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<https://www.nhl.com/jets/news/three-things-scheifele-has-three-assists-in-win-over-columbus>

***THREE THINGS: Scheifele has three assists in win over Columbus
The Jets have won three of their last four games after 5-2 win over CBJ***

By Jamie Thomas

WINNIPEG – The Winnipeg Jets opened a three-game homestand with an impressive 5-2 win over the Columbus Blue Jackets at Canada Life Centre. Adam Lowry, Josh Morrissey, Neal Pionk, Kyle Connor and Logan Stanley scored for the Jets who have now won three of their last four games. Mark Scheifele had three assists, Connor (1G, 1A), Morrissey (1G, 1A) and Pionk (1G, 1A) had multi-point efforts as well. Eric Comrie made 20 saves to improve his record to 4-1. The Jets will host Nikolaj Ehlers and the Carolina Hurricanes on Friday.

SCHEIFELE PASSES WHEELER (AGAIN)

Mark Scheifele played in his 898th game of his NHL career this evening and that pushed him past former captain Blake Wheeler and into first place on the all-time franchise list.

Scheifele previously set the Jets/Thrashers franchise goal record earlier this season with his 342nd career goal on Oct. 28 vs. Nashville. The next franchise records on Scheifele's radar will be power play goals (23 goals away) and assists (66 assists away). Scheifele is also only one hat trick away from tying Ilya Kovalchuk's franchise record of 11 hat tricks.

"Yeah, he bleeds Winnipeg Jet hockey," said Kyle Connor.

"And he wears his heart in his sleeve out there every time he steps on the ice. And so, yeah, pretty cool accomplishment to have that record."

The Jets assistant captain finished the night with three helpers and there were some real highlight reel goals.

TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE SCHEDULE

After the morning skate, Jets head coach Scott Arniel said that his team had to take advantage of the schedule. Columbus played last night at home and had to go to a shootout before beating Montreal and then had to fly to the Manitoba capital. Winnipeg got off to a great start in the opening period outshooting Columbus 7-2 in the early going and on the seventh shot, Adam Lowry scored his first of the season to make it 1-0 at 7:35. Winnipeg has opened the scoring of a game for the 13th time this season, tied with Pittsburgh and Chicago for the most among all clubs.

In the second period, with Winnipeg up 2-1, they took advantage of a Columbus penalty and scored the eventual game winning goal on the power play.

GOAL SUPPORT FOR COMS

Last season, Eric Comrie didn't get a lot of run support from his teammates as the Jets scored two goals or less in nine of his appearances. In 2025-26, the Jets have scored five goals in four of his five starts including tonight to help him improve to 4-1. The 31-year-old also helped his cause with an eye-opening stop on Kent Johnson in the third period.

NHL.com

<https://www.nhl.com/news/columbus-blue-jackets-winnipeg-jets-game-recap-november-18-2025>

***Scheifele has 3 assists to help Jets defeat Blue Jackets
Connor, Morrissey, Pionk each gets 2 points in win; Columbus point streak ends at 5***

By Darrin Bauming

WINNIPEG -- Mark Scheifele had the primary assist on three Winnipeg Jets goals in a 5-2 win against the Columbus Blue Jackets at Canada Life Centre on Tuesday.

Scheifele also became the franchise's all-time leader in games played, skating in his 898th career game, all with Winnipeg. He passed Blake Wheeler for the most in Jets/Atlanta Thrashers history.

"That's special," Winnipeg coach Scott Arniel said. "To be able to stay healthy -- the other side is that he's an elite athlete. He takes a lot of pride in his body so that he can play close to 82 games every year. Just the consistency."

Kyle Connor, Josh Morrissey, and Neal Pionk each had a goal and an assist, and Eric Comrie made 20 saves for the Jets (12-7-0), who have won three of their past four. Nino Niederreiter had two assists.

"I thought the first period we played really well," Scheifele said. "In the second period we kind of got a little bit away from it. ... But then in the third we tried to have speed, tried to have support. They didn't have a lot of plays through the neutral zone. We were able to turn pucks over and reattack."

Miles Wood and Zach Werenski scored for the Blue Jackets (10-8-2), who had a five-game point streak end (3-0-2). Elvis Merzlikins made 25 saves.

Columbus was coming off a 4-3 shootout victory against the Montreal Canadiens on Monday.

"It just seemed like every time we had a little push, then it sagged again on us a little bit," Blue Jackets coach Dean Evason said. "We'll have a look at the tape and figure that out. But again, we're in the hockey game for the most part early. Like I said, it just got away from us at the end of it."

Adam Lowry gave Winnipeg a 1-0 lead at 7:35 of the first period with his first goal of the season when Niederreiter set him up to score from the low slot.

"I like the fact we went after them in the first five minutes," Arniel said. "We did a really good job of not letting them get themselves warmed up and into the game. We knew that they had a late night last night with playing [the Canadiens]. You have to do that. When you get those opportunities, you have to pounce on teams. [For Lowry], that's a big goal to get it started."

