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<https://www.nhl.com/jets/news/blog-pk-off-to-great-start>

***BLOG: PK off to great start***

***The Jets penalty kill has been busy but effective at 93.3%***

By Jamie Thomas

So far so good for the Winnipeg Jets penalty kill.

Winnipeg may be taking too many penalties to start the year, but Connor Hellebuyck, Eric Comrie and the rest of the penalty kill department have been really good, killing off 14 of 15 shorthanded situations. The Jets are now in year two with assistant coach Dean Chynoweth's system and it looks like they are more comfortable.

"Well, we talked about it over the summer, not just as coaches, but with the players. In regard to the system, what they liked about it, what they didn't like about it, areas they thought we could get better," said Chynoweth earlier this month.

"And one of the focuses was trying to be more aggressive when we can off it. When we are aggressive and everybody's on the same page, it looks fairly effective when we're one guy's off or two guys are off, it doesn't."

Last season, the Jets power play helped them to their 15-1 start to the season, and it ended up on top of the league with 28.6%. Their penalty kill got off to slower start but ended up 13th and obviously the goal is to be in the top 10.

"I think in some ways, the PK maybe takes a little more time to develop. I thought it also won us some games last year when we needed it like the stats didn't necessarily reflect how it was, and we got off to, I think, a pretty slow start with it," said Josh Morrissey at the end of the preseason.

"So, yeah, it's been progressively better. I think last preseason game I thought looked pretty good. And obviously we just want to keep making that a strength of our team, just like we want every part of our game to be a strength."

Clearly since Chynoweth took over there have been structural and personnel changes to the penalty kill, Morrissey said because of that it takes time for everyone to get their reads down to perfection.

"The game is so fast, especially the power play and the skill level the guys that are usually on the power play. Those reads can't be, you can't be thinking about it," said Morrissey.

"It just has to be instinct and second nature. And so, the faster those reads get, the quicker you are in a shot late, and the quicker you are to maybe get a stick on a pass. I mean, the difference between deflecting a pass or breaking up a play and not can be millimeters sometimes."

Don't forget the Jets are without two of their best penalty killers in Adam Lowry who is out until at least November and Dylan Samberg, their best shot blocker. But they've added Cole Koepke, Tanner Pearson and Jonathan Toews.

"Well, that's, that's just it. I mean, with Low being out, gives Toews the opportunity, obviously, he's extremely strong face-off circle, and has killed penalties in the past. You got Nyquist, you got Pearson also, who has killed as well," said Chynoweth.

"And then you bring in a guy like Koepke, who also has killed in Boston. So, there's experience there. We got numbers like I said that we can try some different things and see who can fill in while he's out, and see what step they take with it."

<https://www.nhl.com/jets/news/blog-hitting-the-ice-in-philadelphia>

***BLOG: Hitting the ice in Philadelphia  
Jets depth tested; Niederreiter's perfect career stat line***

By Mitchell Clinton

PHILADELPHIA – Depth is vital to a team's success in the National Hockey League. Inevitably, every squad will go through a run of injuries that requires players to move up in the line-up, contribute on special teams, and find ways to win.

It's become apparent that the first test of the Winnipeg Jets' roster depth is coming now.

"We've talked about our depth being very important, but man oh man we didn't want it to be (tested) this quick," head coach Scott Arniel said before giving his team's personnel credit for stepping up on Long Island. "When they can be productive and help on the offensive side of things, that's a real good sign."

The Jets knew going into season they'd be without the services of captain Adam Lowry as he recovered from hip surgery in May.

But preseason injuries to defenceman Dylan Samberg and forward Cole Perfetti have pushed that depth even further. Add to that the fact that the Jets have had two skaters – Haydn Fleury and Cole Koepke – unable to finish games against Los Angeles and New York respectively, and that makes the team's ability to get contributions all throughout the line-up even more crucial.

Fleury and Koepke skated in Thursday's practice at Xfinity Mobile Arena as they work their way back from blocked shots in the last two Jets wins. Their availability for the road trip finale against the Philadelphia Flyers is up in the air.

The Jets (2-1-0) held a 35-minute skate at Xfinity Mobile Arena on Wednesday, and Arniel had a clear goal for his team's session.

