

***THREE THINGS: Jets fall in overtime to Wild
Jets winless streak now at five games, will host Oilers on Monday***

By Jamie Thomas

WINNIPEG – Matt Boldy scored 39 seconds into overtime to give the Minnesota Wild a 4-3 win over the Winnipeg Jets at Canada Life Centre. Josh Morrissey, Kyle Connor and Mark Scheifele scored for the Jets who have dropped nine straight one-goal games this season. Connor Hellebuyck made 15 saves, the Jets will get back on home ice on Monday when they host the Edmonton Oilers.

MISSED CALL

The Jets held the lead late in the third period and the Wild were pressing for the tying goal, Joel Eriksson Ek cross checked Josh Morrissey in the back and the Jets defenceman tumbled hard into the corner. Moments after that Dylan DeMelo was penalized for cross checking Eriksson Ek and that wiped out an empty net goal scored by Kyle Connor. Mats Zuccarello would score on the ensuing power play sending the game into overtime where Minnesota got the extra point. Afterwards, Jets head coach Scott Arniel was asked about that sequence that led to the tying goal.

“Absolute terrible non-call on Josh Morrissey. It should have been called. Headfirst into the boards,” said Arniel.

“And a ticky-tac little call after that, that’s got nothing to do with management, that was just a bad non-call.”

DOING MORE

Kyle Connor said before the game that he felt that he and Mark Scheifele can do a lot more to help the team. Connor and Scheifele lead the Jets in goals (17), assists (26) and points (43) and they delivered once again. The Wild were leading 2-1 in the second period with just over two minutes left in the period, Gabriel Vilardi muscled past Quinn Hughes, left the puck for Scheifele and he found Connor all alone in the slot and Connor beat Wallstedt to tie the game at two.

The Jets would take their second lead of the night after Jonathan Toews won an offensive zone faceoff to Scheifele and he wristed in his 18th of the campaign with under three seconds left in the second.

“What else can you ask from them? So, I think with the rest of our lineup, we’re trying to find some, you know, some consistency with the linemates that you’re out there with, and build some energy, build some confidence,” said Jonathan Toews.

“And I mean, if we’re not putting goals on the on the board every single night, at least go out there and generate energy and put them in a better spot.”

GUS GETTING CLOSE

It looked like Gustav Nyquist had his first goal as a Winnipeg Jets on a brilliant individual effort at 9:20 of the first period but the Wild challenged and it was determined that Nino Niederreiter

was offside. Nyquist then hit the crossbar later in the second period and remains without a goal in 27 games this season.

"Yeah, it's another bounce that's tough to stomach, but I think he did a hell of a job of just kind of taking a deep breath and moving on," said Toews.

"And he played great tonight and rang one off the bar there in the second, so guys like him to keep driving, keep making plays the way he has. It's gonna make our team a lot better."

<https://www.nhl.com/jets/news/prospect-report-alfons-freij-and-sascha-boumedienne>

***PROSPECT REPORT: Alfons Freij and Sascha Boumedienne
Freij and Boumedienne will represent Sweden at this years World Junior Hockey
Championship***

By Jamie Thomas

There are two Winnipeg Jets prospects at this year's World Junior Hockey Championship and both represent Sweden.

Alfons Freij (2nd round, 2024) and Sascha Boumedienne (1st round, 2025) are set to help Sweden to World Junior glory. The Swedes do things a little differently when it comes to naming their team as it is announced via a live press conference, Freij was on a road trip with his pro team when he got the good news.

"It's a dream come true. It means everything to get selected to such a big tournament like this, to test yourself against the best juniors in the world,"

"We were sitting on a bus, just some guys looking on the iPad. It's me and two other guys from my team that got selected, it was a good road trip."

The Swedes are in Group A this year with the host United States, Slovakia, Switzerland and Germany.

"I mean we got a good team for sure. We got some very good guys, and our main focus right now is to get the group," said Freij from his hotel room.

"I'm just trying to help get the best out of the team, we got pretty good chances. I believe in jinx so I can't say too much."

Sweden has had lots of success during the round robin portion of the World Juniors but have only won gold twice (1981, 2012), they have 12 silver medals. Joining Boumedienne as first round picks in the NHL are forwards Anton Frondell (Chicago) and Victor Eklund (Islanders) plus 18-year-old Ivar Stenberg has been drawing a lot of attention from NHL scouts.

"We have an unreal team. Unreal top talent with a few of the top guys in the world. I feel like we have a deep team," said Boumedienne.

"A well-rounded team from skilled guys that can score goals and make plays but also play the right way to guys that play really hard and are hard to play against."

Freij and Boumedienne did not know one another until the Boumedienne was drafted by the Jets and they eventually met at development camp.

"He's a very good friend of mine. It's amazing to do this journey together, to be here together," said Freij.

"It's very big (opportunity) and we're just loving every second."

Boumedienne gave a scouting report of Freij for both on and off the ice.

"Tries to do the right thing with the puck every time and he's a really good skater, you have a hard time beating him anywhere really and has a good stick," said Boumedienne.

"Off the ice he's an energetic guy that everybody wants to be around, kind of throws in funny jokes at times. A lot of guys love to be around him, great kind of leader and voice in our room."

Boumedienne is having another solid season at Boston University with six points in 17 games. The 18-year-old said that both he and his teammates got off to a slow start but were getting up to speed before the holiday break.