Wood tied it 1-1 at 18:27. Damon Severson sent Wood in on a breakaway with a pass from deep in the Columbus zone, and he raced past Winnipeg defenseman Dylan DeMelo before beating Comrie five-hole with a deke to the backhand.

"To be honest, as you're skating up the ice that fast you're not thinking about a move -- it's just instinctual," Wood said. "My brain just kind of took over there, but it was a great play by [Severson]."

Morrissey put the Jets in front 2-1 at 1:12 of the second period. He tapped in Scheifele's backdoor pass near the left post.

"I was just waiting for lanes to open up and kind of saw Josh start to go towards the back door," Scheifele said. "I just saw the positioning of the D-man and tried to make a good pass and put it on his tape, and a great finish by him."

Scheifele has six points (two goals, four assists) during a three-game point streak.

"[Scheifele's] showing, obviously, his ability to score throughout the year," Connor said. "But we all know he's a great passer, and he seems to, whatever it is, kind of pull a guy to him, [and] put it through the triangle. He's got great hands in tight, and so a couple great passes tonight to show off."

Pionk pushed it to 3-1 at 15:30, scoring on the power play with a one-timer from the top of the left face-off circle.

Connor then made it 4-1 at 2:45 of the third period. He drove down the left side and banked a shot off Merzlikins' right shoulder from a sharp angle.

"It was a pretty wide angle," Connor said. "Just as it got down there, the pass was kind of taken (away). And I was able to look and saw a little bit of room, and, yeah, I just put it upstairs."

Werenski cut it to 4-2 at 4:04 with a wrist shot from the slot before Logan Stanley scored with a slap shot from high in the left circle at 6:23 for the 5-2 final.

"I've seen it the last few years, they've been a really good team in this league," Werenski said of the Jets. "And I felt like we had some jump tonight -- I felt like it wasn't for lack of effort. It was tough to create. They didn't really give us much. A couple breakdowns here and there, and it's in the back of our net. So I didn't hate the way we worked or played, but we can eliminate some of those breakdowns and we're probably [in] a closer game tonight."

NOTES: Werenski became the first defenseman in Blue Jackets history with 400 career points and is two from tying Cam Atkinson (402) for second on the team's all-time list, behind Rick Nash (547). Werenski has 119 goals and 281 assists in 587 games, all with Columbus. ... Blue Jackets forward Kirill Marchenko had a 12-game point streak end (15 points; three goals, 12 assists). ... Lowry was playing his seventh game of the season after missing the first 12 while recovering from offseason hip surgery.

Canadian Press

<https://www.chrisd.ca/2025/11/19/winnipeg-jets-columbus-blue-jackets-game-win-story/>

Scheifele Pads Impressive Stats in Milestone Night for Jets' Star

By Carter Brooks, The Canadian Press

Mark Scheifele was the first selection made by the relocated Winnipeg Jets in the 2011 NHL Entry Draft.

On Tuesday, he became the franchise's all-time leader in games played.

Scheifele, now 32, heard his name called by Jets' general manager Kevin Cheveldayoff seventh overall 14 years ago. Now, 13 years into his full-time NHL career, the Kitchener, Ont., product has surpassed his former captain, Blake Wheeler, as the player to suit up in the most games for the Atlanta Thrashers-Winnipeg Jets franchise.

Unlike Scheifele, Wheeler did play for the Thrashers (23 games in 2011), while Scheifele has spent each of his 898 career outings with the Jets. In 2023, he signed a seven-year, US\$59.5 million contract to remain in Winnipeg through the 2030-31 season.

"It kind of flew under the radar," linemate Kyle Connor said of Scheifele's accomplishment following Tuesday's 5-2 win over the visiting Columbus Blue Jackets. "I don't know if other guys knew, but I kind of had no idea."

Now, just two games away from 900 in his career, Scheifele said he hadn't even caught wind of his achievement before the video message played on the scoreboard at Canada Life Centre.

"I didn't know either," he laughed, post-game. "Obviously, it's pretty cool. I've been here for a long time, so I feel old some days. But it's a tremendous honour."

Scheifele, who has been among the league's point and goal scoring leaders all season, collected three assists in Winnipeg's win.

He earned his first helper on Josh Morrissey's fourth goal of the year in the second period, before setting up two third-period tallies. He assisted on Connor's 11th goal of the season 2:45 into the final stanza and later got the puck to Logan Stanley's whose 91.1 miles per hour slap shot beat Elvis Merzlikins clean, sealing the deal.

Now up to 11 goals and 27 points in 19 games, the Jets' scoring leader sits just six points back of Colorado's Nathan MacKinnon's league-leading 33 points.

"He's been a pillar for this organization for a long time," Connor added. "He leads by example. He's also a very vocal, caring guy, pushing each other. He bleeds Winnipeg Jet hockey, and he wears his heart on his sleeve out there every time he steps on the ice."

"A pretty cool accomplishment to have that record."

In those 898 career games, the 2026 Canadian Olympic Team hopeful has accumulated 347 goals, 484 assists and 831 points. He has another 26 goals and 49 points in 53 post-season outings.

"Obviously he's a couple of games now from 900," said head coach Scott Arniel. "And I know that first and foremost, that's special. ... And (now) he's getting the recognition. I think people are really starting to recognize there's a really good hockey player in Winnipeg."

