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<https://www.nhl.com/jets/news/another-milestone-for-scheifele-900-points>

***Another milestone for Scheifele, 900 points
Scheifele became first player in franchise history to hit 900 career points in win over Kraken***

By Jamie Thomas

WINNIPEG - The Winnipeg Jets won for the fourth time in their last five games as they defeated the Seattle Kraken 6-2 at Canada Life Centre. Kyle Connor scored twice, Mark Scheifele had three assists, Gabe Vilardi (1G, 1A), Jonathan Toews (1G, 1A) and Josh Morrissey (2A) had multi point nights. Connor Hellebuyck made 22 saves to improve to 22-21-12 on the season. The Jets will head back on the road to face the St. Louis Blues on Thursday.

TOEWS IGNITES POWER PLAY

Jets had just five power play goals over their last 18 games coming in, so Scott Arniel made a tweak to the top unit adding Jonathan Toews with Mark Scheifele, Kyle Connor, Gabe Vilardi and Josh Morrissey. The switch worked in the first period with the Jets down 1-0 and on the man advantage after Berkly Catton was whistled for a holding the stick penalty. Vilardi redirected a Morrissey point shot that went off the boards and landed in front of Toews for the easy tap-in and his 10th goal of the season. Morrissey became the third player – and first defenseman – in Jets/Thrashers history with four straight 40-assist seasons, following Blake Wheeler (5 from 2015-16 – 2019-20) and Mark Scheifele (4 from 2018-19 – 2021-22).

It was Vilardi's turn in the second period, on the Jets second power play, as he went to the net and put home a Toews rebound for his 29th of the season.

LOSING TRACK OF MILESTONE'S FOR 55

The Jets star centre has hit tons of milestones this campaign and came into the evening two points of reaching 900 points over his impressive career. Scheifele got his first point of the evening on Vilardi's power play goal and then added a primary assist on Kyle Connor's PPG at 12:09 of the second. Scheifele now has 21 assists since the Olympic break, the only player with more is the Devils Jack Hughes. It was also the first time since December 10, 2024 that Winnipeg scored three times on the man advantage in a game.

"You know, it means a lot. I'm obviously very honored and humbled by it," said Scheifele of the milestone.

"So, it's pretty cool to cool to think about. It'll probably take a little bit to sink in. But it's very cool in my mind."

LAMBO TIMING AND PLACEMENT PERFECT

After giving up a goal to Jared McCann which cut the Jets lead to one at the start of the third, Brad Lambert showed off both his speed and skill to restore the Jets two goal advantage. Lambert took a pass from Adam Lowry in the neutral zone, and his speed forced Seattle to back off and that gave the Finnish forward the time and space needed to rip home his third of the season.

"Yeah, I knew it was a three on two, so I was kind of slowed up a little bit and looked over to see if I got anyone to pass it to," said Lambert.

"But, at the end of the day, I felt like I was in the best spot, so I decided to let it rip."

NHL.com

<https://www.nhl.com/news/seattle-kraken-winnipeg-jets-game-recap-april-6-2026>

Jets defeat Kraken, continue push in West wild-card race Winnipeg scores 3 goals on power play; Seattle has lost 5 straight, is 1-7-2 in past 10

By Darrin Bauming NHL.com Independent Correspondent

WINNIPEG -- The Winnipeg Jets built a lead on the back of three power-play goals and kept pace in the Western Conference wild-card race with a 6-2 win against the Seattle Kraken at Canada Life Centre on Monday.

"Obviously, the three goals, getting that first one was big," Winnipeg coach Scott Arniel said. "We went with more of a shot mentality, attacking the net a little bit more and a little bit quicker. I thought we did a great job of that."

Kyle Connor scored two goals, and Mark Scheifele surpassed 900 career points with three assists for the Jets (34-31-12), who have won four of five games. Jonathan Toews and Gabriel Vilardi each had a goal and an assist, Connor Hellebuyck made 22 saves and Josh Morrissey had two assists.

"The thing about (Connor) and goal-scorers is that they know how to find open ice," Arniel said. "They know how to find space to get shots off, to have their stick available. (Connor) knows if he gets himself available, (Scheifele's) going to find him. When (Scheifele) has it, his first look is, 'Where's 81? Where is he?' They play real close together."