"We're a very young group that are just trying to figure each other out and try to get together as a group like any young team. So, I feel like at the end of the first half there we started to find our way, find the way we wanted to play and started to feel more as a team," said Boumedienne.

"For myself, I felt like my start was pretty similar to the teams, a little bit up and down. As of late, been feeling really good and just keep working on my all-round game, two-way game, winning puck battles, and trying to get up the ice a little more."

Freij is playing in the SHL this season with Timrå IK and has a couple of assists in 25 contests.

"It's going good, we're not the best, we're not the worst, we're in the middle. We're not good with that to be honest. We have more. We have to be prepared for the other half of the season, we have more in us for sure," said Freij.

"My role on the team is the offensive side, start with the offensive end, to play some power play sometimes. I'm learning more and more to be a two-way player, I'm learning from the other guys as well."

Like any Jets prospect, Freij has had a lot of chats with the Jets director of player development Jimmy Roy and Mike Keane.

"I want to be better offensively, defensively but my main part is without the puck in the d-zone, to pin someone, I've got the size to use my body more," said Freij.

"Be a little more aggressive in the d-zone, so that's my main part I would say."

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<https://www.nhl.com/news/minnesota-wild-winnipeg-jets-game-recap-december-27-2025>

***Boldy scores 2nd goal in OT after Wild tie it late to stun Jets
Zuccarello gets equalizer with :22 left for Minnesota; Winnipeg drops 5th in row***

By Darrin Bauming

WINNIPEG -- Matt Boldy scored twice, including the overtime winner, and the Minnesota Wild came back to win 4-3 against the Winnipeg Jets at Canada Life Centre on Saturday.

Boldy scored 39 seconds into overtime from the slot to complete the late comeback, after Mats Zuccarello tied it 3-3 at 19:38 of the third period on the power play.

"I didn't think it was a bad game from us, I didn't think it was our best," Boldy said. "But just sticking with it, taking the positives and getting back on track I think is the biggest thing. For us, when we're playing hard and simple and letting the plays come to us rather than force them, that's what makes us good.

"I think in the second [period] there, we were forcing a little bit too much and trying to make too many plays, and [we] went out for the third and kind of simplified a bit and found a way to tie it up."

Quinn Hughes had three assists, Kirill Kaprizov had a goal and two assists, and Zuccarello had a goal and an assist for the Wild (23-10-6), who have points in nine of 10 (8-1-1). Jesper Wallstedt made 23 saves.

"It's a hard game," Wallstedt said. "They get a couple good looks, and they capitalized on some of them, but I just keep reminding myself to just try to keep the team in the game, make the next save and do my best to make sure there's still a chance to win the game. Fortunately, today we could, and the guys came up big."

Kyle Connor and Mark Scheifele each had a goal and an assist, and Connor Hellebuyck made 15 saves for the Jets (15-17-4), who lost their fifth straight (0-2-3). Gabriel Vilardi had two assists.

"To give one up like that late, and then obviously the bounces didn't seem to go our way late in the game, it's definitely frustrating," Winnipeg forward Jonathan Toews said. "I think we need to just keep that attitude, that we keep working and doing the little things right and getting all four lines going, that our bounces are going to come. I think we talked about really building that belief in our locker room tonight, and I think we came out really strong. And I think we all feel we deserve better, but it's the way it goes. So we'll move on and move on to the next one."

Gustav Nyquist appeared to give the Jets the lead at 9:20 of the first period with an end-to-end individual effort, but Minnesota challenged for offside and the goal was overturned.

"It's another bounce that's tough to stomach, but I think [Nyquist] did a [heck] of a job of just kind of taking a deep breath and moving on," Toews said. "And he played great tonight and rang one off the bar there in the second. So guys like him, to keep driving, keep making plays the way he has, it's going to make our team a lot better."

Josh Morrissey made it 1-0 Jets at 11:36 of the first period, when Connor's pass from the corner set him up for a slapshot from the high slot.

"You know what, that was a [heck] of an effort by our hockey team. It really was," Winnipeg coach Scott Arniel said. "What is it, [Minnesota is the] second-hottest team in the League since November 1st? That was a [heck] of a hockey game by us. And I thought that we did everything we possibly could to win that hockey game."

Boldy tied it at 18:29, redirecting Jared Spurgeon's point shot at the top of the crease.

"It was a great play by Jared," Boldy said. "He's so good at finding lanes and giving you shots that are very typical. It wasn't a designed play or anything, it's trying to get to the net. Hellebuyck is so good, so the more you're there the better chances you get because he makes a lot of saves."

Kaprizov made it 2-1 Wild at 7:33 of the second period, skating into the Jets zone past Jets defenseman Dylan DeMelo and beating Hellebuyck with a deke to the backhand.

"We knew we were coming in here losing the last two games [before] the break -- I give the guys a lot of credit," Minnesota coach John Hynes said. "I thought we did a really good job of sticking with it and overcoming some adversity at the end of the second period. ... So to start off with a good win in the fashion that it was, hopefully should set us up moving forward here on the trip."

Connor tied it 2-2 at 17:56 when Scheifele's pass from behind the net found him for a quick shot at the bottom edge of the circle.

"I thought overall most of the game was a tight-fought match," Wallstedt said. "Obviously at the end of the second we kind of made some small mistakes and they ended up capitalizing on their chances. But I thought the game overall was tight throughout and at the end there we knew maybe we had an extra level and we put that in, and I thought we created a lot and obviously capitalized at the end there."

