

**HISTORIC GOAL:** You could see it coming, with Jonathan Toews looking better and better — and getting more and more chances around the net — with each passing game.

It finally happened early in the third period Monday, as the 37-year-old scored a goal for his hometown team for the very first time.

It was a beauty, too, a perfectly executed tip of a Neal Pionk shot that tied the game 1-1.

"These last few games I feel like I am really starting to settle in," said Toews, who is now up to four points through his first six games.

"I think early on our line had a bunch of chances, a lot of puck possession but the flow of the game kind of went the way it did, but I kept telling myself to be ready for that one chance. We got our chance in the third and it was nice to get a stick on it. It's nice to get that first one and start to build some confidence in the offensive zone."

You have to go all the way back to April 13, 2023 for the last time Toews lit the lamp. While plenty of his 373 career NHL goals have been significant, no doubt this one will have a special place in his heart.

Toews' teammates were likely just as excited as he was, if not more. (He was known as Captain Serious, after all).

"We were so pumped. We were ecstatic for him," said Scheifele. "He's been playing awesome for us. He's done so many good things since he's been here. And to see him get rewarded with a big goal for us is huge."

*FLICKERING FLAMES:* Jets coach Scott Arniel knew it wouldn't be an easy night at the office.

"When you get a wounded dog, there's one of two things: either they're going to bite you, or they're going to put their tail between their legs. I don't think they're going to do the tail part," he told the Free Press following the morning skate.

"We've got to be ready. They're going to be extremely upset and pissed off. We can't just come out thinking we're going to have it easy. We've got to make sure we bite back."

Calgary's previous effort was a lopsided 6-1 loss in Vegas on Saturday — a game in which Hockey Night In Canada broadcaster Kevin Bieksa absolutely torched the Flames for what he felt was a lack of effort. He isolated one clip of forward Yegor Sharangovich pulled off a potential hit and simply doing a fly-by, suggesting that's a sign of a broken culture.

"If you're going to get an effort like that from a guy, get rid of him, you know what I mean? You're disgracing the NHL with an effort like that," Bieksa told the national audience.

Those comments were a hot topic in Calgary's room Monday morning — especially after Sharangovich, who is in the first year of a five-year, US\$28.75-million contract, was a healthy scratch against the Jets. Talk about sending a message.

"Last game, we were like a 50-50 team, is the best way I can put it. There were 50 per cent of our guys that I thought worked really hard and were committed and then I don't think we had enough from the other 50," said Flames coach Ryan Huska prior to puck drop.

"And he would fall into that category. You can't make a 50 per cent change, but certain areas that weren't acceptable, we can change a few. So it happened to be him."

Give Calgary an "A" for effort in this one. But they'll have to settle for a moral victory and nothing else.

**PENALTY PARADE:** The whistles were out early and often in this one, with a parade to the penalty box that really interrupted the flow and left very little five-on-five play.

Credit to the Jets, who went 5-for-5 on the kill — including a big one in the final minute of play which was a 6-on-4 with Wolf out of the net for an extra attacker. They are now an incredible 27-for-28 this year. The Jets recorded 20 of their 28 shots during five power plays of their own, finally getting one by Wolf with the timely tip by Toews.

“It was one of those games that it just felt like there was no real push to it, no real excitement to it, it was just penalty after penalty,” said Arniel.

“We were a lot better in the third period. We didn’t get many scoring chances but obviously, J.T. scoring the one and then Scheif, that was a big one. Your best penalty killer has to be your goalie and Helly was.”

**BLUE JAYS FEVER:** The loudest cheers of the night inside Saddledome had nothing to do with the hockey game being played. The winner-take-all Game 7 showdown between the Toronto Blue Jays and Seattle Mariners was shown on the scoreboard between periods, with cut-ins during the action as well to highlight key moments.

A huge roar went up when George Springer hit a three-run homer in the seventh inning to turn a 3-1 deficit into a 4-3 lead. And the building was really rocking when Jeff Hoffman’s final strikeout of Mariners slugger Julio Rodriguez was displayed, along with the raucous on-field celebration that followed.

Calgary and Toronto may be more than 3,400 km apart — not to mention fierce rivals when it comes to the NHL and CFL — but there was some real sporting unity on display with regards to the World Series-bound baseball team.