Winnipeg is three points behind the Los Angeles Kings, which defeated the Nashville Predators 3-2 in a shootout on Monday, for the second wild card.

Jordan Eberle and Jared McCann scored for the Kraken (32-33-11), who have lost five straight and nine of 10 (1-7-2). Philipp Grubauer allowed three goals on 18 shots before being replaced at 13:20 of the second period by Joey Daccord, who made 10 saves in relief.

Seattle is eight points out of the second wild card with six games left to play.

"We have to find a way to dig in," Seattle coach Lane Lambert said. "Right now, we have an ownership that gives us everything that we need, we have a fan base that is behind us all the way through, good and bad, and we have to find a way to be professionals here and show up and play to the best of our abilities. No excuses, and that's about personal pride."

Eberle gave the Kraken a 1-0 lead at 9:17 of the first period, collecting his own rebound from a wraparound attempt before circling to the high slot and scoring on his backhand.

"It's about the culture, you know, it doesn't matter where you're at," Seattle forward Frederick Gaudreau said. "You just got to keep going with your identity. And the most important part, for

me, is to stick together, be together, doing it as a united team. And we are that. This group cares about each other, and that's the most important thing is to keep fighting for it. Doesn't matter. If standings are tougher and stuff like that, it doesn't matter. You just got to keep doing the right things and do it for each other."

Toews tied it 1-1 at 12:39 with the first of three power-play goals for Winnipeg. Vilardi tipped Morrissey's shot, which bounced high off the glass behind the Seattle net, and Toews took the puck off his chest before jamming it in.

"We got a little lucky," Scheifele said. "But sometimes there's other games where we've had a lot of good looks and haven't gotten a goal. So, you know, we just got rewarded for sticking with it."

Vilardi put the Jets in front 2-1 at 9:55 of the second period when the rebound of Toews' shot pinballed to him in the slot on the power play.

"These are just things that are happening right now, we've got to stop the bleeding," Lambert said. "We took a couple of penalties, we got a couple of bad breaks, going in off of (Seattle defenseman Ryan) Lindgren's stick, hits Lindgren's foot, (and) goes right to Vilardi — just kind of a little bit of 'anything that can go wrong will go wrong' in this situation right now."

Connor pushed it to 3-1 at 12:09 with another power-play goal. Scheifele set him up for a one-timer from the top of the left circle that beat Grubauer glove side.

"I love it. I love that guy," Scheifele said of Connor. "He's absolutely incredible. He always goes to the right areas. He does so many things out there. I'm so lucky to play with him, so another night where I'm counting my lucky stars that I got him on my left side."

Winnipeg went 3-for-3 on the power play while Seattle had no power-play opportunities.

"We didn't get a power play tonight, which is outrageous that, you know, you don't get one power play in a game, but we didn't," Lambert said. "We have to find a way to dig in."

McCann cut it to 3-2 at 2:28 of the third period. Following a Jets turnover in the offensive zone, Kaapo Kakko sprung McCann for a 1-on-1 rush, and he scored five-hole with a wrist shot from the high slot through the legs of Winnipeg forward Vladislav Namestnikov.

"I feel like a lot of games this year, we kind of haven't been able to kill off (penalties) and lose a lot of momentum," McCann said. "And it's tough because I know where guys are trying. Our guys are trying to block shots and do the right things. I can't give you a reason why it's not going our way, but it's frustrating for everybody. We all see it, and we're trying to stay positive and grind through."

Brad Lambert made it 4-2 at 5:59, using his speed to skate in and snap a shot into the corner above Daccord's blocker from the right dot.

"It was obviously a big goal at that time," Scheifele said. "They had just scored and he made a nice little move kind of backing off the 'D' and just kind of a sneaky release. He's been playing awesome. He's been getting better every game and it's been fun to watch him. So, I'm just looking forward to seeing him get better each and every game."

Lane Lambert said of his nephew, Brad: "He's got skill, he's got vision. Obviously, we gave him a little too much space there to take a shot tonight, and he made good on it."

Connor scored his second of the game to make it 5-2 at 15:19. With Daccord already sprawled on the ice after making a save on Alex Iafallo's shot, Connor snapped the puck through traffic in front and over the goalie.