Scheifele gave the Jets a 3-2 lead at 19:57. Toews won a face-off back to Scheifele who scored with a wrist shot from the left circle.

"It's a [bad] loss with them scoring so late in the game to tie it," Scheifele said. "We played well. We still got a point. Obviously, all points are big, and we would have liked to get both of them, but you know, coming off the break, we had a lot of great efforts out there. We've just got to keep going."

Said Arniel: "I told the guys after, I'm real proud of the effort. Real proud of the details, things that we did, the looks we got, the chances, the opportunities we had. We deserved a better fate. ... We've got to make sure, those one-goal games, we've got to find a way. That one had a little bit different feel to it. That had a different outcome than maybe some of the past ones have had."

NOTES: Boldy scored his fifth overtime goal and tied three others for third most in Wild history. Kirill Kaprizov owns the franchise mark with 12. ... Kaprizov's goal is his 285th career even-strength point, passing Marian Gaborik (284) for second in Wild history, behind Mikko Koivu

(433). ... Hughes had his 27th career three-assist game, passing Gary Suter for the third most by an American defenseman. He trails Brian Leetch (40) and Phil Housley (34). ... Connor had his 13th multi-point game of the season, tied with Jack Eichel for the second most by an American skater and behind only Zach Werenski (14).

Winnipeg Free Press

<https://www.winnipegfreepress.com/breakingnews/2025/12/27/we-deserved-a-better-fate-jets-suffer-heartbreaking-loss-in-ot-to-wild>

'We deserved a better fate': Jets suffer heartbreaking loss in OT to Wild

By: Ken Wiebe

Things were supposed to be different for the Winnipeg Jets coming out of the much-needed holiday break.

After recharging their collective batteries and spending some quality time away from the rink, the Jets came back refreshed and ready, determined to leave a consistently inconsistent stretch of hockey in the rearview mirror.

For 59 minutes and change on Saturday night, the Jets did just that, playing a mostly sound defensive game and keeping the quality scoring chances to a minimum against a red-hot Central Division opponent that had collected at least a point in eight of the previous nine outings.

But after surrendering a power-play marker to Mats Zuccarello with 21.1 seconds to go in regulation time, Matt Boldy scored his second of the contest 39 seconds into three-on-three overtime to seal a 4-3 victory for the Minnesota Wild.

So, instead of earning a much-needed two points after an excellent effort, the Jets were left to lament the point that was left on the table as they lost a fifth consecutive game (0-2-3) and slipped to 15-17-4 for the season.

All five losses during this stretch have been one-goal setbacks.

"We have that belief in our room. We know what kind of team we can be," said Jets centre Jonathan Toews.

"I think we need to keep vocalizing it, but also kind of following through with our play. We're fed up, or we've had enough. Obviously, we were demanding more from each other. And if each guy keeps coming in with that attitude that we had today, then there's no doubt that the tides will turn for us."

Jets head coach Scott Arniel was incensed that the officials allowed Wild centre Joel Eriksson Ek to push defenceman Josh Morrissey from behind and into the boards earlier in the shift, but elected to penalize Jets blue-liner Dylan DeMelo for cross-checking Eriksson Ek in front of the net with 30 seconds left in regulation time.

"That's a terrible non-call on Josh Morrissey. Absolute terrible non-call on Josh Morrissey," said Arniel. "It should have been called. Head-first into the boards. And then a ticky-tack little call (on

DeMelo) after that. That's got nothing to do with managing. That was just a bad non-call. By the referees."

Arniel didn't back off his opinion during a follow-up question about the sequence of events that led up to the penalty that was called.

"Any other top players in the league, elite players, get hit from behind into the boards, I'm pretty sure that's a penalty," said Arniel. "Just a non-call on one of our star players."

The retaliatory minor to DeMelo proved costly as Zuccarello took a pass from Kirill Kaprizov and ripped home the equalizer in the waning moments of regulation time.

Boldly's game-winner completed a Tic-Tac-Toe play with Karpizov and Quinn Hughes after Jesper Wallstedt had stopped Mark Scheifele's one-timer attempt at the other end of the ice.

Rather than hold onto the puck for a stoppage in play, Wallstedt dropped the puck behind his own net for Hughes, who promptly went on the attack.

Despite the outcome, Arniel was encouraged by a lot of things he saw in the first game coming out of the break.

"Nobody's happy. Nobody's happy about that. Nobody's happy about losing. We wanted both points. We need both points. We didn't get it," said Arniel. "I can't worry about the other 30-something odd games. To me, that was a strong effort, it was a really, really strong effort by us. It's something that should have been two points.

"We've got to make sure, in those one-goal games, we've got to find a way. That one had a little bit of a different feel to it. That had a different outcome than maybe some of the past ones have had."

Let's take a closer look at what transpired in this one:

THE (NEAR) GOAL

The offensive challenges for Gustav Nyquist have been well-documented, but the veteran Jets winger raised some eyebrows with a beautiful individual effort in the first period.

Nyquist picked up the puck in the defensive zone and gained speed through the neutral zone before dancing around Hughes at the offensive blue line and beating Wallstedt with a wicked wrister to the blocker side for what looked like his first goal of the campaign.

But the highlight-reel snipe was quickly taken off the board after a successful coach's challenge for offside, as Jets winger Nino Niederreiter had entered the zone before the puck was across the blue line.

Nyquist had another glorious scoring chance in the second period during the power play, but his shot through traffic rattled off the iron.