“It was special. That was different. I’ve never been in an atmosphere like that where both hockey teams, every fan, Jet fan, Flame fan, were on their feet applauding that one so congrats to them,” said Arniel, who is from Kingston.

“We were taking peeks between periods and at the start of the game. Obviously, that’s awesome for Canada.”

**LAMBO COMES OUT OF THE GARAGE:** This was a big game for 21-year-old Brad Lambert, who made his Jets season debut skating on the third line with Alex Iafallo and Vlad Namestnikov.

The 30th-overall pick from 2022 made the team out of training camp but has been a healthy scratch. He was also sent down for a quick stint with the Manitoba Moose last weekend with the Jets needing an extra defenceman on the roster as insurance, then recalled once Haydn Fleury had healed up.

Arniel has essentially now rotated the trio of “kids” in Lambert, Nikita Chibrikov (three games) and Parker Ford (two games) to start the year, creating some internal competition to see who might ultimately stick.

Fact is, once injured forwards Cole Perfetti and Adam Lowry are healthy, it’s likely two of those three young skaters will be sent down to the minors.

So how did Lambert fare? Not great, actually. He played just 7:43 and was on the ice when the Flames scored their only goal off a Rasmus Andersson screen shot. He had one shot on goal and nothing else of note.

**KEY PLAY:** Mark Scheifele's beautiful goal in transition was the difference.

**THREE STARS:**

WPG G Connor Hellebuyck: 32 saves

CGY G Dustin Wolf: 26 saves

WPG C Mark Scheifele: Game-winning goal

**HEALING UP:** There was some good news back in Winnipeg Monday. Perfetti, Lowry and defenceman Dylan Samberg hit the ice together at Hockey For All Centre for a conditioning skate.

Perfetti, who suffered a high-ankle sprain, was the new addition. Lowry (off-season hip surgery) has been working out since early September, while Samberg (broken wrist during the pre-season) joined him last week,

Arniel said Lowry is on track for a return in the next 10-14 days, while Perfetti is "slightly ahead of schedule" and should be back by mid-November. Samberg remains a bit of a mystery as they need to let his bone fully heal, but later in November seems most logical.

That's a nice future boost for a team that is already off to a strong start without them.

"I'm not real happy we haven't had them (yet), but at the same time we've got some new players that have been able to play and gain experience and learn our systems, learn how to play Jet hockey," said Arniel.

"So it's worked out that way. I'm probably going to have a headache here somewhere down the road, because I'm going to have a lot of bodies at one time, which is a good thing."

**Winnipeg Sun**

<https://winnipeg.sun.com/sports/hockey/nhl/winnipeg-jets/win-streak-hits-five-as-jets-earn-a-2-1-victory-over-the-calgary-flames>

***Win streak hits five as Jets earn a 2-1 victory over the Calgary Flames***

By Gordon Anderson

Mark Scheifele scored the game winner in the third period, pacing the Jets to a 2-1 victory over the Flames at the Saddledome on Monday night.

Scheifele beat Nazem Kadri to the front of the Calgary net before directing a Kyle Connor saucer pass low to the glove side of netminder Dustin Wolf at 15:06 for his second game-winning goal.



"It was an unbelievable pass by KC," Scheifele said of the game-winning goal. "So, lucky I got him ... I trust that guy with the puck every single time. You know he's an amazing player, and I'm lucky to play with him."

Scheifele has scored at least one goal in five consecutive games. He has seven goals and three helpers this season. Connor has six assists and three goals this season. The third member of the line, Gabe Vilardi, has four assists.

"The game nowadays, there is no space, it is so fast, but they have that connection,' Jonathan Toews said about the team's number one line. "A guy like Vilardi goes out there and finds empty spaces, and he is such a good catalyst for those two."

Toews says the rest of the team must start sharing the offensive load as Connor and Scheifele have scored 10 of the team's 23 goals.

"We are starting to feel some pressure. We have got to get some secondary scoring," Toews said.

The Flames were given a powerplay opportunity with 25 seconds remaining in the game as Toews was whistled for slashing Rasmus Andersson, but the Jets managed to thwart the opposition. The PK was unyielding for the fourth straight game, this time going 5-for-5. The Jets penalty kill has turned away 26 of 27 opposition powerplays.