"I've got to give (Iafallo) a lot of credit on that one," Arniel said. "He got to the net front, a great battle, the puck dropped out and he was tied up with a defenseman ... there's a little bit of a triangle to their offense, how (Scheifele and Connor) play with 'AI,' that just kind of opens up, especially the middle of the ice when teams go low."

Namestnikov, who returned to the lineup after missing the previous 18 games with a lower-body injury, shot it into an empty net at 17:56 for the 6-2 final.

NOTES: Scheifele is the first player to record 900 points in Jets/Atlanta Thrashers history. ... Connor has four goals in his past two games. ... Winnipeg forward Nino Niederreiter had a hit and was plus-2 in 11:20 of ice time in his return after missing 20 games with a lower-body injury. ... Morrissey became the third player, and first defenseman, in Jets/Thrashers history with four straight 40-assist seasons, following Blake Wheeler (five from 2015-16 – 2019-20) and Scheifele (four from 2018-19 – 2021-22).

Canadian Press

<https://www.tsn.ca/nhl/article/jets-scheifele-connects-with-connor-to-earn-900th-nhl-point-its-just-instinct/>

Jets' Scheifele connects with Connor to earn 900th NHL point: 'It's just instinct'

By The Canadian Press

WINNIPEG — Mark Scheifele's 900th career NHL point came exactly how one might expect: setting up Kyle Connor, his longtime linemate.

The veteran centre reached the milestone with a second-period assist, eventually finishing with three helpers in the Winnipeg Jets' 6-2 victory over the Seattle Kraken at Canada Life Centre on Monday night.

As the first-ever draft pick taken by the Jets 2.0 — selected seventh overall in the 2011 NHL Draft — Scheifele has spent his entire career in Winnipeg. At 33 years old, he already has the most points in franchise history (901) and is also the leader in games played (956).

But if you ask his coaches and teammates, they say it's the work Scheifele puts in daily that has him reaching such an impressive benchmark.

"His body's always ready to go," Jets head coach Scott Arniel said. "It's a case of he's determined, he's driven, and he wants to have team success. With team success comes individual success."

Scheifele registered the 900th point by feeding Connor for a power-play goal at 12:09 of the middle frame, giving Winnipeg a 3-1 lead. The pair connected for a second time at 15:19 of the

third period for Connor's second of the night — a marker that made it 5-2, ultimately putting the game out of reach.

"It means a lot," said Scheifele, who also assisted on Gabriel Vilardi's second-period power-play marker. "I'm obviously very honoured and humbled by it. So, it's pretty cool to think about. It'll probably take a little bit to sink in. But it's very cool in my mind."

When asked who he thinks about after such a special occasion, Scheifele got nostalgic, reflecting on his 13 NHL seasons.

"Everyone that's been in my life throughout the hockey years," he said. "Family, obviously, is big. I've just got to thank God for it all. I'm very blessed, very lucky."

Scheifele has made efforts in recent years to engage with the younger players on the Jets, with the hope his strong work ethic and habits rub off on his teammates. It's been especially important this season, as Winnipeg continues to battle for the second wild-card playoff spot in the Western Conference.

Rookie Brad Lambert, whose third-period goal was a key moment in Monday's victory, is one of the younger players keeping a close eye on Scheifele.

"He is the last guy off the ice a lot," Lambert said. "Someone with 900 points who continues to work that hard and continues to find things to improve in his game, it is special to watch."

Arniel added that Scheifele's impact expands well beyond the goals and assists, further highlighting his willingness to share his advice and routine with the next generation of players.

"It isn't just go out and have your 30-to-45-minute practice and get yourself off the ice," the coach said. "It's go out for a purpose and the purpose is to get yourself ready for the next game. In the weight room, the maintenance he has on his body, what he does on the ice — all that preparation — guys watch him. He's not afraid to talk about it and the young guys, they like to listen."

Arniel added: "Those guys all probably had pretty good mentors on their way up the ladder, and we need those guys to help the guys that are coming."

Scheifele was also quick to give credit to Connor. The duo has been a fixture on Winnipeg's top line for several years.

"It's just instinct. We've played with each other a long time," Scheifele said of their chemistry. "I love going out to battle with him every shift. He's a phenomenal guy, phenomenal player. I'm very, very lucky to have him on my left side."