You can understand the frustration Nyquist must be feeling, but he's been showing signs of coming out of his offensive funk recently.

“Yeah, it’s another bounce that’s tough to stomach, but I think he did a hell of a job of just kind of taking a deep breath and moving on,” said Toews. “He played great and rang one off the bar there in the second, so guys like him keep driving, keep making plays the way he has. It’s going to make our team a lot better.”

Nyquist has seven assists in 27 games for the Jets this season and he’s one of many forwards that is going to need to be more productive as the campaign moves along.

THE DECISION

With 5.1 seconds to go in the second period of a tie game, Arniel tapped Toews on the shoulder to take the offensive-zone draw on his strong side.

Toews dug in and won the draw to Scheifele, who picked up the puck and skated into the slot before ripping his shot past Wallstedt with 2.6 seconds left on the clock.

“It’s all instinct,” said Scheifele, who is up to 18 goals and 45 points in 36 games this season, which leaves him tied with linemate Kyle Connor in both categories.

The assist for Toews snapped an 11-game drought without a point and moved him to 10 points in 36 games in his comeback.

Toews has been excellent in the faceoff circle this season and Saturday was the latest example, winning 10 of the 13 draws he took.

“They don’t go perfectly the way you draw them up all the time, but obviously, just trying to get the puck back to Scheif there, and see what he can do,” Toews said of the buzzer beater. “And obviously, he made no mistake there.”

THE SHOWDOWN

The Jets are going to be in tough to catch the Wild in the Central Division standings, especially now that the rivals from the Twin Cities are 2-0-1 in the season series and have earned five of a possible six points so far.

The Jets are now 1-1-1 and have three of a possible six, but their issues in the Central Division run deeper, as they’ve now slipped to 4-6-2 this season.

The Jets have taken consecutive Central Division opponents overtime — rallying from a two-goal deficit against the Utah Mammoth and being unable to hold a 3-2 lead on Saturday against the Wild.

“That was a hell of an effort by our hockey team. It really was. What is it, (the) second-hottest team in the league since November 1st? I thought that we did everything we possibly could to win that hockey game,” said Arniel. “To come down to a circumstance like that at the end, it is what it is. At the end of the day, I told the guys after, I’m real proud of the effort. Real proud of sort of the details, things that we did, the looks we got, the chances the opportunities we had. We deserved a better fate.”

THE KEY PLAY

Matt Boldy converted a pass from Quinn Hughes 39 seconds into overtime to secure the extra point for the visitors.

THE THREE STARS

Matt Boldy, Wild, Scored twice, including the OT winner.

Mark Scheifele, Jets, Scored a goal, added an assist.

Kirill Kaprizov, Wild, Scored once, set up two others.

EXTRA, EXTRA

Jets goalie Connor Hellebuyck made a sixth consecutive start since coming back from arthroscopic knee surgery and he turned aside 15 of the 19 shots on goal that he faced.

The crowd of 15,225 gave the Jets the third sellout of the season.

The healthy scratches for the Jets included defencemen Colin Miller and Haydn Fleury and forward Cole Koepke.

<https://www.winnipegfreepress.com/breakingnews/2025/12/26/dr-harrison-is-in-the-house>

Dr. Harrison is in the house

Former Jets blue-liner thriving as psychologist after hanging up his skates

By: Ken Wiebe

Truth be told, Jay Harrison wasn't exactly sure where his post-playing days were going to take him.

The former Winnipeg Jets defenceman, however, didn't wait until retirement to find out.

Harrison, who spent parts of 15 seasons playing professional hockey before hanging up the blades, was curious by nature and had plenty of interests outside of sports.

His decision to pursue other things while still an active player didn't split his focus, it enhanced it.

"I found a passion for education, even in junior. I liked being a student and took well to it," Dr. Harrison explained during a recent telephone conversation from North Carolina.

"After establishing myself in a year or two in the American Hockey League, I decided to start to chip away and then lean in and get excited about things I was learning beyond the game.

"Obviously not taking my mind off the game, where my focus was to become the best player that I could be, but the secret that I found was that the academic side of things was contributing to that."

It wasn't always easy for Harrison to balance his studies while fighting tooth and nail to stay in the NHL, where he spent just over half of his professional hockey career, including 35 games with the Jets during the 2014-15 season.

Harrison was always a thoughtful interview subject, someone who brought insight to whatever question he was asked, so it makes sense he was interested in the field of psychology.

"The idea of finding new areas to contribute, to learn, to establish competence and autonomy in different areas of my life, it allowed me to handle the game much better," said Harrison. "To

navigate my athletic identity and the realities and difficulties of being a professional athlete and a father and a husband all at the same time.

“We have this gain paradox, the idea of protecting what you are going to lose ends up strengthening what you thought you were losing.”

“We have this gain paradox, the idea of protecting what you are going to lose ends up strengthening what you thought you were losing.”

During his time with the Jets and the Manitoba Moose the following season, Harrison was working on his master's degree in clinical health counselling, which he completed in 2019.

“It's a long walk if you want to be in psychology, that's just the nature of the field,” said Harrison. “Luckily, in hockey, I learned to enjoy the pain. I was well-suited for that walk. I loved the pursuit, the knowledge acquisition in psychology. It fits with my brain and my life experience. I like models, I like theory, I like asking why and I like talking to people.

“So when you put all of those things together, it's a pretty good field for someone like me. I was chipping away at all of that stuff with Winnipeg as well.”

