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<https://www.nhl.com/jets/news/morrissey-becomes-jets-top-scoring-defenceman>

***Morrissey becomes Jets top scoring defenceman
Josh Morrissey moves past Dustin Byfuglien for most points by a defenceman in franchise history in win over Canucks***

By Jamie Thomas

WINNIPEG - Josh Morrissey scored at 1:49 of overtime to give the Winnipeg Jets a 3-2 win over the Vancouver Canucks at Canada Life Centre. Mark Scheifele and Gabe Vilardi scored the other goals for Winnipeg who have points in six straight (4-0-2). Connor Hellebuyck made 21 saves and has won his last three starts and has only allowed five goals against. The Jets will play Tuesday against the Anaheim Ducks, another game against a team they are chasing in the west.

MULTI-POINT SCHEIF

The Jets were the dominant team through the majority of the first two periods but could not find a way to beat Kevin Lankinen in the Canucks goal. But with time winding down in the second period with the Canucks up 1-0, Jonathan Toews won an offensive zone faceoff to Scheifele and he moved to the slot and beat Lankinen over the glove for his 30th of the season. Scheifele has back-to-back 30 goal campaigns for the first time in his NHL career.

The Canucks would take the lead again 33 seconds into the third period and once again after numerous good chances the Jets found a way to beat Lankinen. On a power play late in the third, Scheifele found a wide-open Gabriel Vilardi at the side of the net and Vilardi put a couple of moves on Lankinen before tying the game at 15:12. Scheifele would finish the game with three points (1G, 2A) and has eight points in his last three games, all wins for the Jets.

"I mean, just an incredible play on his behalf, I thought Scheif did a good job of kind of dragging out the D man, and then, yeah, his hands in tight, I mean, we've seen so often." said Josh Morrissey.

"I think he's one of the best in the league around the net. And it's a big time play at a big-time moment in that game."

JMO PASSES BUFF

Josh Morrissey returned to the Jets lineup after not playing since Canada's first game of the Olympics back on February 12. The Jets defenceman recorded an assist on Vilardi's goal which pulled him into a tie with Dustin Byfuglien as the franchise's all-time leader in scoring for defencemen. The game went into overtime and Morrissey passed his long-time friend in dramatic fashion with the winning goal.

"Obviously, he's been out. To come back and have to get into a game like that, we wanted to ease them in but as you saw, his minutes got up there again. At the end of the day, what a great way to get the record, in a game like that. Having him back, it's great to have," said Scott Arniel.

"Obviously, when you're missing your top defencemen, it puts a lot of strain in a lot of different areas. On the road trip, with all of those overtimes and not having him. He's a difference-maker when he's out there."

THE NEW GUYS

Isak Rosén and Jacob Bryson made their Jets debut on Saturday night, Rosén on the right side of Jonathan Toews and Gustav Nyquist and also saw some time on the second power play unit. Bryson played on the right side with Haydn Fleury. Rosén played 11:22, had a shot on goal and a hit. Bryson finished the night playing just under 16 minutes and also added a shot and a hit.

<https://www.nhl.com/jets/news/rosen-bryson-ready-for-new-opportunity-with-jets>

Rosén, Bryson ready for new opportunity with Jets

Rosén: "I'm going to do my best to make the best out of it."

By Jamie Thomas

WINNIPEG – It's been a crazy couple of days for the newest members of the Winnipeg Jets, Jacob Bryson and Isak Rosén. Both were acquired Friday morning from the Buffalo Sabres and are set to make their Jets debut against the Vancouver Canucks.

"Actually, all three of them, (Brad) Lambert too, all three of them are going right in. Lambo and Rosey will both be on that powerplay and we will get Jacob in on some PK," said head coach Scott Arniel.

"With the roster situation, injuries and all that, and the recalls which we are allowed to do so we are right at our forward numbers that way. So, we will hang tough there and Villie will be the extra tonight."

While the players are new to the organization, both are familiar with Eric Comrie from his time in Buffalo, Rosén played with Elias Salomonsson for Sweden at the World Juniors, Bryson has also played with Colin Miller.

Rosén will start the night on the Jets third line with Jonathan Toews and Gustav Nyquist and is wearing Nikolaj Ehlers old number 27. The Swedish forward has been compared to Ehlers before, but the 22-year-old doesn't see the similarities.

"I mean, yeah, he's a really fun player to watch," said Rosén.

"I'm not really comparing myself to anyone."

Rosén has scored 87 goals in the American Hockey League but has only played 15 games in the NHL. Jets general manager Kevin Cheveldayoff said on Friday that he will spend the rest of the season with Winnipeg, a clear sign that he will be given every opportunity to prove himself.

"It's a dream to hear that. I've been trying to stay in the NHL for a while; got a lot of call-ups but just been one game or two games and stuff like that," said Rosén.