The Jets trailed 1-0 entering the third period but tied the game when Toews scored a power-play goal at 2:41. Toews skated to the front of the net and redirected a Neal Pionk point shot behind Wolf for his first goal with the Jets.

"The powerplay wasn't going our way in the second, but we got our chance in the third and it was nice to get a stick on (the shot)," Toews said. "Sometimes those go in and sometimes they don't. So, it is nice to get that first one and start to build some confidence in the offensive zone."

"We were so pumped," Scheifele said about the team's reaction when Toews scored. "We were ecstatic for him."

"I am happy for him to get that one out of the way," head coach Scott Arniel added. "His game has been getting better with every game. He had a great one the other night with the two assists (in the 4-1 win over Nashville on Saturday)."

The Jets went 0-3 on the man advantage in the second period. Overall, the team converted once in five chances.

Rasmus Andersson gave the Flames a 1-0 lead at 13:22 of the second period when his long shot from the left point beat Hellebuyck to the blocker side. Hellebuyck stopped 32 shots and was named the first star. Hellebuyck also earned his third straight win and fourth of the season.

"Hellebuyck, he played amazing all night," Scheifele said. "He was fantastic."

Winnipeg extended its win streak to five games and improved to 3-0-0 on the road. Brad Lambert made his season debut and skated mainly with Cole Koepke and Morgan Barron. Lambert logged 7:43 of ice time.

After beating the Edmonton Oilers via the shootout in the season opener, the Flames have now lost six straight games. Calgary has scored 11 goals with seven of them coming at five-on-five. They have allowed 27 goals, which is ranked last in the league.

The Jets host the Seattle Kraken on Thursday.

[https://winnipeg.sun.com/sports/jets-jonathan-toews-still-looking-for-the-goal-scoring-touch?utm\\_source=winnipeg-jets](https://winnipeg.sun.com/sports/jets-jonathan-toews-still-looking-for-the-goal-scoring-touch?utm_source=winnipeg-jets)

### ***Jets' Jonathan Toews still looking for the goal-scoring touch***

By Gordon Anderson

Despite a couple of half-decent chances on Saturday night, including one post ping, Jonathan Toews is still searching for his first goal of the season.

"It'll come," head coach Scott Arniel said. "But they're all playing well. They're all getting their chances. Toews is getting some good looks. That one off the post, obviously you'd love to see that go in, but he's not stressing."

The incident Arniel mentioned, a rebound off an Alex Lafallo opportunity, happened with 3:24 remaining in the first period.

Toews mishit the puck in front of the net, the disc bouncing off Brady Skjei's right leg and sliding under the right pad of Jussi Saros's before glancing off the right post. The Nashville netminder managed to recover and freeze the puck before any damage could occur.

After missing two seasons with health issues related to long COVID and Chronic Immune Response Syndrome, the shooting touch is sometimes the last of the tools to find its place in the toolbox.

"If you don't play games for as long as he does, it'll obviously take a lot of time," Mark Scheifele said. "But I think he's gotten better every game."

The Jets top centreman says Toews is primarily focusing on other matters at hand, besides scoring goals.

"He wants to continue to grow, continue to get better and learn, and he's a big part of this team on and off the ice," Scheifele said.

Even though Toews has gone wanting in front of goal, he is contributing elsewhere with three helpers in five games.

"He's just going out (there) and doing what he does best," Arniel said. "He's made some great plays with the puck."

Toews added two helpers on Saturday evening as the Jets extended their win streak to four games following a 4-1 win over Nashville.

<https://winnipeg.sun.com/sports/hockey/nhl/winnipeg-jets/according-to-the-numbers-the-winnipeg-jets-are-living-on-borrowed-time>

### ***According to the numbers, the Winnipeg Jets are living on borrowed time***

By Gordon Anderson

No one with the Jets is attempting cartwheels down the runway, despite the productive start to the regular season.

"I still don't think we've played a solid 60 minutes yet," Jets forward Mark Scheifele said prior to Monday's road game against the Calgary Flames.

The Jets earned their fourth consecutive regulation win in five games following a 4-1 triumph over the Nashville Predators on Saturday evening.