Some of Harrison's experiences in further understanding the human condition included working in the PTSD clinic at Ontario Shores, working in a forensics clinic and working in the borderline personality clinic.

Later, he pursued a research degree and doctorate in performance psychology, which he completed in 2023.

The concept of his PhD was simple: how can you prove that taking your eye off the ball on occasion can actually help you see it better?

“I was able to show that this phenomenon is actually real,” said Harrison. “It's not just me, it happens in a lot of professional athletes in North America — and it's an amazing, untapped resource for a lot of players, to enhance their well-being and ultimately, their performance.

“The path was always being walked, so that's led to a place here, where I've been able to establish my own business and practice and consulting, where I take the unique experiences from both of these worlds and bring them together in a way of how athletes and people in general can live their best lives through what they do at a high-performance level and not have to sacrifice their best selves to do what they do or to a high performer.”

“It's an amazing, untapped resource for a lot of players, to enhance their well-being and ultimately, their performance.”

Along with his work in consulting and counselling, Harrison is also working with the National Hockey League Players' Association as a consulting psychologist and one of the projects he's overseeing is a health and wellness program called First Line, which was developed by the Mental Health Commission of Canada, Opening Minds and the NHLPA's Health and Wellness Team.

It's a voluntary program for members of the NHLPA and it's bringing awareness and important dialogue into NHL locker rooms around the subject of mental health.

Efforts to destigmatize the topic of mental health have been underway for quite some time, but tangible progress is being made as the focus shifts to self care instead of the barriers related to the potential opportunity cost that can be created in a high-pressure environment.

“As we shift the perception and context of what it means to experience mental-health challenges, it’s not a static thing, where either you have a mental-health condition or you don’t,” said Harrison. “We are all moving in the state of our mental health, therefore, accessing resources and utilizing resources along that journey is the pursuit of optimal functioning.

“So, when you can shift that, you don’t have to admit that you’re broken, you don’t have to admit there’s a deficit to receive mental-health support. But rather, it’s seen as an opportunity and a way that you can maximize and optimize your potential performance and well-being, with all of those things working holistically to be the best version on and off the ice.

“You don’t have to admit that you’re broken, you don’t have to admit there’s a deficit to receive mental-health support. But rather, it’s seen as an opportunity.”

“We are seeing that freedom to think differently, to overcome. We all come with different ways that we think about an experience. This is just a great opportunity to provide some education and to provide some skills as well, for players to have more confidence talking around mental health.”

Harrison explains the First Line program isn’t only for individuals with an interest in higher education.

“This isn’t about becoming a psychologist and you don’t have to have a mental-health problem to be a part of it, you simply have to be curious and interested and would like to learn more skills that may help you support yourself or important people in your life, at the rink or at home,” said Harrison.

“No one has to do it, but players are choosing to do it, because it’s important. We’ve all been touched by mental-health challenges, whether it’s in ourselves or in our immediate families or a little bit distant.”

Nine members of the Jets, including captain Adam Lowry, have completed the First Line program and have seen some of the benefits first-hand.

“Just to help recognize some of the signs. Not necessarily being able to treat these people, but being able to recognize if they need help, if they need someone to talk to, where you can point them to,” said Lowry, who was a teammate of Harrison’s with the Jets.

“If something tough is going on or they’re dealing with something, that they have a safe space at the rink where they have different people they can talk to.”

“These different avenues that they can go, so that no one has to feel like they’re struggling alone. Learning how to develop those relationships with your teammates, where it’s not just surface-level stuff and they feel comfortable opening up. So that if something tough is going on or they’re dealing with something, that they have a safe space at the rink where they have different people they can talk to, they have these things so they don’t have to turn to other things, to self medicate or numb the pain.

"It doesn't become one of those slippery slopes, where it's really hard to get people out of these deep holes, where they think they can keep pushing alone for so long. But the sooner you're able to reach out, the sooner you're able to talk about it. There are so many different ways that you can not only help them, but help yourself."

Lowry isn't the least bit surprised to see Harrison thriving in his post-hockey career.

"I remember that we used to joke that he was the most interesting teammate that we've ever played with," said Lowry. "He would be doing classes on the plane. I think he had four daughters under four at the time and he was still finding time to carve out the studying."

"He always seemed like such a wise, smart, passionate guy. Not just about hockey, but about life and everything. To see how it's progressed for him, it's been really cool to see that next stage of his career flourish."

<https://www.winnipegfreepress.com/special/sports-editors-picks/2025/12/23/schenns-welcome-winnipeg-winter>

Schenns welcome Winnipeg winter Veteran blue-liner steps behind bench as sons hit the ice for Jets Challenge Cup

By: Mike McIntyre

Luke Schenn is looking forward to switching from professional hockey player to amateur hockey dad for a few days this holiday season.

The Winnipeg Jets defenceman will be spending part of his break the way many parents do: at the rink, cheering on his children. Schenn's two oldest boys, ages eight and five, will hit the ice in the annual Winnipeg Jets Challenge Cup, an event that draws dozens of teams from around the city, province and beyond.

"With our schedule, obviously I miss a lot of their time. But when I'm able to go... I even took all the coaching certifications this year. That's 10 hours of my life I'll never get back," Schenn joked in a recent chat with the Free Press.

"But yeah, I try to get on the ice with the kids and help out whenever I can, push some pucks around."