"It's a really good opportunity for me and I'm thankful for that opportunity and I'm going to do my best to make the best out of it."

Bryson has played with Rosén in both the AHL and NHL.

"He's very skilled, and I feel like he can really make that jump to the NHL," said Bryson.

“He didn't get too much opportunity in Buffalo, but he might get a better shot here, and I think he can really showcase what he's made of.”

Bryson will pair with Haydn Fleury tonight on his offside something that he has done a lot with the Sabres organization.

“Yeah, well, we had six lefties at one point in Buffalo. So, I had to get familiar with-it one way or another, that was kind of the only way I was playing is if I was on the right side. So, but no, we had five lefties there all year,” said Bryson.

“So, when I played, I was always on the right side. So, I've got familiar with it. And obviously a lot of those other guys that were there did the same thing. So, it was kind of interchangeable, and I talked to Haydn a little bit. And if we get mixed up on side, he feels like he's comfortable staying on the right. So that helps a lot.”

NHL.com

<https://www.nhl.com/news/vancouver-canucks-winnipeg-jets-game-recap-march-7-2026>

Morrissey scores winner in return, Jets rally to defeat Canucks in OT Defenseman ends it at 1:49; Karlsson has goal, assist for Vancouver

By Darrin Bauming

WINNIPEG — Josh Morrissey scored the game-winner 1:49 into overtime and the Winnipeg Jets rallied for a 3-2 victory against the Vancouver Canucks at Canada Life Centre on Saturday.

“Since the (Olympic) break the guys have been playing fantastic hockey, scratching and clawing while never looking fazed,” Morrissey said. “They (Vancouver) got that early one on us and I thought we did a really good job of not deviating from our game.”

Mark Scheifele's cross-ice pass found Morrissey, whose slap shot from the right dot deflected in off of Vancouver defenseman Filip Hronek in front.

Morrissey returned to the lineup after missing the past five games. He suffered an upper-body injury during Team Canada's first game against Team Czechia at the Olympic Winter Games Milano Cortina 2026.

“Honestly, my legs and conditioning, everything felt really good,” Morrissey said in his first NHL game since Feb. 4. “I wasn't able to have an actual practice with the guys because of the schedule, and all the optional [skates] and days off. So it's kind of right out of the bag skate drills into the game. But I thought maybe halfway through the first, or as the first went on, I started to feel better. And, as I said, like the guys are playing such great hockey right now, and I didn't want to come in and screw it up, so it was just, yeah, they're playing awesome. And we tilted the ice pretty well, and it was a good game by us.”

“To come back and have to get into a game like that — we wanted to ease him in, but as you saw, his minutes (24:27) got up there again,” Winnipeg coach Scott Arniel said of Morrissey. “Having him back, it's great to have. Obviously, when you're missing your top defenseman, it puts a lot of strain in a lot of different areas. On the road trip, with all of those overtimes and not having him — he's a difference maker when he's out there.”

The defenseman also had an assist, Scheifele tallied a goal and two assists, and Connor Hellebuyck made 21 saves for the Jets (26-26-10), who have points in six straight games (4-0-2).

“What does it say about (Morrissey)? He’s elite,” Jets forward Gabriel Vilardi said. “He’s an elite player. He was part of Team Canada for a reason. They missed him out there, obviously. It just shows how big of a difference-maker he is for us. I’m not sure what his minutes were, but I’d imagine they were in the high 20s again. He’s one of the top-tier defensemen in the League.”

Linus Karlsson had a goal and an assist, Teddy Blueger had two assists, and Kevin Lankinen made 32 saves for the Canucks (19-36-8), who are 1-5-3 in their past nine games.

“(Lankinen’s performance) was unbelievable. He kept us in the game,” Karlsson said. “Unfortunately, we couldn’t get the win for him, but I really liked how he fought and how he played today. He was great.”

Karlsson made it 1-0 Canucks at 7:28 of the first period, taking a drop pass from Max Sasson as they entered the Winnipeg zone and scoring with a wrist shot from the right face-off dot.

“I liked the effort — we fought for each other,” Karlsson said. “(Winnipeg) probably had most of the game, but I think we stood up well. We had the lead long into the third and unfortunately we couldn’t get the win.”

Scheifele tied it 1-1 at 19:48 of the second period. Jonathan Toews won the face-off, and Scheifele rolled to the high slot and beat Lankinen’s glove with a wrist shot.

“That’s a heavy team, heavy up the middle,” Vancouver coach Adam Foote said. “It’s a team you almost don’t want to play on a back-to-back in their home barn because they do play dots and boards in our end, and grind you out and try to wear you down. I thought [Lankinen] had a really good game. You know, he kept us in there.”

The Canucks completed a back-to-back on the road following a 6-3 win in Chicago on Friday.