On the other side of the ice, Columbus defenceman Zach Werenski also collected a milestone for the visitors. With his third-period goal, the 28-year-old became the first defenceman in Blue

Jackets history to reach the 400-point plateau. He now trails just Cam Atkinson (402 points) and Rick Nash (547 points) in franchise scoring.

“Obviously it’s better when you win,” Werenski said of point No. 400. “But you’ve got to enjoy some of the milestones along the way.

“And I’ve been fortunate to play with good players here on good teams. And yeah, I love it here, so I’ll take the 400, I’ll enjoy it. But yeah, it’s definitely better when you win the game.”

Werenski’s goal made it a 4-2 game, cutting Winnipeg’s lead, but the Jets snuffed out the Blue Jackets’ comeback bid just over two minutes later on the heavy slap shot from Stanley — his third goal of the season.

Global Winnipeg

<https://globalnews.ca/news/11529120/western-winnipeg-jets-road-trip-analysis-moore/>

Winnipeg Jets take down Columbus 5-2 on Scheifele’s milestone night

By Christian Aumell & Russ Hobson Global News

Mark Scheifele made sure his milestone night would be a good one.

Playing in his 898th NHL game, setting a new franchise mark for games played, Scheifele tallied three helpers to propel the Winnipeg Jets to a 5-2 win over the Columbus Blue Jackets on Tuesday night.

The Jets had goals from five different players, including three markers from defencemen as they started the three-game homestand on a winning note. Winnipeg scored three straight goals as five players had multi-point nights in one of their most complete games of the season.

“I thought we did good coming out,” said Jets forward Kyle Connor. “Their first goal, I thought it was, you know, bouncing puck. It just kinda goes that way. It didn’t let us deteriorate from our game plan, stuck with it and yeah, we are able to keep coming. Top to bottom it was a full team effort tonight. Everybody did a great job, so you need that in this league. You need to be four lines deep and we really showed our depth tonight.”

Josh Morrissey, Neal Pionk and Logan Stanley all scored goals for the Jets and it’s the first time since March of 2023 the Jets had three different defencemen score in the same game.

“When your ‘D’ can add offence from that back end, it makes you that much more dangerous,” said Jets head coach Scott Arniel. “We talk about depth scoring and sometimes you just look at the forwards, but I actually think Columbus is the highest scoring ‘D’ in the league right now and that’s a big part of the game.”

Morrissey had a goal and an assist to give him a six-game point streak and he’s now second in defencemen scoring in the NHL with 21 points in 19 games.

Morgan Barron returned to the lineup from injury for the Jets, giving the team a completely healthy forward unit for the first time this season.

After hitting a bit of speed bump on the road trip, Scheifele is heating back up again. With three assists in the win, he now has six points in his last three games.

"The first game after a long road trip you kinda never know what you're going to get," said Scheifele. "We just tried to get the energy up and know that they had a really tough back-to-back for those guys. So, we just wanted to jump on them early. It's a good effort."

Scheifele came into the night tied with longtime teammate Blake Wheeler for the most games played in Jets/Thrashers franchise history (Thomas Steen has the overall Winnipeg NHL record, playing 950 games with the original Jets).

"I didn't know either," said Scheifele. "Obviously it's pretty cool. Been here for a long time so feel old some days, but obviously it's a tremendous honour."

After a failed power play in the opening minutes of the first period, the Jets, playing at home for the first time since Nov. 1, broke the ice thanks to some great 5-on-5 play by their third line.

Adam Lowry drove down low in the Columbus end and tried to center the puck but it deflected to the opposite corner. He tracked it down and sent it to the point for Pionk before circling towards the slot. Pionk then sent it back down low to Nino Niederreiter, who found a cutting Lowry for a point-blank chance that Lowry buried for his first goal of the season.

Winnipeg held onto the lead until late in the period when the Jackets drew level with 1:33 to go.

The play started innocuously with Columbus goalie Elvis Merzlikins handling a dump-in by banking it off the end boards to Damon Severson. He sent a pass to Miles Wood at the blue line that the speedy winger chipped up the ice before winning a footrace with Dylan DeMelo. Wood was hooked as he skated past DeMelo, which would have been a penalty or a penalty shot but Wood made it a moot point as he deked out Eric Comrie before sliding the puck through the five-hole.

Both teams managed to get 11 shots on net in the first but early in the second, the Jets restored their lead thanks to their big guns.

Scheifele picked up the puck in the neutral zone and cut across the ice before taking it into the Columbus zone. He carried it to the faceoff dot before sliding a perfect pass through the crease and through the legs of Zach Werenski, right to the tape of the stick of Morrissey who steered it into the net just 72 seconds into the middle frame.

The game's second penalty also went to Columbus with 5:10 left in the second when Luca Del Bel Belluz was called for holding, his first career penalty in his 22nd NHL game, and Winnipeg made him pay.

With the Jets' second power play unit on the ice, the puck was cycled around the Columbus zone before Gustav Nyquist sent a point-to-point pass to Pionk that the blueliner blasted through Merzlikins for his first of the season.