Schenn is thrilled to be back in a hockey-crazed community, considering he and his younger brother, Brayden — currently the captain of the St. Louis Blues — were born and raised in Saskatchewan, where the sport was a central part of their childhood.

"Street hockey, roller hockey, we'd be out at all hours," he recalled.

Schenn wanted his own kids to enjoy a similar experience, but that proved far more difficult while the family lived in Nashville for most of the past two years. While the sport continues to grow at the grassroots level, rink availability remains a major challenge.

"There's more and more kids playing hockey, but there might be five or six sheets available across all of Nashville," he said.

Last winter, Schenn's oldest son played on a team alongside the sons of then-Predators teammates Steve Stamkos, Ryan O'Reilly and Jonathan Marchessault.

"Out of nowhere, one of the rinks folded. The last half of the year, we had like three teams on the ice at a time, sharing ice for practices," he said.

That's not a concern in Winnipeg.

"Night and day," said Schenn. "You come here and see how intense it is. It's probably a little bit much, a little bit over the top. You know, every parent thinks your kid is going to play in the NHL. It's not reality."

Schenn shakes his head as he discusses the year-round grind that kids as young as six or seven now face — from spring skill camps to summer specialized teams that can become all-consuming and financially draining for many families.

"I probably see things in a little bit different way and don't agree with the majority of it," he said.

"Obviously it has changed a lot from when I was a kid, where you'd just play hockey with your friends. There were no tryouts. Now you've got people going crazy. It's about balance for me. I'm trying not to drink the Kool-Aid too much."

His advice: allow kids to take part in a variety of activities outside the traditional hockey season, including other sports such as baseball or soccer. He believes they'll thank you later in life.

Schenn said his boys are only playing hockey because they want to — not because he's pushing them into it.

"First of all, they've got to enjoy it. And they love it," he said.

Schenn has built a rink in the backyard of his Winnipeg home, with his boys taking skating lessons alongside the children of Jets teammates Dylan DeMelo, Haydn Fleury, Tanner Pearson and Connor Hellebuyck.

"I wasn't sure how they were going to act because they've only grown up in warm weather, mostly. But they're loving it out there. They want to go every day. Minus 30, it doesn't matter. We're out there for a couple hours," he said.

Schenn said his five-year-old was recently "called up" to play on his big brother's team — and may have been a little too amped.

"He's a little bit crazy and was taking some penalties. He doesn't hold back," he said with a laugh. Like father, like son.

"...they're loving it out there. They want to go every day. Minus 30, it doesn't matter. We're out there for a couple hours."

Now in his 17th NHL season, the 36-year-old Schenn is in the final year of his contract and facing an uncertain future. Still, he said it's been nice to settle in Winnipeg — especially after a whirlwind stretch last March that saw him traded twice in a matter of days, from Nashville to Pittsburgh and then to Winnipeg.

“That rocked our world a little bit,” he said.

“You’re not really expecting anything and then all of a sudden you’re gone. Kids are in school, all kinds of activities and everything changes.”

Along with his wife, Jeska, and their third son, who is two, the family is embracing the Prairie lifestyle — including, of course, early mornings at the rink. Holidays, too.

If you happen to see Schenn at the Hockey For All Centre in the coming days, feel free to say hello. You may just want to cool your jets when it comes to discussing the current state of his own team, which limped into the five-day holiday break at 15-17-3.

“People for the most part are always really good. You’ll get the odd person that comes up and tries to tell you how to play,” said Schenn.

“You just kind of laugh it off. It goes with the territory. But the Winnipeg community has been great.”

Winnipeg Sun

https://www.winnipegsun.com/sports/we-re-fed-up-winnipeg-jets-livid-after-ot-loss-to-wild/article_d1e86eee-7164-4998-afb3-b1882406353b.html

‘We’re fed up’: Winnipeg Jets livid after OT loss to Wild

By Paul Friesen

Scott Arniel looked ready to bite off the microphone in front of him.

His Winnipeg Jets found yet another way to lose on Saturday, blowing a late lead and giving up a quick overtime goal to the Minnesota Wild in their return from a five-day holiday break.

The head coach's snarl wasn't directed at his team this time, but at the officials.

The Jets, up 3-2, appeared well on their way to a desperately-needed victory when Dylan DeMelo was called for cross-checking Minnesota's Joel Eriksson Ek with 30 seconds to go in the third.

Seconds earlier, Eriksson Ek had hit Winnipeg defenceman Josh Morrissey from behind and into the corner boards, and that's the play that had Arniel fuming after the 4-3 decision.

“That's a terrible non-call on Josh Morrissey,” a livid Arniel said. “Absolute terrible non-call on Josh Morrissey. It should have been called. Head-first into the boards. And then a ticky-tack little call after that. That was just a bad non-call. By the referees.

“Any other top players in the league, elite players, get hit from behind into the boards, I'm pretty sure that's a penalty.”

The Wild, playing six-on-four with their goalie pulled, cashed in on DeMelo's penalty, Mats Zuccarello tying the game with 22 seconds left.

They won it just 39 seconds into extra time, Matt Boldy wiring his second of the night past Connor Hellebuyck and keeping the Jets from collecting two points for a fifth straight game.

Arniel wasn't buying the when-it-rains-it-pours argument, either.

This wasn't just another game in which his team turned in an on-again, off-again performance.

"That was a hell of an effort by our hockey team," the coach said. "What is it, second-hottest team in the league since November 1st? And I thought that we did everything we possibly could to win that hockey game. I told the guys after, I'm real proud of the effort. We deserved a better fate."