"There were some things that we talked about. The Islanders game, things that carried over from the first three games, our play without the puck, rush chances – who has who – just a couple of those things," Arniel said. "Seeing some different things some guys maybe haven't see as much – teams going three high, going with different looks off it, switches that are happening, D that are very active like we saw with the Islanders. Just things that you can't always replicate in practice, but we went over it and walked over some of that stuff."

The coaching staff will spend the rest of the day diving into the video from Philadelphia's 1-1-1 start to the season, including their 5-2 win over the two-time defending Stanley Cup champion Florida Panthers to open a three-game home stand.

"I'm sure there will be subtle changes that we'll see," said Arniel, referencing Philadelphia's new head coach in Rick Tocchet. "Offensively, (he) has a lot of ideas and strategies, also power play that he has a hand in."

### **ICE CHIPS**

Nino Niederreiter had a unique stat line going into the road trip opening game against the New York Islanders.

In his 971 career games, he had 240 goals and 240 assists for 480 points.

So, when he notched his first goal of the season 11:48 into the first period in Monday's 5-2 win on Long Island, he needed another assist – and did he ever get one.

The play started as a partial breakaway when the 33-year-old hopped out of the penalty box. His move to the backhand left him in too tight on goaltender Ilya Sorokin, so the veteran Swiss forward hung onto the puck a bit longer.

He wrapped around Sorokin's left pad, and threaded a backhand in front to a charging Tanner Pearson.

"As soon as you start running out of room you start looking for the next play," said Niederreiter. "I knew Pearson was going to come, it was just a matter of hopefully I get the puck through to him and he should have an open net. It worked out perfect."

Perfect – 241 goals, 241 assists.

### **Winnipeg Free Press**

<https://www.winnipegfreepress.com/breakingnews/2025/10/15/skys-the-limit-for-jets-high-flying-ace>

#### ***Sky's the limit for Jets' high-flying ace***

#### ***Forward Barron boasts two highlight-reel goals in season's first three games***

By: Ken Wiebe

PHILADELPHIA — When you see the player Morgan Barron has grown into, it's hard to envision him as an undersized forward looking to find his way.

But before Barron filled out the six-foot-four, 220-pound frame he currently carries as a member of the Winnipeg Jets, there was an occasionally awkward transition phase in the latter stages of high school.

"I hit my growth spurt quite late. I was pretty short until the 11th grade," Barron said in a one-on-one conversation on Wednesday. "One summer, I was probably five-foot-eight and I progressively grew two or three inches in each of the next couple of years.

"I felt like in those early days, I was still trying to figure out how to build my game. It took me a few years to kind of grow into my body."

The building process took him from Halifax to playing two seasons of prep school at St. Andrews College in Aurora, Ont., which is where he earned a scholarship to Cornell in the NCAA.

By his own admission, Barron was pretty raw before he arrived in the college ranks, but he'd shown enough ability for the New York Rangers to select him in the sixth round of the 2017 NHL draft, months before his freshman season began.

Longtime Cornell Big Red men's hockey head coach Mike Schafer witnessed the growth first hand during Barron's three seasons in the program.

"For us, he was a coach's dream," Schafer, who is now retired after three decades on the job, said in a telephone interview on Wednesday. "He's a tremendous teammate. He's a guy that's going to be a great penalty killer, a great faceoff guy. He's going to complement everybody on the team. He's going to give himself those chances because of what I said. He's someone his coaches can depend on and someone his teammates can depend on.

"It takes time for all of those skill things to come out. You've got to get comfortable (in the NHL) and you've got to be comfortable with yourself. It's probably more of a mental thing than anything else. The skill is there, but it's a mental game to establish yourself as an NHL regular. He's done that now."

"He's someone his coaches can depend on and someone his teammates can depend on." After refining his skating stride to adapt to his newfound size, Barron has not only grown into an NHL regular, he's still pushing for more.

Heading into Thursday's game with the Philadelphia Flyers, Barron already produced a pair of highlight-reel goals and has four points in his first three games of the season.

"Finding the back of the net a few times is good. I still feel like there's another level in terms of creating those chances. We've capitalized on a lot of them, which is great, but there's parts of our game that are going to have to be cleaned up," said Barron. "It's been a good start so far, but there's a lot of lifting to do."