The victories came at the expense of the New York Islanders, Los Angeles Kings and the Philadelphia Flyers, prior to Saturday's triumph over the Predators.

Scheifele set the franchise benchmark, notching his 813th point with a power-play goal in the first period on Saturday. The Jets top centre surpassed Blake Wheeler, who set the previous Jets 2.0 scoring mark with 812 points.

The Jets came out flying against the Preds, establishing a 2-0 lead by the end of the first period. They outshot the visitors 11-5 in the opening 20 minutes, but four penalties in the second period derailed any carryover momentum. The visitors turned the tables in the shots on goal category, firing 15 shots on Connor Hellebuyck. The home side responded with four.

"We came out great, obviously got an early goal on the power play and then they kind of turned the tides on us, started to buzz on us and got a couple of power plays," Scheifele said.

"I really liked the first period," head coach Scott Arniel added. "The second period, we obviously took a bunch of penalties and (had) the five-on-three against. I lost my guys who don't kill (penalties), they sat there for a while. But at the end of the day, Hellebuyck was big. He had to make some big stops."

The second period outbreak by Nashville was another example of missing the 60-minute mark with the consistency factor.

In every game this season, the Jets have had one hiccup period where the opposition managed to gain the upper hand but haven't punished the Jets in terms of goals.

Against the Flyers last Thursday, the Jets were outshot 12-5 in the second period but outscored Philadelphia two goals to one. Against the Islanders last Monday, the Jets were outshot 11-5 in the third period but scored the only goal, and against the Los Angeles Kings on Oct. 11, the Kings outshot the Jets 11-5 in the first period, the Jets scoring the only goal. In the 5-4 loss to Dallas on opening night, the Stars outshot Winnipeg 17-7 in the second period, with neither team scoring.

According to one analytical model, the team is living on borrowed time as every player who has played at least one game for the Jets this season has a negative expected goal factor at five-on-five, except for Dylan DeMelo at 50.99 per cent.

Expected Goal (xG) is a metric that measures a team's dominance over another in terms of scoring chances. A team in the negative expected goal category means the opponent had better scoring opportunities.

Jets defenceman Logan Stanley says the team will tighten up its play as the season progresses. How the team looks now won't be the same in a month or two, especially with the hopeful return of three key cogs in the wheel in Adam Lowry, Dylan Samberg and Cole Perfetti.

"We're improving every day," Stanley said. "Obviously, we didn't like our start against Dallas, so (we are) continuing to build every day. We're not satisfied, and we have an end goal that we're trying to reach."

"There are still a lot of things to fix, and there are always things to get better at, but we have a group that wants to do that," Scheifele added.

[https://winnipeg.sun.com/sports/jets-forward-cole-perfetti-on-the-ice-skating-lowry-and-samberg-progressing?utm\\_source=winnipeg-jets](https://winnipeg.sun.com/sports/jets-forward-cole-perfetti-on-the-ice-skating-lowry-and-samberg-progressing?utm_source=winnipeg-jets)

### ***Jets forward Cole Perfetti on the ice skating, Lowry and Samberg progressing***

By Gordon Anderson

On the injury front, there was more positive news for the Jets.

"Cole Perfetti on the ice is a good sign, as maybe he is a little bit earlier (coming back) than we thought," head coach Scott Arniel told reporters in Calgary.

Perfetti was skating on Monday morning at the Hockey For All Centre. He was joined by Adam Lowry and Dylan Samberg.

Perfetti suffered a high ankle sprain at the end of the second period in the final exhibition game against the Calgary Flames on Oct. 3.

At the time, Perfetti was listed week-to-week. Arniel doesn't expect Perfetti's status to change, but he is hopeful the winger can make his regular-season debut within the next four to five weeks.

"(It will be) probably mid-November (for Perfetti)," he said.

And while Perfetti is just now back on his skates, Lowry and Samberg have already been on the ice for a week and change.

Lowry wore the yellow jersey on Saturday during a team practice at Canada Life Centre.

If all goes well, the captain could return to the lineup in the next couple of weeks. The original estimate for Lowry's return was in the late October-early November timeline.

“(Lowry) has to get into the heavy-lifting part of it, which you will start to see a little bit more of,” Arniel said. “Although we don’t have a lot of practice days ahead, he will get more involved with some of that stuff.”