Winnipeg outshot Columbus 8-4 in the second as they carried the multi-goal lead into the final frame and built on their advantage at the 2:45 mark of the third.

Connor made a juke at the blue line before taking the puck towards the corner in the Columbus end. As he reached the goal line, he noticed some daylight high in the net and beat Merzlikins with a sharp angle shot that banked in off the goaltender.

The Jackets were able to cut the lead back to two just 79 seconds later. After the Jets failed to clear the puck, Charlie Coyle sent it across the ice to Cole Sillinger, who found Werenski in the slot. His shot eluded Comrie to make it 4-2.

But a little over two minutes later, the three-goal cushion was restored. Scheifele took the puck into the Columbus end before dropping the puck back to Stanley for a one-timer that the big man pounded past Merzlikins for his third of the season, extending his career-high.

Winnipeg held on from there to improve to 12-7 on the season. Comrie turned aside 20 shots as he personally improved to 4-1.

The Jets will look to make it three wins in a row when they host the Carolina Hurricanes Friday night as Nikolaj Ehlers makes his return to Winnipeg.

Winnipeg Free Press

<https://www.winnipegfreepress.com/breakingnews/2025/11/18/scheifele-shines-in-milestone-game>

Scheifele shines in milestone game

Jets No. 1 centre notches three assists on night he becomes franchise leader in games played

By: Mike McIntyre

The Winnipeg Jets can be a real handful when they bring their A game. Now add their A lineup to the mix and you have a legitimate Stanley Cup contender.

Those qualities were on full display Tuesday night in front of 13,847 fans at Canada Life Centre as the healthiest roster of the season skated to a dominant 5-2 victory over the Columbus Blue Jackets.

Centre Morgan Barron was the latest to come off the injury list — the fifth recent return along with captain Adam Lowry, shutdown defenceman Dylan Samberg and scoring wingers Cole Perfetti and Gustav Nyquist. They represent 25 per cent of the skaters who suited up and give the Jets an entirely different look.

The final score flattered the visitors who, to be fair, had played the night before at home and were not nearly as fresh as the hosts, who had been off since Saturday. Don't discount the fact the Jets put forth one of their most complete efforts of the campaign, one that would give any opponent fits.

"That was probably one of our — if not the best — of the year, it was right near the top," said Jets head coach Scott Arniel.

"I like the fact we went after them in the first five minutes. We did a really good job of not letting them get themselves warmed up and into the game. We knew that they had a late night

(Monday) night with playing (the Montreal Canadiens). You have to do that. When you get those opportunities, you have to pounce on teams.”

Winnipeg improves to 12-7-0, including 3-1-0 in the past four games following a three-game losing streak. Columbus, which had been on a 3-0-2 run prior to puck drop, falls to 10-8-2.

“First game after a long road trip, you never know what you’re going to get,” said Jets centre Mark Scheifele, referring to the team’s just-completed 2-4-0 trek through the Western Conference. “That’s a really tough back-to-back for those guys and we just wanted to jump on them early. It was a good effort.”

Let’s break this one down further.

FRANCHISE MARK: It was another milestone night for Scheifele. The all-time franchise leader in goals and points dressed for his 898th game, moving him past Blake Wheeler into top spot for the Jets 2.0/Atlanta Thrashers organization.

“That’s pretty cool,” Scheifele said of setting another mark — one he admitted he didn’t realize was on the cusp of falling. “I’ve been here a long time. I feel old, but obviously it’s a tremendous honour.”

Fittingly, the 32-year-old celebrated by doing what he does best — creating plenty of offence.

After a fairly even first period which saw Lowry and Miles Wood trade goals, the Scheifele Show took over for the final 40 minutes.

He made a slick cross-ice feed through traffic to find Josh Morrissey, who re-directed the puck into the Columbus net 72 seconds into the second period to give the Jets a 2-1 lead.

“I was just waiting for lanes to open up and saw Josh go towards the back door,” said Scheifele. “Just tried to make a good pass and put it on his tape. Great finish by him.”

Scheifele then had a pair of helpers in the third period as the Jets pulled away from the Blue Jackets, setting up Logan Stanley for a long-distance slapper that fooled Elvis Merzlikins and then Kyle Connor for a filthy top shelf sneak attack that went in off the back of the Columbus goaltender’s head.

“He’s shown his ability to score, but we all know he’s a great passer,” said Connor.

The assists — Scheifele’s 482nd, 483rd and 484th — leave him 66 behind Wheeler for the No. 1 mark in that category as well. It’s just a matter of time before he owns that record, too, with performances like this serving as Exhibit A.

Scheifele is now up to a team-leading 27 points on the year (11G, 16A) which has him on pace to shatter his career high of 87 set last year.

“He’s been a pillar for this organization for a long time. One of the first draft picks here, even my first couple years and just being mentors to so many guys. And he leads by example,” said Connor.

“He’s also very vocal, caring guy, pushing each other. And yeah, he’s, he bleeds Winnipeg Jet hockey. And he wears his heart in his sleeve out there every time he steps on the ice.”

