

THREE THINGS: Another one-goal loss for Jets

Kyle Connor, Tanner Pearson and Josh Morrissey scored for the Jets in 4-3 loss to the Oilers

By Jamie Thomas

WINNIPEG - Evan Bouchard scored a power play goal at 10:37 of the third to give the Edmonton Oilers a 4-3 win over the Winnipeg Jets at Canada Life Centre. The Jets winless streak has now reached 11 games and it's the ninth time they've lost a game by one goal during the streak. Mark Scheifele recorded his 11th career 30-assist season and tied Blake Wheeler (11x) for the most in Jets/Thrashers history. Kyle Connor also reached 30 assists on the goal, his sixth time reaching the benchmark and matched Dustin Byfuglien (6x) for third most in franchise history. The Jets will get right back to it when they host the Los Angeles Kings on Friday night.

GETTING TO PICKARD IN THE FIRST

The last time the Oilers were in Winnipeg, Manitoba product Calvin Pickard turned aside 41 shots to help Edmonton to a 3-1 win. The Jets tripled their goal output against Pickard in the first period on Thursday night. Kyle Connor opened the scoring 11:11 into the game when he snapped home a Mark Scheifele pass for his team leading 21st goal of the season.

Edmonton tied the game at 17:17 but Winnipeg scored two goals 40 seconds apart for a 3-1 lead. At 18:16, the Jets fourth line went to work, Tanner Pearson went behind the Oilers net, stopped and went the other direction before scoring on the wraparound for his fifth.

The Jets got some puck luck on Morrissey's seventh of the season as his shot was tipped and took a couple bounces before it trickled past Pickard to give the Jets a two-goal lead heading into the second period.

CUE THE OILER COMEBACK

The Jets held that two-goal lead until there were 21 seconds left in the second period, Connor McDavid scored on Connor Hellebuyck to make it 3-2 Winnipeg. McDavid hadn't scored on Hellebuyck since February 19, 2022, a stretch of just over nine games. In the third, Zach Hyman made it 3-3 at 8:19 and the league's best power play gave Edmonton the lead for the first time, Evan Bouchard with the game winning goal.

Afterwards, head coach Scott Arniel touched on the mistakes made on the late goal from McDavid to pull the Oilers within one.

"I've said to you before about moments. 30 seconds left (in the second), and they've got two of the best players in the world on the ice," said Arniel.

"And we give up a three-on-two, can't do that."

ZHILKIN'S TURN

Danny Zhilkin became the third member from the Jets 2022 draft class to make his NHL debut joining Brad Lambert and Elias Salomonsson. The 22-year-old said he called his parents first after he found out from Moose head coach Mark Morrison that he was making his debut.

"It was awesome. They work so hard for my siblings and I," said Zhilkin after the morning skate.

"Just to move over here from Russia at the age of 9 years, they left everything over there. It was super emotional. I'm very thankful."

Zhilkin centred the Jets fourth line with Tanner Pearson and Cole Koepke and played just under seven minutes and finished a +1.

"Yeah, I thought he played great first game against a pretty good team," said Neal Pionk.

"Used his speed, showed his skill. It's unfortunate we couldn't get it for him, but happy for him nonetheless."

NHL.com

<https://www.nhl.com/news/edmonton-oilers-winnipeg-jets-game-recap-january-8-2026>

***McDavid runs point streak to 17, Oilers rally to hand Jets 11th loss in row
Has goal, assist; Bouchard breaks tie for Edmonton, which trailed by 2 late in 2nd period***

By Darrin Bauming

WINNIPEG -- Connor McDavid had a goal and an assist in extending his point streak to 17 games, and the Edmonton Oilers rallied to hand the Winnipeg Jets their 11th straight loss, 4-3 at Canada Life Centre on Thursday.

McDavid has 41 points (18 goals, 23 assists) during his streak, which matches his career high. He also had a 17-game streak in the 2021-22 and 2022-23 seasons.

"He's one of those guys who you pay close attention to when you play (him)," Winnipeg forward Tanner Pearson said. "There's a few guys like that in the League. It's Connor. ... The one [he scored] at the end of the second (period) hurts."

McDavid cut the deficit to 3-2 at 19:39 of the second when he took Leon Draisaitl's centering pass from his skate to his stick before quickly deking and lifting a shot over Connor Hellebuyck's pad.