Lowry underwent hip surgery back in May, less than a week after the Jets lost to the Dallas Stars in the Western Conference final in six games.

Despite his up and skating status, there is no definitive timeline for Dylan Samberg.

Samberg broke his wrist on Sept. 27 against the Flames, after colliding with Ryan Lomberg along the sideboards near the Jets’ bench.

Samberg’s initial timeline was six to eight weeks.

“Samberg is different because it is a hand, a broken bone so that one has to play correctly and has to heal,” Arniel said.

Despite missing three essential players the club has won four straight games, heading into league action on Monday night.

“I am not happy that we don’t have them, but on the other side we have six or seven new players that have been able to play, gain experience, learn our systems of play, learn how to play Jets hockey, and get to know their teammates,” Arniel said. “So, it has worked out that way.”

Arniel and the coaching staff will certainly have difficult decisions to make when the injured players regain their full-time status.

“I am probably going to have a headache somewhere down the road because I am going to have a lot of bodies, which is a good thing because we have talked about our depth, improving our depth, and we feel we will have that once all those guys are all healthy.”

### **Global Winnipeg**

<https://globalnews.ca/news/11486873/toews-scores-his-first-as-winnipeg-jets-come-back-to-beat-flames-2-1/>

### ***Toews scores his first as Winnipeg Jets come back to beat Flames 2-1***

By Christian Aumell & Russ Hobson Global News

For the first time in two and a half years, Jonathan Toews has scored a goal in the NHL.

The 37-year-old tallied his first goal with his hometown team, part of a third period comeback as the Winnipeg Jets downed the Calgary Flames 2-1 Monday night, extending their win streak to five games.

After Toews tied the game earlier in the third period, Mark Scheifele scored the game winning goal off an odd man rush with a little under five minutes left in regulation to break a 1-1 deadlock, while handing the Flames their sixth loss in a row.

"We were a lot better in the third period," said Jets head coach Scott Arniel. "We didn't get many scoring chances, but obviously JT scoring the one, and then Schife, that was a big one."

In his sixth game with his new team, Toews redirected in a point shot at the start of the final frame to get the Jets on the scoreboard.

"These last few games I feel like I'm really starting to settle in," said Toews. "All the little details of our team game starting to finally become second nature. I can go out there and maybe not overthink but start to relax with the puck and feel a little more comfortable."

Toews also won 15 of his 21 faceoffs and with his first goal, Toews now has three points in his last two games.

"Happy for him," said Arniel. "Get that one out of the way. I think his game has been getting better every game and had a great one the other night with the two assists. It's probably a big weight off his shoulders."

"We were so pumped," Scheifele said. "We were ecstatic for him. Obviously, he's gonna be happy. He's been playing awesome for us. He's done so many good things since he's been here and to see him get rewarded with a big goal for us is huge."

Scheifele now has seven goals in just the first six games. He has at least a point in every contest and is now on a five-game goal streak.

The Jets have only allowed eight goals over their last five games.

The game was dominated by special teams with both clubs getting five chances on the man advantage with the Jets scoring the only power play goal of the night.

"The flow was really, really weird," said Scheifele. "But that's the way the game is gonna go sometimes and you just go to go with it. Obviously, penalty kill was great, we got a great power play goal by Tazer there, and not every game is gonna go the way you want it to, but happy to get the win."

The Jets have still only allowed one power play goal all season and have killed off 23 straight penalties successfully going all the way back to the season opener.

Neither team scored in the first, thanks in large part to the Jets' penalty kill. Coming into the game having killed 18 in a row, dating back to their opening game against Dallas, the Jets killed off a pair of penalties in the first as well as another that carried over into the second.

In that middle frame, it was Winnipeg's turn to falter with the man advantage, failing to convert on three opportunities. After 40 minutes, both teams were 0-for-4 on the power play.

But the Flames were able to draw first blood at even strength at the 13:22 mark of the second.

Calgary's fourth line won a battle for the puck below the goal line before Adam Klapka slid the puck back to the point. Rasmus Andersson let a shot go from the blue line that eluded Connor Hellebuyck thanks in large part to a perfect net-front screen from Ryan Lomberg.