<https://www.sportsnet.ca/nhl/article/connor-scores-twice-as-jets-roll-past-kraken/>

'We have full belief': Connor scores twice as Jets roll past Kraken

By Canadian Press

WINNIPEG — Kyle Connor scored twice while Jonathan Toews and Gabriel Vilardi had a goal and an assist each to lead the Winnipeg Jets to a 6-2 victory over the Seattle Kraken on Monday night.

Brad Lambert and Vladislav Namestnikov, into an empty net, also scored for the Jets (34-31-12), who have collected points in seven of their last nine games (6-2-1).

Mark Scheifele registered three assists, while Josh Morrissey provided a pair.

Connor Hellebuyck made 22 saves for the win at Canada Life Centre.

"I think when your best players are at their best, it brings the rest of the group into the fight," Jets head coach Scott Arniel told reporters post-game. "And that's really what's been going on."

Jordan Eberle and Jared McCann replied for the Kraken (32-33-11), who extended their losing streak to five games and have lost nine of their last 10 (1-7-2).

Seattle starting goaltender Philipp Grubauer left the game with an undisclosed injury in the second period after allowing three goals on 15 shots. Joey Daccord entered in relief and made 10 saves.

The Kraken opened the scoring at 9:17 of the first period when Eberle netted his team-leading 25th of the season, marking the fourth consecutive game Winnipeg has surrendered the opening goal.

The Jets responded on the man advantage at 12:39 when Toews, who was moved back to the top power-play unit in Sunday's practice, put in his 10th of the campaign to tie the game.

Winnipeg took control in the second period with a pair of power-play markers. Vilardi gave the Jets their first lead at 9:55, followed by Connor's team-leading 37th goal of the season at 12:09.

Seattle cut the deficit to 3-2 at 2:28 of the third period on a goal by McCann. The assist went to Kaapo Kakko, extending his point streak to three games.

Lambert restored the two-goal cushion at 5:59 of the final frame to seal the win, with Connor and Namestnikov adding insurance markers.

"It's huge," said Lambert of the intensity of the Jets' must-win games down the stretch. "It's our playoffs right now. We've got to win every game, and I think it shows in our room and shows in our game, the intensity that we have. I think we have full belief in ourselves."

TAKEAWAYS

Jets: Winnipeg's special teams dominated the matchup, as the club scored three times on the power play for the first time all season.

Kraken: The loss dealt a devastating blow to Seattle's bid for a playoff spot, costing the club an opportunity to close the gap in the highly competitive Western Conference wild-card race.

KEY MOMENT

With Seattle seizing momentum after cutting the lead to one early in the third period, Lambert fired home his third goal of the season to make it 4-2. Lambert celebrated the insurance marker right in front of the Kraken bench and his uncle, Seattle head coach Lane Lambert.

KEY STAT

Scheifele registered his 900th career NHL point with his secondary assist on Connor's second-period goal.

"It means a lot," said Scheifele. "Obviously, very honoured and humbled by it. It's pretty cool to think about; it'll probably take a little bit to sink in."

UP NEXT

Jets: Visit the St. Louis Blues on Thursday.

Kraken: Visit the Minnesota Wild on Tuesday.

TSN.ca

<https://www.tsn.ca/nhl/video/2026/04/07/what-are-the-chances-winnipeg-can-make-the-playoffs/>

What are the chances Winnipeg can make the playoffs? (VIDEO)

The Jets got a critical win, but remain three points back of the second wild card spot. Their future depends on their own results and getting some help along the way, so what are the actual chances Winnipeg gets to the postseason? TSN's Danielle Bain has more.

Global Winnipeg

<https://globalnews.ca/news/11766840/power-play-roars-to-life-as-winnipeg-jets-down-kraken-6-2/>

Power play roars to life as Winnipeg Jets down Kraken 6-2

By Christian Aumell & Russ Hobson Global News

Entering their meeting with the Seattle Kraken, the Winnipeg Jets power play had not been firing on all cylinders.

You would not have known that Monday night as the Jets cashed in on all three of their power play opportunities in a 6-2 win that keeps their slim playoff hopes alive.

The Jets were just 6-for-52 with the man advantage since the Olympic break until going 3-for-3 against the Kraken after promoting Jonathan Toews to the number one power play unit.

"We went with a more of a shot mentality of attacking the net a little bit more and a little bit quicker," said Jets head coach Scott Arniel. "I thought we did a great job of that. And a lot of the goals came off of that."