Liam Ohgren scored 33 seconds into the third period to push it to 2-1 Canucks, when his shot from above the hashmarks deflected off the stick of Toews and under Hellebuyck.

“I just came from the bench and I think [Karlsson and Blueger] made a good play,” Ohgren said. “Then I just shot it. I think maybe it bounced off something.”

“We’ve got to help (our goaltenders) a little bit more. I think they’ve been against a lot of pressure, so we’ve got to help them, but they played great these last couple games.”

Vilardi tied it 2-2 on the power play at 15:12, scoring on the backhand after deking Lankinen with a drop-step move at the edge of the crease.

“They just left me alone there,” Vilardi said. “[Scheifele] did a good job on getting that ‘D’ up there, and I had a lot of space. I just knew I was going to do that move.”

NOTES: Morrissey’s fifth career overtime goal ties Marc Savard and Blake Wheeler for the seventh most in Jets/Thrashers history. ... Scheifele scored his 30th goal of the season, which

is the fifth time he has reached the mark in his career. ... Forward Isak Rosen had one shot on goal in 11:22 of ice time in his Jets debut. ... Defenseman Jacob Bryson had one shot and a hit while skating 15:58 in his Jets debut. ... Karlsson has four points (one goal, three assists) on a three-game point streak.

Canadian Press

<https://www.chrisd.ca/2026/03/07/winnipeg-jets-vancouver-canucks-game-summary/>

Morrissey Makes His Presence Felt in Return to Jets

By Jeff Hamilton, The Canadian Press

Josh Morrissey didn't just return to the Winnipeg Jets lineup on Saturday — he made history, skating into the franchise's record books.

Playing his first game since suffering an upper-body injury at the Milan Cortina Olympics 23 days ago, the star defenceman scored 1:49 into overtime to lift Winnipeg to a 3-2 victory over the Vancouver Canucks in front of 14,294 at Canada Life Centre.

The game-winner was Morrissey's 417th career point, officially moving him past Dustin Byfuglien for the most points by a blueliner in franchise history.

"It is pretty special," Morrissey said of surpassing his former teammate. "I think about him and what he meant to me when I came into the league with his mentorship and friendship and I learned so much from him. Getting to play my first 50 games in the league beside him, it was pretty special."

Morrissey had tied Byfuglien's mark earlier in the night when he assisted on Gabriel Vilardi's game-tying power-play goal with fewer than five minutes remaining in regulation.

His teammates were quick to praise his immediate impact and work ethic after missing time.

"He's an elite player," Vilardi said. "He was part of Team Canada for a reason. They missed him out there, obviously. It just shows how big of a difference maker he is for us."

"I'm not sure what his minutes were, but I imagine they were in the high 20s again. He's one of the top-tier defencemen in the league."

The milestone capped off a remarkably seamless return to game action for Morrissey, who, along with the goal and assist, finished with five shots and was a plus-1 in 24:27 of ice time.

"Honestly, my legs and conditioning, everything felt really good," said Morrissey, who now has 91 goals and 326 assists in 719 career games.

"Wasn't able to have an actual practice with the guys because of the schedule and all the optionals and days off. So it's kind of right out of the bag skate drills into the game."

Jets head coach Scott Arniel noted that Morrissey's offensive gifts are only part of what makes him an elite talent, pointing to the defenceman's evolution into a perennial Norris Trophy candidate and Olympian.

“It’s not just the last four years. He was in more of a checking role at one time and then as personnel changed here and guys left, he got put into that role as a top guy. He’s taken advantage of it,” Arniel said.

“Josh is the one that drives himself to be the best and he’s a guy that works his tail off in the summer. I’m really proud of the fact that he’s doing that from the red-line back, and then what he does offensively is his best gift.”

The Jets needed every bit of Morrissey’s composure in a game where they heavily outshot the Canucks but found themselves trailing 2-1 late in the third period. Rather than panicking, Winnipeg kept at it and was finally able to score the equalizer to force overtime.

“The crowd really wanted me to shoot, but I just didn’t feel the lane. And so, made the right read,” Morrissey said of the historic assist. “Thankfully, he (Vilardi) scored, and it makes me look smart. But, I mean, just an incredible play on his behalf. It’s a big time play at a big-time moment in that game.”

The milestone is a testament to longevity and consistency for the 2013 first-round pick.

“I am not sure I would have thought at the time that was attainable, but at the end of the day, I have just been fortunate to play with so many great players,” Morrissey said. “It is cool to think about ... all the great players that I have gotten to play with.”

The victory extended Winnipeg’s point streak to six games (4-0-2) in what’s been a surprising run since the Olympic break, especially given the Jets were sellers during Friday’s NHL trade deadline and have been dealing with several injuries.

“Since the break, the guys have been playing fantastic hockey, scratching and clawing while never looking fazed,” Morrissey said.