Winnipeg held a slight 22-21 edge in shots on goal through 40 minutes and thanks to another power play early in the third, they finally cashed in to tie the game.

That's when Toews deflected a point shot from Neal Pionk for his first goal since Apr. 13, 2023 to tie the game at the 2:41 mark of the third.

The game opened up over the course of the third with teams skating up and down the ice for minutes on end without a whistle.

After nearly three minutes without a break, Scheifele picked up the puck in his own end off a Hellebuyck save and skated it up the ice with Kyle Connor. Connor carried it into the Flames' end along the wall as Scheifele cut to the net, and he steered home a pass from Connor that beat Dustin Wolf for his seventh of the season with 4:54 to go.

The Flames hit the post not long after and had a power play in the dying seconds but couldn't beat Hellebuyck again as he turned aside 32 shots and was named the game's first star.

Winnipeg will return home to try and make it six straight when they host Seattle on Thursday.

### **Daily Faceoff**

<https://www.dailyfaceoff.com/news/winning-jets-jonathan-toews-is-finding-groove-again-after-nhl-absence-chicago-blackhawks>

### ***Jets' Jonathan Toews is finding groove again after extended NHL absence***

By Steven Ellis

Jonathan Toews went over 900 days between NHL games – so it wasn't surprising to see him start off slow.

The 37-year-old is a three-time Stanley Cup champion and a future Hockey Hall of Fame member. But the days of him being an absolute workhorse is long gone – his production struggled after the COVID-19 shutdowns.

Fortunately, he's starting to find his groove again with the Winnipeg Jets, where he currently has three assists in five games. He's coming off his best game to date on Saturday, registering two assists against Nashville.

On Daily Faceoff Live on Monday, Tyler Yaremchuk and Carter Hutton discussed the recent play of No. 19:

*Tyler Yaremchuk:* "I wanted to give some love to Jonathan Toews. He got his first multi-point game since returning to the league. If you look at the numbers, you watch the play, it's been a little bit of a slow start for Toews and his return to the NHL. But hey, that should be expected. He's been out of the sport for two years.

"I thought he did a really good interview with Elliotte Friedman, kind of opening up on his journey back to the league. I love when players open up like that. With every game you watch, he's gotten better and more comfortable. I think there's reason to believe that this is a guy who... he's not going to get back to 'Captain Serious, winning the Cup' level, but I think he's going to

get back to a really solid level at some point here. And a two-point night on the weekend is a good building block for Toews.

*Carter Hutton:* “Taking that extra time off is so tricky for a guy like Jonathan Toews – potentially being that No. 2 center, where he can fit in this lineup and play well. I’s going to take time, right? I think just having him around this team – his leadership, his background, everything he’s been through – is going to be important.

And one thing I’ve noticed now is how players handle modern media. I felt like when I played, it was hush-hush, right? You didn’t tell the media anything. You kept it quiet. It’s nice now that guys are starting to show more behind the curtain of what goes on. And I think it’s great for the individual. We can humanize the athletes and understand that they’re not just a piece that move up and down on our fantasy team.”

### **The Athletic**

<https://www.nytimes.com/athletic/6734416/2025/10/21/central-division-winnipeg-jets/>

#### ***The Central Division is the toughest in the NHL. Here’s how Winnipeg can win it***

By Murat Ates

The Central Division is so good that Sean McIndoe is ready to bend imaginary power rankings rules on its behalf.

Seven of the eight teams in the division have winning records while the eighth, Nashville, is .500. The division boasts three out of the NHL’s four best power plays (Minnesota, Dallas, and Winnipeg), the best penalty kill (Winnipeg), and best defence (Colorado). It also contains three of the 10 teams with the most improved points percentages (Colorado, Utah, and Chicago) and three of our top-10 projected finishers in this season’s standings (Colorado, Winnipeg, and Dallas).

No other division comes close to this early-season excellence. Colorado leads the league, with the Jets just one point behind them, despite starting the season without Adam Lowry, Cole Perfetti, and Dylan Samberg — and it’s possible that five Central Division teams make the playoffs for the second straight season.

How will Winnipeg keep pace in the inevitable Central Division arms race?