The win temporarily moved the Jets within a single point of a playoff spot but with two teams ahead of them in the standings, the Los Angeles Kings and Nashville Predators meeting in a late start, the Jets will again be three points back by morning.

Kyle Connor scored twice in the win, while Toews, Gabriel Vilardi, Brad Lambert and Vladislav Namestnikov had the other markers for Winnipeg. Mark Scheifele recorded three assists, including two helpers on the man advantage.

It's the first time the Jets have scored three power play goals in a single game since December of 2024.

"Obviously we got a little lucky," said Scheifele. "There's other games where we've had a lot of good looks and haven't gotten a goal, so, just got rewarded for sticking with it."

The Jets entered the third period with a two-goal lead, but Jared McCann quickly brought the Kraken within one. But Lambert then came flying into the Kraken zone before picking the top corner for the biggest goal of his career to restore the two-goal cushion.

"I mean, I think every goal feels great," said Lambert. "Obviously to be able to do it at that time, a big goal for us, made it extra special."

With his second point of the game, Scheifele registered his 900th career point.

"It means a lot," said Scheifele. "Very honoured and humbled by it. It's pretty cool to think about. It'll probably take a little bit to sink in but obviously it's very cool in my mind."

Namestnikov and Nino Niederreiter both returned to the lineup after lengthy absences but Morgan Barron missed the game and is now week-to-week with a lower-body injury.

It was the first time the Jets have beaten the Kraken this season after Seattle won their first two meetings.

Winnipeg had a great look to open the scoring when Scheifele was sprung on a breakaway with just over four minutes gone but he was denied on the initial shot and the subsequent rebound by Philipp Grubauer.

Seattle broke the ice at the 9:17 mark thanks to their captain. After a poor clearing attempt by Dylan DeMelo, the puck came back down the wall to Jordan Eberle, who tried to stuff it past Connor Hellebuyck on a wraparound.

The shot was stopped but the rebound trickled into empty ice, so Eberle collected it, skated to the other side of the crease around a mass of bodies and backhanded the puck through Hellebuyck for his 25th of the season.

Eberle almost doubled up moments later on a very similar looking play, but his shot hit the post.

With 8:08 left in the first, Winnipeg was given the game's first power play and took full advantage, thanks in part due to a change in personnel on the top unit.

Josh Morrissey blasted a shot from the point that took a deflection and hit the boards behind the net. The puck then fluttered back over the net where Toews knocked it down with his body before swatting it into the net for his 10th of the season.

Toews had just been moved to the top unit with Cole Perfetti moving down to the second unit as Winnipeg attempted to fix its struggling power play.

Seattle outshot the Jets 13-7 in the first as the game stayed tied 1-1 after 20 minutes.

It nearly became 2-1 Seattle just over six minutes into the second when Cale Fleury's shot from the point hit the inside of the post before bouncing off the backside of Hellebuyck and just wide of the other post.

Winnipeg's power play came through for a second time just shy of the midway point of the second with Adam Larsson in the box for high-sticking.

Vilardi had the puck at the right point and passed it down low to Toews, who put a sharp angle shot on goal. The rebound trickled through the legs of two Kraken defenders as Vilardi cut to the net-front area, collecting the loose puck and firing it past Grubauer for his 29th of the season at the 9:55 mark.

Just over a minute later, the Jets found themselves on the power play once again, and again they made good to take a 3-1 lead.

The puck cycled around to Connor at the right point, who fired a shot on net that deflected off the stick of Ryan Lindgren and fluttered over the shoulder of Grubauer.

After a whistle with 6:40 to go in the second, Grubauer skated to the bench and took himself out of the game, forcing Joey Daccord into action. During that break in the action, it was announced in the arena that Scheifele had hit the 900-point plateau, and he was given a hearty ovation by the Jets faithful.

The Jets outshot the Kraken 13-4 in the second and carried their two-goal lead to the third.

But Seattle cut the lead to one just 2:28 into the period when McCann carried the puck over the Winnipeg blue line and, using a backpedaling Namestnikov as a screen, wired a wrist shot that squeaked through Hellebuyck.