Sportsnet.ca

<https://www.sportsnet.ca/nhl/video/its-special-morrissey-on-passing-byfuglien-to-set-franchise-record/>

‘It’s special’: Morrissey on passing Byfuglien to set franchise record (VIDEO)

Josh Morrissey speaks with Sportsnet’s Sean Reynolds on what has made the Winnipeg Jets so comeback-capable and what it means to pass Dustin Byfuglien to become the franchise leader with 417 points for defencemen.

Global Winnipeg

<https://globalnews.ca/news/11721387/analysis-winnipeg-jets-refuse-throw-in-towel-2025-26-season/>

ANALYSIS: Winnipeg Jets refuse to throw in towel on 2025-26 season

By Kelly Moore CJOB

ANALYSIS: Winnipeg Jets refuse to throw in towel on 2025-26 season - imageView image in full screen

It's one thing for the Winnipeg Jets to say they still believe they can scratch and claw their way back into the NHL Western Conference playoff race.

But the team has managed to back up those words with its actions since coming out of the Olympic break.

Yes, the Jets required some late-game heroics to avoid what would have been a disastrous outcome versus the lowly Chicago Blackhawks and the Vancouver Canucks as part of a 3-0 start to this critical homestand.

But the fact of the matter is, they found a way to win those games — and not suffer yet another disheartening one-goal loss, like earlier this season, when over a nearly two-month span, Winnipeg had to endure what turned into an NHL-record 13 consecutive losses in one-goal decisions.

And the reward for the Jets' perseverance, these past seven days in particular, is halving what was a double-digit deficit for that No. 2 wild-card berth in the West when the homestand began to five points with 20 games to go entering this week.

That old saying about “what have you done for me lately” certainly comes into play because two of the next three games on the schedule are against opponents Winnipeg has yet to beat this season — Anaheim Tuesday night and Colorado Saturday afternoon.

It's a tall order — perhaps a tad unrealistic — to expect Mark Scheifele and friends to continue running the table at Canada Life Centre, facing that quality of competition.

But there's no margin for error for Winnipeg — if they intend to continue “walking the walk” in the direction of the playoff line in the West.

The odds remain stacked, but one thing that has become quite evident over the past dozen days or so.

You can search high and low, and in every nook and cranny of the Winnipeg Jets dressing room, and there will not be a white flag to be found anywhere.

Winnipeg Free Press

<https://www.winnipegfreepress.com/breakingnews/2026/03/07/morrissey-hits-milestone-in-jets-win-over-vancouver>

Morrissey hits milestone in Jets win over Vancouver

By: Mike McIntyre

Josh Morrissey couldn't have scripted a better return to the Winnipeg Jets lineup.

The veteran defenceman — sidelined by an injury during the first period of his Olympic appearance last month — became the franchise's all-time leading point-getter among blueliners

when he scored 1:49 into overtime on Saturday night, giving his team a dramatic 3-2 comeback victory over the Vancouver Canucks.

Morrissey first matched former blue-line partner Dustin Byfuglien by helping set up Gabe Vilardi's slick game-tying goal with 4:48 left in regulation. He then claimed the record outright when his shot during the three-on-three session deflected off Canucks defenceman Filip Hronek and beat goaltender Kevin Lankinen.

Jets goaltender Connor Hellebuyck stopped Canucks sniper Elias Pettersson on a breakaway only seconds earlier.

"It is pretty special. I think about (Byfuglien) and what he meant to me when I came into the league with his mentorship and friendship and I learned so much from him, getting to play my first 50 games in the league beside him," said Morrissey.

"I'm not sure I would have thought at the time that was attainable, but I have just been fortunate to play with so many great players. When you are passing the puck through the years to (Mark) Scheifele and KC (Kyle Connor) and Wheels (Blake Wheeler), all the different players that have been here, you get rewarded on the scoresheet."

Morrissey, 30, got emotional earlier this week discussing a string of unfortunate recent events surrounding his hockey career — missing the 4 Nations Face-Off final due to illness, getting knocked out of the "Manitoba Miracle" Game 7 against St. Louis with injury, returning in the next round against Dallas and getting hurt again and then the misfortune in Milan.

However, the Calgary product — whose father and mentor, Tom, died in 2021 following a courageous battle with cancer — said he continues to focus on gratitude rather than worry about what could have or should have been.

The Jets are grateful to have Morrissey back as they mount a late-season push for a playoff spot.

"What a great way to get the record, in a game like that," said Jets head coach Scott Arniel. "Obviously, when you're missing your top defencemen, it puts a lot of strain in a lot of different areas. He's a difference-maker when he's out there."

The Jets didn't exactly ease Morrissey into the lineup as he played in a game for the first time since Feb. 12 against Czechia. Morrissey led all defencemen with 24:27 of ice time and had five shots on goal.