Don't confuse Barron's answer as being dismissive either.

He's appreciative of the hot start, but he's not even 12 months removed from a tough start offensively — one where he didn't score his first goal of the season until Game 19 and had just one assist before that.

"Last year, it was a much slower start statistically for me — and then it just feels like you're chasing it sometimes," said Barron. "As much as you try not to worry about those things, I remember sitting here at Game 15 last year and feeling like I was creating a lot of chances but it felt like I just couldn't find the back of the net.

"So that can be frustrating. That's part of our game, it ebbs and flows. You want to keep producing while things are going well, but I'm sure the ebbs and the flows will come. But ultimately, the goal is to be as consistent as possible and keep chipping in."

In watching Barron's evolution, Schafer has noticed a real determination to drive to the net and a willingness to go to the hard areas.

Early this season, Barron's finishing ability has also been on display, burying a pair of backhands after nice bursts of speed.

"The goal he scored the other night, it was great to see him slow down right in front of the goaltender and then roof it," said Schafer, referencing the goal on Ilya Sorokin that opened the scoring in the 5-2 win for the Jets over the New York Islanders. "That just shows you the maturing of his game."

Playing a power forward style is one way Barron will see his ice time continue to rise and his importance continue to grow.

"Throughout my career, I've been challenged by coaches or scouts going through the draft, asking 'what kind of player are you?' I don't want to say it's out of necessity, but every player and every guy has to have an identity," said Barron, who was acquired by the Jets from the Rangers in the 2022 deadline-deal for Andrew Copp.

"That, to me, is the game that I want to play. I feel like it fits what I'm able to bring on a nightly basis. It's obviously developing those skills, but also having that mindset that night in and night out, that's what I'm going to bring and that's what I'm going to commit to being as a player."

With Jets captain Adam Lowry missing the start of the season recovering from off-season hip surgery, Barron is being tasked with an enhanced role on the penalty kill and he's often been called upon to take important draws in the defensive zone.

Barron relishes those enhanced opportunities.

"If you talk to anybody in this room, guys want to continue to take on bigger roles," said Barron. "Ultimately, that's what drives us to be better as individuals and that's what keeps us moving forward as a team. Guys want to continue to improve and get better. As a group, that pushes all of us forward."

Barron's teammates aren't surprised to see him get off to a great start.

"He's a guy that is an absolute load to handle when he gets going and he's playing and using that size to his advantage," said Jets defenceman Dylan DeMelo. "He's got great speed. Every year he's getting more comfortable and he's just improving."

"He's doing a lot for us right now. I feel like every year he's adding another layer onto his game and we've always known that he's a guy with a ton of potential. There's no ceiling on how good he can be."

Jets goalie Eric Comrie noticed the improvements in Barron's game once he returned to the organization after two seasons with the Buffalo Sabres and feels like he's still just scratching the surface in his development.

"You can see that every single year, he gets better and better. He's a horse of a human being. He's a big man, he's got a lot of muscle on him. He's just a specimen," said Comrie. "And he's a good player. He's got a lot of skill and he can really shoot the puck. He sees the game well, he's fast. He's got all the attributes and he's going to continue to get better and better because he cares about the game."

“You don’t really know where the limit is. He’s got a lot of skill and attributes that will help him find more and more success.”

<https://www.winnipegfreepress.com/sports/2025/10/15/comrie-relishing-in-hot-start-to-season>

***Comrie relishing in hot start to season  
Jets backup goalie to see more ice time: Arniel***

By: Ken Wiebe

PHILADELPHIA — Eric Comrie insists there is nothing different when it comes to his approach for the new season.

When Winnipeg Jets head coach Scott Arniel shared recently with members of the media that he is looking to reduce the workload for reigning Hart Trophy winner Connor Hellebuyck to under 60 starts, that also means the games played number will be on the rise for Comrie.

Arniel was true to his word on Monday, turning to Comrie against the New York Islanders in what was the third outing of the campaign.

“I’m just preparing every single day as though I’m playing. That’s the way I go about it,” said Comrie.