The two-goal advantage was restored 3:31 later thanks to Lambert. The speedy rookie picked up the puck at centre ice and flew down the right wing into the Seattle end. He saw that Vince Dunn was shading towards the middle, giving him room to skate in and rip a wrist shot that beat Daccord top shelf for his third of the season.

The Jets extended their lead when Connor scored his second of the game at the 15:19 mark. Daccord thought he had the puck covered but Connor helped chip it free to Scheifele in the corner. Connor then backed up into the slot, got a pass from Scheifele and ripped it through Daccord for his 38th of the season.

Seattle pulled their goalie with about 2:30 to go but Namestnikov, playing in his first game since getting injured Feb. 27, scored into the empty net for his first goal since Jan. 9.

The Jets will now head to St. Louis for another big game against the Blues Thursday night.

Winnipeg Free Press

<https://www.winnipegfreepress.com/breakingnews/2026/04/06/jets-get-kraken-out-of-the-way>

Jets get Kraken out of the way Power past Seattle to keep their own playoff hopes alive

By: Ken Wiebe

The contents of the 10:15 a.m. meeting on Monday are likely to remain classified, especially since the final outcome was favourable for the Winnipeg Jets.

No matter what was said or viewed during the video session, it's impossible to argue with the results.

Although a few fortuitous bounces certainly helped, it's important to give credit where credit is due and on an evening that was as close as you can get to must-win territory given where they sit in the standings, a struggling Jets' power play came through at a critical time.

Some of that credit belongs to Jets assistant coach Davis Payne, who is responsible for a power play that led the NHL last season but had dipped to 28th overall among 32 teams after going five-for-48 since the Olympic break.

A tweak in personnel — with Jonathan Toews in for Cole Perfetti on the top unit — led to immediate dividends as the Jets power play finished the night with three goals for the first time this season, propelling them to a 6-2 victory over the Seattle Kraken on Monday night at Canada Life Centre.

"We talked about how it gave us an opportunity with him taking the faceoffs," said Jets head coach Scott Arniel. "And then we went with more of a shot mentality, attacking the net a little bit more and a little bit quicker. I thought we did a great job of that."

Fresh off the bump, Toews got to the net and found a loose puck after Gabriel Vilardi tipped a point shot from Josh Morrissey to open the scoring.

Toews then drew the primary assist with the man-advantage as Vilardi scored his 29th goal of the season to make it 2-1 at 9:55 of the second period.

It was Toews' fifth power-play marker of the season as he hit double digits in goals for a 16th consecutive campaign.

Kyle Connor ensured the Jets power play stayed perfect by scoring on a shot that changed direction off a Kraken defender and made the game 3-1.

"We got a little lucky, but there are other games where we've had a lot of good looks and haven't gotten a goal," said Jets centre Mark Scheifele, who notched three assists. "So we just got rewarded for sticking with it."

The Jets, who improved to 34-31-12, remain three points out of the final playoff spot in the Western Conference. They're back in action Thursday against the surging St. Louis Blues.

Let's take a closer look at what transpired on Monday:

THE MILESTONE

Scheifele is up to 97 points for the season, eclipsing 900 points for his NHL career (901).

Already the franchise leader, Scheifele has pulled within 28 points of Dale Hawerchuk, who is the only Jets player from the 1.0 era to reach 900 points.

"It means a lot. I'm obviously very honoured and humbled by it," said Scheifele. "It'll probably take a little bit to sink in. But it's very cool in my mind."

With his three-point night, Scheifele moved into a tie for fifth place in NHL scoring with Leon Draisaitl of the Edmonton Oilers and David Pastrnak of the Boston Bruins.

Arniel continues to be impressed by Scheifele's ability to put together his best season after turning 33 last month.

"It goes back to what we were just talking about: all of that preparation that he does," said Arniel. "His body is always ready to go. It's a case of he's determined, he's driven and he wants to have team success. With the team success comes individual success."

"I think we've seen a lot of guys in the league that are older that are still really good players and that's because they're such good athletes now. That's probably the biggest thing."

THE ROCKET

Jets forward Brad Lambert took a drop pass from Adam Lowry, used his speed to drive out wide and after looking to pass, he loaded up and ripped home a wrister that beat Joey Daccord high to the blocker side.

It was Lambert's third NHL goal of the season.