SHOWING OFF: Samberg and Neal Pionk are not only defence partners and good pals, but Minnesota products who spend their off-season training together. When the subject of Samberg’s continued development was brought up Tuesday morning, Arniel jokingly pointed to the alleged source.

“I know he spent a lot of time with his skills coach, Neal Pionk,” Arniel said with a chuckle. “They skated together all summer and Neal told me he was going to work on him all summer.”

There’s no question the two men work well together, and you know Pionk was one of the happiest people to see Samberg return to the lineup after missing the first 16 games of the season with a broken wrist.

Pionk, who tied his career high last year by scoring 10 goals, notched his first of the season against the Blue Jackets. He one-timed a pass from Nyquist and beat Merzljikins, who couldn’t see a thing thanks to a great moving screen by Jets centre Jonathan Toews.

The tally, which came on the power play with just over four minutes left in the middle frame, gave Winnipeg a 3-1 lead and proved to be the game-winner.

KEY PLAY: Connor’s goal just 2:45 into the third period gave Winnipeg a three-goal cushion and essentially put this one to bed.

“Top to bottom, it was a full team effort,” said Connor, who is now tied with Scheifele for the team lead with 11 tallies. “Everybody did a great job. You need to do that in this league, you need to be four lines deep. We really showed our depth.”

THREE STARS:

1. Jets, Mark Scheifele: 3A
2. Jets, Josh Morrissey: 1G, 1A
3. Jets, Kyle Connor: 1G, 1A

EXTRA, EXTRA: Backup goalie Eric Comrie made his fifth start of the year, stopping 20 of 22 shots to improve to 4-1-0. One of them was a diving glove stop off Kent Johnson coming to a highlight reel near you.

“Everybody wants to win for either goaltender but, at the end of the day, when your backup goes in, you want to make sure that you’re limiting the amount of opportunities that come the other way,” said Arniel.

“That’s one thing about Coms. He frustrates our players in practice, because that save that he made on the power play, diving across — he does that in practice every day, once or twice. He’s very popular in that room. Obviously last year was a little different. We didn’t get him any run support. This year we’re doing a better job when he’s been in the net.”

Both teams were on their best behaviour, with just three minor penalties called all night. Winnipeg went one-for-two on the power play, while Columbus went zero-for-one.

Forward Cole Koepke and defenceman Colin Miller were the two healthy scratches for the Jets. Haydn Fleury is now the only player on the injury list, and the blue-liner is working his way back from a concussion.

The Jets continue the three-game homestand on Friday night as old friend Nikolaj Ehlers and the Carolina Hurricanes blow into town. They'll wrap it up Sunday against the Minnesota Wild, then hit the road for five more games.

Winnipeg Sun

<https://winnipeg.sun.com/sports/hockey/nhl/winnipeg-jets/making-his-mark-scheifele-all-time-games-played-leader-celebrates-with-a-3-point-night-as-jets-beat-columbus>

Making his mark: Scheifele all-time games played leader, celebrates with a 3-point night as Jets beat Columbus

By Gordon Anderson

Mark Scheifele set another franchise record and celebrated with another multi-point bonanza.

The Jets top centre had a three-point night as the Jets defeated the Columbus Blue Jackets 5-2 at Canada Life Centre on Tuesday night.

Scheifele passed Blake Wheeler as the franchise's all-time games played record with 898 games played. Scheifele now has scored three points in a game on three occasions this season.

Adam Lowry, Josh Morrissey, Neal Pionk, Kyle Connor and Logan Stanley scored for Winnipeg. The Jets improved to 10-3-0 when they score the first goal. The club had won three games in a row at home and improved their home record to 6-3-0.

After a dry spell on the powerplay, where the club went 0-for-14, the man advantage has responded with goals in four straight games, going six for 10 in that span, including the game winner by Pionk late in the second period.

Eric Comrie turned aside 20 shots for his fourth victory of the season.

Miles Wood and Zach Werenski scored for the Blue Jackets. The Blue Jackets dropped to 3-7-1 when the opposition gets the first goal. The Jackets were coming off a 4-3 shootout victory over the Montreal Canadiens on Monday night.

Elvis Merzlikins turned aside 26 shots in defeat. Merzlikins has now lost three consecutive games dating back to Nov. 2.

Nikolaj Ehlers and the Carolina Hurricanes are in town on Friday night.

Ice Chips

Cole Koepke and Colin Miller were scratched for the Jets. Haydn Fleury is on the IR and in concussion protocol.

Scheifele reached another franchise milestone on Tuesday night. The Kitchener, Ont., native became the all-time franchise leader in games played with 898, surpassing Wheeler. With Shoot to Thrill by AC/DC playing in the background, the Jets acknowledged the milestone with a short announcement during a first period stoppage in play. Of course, Scheifele added to his Jets 2.0 franchise points record with a sublime assist on Morrissey's fourth goal at 1:12 of the second period. He later added a second assist on Connor's goal at 2:45 of the third period and a third assist on Stanley's goal at 6:23. The former Barrie Colt has 347 goals and 831 points. In 19 games played this season, he has 11 goals and 16 assists.