The first step is accepting that the Jets are in a position to become Cup contenders at all. Winnipeg’s underlying numbers have not been impressive through its 5-1-0 start. A bit too much of its record comes from special teams and goaltending to depend upon without improvement from within, making it important to quantify the improvement that’s coming.

There is a dramatic swing from the 18 percent of expected goals enjoyed by Logan Stanley and Neal Pionk, for example, and the season-long 56 percent dominance that Pionk put together with Samberg at his side. There is a world of difference between Lowry’s 51.4 percent career faceoff rate and the 29.5 percent rate Vladislav Namestnikov is putting up in his stead. Perfetti, meanwhile, is a 23-year-old player on the cusp of more ice time in all situations and a likely chemistry fit with Jonathan Toews — who has scored his first Winnipeg Jets goal.



Toews' power play goal started with a clean zone entry and finished with Toews deflecting Pionk's point shot past Dustin Wolf. It was his first NHL goal since April 13, 2023 — a 5-4 Chicago loss to Philadelphia in overtime.

Toews is a work in progress (as we've written many times) but I wouldn't put a ton of worry into his lone five-on-five point but Toews' offensive ability has been particularly evident with the man advantage. Both of his power play assists showed great vision, with his cross-seam pass to Namestnikov against Nashville sparking just a little bit extra.

There are times when he is a step behind the play but Toews is proving he belongs day by day and game by game.

"Happy for him to get that one out of the way. I think (he's) been getting better every game," Scott Arniel told reporters in Calgary. "It's probably a big weight off his shoulders but, at the end of the day, we're not looking at these early games. We're just trying to get him up and running."

The intensity and pace will pick up in January, heading into the Olympic break — and again down the stretch after it — so it might be safest to wait until early in the new year before cementing an opinion about what Toews is capable of this season. If he's producing offence at five-on-five as well as the power play in the year 2026, you can safely affirm that Winnipeg's bet on Toews has paid off.

Arniel's words reaffirm that the Jets' signing of Toews has always been about Winnipeg playing the long game. They believe in his ability to find ways to win at crunch time — and, to that end, Toews is one of a select group of NHL stars whose scoring rate is higher in the playoffs than it is during the regular season. (The only other Jets star who fits that criteria is Mark Scheifele.) He'll turn 38 years old in April but, if you're looking for reasons for optimism, Brad Marchand (37) and Corey Perry (40) each had productive playoffs just last year.

There is also the thought that Toews' hockey IQ — to the degree that it's teachable, anyway — can help Winnipeg's players in seasons beyond this one.

"He's got a great mind for the game. You can hear him when he talks to his linemates, talks to his teammates. He has drive," Arniel said. "He has all that stuff we've seen in the past, but he's real good for our group in the sense that he passes on that knowledge."

So the Jets are playing the long game with respect to 2025-26 success — and beyond. What more can they do to win this season?

#### *The inevitable arms race*

If you see Colorado and Dallas as Winnipeg's biggest threats — as they were last season — then the Jets will be in an advantageous position with respect to cap space to use on deadline day.

If Utah (or, less likely, Chicago) are for real, then not so much.

#### Central Division

Colorado Avalanche	\$4,665,358
Winnipeg Jets	\$10,159,209
Utah Mammoth	\$20,718,368
Chicago Blackhawks	\$63,327,163

St. Louis Blues	\$2,857,833
Dallas Stars	\$340,990
Nashville Predators	\$28,849,605
Minnesota Wild	\$17,134,587

Remember that the NHL's salary cap rules have changed heading into this year's playoffs. You can read the details at [PuckPedia](#), but there are three important rules that apply:

- The 20 players on each team's lineup card on any given night must have a total cap hit that fits within the \$95.5 million cap
- Cap hits are not pro-rated for this playoff calculation. A player's full cap hit counts, even if they were acquired partway through the season.
- Cap hits do not include bonuses in this case, meaning that Toews counts as a \$2 million player

Rearrange the lineup how you like, including Cole Koepke, Colin Miller, or whichever player you think deserves it most. The bottom line remains that the Jets will have room to work with if there's a trade they're able to make.

The most impactful addition would be a big, right-handed defenceman who can help take some of Dylan DeMelo and Pionk's matchup minutes away when the playoffs inevitably turn into a dogfight in Connor Hellebuyck's crease. The book seems to be out on Winnipeg's No. 1 netminder: An inferior Blues team nearly knocked Winnipeg off by attacking the net like the Avalanche did in 2024. Additional, talented physicality could help the Jets quite a bit.