"Honestly, my legs and conditioning, everything felt really good," he said. "The guys are playing such great hockey right now, and I didn't want to come in and screw it up. We tilted the ice pretty well, and it was a good game by us."

Winnipeg has collected points in all six games since the Olympic break (4-0-2) and have just four regulation losses over the last 20 games (11-4-5). The win over Vancouver pulled them to within five points of the final Western Conference wildcard playoff spot, currently held by Seattle. The Kraken were hosting the Ottawa Senators later Saturday night.

The Jets are now 26-26-10, while the Canucks remain last in the NHL standings with a record of 19-36-8.

SURGING SCHEIFELE: Scheifele is having a heck of a homestand. The team's top centre scored his 30th goal of the year with 12 seconds left in the second period Saturday night to level the score at 1-1. He then had the primary assists on both the game-tying and game-winning goals, giving him eight points in the three games this week at the downtown rink.

Scheifele is now up to 78 on the year, which trails only five players — Connor McDavid, Nathan MacKinnon, Nikita Kucherov, Leon Draisaitl and Macklin Celebrini — in that department.

A reminder: He wasn't deemed good enough to crack the Canadian Olympic team, which probably could have used a little more offence in the 2-1 gold medal overtime loss to Hellebuyck and the Americans.

Scheifele, who turns 33 next week, set a career-high with 87 points last season. He's on pace to not only smash that this year, but to eclipse the 100-point mark, too.

VILARDI'S LAMENT

There is no bigger critic of Vilardi than the man himself, and he was pretty frank earlier this week discussing how he needs to be better for his team. This, despite scoring twice in the first four games coming out of the Olympic break.

His goal against the Canucks showed what he's best at: Creating time and space in close quarters. Vilardi took a net-front pass from Scheifele, then put on a sublime, puck-handling display before beating Lankinen. He's now up to 24 goals on the year.

"That's special. Those are special hands," Arniel said of finally getting rewarded for relentless pressure and chances by tying the game.

"We were pounding them. Shots were coming, there were all kinds of rebounds. But when Gabe gets one-on-one with the goaltender, that's impressive stuff."

Vilardi, in typical fashion, wasn't ready to take a post-game victory lap.

"I'm looked at to contribute offensively. I don't think I've been doing that as much as I'd like. Even again (Saturday night), I had a lot of good chances there and I didn't capitalize," he said.

"It is frustrating, but at the same time we are winning, we're getting points. So, I just have to keep working at it."

"LET'S GO NEW GUYS"

Arniel had a sense of occasion when he started the game with forward Isak Rosen and defenceman Jacob Bryson, who were obtained late Thursday night from the Buffalo Sabres (along with two draft picks) in return for Logan Stanley and Luke Schenn.

The pair were greeted with a brief, fun welcoming chant from the crowd.

Rosen, 22, skated on a line with Jonathan Toews and fellow Swede Gus Nyquist. He had one shot on goal, one hit and played 11:22. Bryson, 27, was paired with Haydn Fleury and also registered a shot and a hit over 15:58 of ice time.

"There's lots there," Arniel said of the two new guys.

“Jacob is a little bit more of a veteran guy and you can throw him a little bit more into that game. I thought he was good. Him and (Fleury) did a really good job of not spending a whole lot of time in our end of the rink. Then, with Rosey there, you can see some of the skill, some of the talent.”

KEY PLAY

Morrissey's overtime winner saved the day for the Jets, who need every point they can get right now.

Three stars

1. WPG D Josh Morrissey: 1 goal, 1 assist
2. WPG C Mark Scheifele: 1 goal, 2 assists
3. VAN G Kevin Lankinen: 32 saves

REMEMBERING TROY

The Jets held a moment of silence prior to puck drop for former 1.0 captain Troy Murray, who died of cancer early Saturday.

Murray, 63, played 914 games in the NHL, the majority with the Chicago Blackhawks. He spent parts of two seasons in Winnipeg (1991-92, 1992-93).

“A real tough one for me. We were in the World Juniors together, he was our captain,” said Arniel.

“Played here with the Jets. He's been battling that a while. A true fighter. I got to see him there last year, at the end of the year. It's been, for him and his family, a tough go. Sad, sad day for the hockey world. Especially being an old Jet as well.”

EXTRA, EXTRA

The Jets went 1-for-2 on the power play, while Vancouver didn't get a chance on the man advantage. Liam Ohgren's goal just 33 seconds into the third period, which gave the visitors a 2-1 lead, came on a delayed penalty against the Jets.

A crowd of 14,294 took in the game, which is slightly above the season average of 14,231.

The Jets will return to action on Tuesday night when they host the Anaheim Ducks in the fourth game of this eight-game homestand.

<https://www.winnipegfreepress.com/breakingnews/2026/03/07/i-really-believe-im-an-nhl-player-rosen-ready-for-takeoff-with-jets>

'I really believe I'm an NHL player': Rosen ready for takeoff with Jets

By: Ken Wiebe

Isak Rosen didn't see it coming.