What they got instead was another loser point when they need wins to stop their tumble down the standings and get back within sniffing distance of the playoff line.

The Jets out-shot the Wild, 26-19, but fell to 15-17-4, still near the bottom of the overall standings.

"We're fed up," Jonathan Toews said. "We've had enough. Obviously, we were demanding more from each other. And if each guy keeps coming in with that attitude that we had today, then there's no doubt that the tides will turn for us."

Toews was a key part of a second-period buzzer-beater that saw the Jets grab their 3-2 lead with less than three seconds on the clock.

Sent out for a faceoff in the Wild end with five seconds to go in the second, he won the draw back to Mark Scheifele, who buried his 18th of the season.

Just like they drew it up?

"Pretty much," Toews said. "They don't go perfectly the way you draw them up all the time. It's nice to get one, feeling good late in that period going into the third."

"Pure instinct," is what Scheifele called his part of the play.

Two minutes before that, Kyle Connor had made it 2-2 with his 18th, set up by Scheifele, as the top line did much of the damage yet again.

The Jets' other goal came from Morrissey in the first period.

"It's a crappy loss with them scoring so late in the game to tie it," Scheifele said. "It sucks."

As for DeMelo's cross-checking penalty on Eriksson Ek, Scheifele had no problem with it.

"J-Mo is one of the premier defencemen in this league," he said. "He's got to be protected."

Winnipeg's third sellout of the season saw Minnesota, third from the top of the overall standings, improved to 23-10-6, 18 points ahead of the Jets.

Up next, a home date with Edmonton on Monday.

Grief for Gus

Gustav Nyquist's tough luck through his first 26 games reached a new level in his 27th.

The Swedish forward thought the monkey was off his back when he scored midway through the first, only to have the Wild challenge for an offside.

Sure enough, Nino Niederreiter, parked on the side boards, had pulled his skate off the blue line early.

"It's another bounce that's tough to stomach," Toews said. "But he did a hell of a job of just taking a deep breath and moving on. And he played great. Rang one off the bar there in the second. So guys like him, to keep driving, keep making plays the way he has, it's going to make our team a lot better."

It took the Jets just a couple minutes to shake that off, Connor setting up Morrissey for a blast from the point that beat Jesper Wallstedt for the D-man's sixth of the season.

The Wild, in the middle of a 22-hour day that began with a 6:30 a.m. flight, finally woke up with some 90 seconds to go in the first.

That's when Boldy fought off Luke Schenn's check to deflect it past Hellebuyck.

Some eight minutes into the second, Kirill Kaprizov got behind DeMelo to make it 2-1, Wild.

That the Jets may have deserved a better fate made this loss both easier and harder to stomach, in the end.

"Those one-goal games, we've got to find a way," Arniel said. "That one had a little bit different feel to it. Nobody's happy about losing. We wanted both points. We need both points. We didn't get it."

https://www.winnipegson.com/sports/jets-confront-division-rival-minnesota-wild-tonight/article_328d7ab5-4f54-40fc-aec6-22918fb4a40f.html

Fragile, nose-diving Jets start afresh tonight

By Paul Friesen

No other NHL team had a Christmas break like the Winnipeg Jets'.

You could argue no team needed it more.

Arguably the NHL's most underachieving bunch through 35 games, the Jets come off a five-day holiday hoping to start anew at home against the Minnesota Wild tonight.

Given their four straight losses before the break and their place in the standings – one of the bottom three teams, overall – the result is critical if the Jets want to salvage their year.

"Oh, they're all higher than normal," head coach Scott Arniel acknowledged, Saturday morning. "All these games moving forward here are extremely important to us. If we're going to make a run to get in the playoffs... we have to win these games that are in front of us."

With just 15 wins in 35 games, the Jets (15-17-3) are 17 points behind the Wild in their division.

The playoff line, a more realistic target, is six points away, with five teams in the way.

The Jets were a fragile, nose-diving mess when they hit the holidays, 3-10-3 over their last 16 games. If any team needed to forget about hockey for five days, they were it.

"We've got to use it to our advantage," Kyle Connor said. "It was a great break to separate from the task. Almost a mental break as well. Could be great for this group. Needs to be great for this group."

Home is where the Jets will hang their helmets for seven of their next 10 games, Edmonton the visitors on Monday.

In Minnesota, they get a division rival that's third, overall, and has recently added star defenceman Quinn Hughes in a trade with Vancouver.

Normally, the rivalry angle would add some zip.

The Jets need that zip no matter who's on the other bench.

"It's a playoff push for us," Connor said. "We've got to have desperation right from the hop and realize that these are going to go by fast. Next thing you know it's going to be the Olympic break and then (trade) deadline comes around. We're running out of games here."

Winnipeg has 21 games before the Olympic break, enough to climb a few rungs.

Trouble is they've shown little sign of being able to right the ship as it's sunk.

"First 35 is in the rear-view mirror," Josh Morrissey said. "We can sit here and think about how the start has gone or hasn't gone, all those things. We've got a lot of home games, games where we can make up ground on teams. We know what kind of team we have. We believe in the group."

"That next segment starts tonight. It's an opportunity for us to come out against a great team and get back to where we want to be."

More to give

Looking at the stats page, it'd be hard to ask more from Connor and Mark Scheifele.

The first-line pair had identical lines going into Saturday night's game: 17 goals, 26 assists, in 35 games.