Two for one

Adam Lowry and Neal Pionk both scored their first goals of the season on Tuesday night. Lowry's goal opened the scoring at 7:35 of the first period, the Jets captain finding space in the slot before taking a pass from Nino Niederreiter and beating Merzlikins to the blocker side. The goal came in Lowry's seventh game back following off season hip surgery. Pionk's occurred on a second period powerplay as his shot from the top of the face-off circle to the right of the Blue Jackets net beat Merzlikins to the glove side at 15:30. The goal came in his 19th game this season.

<https://www.winnipegfreepress.com/breakingnews/2025/11/13/jets-samberg-back-in-action>

Jets and the mighty down the middle

By Gordon Anderson

Jets head coach Scott Arniel finally has all his middle ice weapons ready and available for active duty.

The locals skated with a full complement of centremen as the Jets took on the Columbus Blue Jackets at Canada Life Centre on Tuesday night.

"Well, it's certainly nice to have the depth that we have," captain and centreman Adam Lowry said after the morning skate on Tuesday. "It allows Arniel to run the bench a little easier, in terms of being comfortable putting any line out against any line."

Injuries have certainly hampered the club in the early stages of the season. At times through 18 games, the Jets have employed the centre ice services of Vlad Namestnikov and Parker Ford. Namestnikov is now back on the wing on a line with Cole Perfetti and Johnathan Toews, and Ford was sent down to the Manitoba Moose on Monday.

And with the return of Morgan Barron to the lineup for Tuesday's contest, the Jets are finally bountiful at the position. Of course, Mark Scheifele has anchored down the top line, playing in all 18 games thus far.

"I'm excited for it," Arniel said. "We looked at it in the summertime and thought this was the direction we were going once Adam got healthy. Certainly, lots of things have happened since then, with a lot of different injuries. But it's nice to finally see that group. We're one yellow jersey away from having our whole group back here, knock on wood, but it's good to see that middle of the ice. We felt having those four guys is a strength there, and we'll get tested on Tuesday night."

Haydn Fleury is the only player who is out with an injury. Fleury is on the IR, still in concussion protocol. Cole Koepke was a healthy scratch on Tuesday.

The Jets are now drawing from a position of strength when it relates to matchups on the ice or at the face-off dot.

“You’re not sheltering guys or trying to hide guys from different matchups,” Lowry said. “We’re comfortable with whatever line that we throw out top to get the job done against elite lines in this league and do damage against. Lower down in the lineup did a great job filling in for (Barron), but having a guy that’s had the start he’s had coming back into the lineup is certainly a big boost to the lineup.”

The Athletic

<https://www.nytimes.com/athletic/6817464/2025/11/19/jets-cap-efficiency-contracts-opportunities-alarm-bells/>

Ranking Jets’ cap efficiency: Best and worst contracts, opportunities and alarm bells

By Murat Ates

The Winnipeg Jets’ sudden return to good health comes with major implications for their season — the chance to fix their five-on-five problems, chain some wins together, and put much-needed distance between themselves and the playoff cut line.

It also comes with enormous salary cap implications.

Everyone on Winnipeg’s injured reserve counted in the team’s cap calculations, whether they were playing or not. By assigning Brad Lambert, Parker Ford and Nikita Chibrikov to the Manitoba Moose, the Jets save \$2,574,999 in cap space. These savings will accumulate throughout the year, allowing Winnipeg to add an extra \$9.2 million in contracts at the trade deadline because of good health and the three AHL assignments it allowed.

That’s a huge deal. It’s also a pretense to take a look at the Jets’ roster through the lens of cap efficiency. In a league where every team gets the same amount of money to spend, winning is — theoretically — about getting more value out of the same money spent by every other team. The Jets get spectacular value out of their top players. Josh Morrissey is a star-caliber No. 1 defenceman with a \$6.25 million cap, while reigning Hart Trophy winner Connor Hellebuyck’s \$8.5 million average annual value gives him the NHL’s fifth-highest cap hit. Hellebuyck could win his third Vezina Trophy in a row based on his performance so far this season.

But how does the rest of Winnipeg’s roster stack up? Where do the Jets get the most — and the least — value?

And where might Winnipeg make the best use of its extra cap space at the trade deadline?

The method

We’re combining players’ real, tangible goals and assists and adding underlying numbers to them. Then we’re converting a player’s “Net Rating” to a percentage of the salary cap, so as to turn each player’s performance — goals, assists, impact on expected goals and more — into a

dollar value. From there, we can compare each Jets player's performance to their cap hit, determining a cap efficiency rating for each player.

Here's what goes into Net Rating:

Offensive Rating: A weighted combination of goals, primary assists, secondary assists, individual expected goals, faceoffs, penalties drawn, expected goals for impact at five-on-five, goals for impact at five-on-five, power-play goal impact and usage.

Defensive Rating: A weighted combination of blocked shots, faceoffs, penalties taken, expected goals against impact at five-on-five, goals against impact at five-on-five, penalty kill impact and usage.