“I’m excited for the opportunity and excited for the chance to play more games. But for myself, it’s about taking care of every single day and dealing with what I have in front of me. Whether it’s practice or a game or whatever, it’s the same mindset. I’m preparing to be the best goalie I can be for that day.”

Comrie was tested early in Monday’s game, making three saves in the opening 27 seconds, including a sharp pad save off a one-timer from Islanders centre Mathew Barzal roughly five seconds in.

“It gets you into the game really fast,” said Comrie, who made 20 starts last season and finished with a 2.39 goals-against average and .914 save percentage to go along with a record of 9-10-1.

“For myself, the preparation for the game was right. Everything felt really good and I was ready for whatever came my way. Early goals can hurt teams. I know you can come back from them, but they hurt teams. You want to make sure that you give your team a chance to win and stopping early shots is the best way to do that.”

The Jets are back in action on Thursday at Xfinity Mobile Arena as they face the Philadelphia Flyers and Hellebuyck will be between the pipes.

Comrie, who is in his third tour of duty with the Jets after the club chose him in the second round of the 2013 NHL draft, was happy with how last season went and he’s looking to build on that after a strong summer of training.

Known for his positive demeanour, Comrie concedes that being in an organization and situation he’s comfortable in — including the solid relationship with Hellebuyck and goalie coach Wade

Flaherty — plays a role in the success he's having, but getting back to full health was another important factor in his renaissance after two seasons with the Buffalo Sabres organization.

"My game was in a good spot in Buffalo too, I just had a lot of injuries. That's just the way it went," said Comrie.

"I tore my ACL and missed pretty much a whole year. It's hard to come back from that. Things kind of piled up, and I didn't find any success. When I came back here, everything went right again. It went well and everything fell into place. Hockey is a game where you need a couple of bounces here and there, too."

Bounces are certainly important, but Comrie's attitude and work ethic are two other character traits that have served him well over the years.

"He's always prepared for the moment," said Jets defenceman Dylan DeMelo. "We've got so much confidence in both guys. When you have a guy like Coms, who is one of the hardest-working guys on the team, it's a contagious thing to have in your room."

"You can't have too many guys that work their tail off. It's a good trait to have. He has a great demeanour. He's always in a great mood."

With performances like the one he delivered on Monday, Comrie will make it easier for Arniel to turn to him to ensure Hellebuyck can stay rested and the Jets won't need to worry about a significant drop-off when three-time Vezina Trophy winner takes a breather.

"He's pretty excited to get it early. He didn't have to wait quite as long as maybe in the past," said Arniel. "And it just kind of lines itself up this way, (that) every two or three games (for Hellebuyck) and then he'll go back in. That's kind of how we're looking at the schedule, because November gets real busy. So, we just wanted, more than anything, to get him up and going early. He had a good camp."

### *The waiting game*

There were a couple of positive signs on the injury front as defenceman Haydn Fleury and Cole Koepke were back on the ice after blocking shots during the past two games.

Fleury, who took a shot off the kneecap in Saturday's game against the Los Angeles Kings, was back on the third pairing with Luke Schenn during Wednesday's workout.

Koepke was working on the fourth line with Morgan Barron, though the units were a bit jumbled since forwards Kyle Connor and Gustav Nyquist skipped the session due to maintenance.

Both Fleury and Koepke are listed as day-to-day, while Connor and Nyquist should be good to go for the final game of this two-game road trip.

### *Scouting the Flyers*

The Flyers are 1-1-1 this season, but should be riding high after defeating the Florida Panthers in their home opener on Monday.

Flyers captain Sean Couturier led the way offensively in that game, chipping in two goals and four points.

Elkhorn product Travis Sanheim also had two assists on Monday and that helped him move into seventh place in Flyers franchise history for points by a defenceman (216) — and he's just four points away from leapfrogging Ivan Provorov and Shayne Gostisbehere into fifth spot.

Sanheim is up to a goal and three points in three games this season and is looking for a strong start to the year so he can nail down a spot on the Canadian Olympic team after representing his country at the 4 Nations Face-Off.

With Rick Tocchet taking over as Flyers head coach, the Jets are expecting some tweaks to the style of game they played previously under John Tortorella.