The Swedish forward found himself on an American Hockey League road trip with the Rochester Americans when news of a pending trade popped up on his phone.

"I was in Laval, kind of asleep actually, and then a friend texted and called me and said 'I think you're going, there's been a lot of rumours,'" Rosen said after taking the morning skate with the Winnipeg Jets on Saturday. "Five minutes later, I get a call. So, it was late Thursday night. It was a weird feeling, at first, but I'm super excited to be here."

Rosen admitted he hadn't heard anything about the prospect of being on the move in the days leading up to the NHL trade deadline.

"No. I tried not to think about it," said Rosen. "You know it's always a possibility that can happen, but then you have games every day and you have to think about that. So, I didn't think about it too much and then it happened."

The Jets acquired Rosen, defenceman Jacob Bryson and a pair of draft picks from the Buffalo Sabres in exchange for defencemen Logan Stanley and Luke Schenn, with Winnipeg retaining 50 per cent of Schenn's US\$2.75 million cap hit.

Rosen immediately enhances the speed and skill level for the Jets in the middle-six and he'll make his Jets' debut on tonight against the Vancouver Canucks on a line with Jonathan Toews and fellow Swede Gustav Nyquist.

Chosen 14th overall by the Sabres in the 2021 NHL Draft, Rosen has 31 NHL games on his resume, including 16 this season – where he had three goals and seven points while averaging just over 12 minutes of ice time per game.

The bulk of Rosen's playing time since moving to North America as a teenager has come in the AHL, where he's been a prolific goal-scorer, tallying 20-plus goals three times in four seasons.

Jets general manager Kevin Cheveldayoff said on Friday the plan is for Rosen to spend the remainder of this season in the NHL, though he is eligible to be assigned to the Manitoba Moose for the Calder Cup playoffs.

"It's a dream to hear that. I've been trying to stay in the NHL for awhile," said Rosen, who shoots left-handed but is most comfortable on right wing. "I got a lot of call-ups, but it's just been one game or two games and stuff like that. It's a really good opportunity for me and I'm thankful for that opportunity and I'm going to do my best to make the best out of it."

"I really believe I'm an NHL player."

For a team that hasn't had enough complementary scoring this season, Rosen looks like someone who can help in that area.

"I build my game around my skating and smartness," said Rosen, when asked to provide a self-assessment. "I'm a goal scorer and have a pretty good stick on the forecheck too, to break up plays and create offence out of that."

Rosen drew some comparisons to former Jets winger Nikolaj Ehlers around the time he was drafted, but it's merely a coincidence he's chosen to wear No. 27 as he joins his new team.

"I mean, yeah, he's a really fun player to watch," said Rosen. "I'm not really comparing myself to anyone."

Rosen, 22, will likely get an immediate chance to be involved with the Jets second power play unit, along with Brad Lambert, who was recalled from the Moose on Friday and should have an opportunity to show that he can be an NHL regular.

Jets head coach Scott Arniel didn't want to break up either of his top two lines, based on how well they played in Thursday's 4-1 victory over the Tampa Bay Lightning, so he chose to insert Rosen beside a pair of veterans and move Lambert onto a unit with Morgan Barron and Cole Koepke, who have been providing quality minutes.

Arniel confirmed that star defenceman Josh Morrissey will return to the Jets lineup for the first time in six games as he makes his way back from an upper-body injury he sustained at the Olympics.

Speaking of the defence corps, Bryson finds himself in an interesting spot.

The mobile blue-liner goes from a place he's spent his entire career and endured a lot of losing, but was dealt a few months before becoming an unrestricted free agent, just as the Sabres are competing for top spot in the Eastern Conference and look like a legitimate contender.

"I'd say that's probably the toughest part, is that I've been there for seven years, and finally, this was the year where we were good," said Bryson, who is 28. "So leaving that organization is a little tough, but obviously I'm excited to come here and make an impact, and a new opportunity for myself and to bring what I can to this organization."

On the flip side, Bryson had recently been passed on the depth chart and has now arrived in a situation where more playing time should be available to him during the final quarter of the regular season.

"It kind of caught me by surprise," said Bryson, who has 289 NHL games on his resume. "Yeah, I mean, I was in and out a lot in Buffalo. For me, in my career, I feel like that's probably the best thing, to get an opportunity to play. I haven't played in a few games after the break, so I'm excited for tonight. It's been a little bit, but I'm looking forward to it."

Winnipeg Sun

https://www.winnipegsun.com/sports/morrissey-bests-byfuglien-jets-win-3-2-over-the-canucks/article_50996cde-a1c0-4e71-a127-7e01bf161d60.html

Morrissey bests Byfuglien, Jets win 3-2 over the Canucks

By Gordon Anderson

Although not at his very best, it didn't take too long for an impact player to make an impact play in a game with playoff implications.