The team's losing record, though, told Connor a different story.

"We can do a lot more," he said. "There's always room to improve. We can bring guys into the fight. We can try to lead and push other guys, as well. In this league, you've got to never be satisfied. There's tons of chances this year I've missed, or even simple assignments."

"That's where my mindset's at. I've got to be better and bring everybody along."

Divisional dilemma

The Jets were to get their first look at Quinn Hughes in Minnesota colours on Saturday.

The defenceman's trade to the Wild from Vancouver didn't generate any warm-and-fuzzies for Arniel.

The NHL's top three teams were already all in the Central Division: Colorado, Dallas and Minnesota.

"We weren't really excited to see him come in our division," the coach said. "He turns a real good offensive group that they have even into a better one. He's one of those players, like Josh, that can change games in a heartbeat with his offence, with his vision. On the power play, another heavy threat.

"Every time he touches the puck, something's going to happen."

Canadian Press

<https://www.chrisd.ca/2025/12/27/winnipeg-jets-minnesota-wild-game-story-recap/>

Boldy Scores in OT as Wild Rally to Beat Jets 4-3

By Jim Bender, The Canadian Press

Matt Boldy scored two goals, including the winner just 39 seconds into overtime, to lead the Minnesota Wild to a 4-3 come-from-behind victory over the Winnipeg Jets on Saturday night.

Mats Zuccarello and Kirill Kaprizov also scored for Minnesota.

Mark Scheifele and Kyle Connor, with a goal and an assist, and Josh Morrissey replied for Winnipeg.

Jesper Wallstedt stopped 23 of 26 shots for Minnesota (23-10-6).

Connor Hellebuyck made 15 saves for Winnipeg (15-18-3) before a sold-out crowd of 15,225 at Canada Life Centre.

Zuccarello forced overtime when he beat Hellebuyck on the power play with 22 seconds left in regulation. With Dylan DeMelo off for cross-checking, the Wild scored the tying marker with assists from Kaprizov and Quinn Hughes.

The Jets had taken a 3-2 lead into the final frame. Scheifele scored on a wicked shot that beat Wallstedt with just 2.6 seconds left in the second after Jonathan Toews won the faceoff in the offensive zone. The goal came just 2:01 after Winnipeg had tied the game 2-2.

With 2:04 left, Scheifele set up Connor alone in front and he fired a quick shot past Wallstedt. Gabe Vilardi also assisted.

Minnesota had taken a 2-1 lead on a brilliant play by Kaprizov in the second period. He left Dylan DeMelo standing still at the Winnipeg blue line, then went in alone on Hellebuyck, deked him and scored on a backhand shot. Zuccarello and Danila Yurov had the helpers.

The Wild knotted the score at 1-1 late in the opening frame. Boldy wired a shot past Hellebuyck on a setup from Jared Spurgeon with 1:31 left in the period. Hughes also assisted.

Winnipeg opened the scoring at 11:36 of the first. Connor fed a wide-open Morrissey at the blue line and his slapper beat Wallstedt. Vilardi also assisted.

The Jets had thought they had taken a 1-0 lead midway through the first period when Gustav Nyquist beat Wallstedt. But the goal was negated due to an offside after a successful coach's challenge.

TAKEAWAYS

Jets: They dominated for most of the first period, drawing first blood, outshooting Minnesota and hitting a couple of posts, but were victimized by a late goal. After falling behind 2-1 in the second, they scored two quick goals to re-take the lead 3-2. But they failed to add to that lead.

Wild: They were on their heels for much of the first period but regained their footing in the second, only to be stunned by two late goals. But they rebounded to tie the game, then win.

KEY MOMENT

Boldy's overtime winner.

KEY STAT

Minnesota scored four goals on just 19 shots.

UP NEXT

Wild: Visit the Vegas Golden Knights on Monday.

Jets: Host the Edmonton Oilers on Monday.

Sportsnet.ca

<https://www.sportsnet.ca/nhl/article/jets-arniel-upset-with-late-game-officiating-in-loss-to-wild/>

Jets' Arniel upset with late-game officiating in loss to Wild

By Sportsnet Staff

Twenty-two seconds from a post-holiday-break victory, the Winnipeg Jets saw Saturday's game slip through their fingers at the final moment.

The Jets led 3-2 entering the last minute, but the Minnesota Wild were sent to the power play at 19:30 of the period on a Dylan DeMelo cross-checking penalty.

Winnipeg head coach Scott Arniel was visibly incensed by the call on the Jets bench, screaming at officials as Minnesota called a timeout.

After the game, Arniel explained that he was upset by the referees calling DeMelo for his check to the back of Wild forward Joel Eriksson Ek, when Jets defenceman Josh Morrissey had been sent to the ice by a hit from behind just moments earlier.

"That was a terrible non-call on Josh Morrissey. Absolute terrible non-call," Arniel said. "It should have been called. Head-first into the boards. And then a ticky-tack little call after that."

Morrissey was hit by Eriksson Ek, prompting DeMelo's retaliation.

The Wild went on the score with the man advantage, as Mats Zuccarello evened the game at three and sent it to overtime.

In the extra frame, Matt Boldy netted the game-winner, adding further insult to injury for the Jets, who came oh so close to a win.

It didn't stop Arniel from zeroing in on the Morrissey hit, however, as Winnipeg's bench boss had more to say about the play.

"Any other top players in the league, elite players, get hit from behind into the boards, I'm pretty sure that's a penalty," he said.