"When there's a coaching change, there's always a little bit of a spark," said Arniel. "Tocchet's been a great coach in this league, and like he did in Vancouver, he brings out the best in people. I'm sure that there will be subtle changes that we'll see."

### **The Athletic**

<https://www.nytimes.com/athletic/6719711/2025/10/16/kyle-connor-winnipeg-jets-parkinsons-disease/>

### ***How a soft-spoken NHL star uses his platform to raise awareness for Parkinson's***

By Murat Ates

Kyle Connor has had a transformative year. His daughter, Willa Jo, was born in March. He signed an eight-year, \$96 million contract extension in October and then scored a hat trick in his first game of the season.

But his greatest impact may be off the ice, as he tries to honor one of his late father's biggest dreams.

In 2017, father and son were talking on the phone — just like they'd done before every game Connor had played in his hockey career to that point. This time, Connor was in his Winnipeg garage, his dad, Joe, back home in Michigan. Father was telling his son about the opportunity they had to do something good.

"Wouldn't it be awesome to give back? To help people out?" Connor's dad said.

Connor's dad had been the emotional center of his family — someone whose sense of humor had helped Kyle, his mom Kathy and three siblings stay lighthearted during their toughest battles. Now Joe Connor Jr., who had been fighting Parkinson's disease for what Kyle remembers as five or six years, wanted Kyle to help other families if he could.

"My dad realized the platform I had in Winnipeg as a professional hockey player — probably more than I did," Connor told The Athletic. "But he was never able to see that come to fruition."

The Connor family had discussed the concept of giving back before. They wanted to do something to help other families battling Parkinson's disease, which is partly hereditary. Kyle Connor was a boy when his grandpa, Joe Sr., died. He remembers not fully understanding his grandpa's fatigue, tremors or mood swings. Now, at 20, he had a better understanding of what his father had gone through.



When his dad talked about giving back, he felt a pull to do something to help. He just didn't know what to do — or how to do it. Then Joe Connor Jr. died on Aug. 27, 2017, shortly before Kyle traveled to Winnipeg for training camp.

His NHL dream came true as he processed his dad's death. Longtime Jets fans will remember 2017-18 as the year Connor was sent to the AHL to start the season, then recalled following an injury to Mathieu Perreault. Connor scored 31 goals in 76 NHL games by the end of the season, making it to the top line via captain Blake Wheeler's famous insistence: "Give me the kid." The highlight-reel goals and headlines piled up.

Behind the scenes, Connor was taking steps to make his dad's dream come true, too — steps which continue to make a big impact in Winnipeg today.

It started with a call for help.

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Mark Chipman is the executive chairman of True North Sports + Entertainment and the Winnipeg Jets hockey team. He has established what he calls a "standing offer" to his players.

"If there's something that they want to get involved with that we can help support, let us know."

When Connor's agent called Chipman looking for ways the Connor family could make an impact around Parkinson's disease in Winnipeg, Chipman didn't immediately know what to do.

Parkinson's disease is a movement disorder that impacts the nervous system. Symptoms include tremors, stiffness, slowing of motion, loss of vocal power and trouble with balance, and they worsen over time. It is the fastest-growing neurological disease in the world, with a particularly high incidence rate in Manitoba and a leading cause of permanent disability. It is not a disorder for which advocacy is highly organized — but that is changing, thanks in part to a Winnipeg organization called U-Turn Parkinson's.

Chipman says he found out about U-Turn Parkinson's through Kevin Donnelly and Linzy Jones, two of True North's vice presidents, who were each independently connected to the organization. They put Connor in touch with U-Turn Parkinson's founder, Tim Hague, as well as the Movement Disorder Clinic at Deer Lodge Centre, to see if a partnership could be formed.

The relationship between U-Turn Parkinson's, Connor, and the Jets has been a game-changer, Hague said.

"It's not some (low-level) team somewhere. It's not a player that's struggling at the bottom of the ranks," he said. "It's Kyle Connor and it's the Winnipeg Jets. It's put us on the map."

That's a particularly funny turn of phrase, coming from Hague. He put himself on the map as a Parkinson's advocate, first by traveling all over Canada and then the world.