These two ratings combine into a player's "Net Rating," which is what Dom Luszczyzyn uses to calculate player values for The Athletic's player card series. (A full writeup is [here](#).) The most important thing to understand is that we're going beyond measuring players strictly by goals and assists. Defensive stalwarts deserve their cookies, too.

So who grades out the best? Let's go position by position, starting with Winnipeg's forwards.

Forwards

Mark Scheifele	\$12,281,389	\$8,500,000	\$3,781,389
Kyle Connor	\$10,550,278	\$7,142,857	\$3,407,421
Adam Lowry	\$6,871,667	\$3,250,000	\$3,621,667
Nino Niederreiter	\$6,655,278	\$4,000,000	\$2,655,278
Morgan Barron	\$6,222,500	\$1,850,000	\$4,372,500
Cole Perfetti	\$6,222,500	\$3,250,000	\$2,972,500
Gustav Nyquist	\$4,874,231	\$3,250,000	\$1,624,231
Gabriel Vilardi	\$4,707,778	\$7,500,000	-\$2,792,222
Vladislav Namestnikov	\$4,275,000	\$3,000,000	\$1,275,000
Alex Iafallo	\$2,760,278	\$3,666,666	-\$906,388
Jonathan Toews	\$1,245,556	\$2,000,000*	-\$754,444*
Nikita Chibrikov	-\$106,875	\$875,333	-\$982,208
Tanner Pearson	-\$701,944	\$1,000,000	-\$1,701,944
Cole Koepke	-\$732,857	\$1,000,000	-\$1,732,857
Parker Ford	-\$2,452,727	\$812,500	-\$3,265,227
Brad Lambert	-\$2,541,250	\$886,666	-\$3,427,916

Winnipeg is led by its twin offensive geniuses in Mark Scheifele and Kyle Connor. They outscore their defensive problems to a certain extent — there are times when Winnipeg's top line struggles to break cleanly out of its own zone — but they've created and buried enough scoring chances to grade out as the team's most valuable forwards. There's a reason we ranked Scheifele and Connor among the NHL's deadliest duos so far this season.

The video below was a penalty shot, which adds to Connor's offensive contribution without helping his underlying numbers. It was also a thing of beauty, so it's worth rewatching here:

(If you're worried about Connor's \$12 million contract extension, consider that his current level of performance prorates to \$11.5 million in "value" based on next season's projected \$104 million cap.)

Brightest lights

There's no brighter spot than Morgan Barron, whose speed and strength make him unique on the Jets' roster. Barron's six points in 12 games before his injury put him on track to obliterate his previous career high of 21 points in a single season. He's helped Winnipeg win his minutes at five-on-five — albeit against the flow of play — while contributing to the penalty kill and scoring a shorthanded goal against Dallas. There are small samples galore this early in the season, but Barron is giving the Jets over \$4 million in surplus value on his \$1.85 million cap hit this season.

Adam Lowry's season has just begun, but he's stepped back into his shutdown role with Alex Iafallo and Nino Niederreiter on his wings. Lowry's small sample value is inflated by the fact that he's yet to be part of a goal against at five-on-five. You'll see Lowry's market value drop if the goals against catch up to his underwhelming shot metrics. (The counterpoint is that a healthy Lowry should be able to improve upon his first seven games' worth of underlying numbers.)

Niederreiter is higher than you might expect him to be. If you haven't checked in a while — or missed Lowry's goal against Columbus — you might not have noticed that Niederreiter is fifth in team scoring with four goals and nine assists for 13 points in 19 games.

Early season alarm bells

Gabriel Vilardi's 14 points in 19 games don't quite make up for the first line's defensive struggles. Vilardi has also managed to be on the ice for fewer Jets goals and more goals against than Connor and Scheifele have so far, so he grades out as less impressive than either player at both ends of the rink.

The biggest concern is Jonathan Toews. Winnipeg has been outscored 13-6 with him on the ice at five-on-five this season, draining his value even as a \$2 million player. He's on track to hit his first \$550,000 games-played bonus by appearing in his 20th game against Carolina on Friday, and he could become a \$5.25 million player by playing at least 60 games as the Jets make the playoffs.

Toews' performance is expected to improve. An NHL executive told us not to bet against "smart" for this piece, adding that Toews' recent body of work is already better than his start to the season. If this is all there is, though, Toews' contract will be more about a homecoming and intangible contributions than an efficient use of Jets cap space.

Finally, the Jets look validated in assigning Lambert, Ford and Chibrikov to the AHL.

Defencemen

Josh Morrissey	\$17,518,000	\$6,250,000	\$11,268,000
Dylan Demelo	\$8,689,333	\$4,900,000	\$3,789,333
Neal Pionk	\$4,015,333	\$7,000,000	-\$2,984,667
Logan Stanley	\$2,717,000	\$1,250,000	\$1,467,000
Dylan Samberg	\$1,938,000	\$5,750,000	-\$3,812,000
Haydn Fleury	-\$7,565,800	\$950,000	-\$8,515,800
Luke Schenn	-\$8,077,714	\$2,750,000	-\$10,827,714
Colin Miller	-\$10,681,800	\$1,500,000	-\$12,181,800

Brightest lights

Josh Morrissey has been one of the best defencemen in the world this season. Winnipeg's No. 1 defenceman looks like a lock to make Team Canada, grading out as a superstar because of his point per game performance and strong underlying numbers. He's been the Jets' best skater

in all three zones so far this season, combining elite offence and defence like no other player. Dylan DeMelo may be caught in Morrissey's wake, enjoying the rising tide that a Norris Trophy candidate creates, but his impact on expected goals numbers has been strong.