There's also a case to be made that Winnipeg could use another top six forward. Gustav Nyquist has been good enough, scoring three assists in six games so far, and he's fun to watch. Still, Toews and Perfetti could use help if they're meant to match the impact of Colorado's second line (currently: Gabriel Landeskog, Brock Nelson, Valeri Nichushkin.)

The ultimate goal would be to turn the Jets into an all-around juggernaut. They're 5-1-0 via the fourth best power play, the best penalty kill, and excellent goaltending, but they're dead last in their share of shots, shot attempts, and expected goals according to Natural Stat Trick. Back-to-back Cup finalists Florida and Edmonton were in the top five in all three categories in 2023-24 and 2024-25, while bottom five teams tend to miss the playoffs.

That's not to say the Jets are a finished product. Lowry, Perfetti, and Samberg will help, but this team is worth thinking playoff thoughts about. The Jets' ample cap space, aging core, and Toews' continued resurgence — if all goes well — earn them the right to think about winning multiple rounds of the playoffs. They're going to need to play a much better five-on-five game to go head-to-head with their Central Division rivals and get out of the second round.

Winnipeg's season could become a delicate balance between waiting to see how the Jets' game progresses as they reintegrate core pieces into their lineup vs. striking early on the trade market. That latter task is easier said than done in a league whose no-trade clauses disproportionately impact Winnipeg. There's no better example of that than Nelson, last season, whose preference for Colorado brought the Central Division's heated competition into the trade market.

Whatever the underlying numbers say, the Jets are banking points and don't play a 2025 playoff team until visiting Minnesota next week. What a privilege it is for a team to need to work through some things while competing for top spot in the league's best division.

<https://www.nytimes.com/athletic/6729553/2025/10/21/7-nhl-veterans-on-track-to-have-bounce-back-years/>

## **7 NHL veterans on track to have bounce-back years**

By Murat Ates

These are the players forgotten about at opponents' peril.

Whether they've been hurt by bad finishing, bad health or bad luck, there is a group of talented forwards filling NHL nets right now who are trying to rebound from uncharacteristically poor seasons.

In some cases, they're surefire Hall of Fame candidates, such as Evgeni Malkin, whose two-decade Penguins career has included three Stanley Cup championships and one Conn Smythe Trophy. In others, they're talented veterans getting unique opportunities, such as Vladimir Tarasenko making hay on the top power-play unit in Minnesota or Chris Kreider finding new life and big minutes in Anaheim.

In all cases, this group of early season bounce-back candidates are off to hot starts.

How much of it is real?

Here's a deeper look into some of the most surprising NHL points leaders and the likelihood that their early surges mean they'll be at their best all season long.

### **7. Nino Niederreiter, LW, Winnipeg Jets**

2024-25 stats: 17 goals, 20 assists, 37 points in 82 games

2025-26 stats: 2 goals, 4 assists, 6 points in 6 games

It's been a long time since Nino Niederreiter scored like a top-six player — four seasons since he hit 44 points for Carolina and nearly a decade since his 57-point performance in Minnesota. He's long been a streaky scorer, oscillating between burying so many plays in the blue paint so as to look like a top winger, and lengthy cold streaks — including two goalless streaks of well over 10 games last season.

He's launched his 2025-26 like a rocket.

Niederreiter isn't going to get a ton of breakaways — that was a perfect stretch pass from Vladislav Namestnikov in the video above — but he's also enjoyed success on Winnipeg's second power-play unit. If he were to somehow maintain his power-play points rate from early this season, Niederreiter would more than double his career high in power-play points (14.)

It is more realistic that Niederreiter will maintain a hot streak for a little while before returning to his typical scoring rates. He's been full value for the points he has gotten — he made an

incredible centering pass to Namestnikov for a tap-in against Philadelphia — but it's tough to imagine Niederreiter finishing the season as close to a point-per-game player.

Verdict: This isn't a sustainable ride, no matter how fun it will be while it lasts. Still, his 44-point total from Carolina is within reach as long as the Jets' second power-play unit continues to hum.