Hague was a registered nurse in Winnipeg, training for his first sprint distance triathlon in 2011, when he was diagnosed with Young-Onset Parkinson's disease. He's perhaps best known for winning "The Amazing Race Canada" reality TV show with his son, Tim Jr.

When they won the show, Hague and his son were awarded a free, first-class plane trip around the world. They visited places such as France, Croatia, Vietnam and the United States, where Hague realized that Canada lagged behind other countries in fighting Parkinson's disease.

"As I was traveling, everybody I talked to would say that exercise is the best thing that you could be doing (to fight symptoms of Parkinson's disease), ... yet there was nobody here doing anything for exercise," Hague said. "So, as any good nurse would do, I took it on myself to do something."

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"He was always there for it."

Connor remembers his dad as a devoted father and a high-level athlete.

They bonded on the outdoor rink that Joe built in the Connors' backyard in Michigan, shooting pucks throughout the winter. They bonded playing baseball and football, which Connor played competitively until hockey took over in high school.

Joe Connor worked as an automotive engineer from nine to five and then never missed an evening game. He coached several of Connor's hockey teams, too, giving father and son a ton of quality time together.

As Connor's NHL dream grew closer, hockey took some of that time away — just as Parkinson's took a bigger hold of his dad's life. Connor remembers feelings of guilt, knowing that his mom and his siblings were dealing with his dad's challenges first-hand. Connor had played hockey close to home when he set scoring records for the University of Michigan, but he turned pro in Winnipeg in what became the final year of his dad's life.

"I wished I could be there more, in some ways," Connor said. "I'm grateful for everything that (hockey) has given me, but the biggest thing is how it took away from me being able to see him. Having tough calls with family members about how he was doing ... not being there was tough."

In some ways, Connor's experience was the opposite of watching a child grow up from afar. If he'd been a faraway uncle, he'd have been able to go home for the holidays to be amazed by how much his niece or nephew had grown in their time apart. As a faraway son, Connor's visits home revealed how much his dad had gotten worse. Joe's tremors progressed. He had a tough time walking. He'd frequently fall asleep, as Kyle's grandpa had done.

"He was huge into sports, very healthy. But Parkinson's is a neurodegenerative disease that impacts people's mobility. It slowly deteriorates everything in their body, so it was tough to see my dad go down that road," Connor said. "Being the father that he was and the person that he was and then slowly ..."

At this, Connor takes a moment to compose himself.

But the symptoms his dad experienced are the exact kinds of symptoms U-Turn Parkinson's is trying to slow down.

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It may seem strange that Connor's most notable work with U-Turn Parkinson's is the Team 81 bike ride, but there is an important connection between cycling and the symptoms of Parkinson's disease.

Hague says the connection goes back to research by an American doctor named Jay Alberts.

"He's done tons of work around cycling," Hague said. "He was on a cross-country cycle trip with a lady who has Parkinson's — he does not. They were going at a faster clip than she was used to cycling at. When they got off the bike, they noticed that her symptoms had decreased."

Subsequent studies confirmed what Alberts had observed: Exercise can reduce the intensity of Parkinson's symptoms. Hague, himself a former athlete, has noticed the same effects in his own body and the results aren't limited to cycling.

"You don't shake as much. You're less stiff. You think more clearly," Hague said. "It takes your overall symptoms and just smushes them down for a while. If I don't exercise, I notice that I don't move as well, I don't think as well ... It's much more difficult to do everyday things in life."

Hague has had to retire from nursing. He can't walk a hospital floor for eight hours at a time anymore, so U-Turn Parkinson's has become the No. 1 focus in his life. The "U-Turn" name comes from a maneuver he and his son used as part of their "Amazing Race" victory — a game mechanic they used to slow down and then eliminate one of their competitors. He likes the name because exercise can slow Parkinson's down, too, and even though there is not presently a cure, the long-term goal is to be able to eliminate it from people's lives.

Hague's daughter, Jordana, is U-Turn Parkinson's program manager. Her job is to coordinate fitness programs, make them diverse and accessible and to make sure people understand that they don't need to be athletes for exercise to make an impact on their lives.