"Maybe halfway through the first or as the first went on, I started to feel better," Josh Morrissey said. "And, as I said, like the guys are playing such great hockey right now, and I didn't want to come in and screw it up. We tilted the ice pretty well, and it was a good game by us."

After missing five NHL games with an upper-body injury, Morrissey returned to the lineup and scored the game-winning goal in overtime as the Jets beat the Vancouver Canucks 3-2 on Saturday night.

Morrissey's last game was the Olympic opener against Czechia on Feb. 12. This was his first competitive game in 23 days. Morrissey also earned an assist.

"He's an elite player," Gabe Vilardi said. "It just shows how big a difference maker he is for us. I'm not sure what his minutes were, but I'd imagine they were in the high 20s again. He's one of the top tier defencemen in the league."

Morrissey logged 24:27 of ice time over 26 shifts. He played 1:01 of the overtime. He was credited with five shots.

Just a couple of weeks ago, Connor Hellebuyck, Kyle Connor and Morrissey were belligerents in the Canada versus U.S. goal-medal tete-a-tete in Italy. On this night, they were united under a common cause.

All three teammates had a hand in the goal with Hellebuyck stopping Elias Pettersson on a breakaway to begin the sequence. The puck quickly went the other way with Connor and Mark Scheifele handling the disc before Morrissey's clapper deflected off the left skate of Filip Hronek and behind Kevin Lankinen at 1:49 of the extra session.

The goal was Morrissey's 11th of the season and fifth career OT goal. Morrissey also earned an assist on Vilardi's wonder goal, the marker coming on the powerplay at 15:12 of the third period.

"Just an incredible play on his behalf," Morrissey said of Vilardi. "I thought Scheifele did a good job of dragging out the defenceman, and then his hands in tight. I mean, we've seen so often. I think he's one of the best in the league around the net. And it's a big time play at a big-time moment in the game."

"They just left me alone there," Vilardi added. "I just knew I was going to do that move." The goal was Vilardi's 24th goal of the season.

With his two-point night, Morrissey surpassed Dustin Byfuglien's 416 combined points with the Atlanta Thrasher and the Jets. The Calgary native has 417 points in his Jets career.

"What a great way to get the record, in a game like that," head coach Scott Arniel said. "Having him back, it's great to have. Obviously, when you're missing your top defencemen, it puts a lot of strain in a lot of different areas. On the road trip, with all those overtimes, and not having him. He's a difference-maker when he's out there."

Winnipeg has now played five overtime games in their last six games, going 4-0-2 in that span.

Scheifele also scored in regulation for the Jets (26-26-10). Scheifele reached the 30-goal mark for the fifth time in his career. The last time the Jets were at the .500 mark was in mid-December, the club dropping below the break-even mark after a 1-0 loss to the St. Louis Blues on Dec. 17. Hellebuyck (16-16-9) stopped 21 of 23 shots.

Linus Karlsson and Liam Ohgren scored in regulation for the Canucks (18-36-8). The Canucks have lost eight of their last nine. Since the start of the New Year, the Canucks are 3-18-3. Lankinen (7-20-5) stopped 32 of 35 shots.

With the win, the Jets temporarily pulled to within five points of the Seattle Kraken for the second wildcard position in the Western Conference. The Jets are two points behind the Nashville Predators and Los Angeles Kings, both teams losing in regulation on Saturday night.

The Jets host the Anaheim Ducks on Tuesday night.

Ice Chips

Ville Heinola and Vlad Namestnikov were scratched.

'Sad, sad day'

Former Winnipeg Jet Troy Murray passed away from cancer. He was 63 years old. His longtime team, the Chicago Blackhawks, announced the news via social media on Saturday. Murray and Jets head coach Scott Arniel played for team Canada at the 1982 world junior championship in Minnesota. Canada won its first gold-medal at the event. Murray played for the Jets from 1991-93.

"A tough one for me," Arniel said. "We were in the World Juniors together, he was our captain. I played with him here with the Jets. He's been battling that a while. A true fighter. I got to see him there last year, at the end of the year. It's been, for him and his family, a tough go. It is a sad, sad day for the hockey world. Especially being an old Jet as well."

Well-deserved

Scheifele finally got the Jets on the board late in the second period when he scored at 19:48 to tie the game one each after 40 minutes. According to Natural Stat Trick, the Jets held a 5-0 advantage in the second period high danger chances category, though that number did feel a bit light. Alex Lafallo missed an empty net near the left post, and then Morgan Barron also missed an open net from near the right post. Cole Koepke had an excellent chance on a wraparound, but Elias Pettersson, who happened to be on the ice by the left post, stopped Koepke's attempt with his back to the play.

https://www.winnipegjournal.com/sports/didn-t-want-to-screw-it-up-morrissey-lifts-jets-to-ot-win/article_fbfe7286-5c18-4cb6-904e-aa5bcce48ed2.html

'Didn't want to screw it up': Morrissey lifts Jets to OT win

By Gordon Anderson

Of all the hockey-related themes Josh Morrissey could worry about, his on-ice performance shouldn't be one of them.