"I don't know if I have ever scored with him live," said Lambert, referring to Kraken head coach and his uncle, Lane Lambert. "Every goal feels great and obviously, being able to do it at that time, (being) a big goal for us, made it extra special."

"I slowed up a little bit and looked to see if I had anyone to pass it to, but at the end of the day, I feel I was in the best spot to let it rip."

Lambert's goal restored a two-goal cushion after Jared McCann trimmed the deficit to 3-2 early in the third period.

"They had just scored and he made a nice little move kind of backing off the D and just kind of a sneaky release," said Scheifele. "He's a creative guy. He's got skill. He's got speed. He's got great hands. You love to see a guy try someone one-on-one. With every game, you've just got to keep getting more and more confident, keep getting more and more comfortable."

THE RETURN(S)

Lambert was on the ice on a blended shift for his goal, but spent the bulk of the evening on a trio with Vladislav Namestnikov and Nino Niederreiter, both of whom were back in the lineup for the first time in a long time.

Niederreiter (knee) hadn't suited up in an NHL game since before the Olympics in Italy, while Namestnikov suffered a lower-body injury in the first period of the second game coming out of the break.

Namestnikov took 17 shifts for just over 11 minutes of ice time and chipped in an empty net goal late in the third period, while Niederreiter helped draw a pair of penalties and finished with 11:20 of ice time.

"It was special. A lot of extremes there and a lot of help," said Lambert of his linemates. "I think we play well together, those guys are really good and smart with the puck and good players who make great plays. They hang on to pucks in the offensive zone and that creates a little more room for me and they are awesome to play with."

THE KEY PLAY

Connor's first of two goals, which gave him a team-leading 38 for the season, proved to be the game-winner.

THE THREE STARS

Mark Scheifele, C, Jets: three helpers.

Kyle Connor, LW, Jets: scored two goals.

Jonathan Toews, C, Jets: One goal, one assist.

EXTRA! EXTRA!

Jets goalie Connor Hellebuyck made his seventh consecutive start, reaching 54 for the season and finished with 22 saves as he registered his 21st win of the campaign. Hellebuyck lowered his goals-against average to 2.76, while his save percentage remains at .898.

With the return of Niederreiter and Namestnikov, forward Parker Ford was returned to the Manitoba Moose of the American Hockey League since the Jets are no longer under emergency conditions. Ford has one assist in 15 games with the Jets this season and is up to one goal and two points in 18 games for his NHL career.

Jets defenceman Jacob Bryson suited up in his 300th NHL game on Monday.

Following the morning skate, Arniel announced that forward Morgan Barron is sidelined week-to-week with a lower-body injury. The loss of Barron is going to be felt in a number of areas, from his sound five-on-five play to his work on the penalty kill. Barron has 11 goals and 23 points in 65 games this season.

The Jets lone healthy scratch was defenceman Ville Heinola, since forward Gustav Nyquist (undisclosed) was wearing a non-contact jersey, along with defenceman Colin Miller (knee). Fellow blue-line Elias Salomonsson remains in concussion protocol and has yet to resume skating.

<https://www.winnipegfreepress.com/breakingnews/2026/04/06/niederreiter-put-off-knee-surgery-with-milestones-on-horizon>

Niederreiter put off knee surgery with milestones on horizon

By: Mike McIntyre

Regrets? Nino Niederreiter has a few.

The veteran Winnipeg Jets forward is set to return from a lengthy injury absence Monday night against the Seattle Kraken — and in doing so offered some revealing insight into the timeline of events surrounding his ailment.

Specifically, Niederreiter admitted he first began feeling discomfort in his knee last summer but chose to keep playing through it rather than shutting down for medical intervention.

The reasoning was twofold. First, the 33-year-old was closing in on 1,000 regular-season games and didn't want to interrupt that pursuit — a milestone he ultimately reached in December. Second, he was hoping to represent Switzerland at the Winter Olympics in February and didn't want to risk missing out.

"Absolutely. You nailed it. That was exactly what was going on," Niederreiter told the Free Press when presented with that scenario.

"Starting the season I knew that I had to get 31 games in to get myself to play 1,000 games and then you are so close to the Olympics and try to grind that one through as well."

Hockey is notorious for its team-first mentality, where individual pursuits are often parked in favour of the greater good. Yet Niederreiter almost seemed to be confessing to the opposite, which is sure to spark some debate given his level of play while he was in the lineup.