"It's hard when someone isn't naturally active or hasn't been active in years and years to come and see what U-Turn Parkinson's is all about. Maybe it's like, 'I haven't exercised ever and now I'm 65 or 75 and I'm supposed to exercise?' It can feel overwhelming," she said. "That's exactly why we exist. We are accessible ... we want everyone to feel comfortable coming in joining us. There's a place for them here where they can get a workout that's tailored to them, to where they are right now in life."

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When Connor and his wife, Ally, welcomed their daughter into the world, Connor reflected on the values he wanted to uphold as a father.

He's been thinking about what his six-month-old daughter will think of him when she grows up.

"That's part of fatherhood, I think — how you carve your path and how your kid views you and your legacy, it's constantly going through your head. You can't let it dictate too much of your life, but it's always there."

Standing in the Jets dressing room at Canada Life Centre, reflecting on the impact his dad had on him — and the impact he wants to make on his daughter — Connor brings up the importance of quality time. He knows his dad would be proud of him — he was always good at making sure Connor knew that — and now he wants to make his daughter proud too.

Which of his dad's qualities does he want to pass on the most?

"I would say that his dedication to being a family man, just being there, showing up, bringing people together, that's something he was great at."

Connor will be the Jets' ambassador at their third Parkinson's Awareness night on April 11. He's also given his name to the Team 81 Ride for Parkinson's, which takes place each summer. The combined impact of those two events has been over \$250,000 in their first two years.

On Friday at Southdale Community Centre, Connor will see some of the impact from fundraising first-hand. The center recently completed a new addition, through which U-Turn Parkinson's is offering free-of-charge exercise classes from Monday to Friday. U-Turn Parkinson's is also able to use Southdale's accessible parking, office space, meeting rooms and their large, state-of-the-art gym space. It will be open to the public for a grand opening on Saturday from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

When Hague founded U-Turn Parkinson's nine years ago, there were only a handful of fitness classes. Now they do over 20 classes a week and help hundreds of people. His long-term goal is for U-Turn Parkinson's to have a facility of its own.

He thinks Connor's advocacy and the Jets' fundraising efforts can help him get there.

Hague also says he's seen Connor embodying exactly those values that would have made his father proud. Connor says there's a reason for that.

Whenever he talks to Tim or goes to one of these events, meeting other people affected by Parkinson's, it reminds him of his dad.

"It puts me in touch with him. It's almost an avenue to keep him alive."

### **The Hockey News**

<https://ca.sports.yahoo.com/news/winnipeg-jets-oldest-team-league-130004136.html>

### ***The Winnipeg Jets are the Oldest Team in the League - And it Isn't All That Close***

By Carter Brooks

There are a lot of categories to lead the league in, but age usually isn't one that comes to mind - nor is it something one would typically strive for.

As of the first week of the 2025-26 NHL season, the Winnipeg Jets are the league's eldest team. Yes, they are older than Sidney Crosby, Evgeni Malkin and Kris Letang's Pittsburgh Penguins. They are older than Alex Ovechkin's Washington Capitals and Brad Marchand's Boston Bru... err, Florida Panthers.

A veteran-heavy team in last year's postseason, the President's Trophy winning club only got older as the calendar flipped to 2025-26. Sure, the elevation of Nikita Chibrikov and Parker Ford certainly helped bring that number down, but other offseason additions did the exact opposite.

Thirty-seven-year-old Jonathan Toews, Tanner Pearson and Gustav Nyquist singlehandedly raised the average right up to almost exactly 30 years of age.

As it currently stands, the Jets are the No. 1 team in terms of age, with an average age of 29.73 years. Montreal is the youngest at 25.27 years of age. Only four other clubs see averages begin with the digits 29.

But with that age comes experience, right?

Correct.

The Jets have the second-most total NHL games played within their roster among all NHL clubs, trailing only the back-to-back Stanley Cup-winning Panthers (13,236 games played). Winnipeg's 13,112 career games played is No. 2 on the list.

Teams such as Montreal and Buffalo are sitting in the low 6,000s.

With the veteran additions, Winnipeg is hoping to build upon its second round finish from last season and model its roster after Paul Maurice's club, in hopes of capturing the franchise's first Stanley Cup.

Will the older, more veteran team get the job done?

Time will tell.