"I didn't want to come in and screw it up," Morrissey said in the minutes following a 3-2 overtime victory over the Vancouver Canucks on Saturday night.

Not only did No. 44 not screw it up, he earned the secondary helper on Gabe Vilardi's power-play goal at 15:12 of the third period and bagged the winner in the extra session as his shot from the left face-off circle banked in off Canucks defenceman Filip Hronek at 1:49.

“To come back and have to get into a game like that, we wanted to ease them in but as you saw, his minutes got up there again,” Jets head coach Scott Arniel said. “Having him back, it’s great to have. When you’re missing your top defenceman, it puts a lot of strain in a lot of different areas. He’s a difference-maker when he’s out there.”

The Calgary native missed five NHL games prior to his return from a non-disclosed upper-body injury. Morrissey’s last game was the Olympic opener against Czechia on Feb. 12. Saturday was his first competitive game in 23 days. He was credited with five shots. The 30-year-old logged 24:27 of ice time over 26 shifts.

“Josh is a threat when he is in the offensive zone,” Arniel said. “He draws people to him – and more than likely, Scheifele’s line is out there with him – and it opens lanes and opens opportunities. Then his defending – his feet and his ability to close – those are things that a No. 1 defenceman does. When they’re not in the lineup it’s a big blow.”

The team went 3-0-2 without Morrissey. The Jets have now earned at least one point in six consecutive games, a season high. The Anaheim Ducks are in town on Tuesday night.

“Since the break, the guys have been playing fantastic hockey, scratching and clawing, while never looking fazed,” Morrissey said. “Giving up a late goal in Anaheim and finding a way to get back in OT, a rally (against Chicago) earlier in the week, just finding ways to win and beating a Tampa team that is fantastic.”

With his two-point performance, Morrissey skated passed Dustin Byfuglien and into first place as the top producing defender in the history of the Atlanta Thrashers-Winnipeg Jets franchise. Morrissey has 417 points (91 goals, 326 assists) in 719 games played. ‘Big Buff’ has 416 points (122 goals, 294 assists) in 609 games played.

“I think about him and what he meant to me when I came into the league with his mentorship and friendship, and I learned so much from him getting to play my first 50 games in the league beside him,” Morrissey said.

Arniel says Morrissey has evolved over the years since he made his NHL debut against the Montreal Canadiens in March 2016. He registered one shot on net and logged 15:54 of ice time in the 4-2 victory. He wore No. 36 that night. Of note, Scheifele recorded his first NHL hat trick in that game.

“He was in more of a checking role at one time and then sort of as personnel changed here and then guys left and he got put into that role as a top guy,” Arniel said. “He has taken advantage of it. What he’s done for me in the last four years, he’s been extremely impressive. Josh is the one that drives himself to be the best and he’s a guy that works his tail off in the summer and he’s the guy that keeps himself in top shape so he can play big minutes and play against the opposition.”

The new two

Isak Rosen and Jacob Bryson both made their debuts on Saturday. The Jets traded Luke Schenn and Logan Stanley to the Buffalo Sabres for Rosen, Bryson, a fourth-round pick in the upcoming draft and a second-round pick in the 2027 entry draft.

Wearing No. 78, Bryson, a veteran of 289 games with the Sabres, played 15:58 at even-strength.

“There’s lots there. Bryson is a little bit more of a veteran guy, and you can throw him a little bit more into that game,” Arniel said. “I thought he was good. Him and (Haydn Fleury) did a really good job of not spending a whole lot of time in our end of the rink.”

In 31 career games with the Sabres, Rosen scored three goals and added eight assists. Wearing No. 27, Rosen skated for 11:24 over 14 shifts.

“With Rosen, you can see some of the skill, and some of the talent,” Arniel said. “Both guys (got here late). Rosen got in at one o’clock in the morning and Jacob was (around midnight) It was a late night and early morning for them, having a 9:30 (a.m.) skate. So, we’ll have a day off on Sunday and get them fresh and ready to go for Tuesday.”

By the numbers

The Jets have evened their record at 26-26-10. The journey back to .500 began following a 1-0 loss to the St. Louis Blues on Dec. 17. The loss pushed the team’s record to 15-16-2 at the time. Following the loss to the Blues, the club went on to post a 0-6-3 record, as part of their 11-game winless streak between Dec. 15 and Jan. 8. On Jan. 8, the team reached the basement of the Western Conference and the league with a 15-22-2 record.