Winnipeg might still benefit from an upgrade at that position. DeMelo gave up footspeed and couldn't win body position against Miles Wood for his breakaway goal Tuesday night. DeMelo's still delivering surplus value on his \$4.9 million contract.

Logan Stanley's underlying numbers are below average, but he's contributed nine points in 19 games, and Winnipeg has won his minutes 14-9. His shot metrics should improve on the third pair, perhaps helping him continue to deliver surplus value on his \$1.25 million contract.

Early season alarm bells

Neal Pionk didn't look like a \$7 million defenceman while playing against top competition with Stanley. Dylan Samberg is back, so Pionk's numbers should improve in the aggregate, and he's already making a bigger impact as of late.

In the meantime, don't read too much into Samberg's underwhelming numbers in three games played. His value is obvious, despite the small sample, and Winnipeg will likely get surplus value from the Samberg-Pionk pairing all over again this season.

The biggest trouble spot is on the third pair, where Luke Schenn has been outscored 7-1 while earning 34 percent of expected goals. Those numbers may yet improve as a healthy Jets roster puts the team in its own zone less often, but Schenn is a \$2.75 million veteran who isn't living up to his cap hit this season. Colin Miller has delivered better results (on better Jets teams) in a similar role, despite looking just as underwhelming so far this season.

Realistically, the Jets need one more defenceman they can trust to play top competition without getting beaten by it.

Goaltenders

Connor Hellebuyck	\$8,500,000	5	3
Eric Comrie	\$825,000	70	30

I think it's safe to say the Jets are getting great value from their goaltending contracts, although our method here is crude.

Hellebuyck is a threat to win his third straight Vezina Trophy and has saved the third most goals above expected, despite earning the NHL's fifth-highest goaltending salary. He was the highest-ranked goaltender in our NHL Player Tiers, which was built by a combination of analytics, general managers, executives, coaches, scouts and data analysts.

Meanwhile, Comrie ranks 30th, despite the 70th-highest cap hit among goaltenders.

What it all means

Analytics are only one lens with which to evaluate how much bang the Jets are getting for their buck. It's also important to acknowledge that we're roughly one quarter into the season, and Winnipeg is finally at full power.

The value here is that we've gone beyond goals and assists to include underlying numbers, estimating defensive impact and comparing players' performance to the salary cap based on a model that is standardized to league-wide numbers. The Jets are crushing it with Hellebuyck,

Morrissey, Scheifele, Connor, Lowry and Barron, but alarms are going off with respect to Schenn, Pionk and Toews.

A rising tide can float all boats in hockey. It's a sport where one more clean breakout per period can make the difference between below average and above it. The Athletic's Net Rating model is only one lens, among many analytical lenses.

Jets coach Scott Arniel told The Athletic earlier this week that the Jets are getting closer, with lots of work to be done.

"It's one or two passes or one or two plays that changes the amount of zone time that you have in your end of the rink (and) the amount of chances that you give up," Arniel said. "That's an area for us, as we start to get healthy here ... If we're cleaner on our outs, we're faster on our defending, you're not doing the (defensive) zone-time thing, where you're in your end a lot more. You're getting out cleaner and faster. To me, that's what has been missing."

If the Jets can't fix things from within, they're built well enough — and will be building enough cap space — to go shopping for the pieces they're missing. For now, it seems as though the defence needs it most.

TSN.ca

<https://www.tsn.ca/video/2025/11/18/is-hellebuyck-playing-too-muchagain/>

Is Hellebuyck playing too much...again? (VIDEO)

Connor Hellebuyck is on pace for 64 starts, which would mark the seventh time in his career that he's started more than 60 games in a season. Is the Jets goaltender once again playing too much? TSN Hockey analysts Martin Biron and Jamie McLennan join Domino's That's Hockey to give their thoughts.

<https://www.tsn.ca/nhl/video/2025/11/19/record-setting-night-for-scheifele-sends-jets-soaring/>

Record setting night for Scheifele sends Jets soaring (VIDEO)

The records continue to mount for Mark Scheifele. Tuesday, he became the Jets franchise leader in games played, and celebrated the occasion with a three assists. TSN's Dan Robertson and Kevin Sawyer have more on his game, the impressive run of Josh Morrissey and more.

<https://www.tsn.ca/nhl/video/2025/11/19/how-important-will-morrissey-be-for-canada-at-the-olympics/>

How important will Morrissey be for Canada at the Olympics? (VIDEO)

Josh Morrissey continued his impressive run, extending his scoring streak to six games. How great has he been for Winnipeg, and how important will he be for Canada at the Olympics? TSN Director of Scouting Craig Button has more on that, what the Jets' full lineup looks like and more.