"There were stretches where it felt pretty good and there were stretches that weren't as good. Eventually, I just needed to get (the surgery) done."

To be blunt, Niederreiter looked like a player who wasn't quite right during his first 55 games, in which he posted just 19 points (8G, 11A) while Winnipeg struggled. That stretch included an 11-game losing streak and a span where the Jets won just six times in 30 outings.

His play dipped to the point that head coach Scott Arniel made him a healthy scratch for one game — which, as it turns out, might have been better described as a "not-really-healthy-but-playing-anyway" scratch.

"I had problems with my knee the whole time," Niederreiter said. "There were stretches where it felt pretty good and there were stretches that weren't as good. Eventually, I just needed to get that done."

That decision came immediately after he returned from the Olympics where he was also one of Switzerland's flag bearers in the opening ceremonies, leading to arthroscopic surgery that cost him 20 games at a crucial time for the Jets.

Now, with the benefit of hindsight, Niederreiter admits both the timing and the optics weren't ideal.

"After the whole recovery process now, I feel like maybe I should have done it before the season, and in the off-season kind of figuring out a way to deal with it," Niederreiter said.

"But you never know how the outcome is going to be. So, I want to give myself the best chance possible to be a part of those two events and I wish I could have finished the season but I am glad I did eventually."

On one hand, the approach is understandable. What if the recovery had taken longer than expected and cost him a chance to go to Italy? But there will no doubt be those who argue the situation ultimately hurt the team, especially given how the season has unfolded for the Jets.

Of course, the organization was well aware of the situation and allowed it to play out.

"I mean, we're not telling a player, 'You can't play. You have to have surgery.' That comes down to the player, his agent, the people closest to him," Arniel said following Monday's morning skate.

"It's been something that's been bugging him. But it's a pretty big year with a lot of things going on. I think if he had a do-over, he might have gotten it done at the start of the year. That's just me guessing. I'm not saying 100 per cent."

When informed that Niederreiter had said exactly that, Arniel expanded on the mindset.

"At the end of the day, players think that they can play through it and hope that they can," the coach continued.

"He went through stretches where it felt good. I remember talking to him, him saying how it felt good. But it doesn't help when you have a schedule like how the league has the schedule, going into that Olympic break, you're playing so many nights and it's tough for recovery of those types of things."

"The guys have kept us in it. They played good hockey, and I'm itching to get back and join them."

What's done is done. Now the focus shifts to the present and the immediate future.

Niederreiter hopes to quickly rediscover "the best version" of himself as he rejoins a team that went 11-5-4 in his absence and remains firmly in the playoff picture.

"I feel we have been playing faster and getting pucks more to the net," he said. "I feel they have been playing with a lot of tenaciousness and doing whatever it takes to win."

He isn't the only one returning Monday. Good friend Vlad Namestnikov is also expected back in the lineup after missing 18 games with a lower-body injury suffered Feb. 27 in Anaheim following a collision with teammate Adam Lowry.

Like Niederreiter, Namestnikov has endured a difficult season, recording just 13 points (7G, 6A) in 57 games. That's a notable dip for a player who, just one year ago, centred the second line on a Presidents' Trophy-winning team.

"It's the first time I've been out that long in my career, so it's definitely something different," he said prior to puck drop Monday. "But yeah, it's all part of the game. Things like that happen. It's kind of freak accident, so you got to go through it sometimes and just happy to be back."

He said having Niederreiter, one of his best friends on the team, sidelined at the same time ultimately made the recovery process a bit less painful. As did seeing the Jets continue to stay in the playoff race.

"The guys have kept us in it. They played good hockey, and I'm itching to get back and join them," he said.

Namestnikov and Niederreiter were put on a line together Monday along with rookie forward Brad Lambert, who should help them get up to speed — quite literally, considering his good wheels.

"Obviously this time of year, I know I keep saying it, it's fast-moving water. It's the pace of where the games are at. But these guys have helped us, they've got a history here," said Arniel.

"We grinded them hard here in the last week, conditioning wise to get that part of it, make sure that's up to where it needs to be. Now it's just getting their touches and kind of getting used to, as the game goes on, getting a bit more comfortable for them."

"They're rested and ready to go and hungry. So we're hoping that's a spark for us."