"Aside from about five minutes at the end of the first period, I thought we played pretty well," Edmonton coach Kris Knoblauch said. "I liked the fact that we were down 3-1 and we stuck with it. We didn't generate very much in the second period but we still pushed and were finally able to get a second goal at the end of the second period."

Evan Bouchard scored the go-ahead goal midway through the third period and had an assist, and Zach Hyman and Vasily Podkolzin also scored for the Oilers (22-16-6), who had lost two of three. Calvin Pickard made 13 saves.

"[Pickard] settled -- two goals on a bit of a scramble," Knoblauch said. "One's unfortunate, and I think it went off our guy and kind of squeaked through. Those happen. But he stays composed, making some key saves for us -- two in the third period. So, it was nice to see."

Kyle Connor had a goal and an assist, and Mark Scheifele had two assists for the Jets (15-22-5), who are 0-7-4 during their losing streak. Hellebuyck made 26 saves.

The 11 straight losses represent Winnipeg's longest losing streak since the franchise moved from Atlanta prior to 2011-12.

"I think we are all getting mental right now in the sense that it's in everybody's head," Winnipeg coach Scott Arniel said. "But at the end of the day we have a job to do. We have to play, and our best players have to be our best players in a game like that, our role players have to play their roles. I don't care what the scenario is, when you are out on the ice you are playing a game, something you have done your whole life and we are in a situation like that, however you go about it you have to find a way to get yourself over the hump."

"We are so close, but at the end of the day, we shoot ourselves in the foot within those moments that kind of happen in the game."

Connor made it 1-0 for the Jets at 11:11 of the first period, scoring with a one-timer from the inside edge of the left face-off circle after Scheifele passed to him from behind the net.

"We just sat on our heels," Winnipeg defenseman Neal Pionk said. "And at this point, I think it's mental, so we've got to overcome that tomorrow (against the Los Angeles Kings). ... It's a lot of mental mistakes by all of us. So [we'll] look to regain our confidence tomorrow."

Podkolzin tied it 1-1 at 17:02. Kasperii Kapanen drove down the left wing and below the goal line before sending a drop pass to Podkolzin, who scored from the top of the crease.

"We've all been in this situation that the Jets are in," Hyman said. "When you're not winning games, it's hard to close a game out."

Pearson put Winnipeg ahead 2-1 at 18:16. He gathered the puck off a dump-in, changed direction behind the net and slid a shot under Pickard from a sharp angle beyond the right post.

"It just seems like right now it's that wall is 100 feet high," Pearson said. "We've got to knock it down with an ax or something. We've got to get there. ... I think you're just searching for that one, right? It's not easy. Everyone is trying to do the same thing in this league. Everyone is trying to win."

Josh Morrissey then made it 3-1 at 18:56 when his shot from the left circle trickled in with bodies in front.

"They came out hard. They're a desperate team," Bouchard said. "We started getting it together later in the game. Big fight for [Trent Frederic] to get us going (late in the second). I think that really rallied us together."

After McDavid pulled Edmonton within one goal, Hyman tied it 3-3 at 8:19 of the third. He put a wrist shot over Hellebuyck's glove from the right circle after Darnell Nurse fed him from the blue line following a Winnipeg turnover its own zone.

"He's a big goalie," Hyman said. "I've tried to go cross side on him. On the back end, that's kind of the usual move I make, but thought that I had some time to go short side and obviously I was able to beat him, which was a big goal for us."

Bouchard gave the Oilers a 4-3 lead on the power play at 10:37, scoring on the rush with a wrist shot from the high slot after he blocked a backhand attempt by Adam Lowry at the other end.

"Timing is everything," Bouchard said of Edmonton's late power play. "It's the momentum in the game. It's a big swing in the game when you get a chance like that. Definitely in the third period, near the end of the third period, it's one that you've got to capitalize on. I think that's when we're really at our best."

NOTES: McDavid became the third active player to have 40 points during a point streak of any length, joining Sidney Crosby (50 in 25 games in 2010-11) as well as Patrick Kane (43 in 20 games in 2018-19; 40 in 26 games in 2015-16). ... Bouchard assisted on McDavid's goal to reach the 40-point mark for a fifth consecutive season. The only defenseman in Oilers history with as long a stretch was Paul Coffey (six straight from 1981-82 to 1986-87). ... The Jets have lost 24 of their past 30 games (6-19-5) dating to Nov. 4. They were 9-3-0 in their first 12. ... Scheifele reached 30 assists in a season for the 11th time in his career, tying Blake Wheeler (11 times) for the most in Jets/Atlanta Thrashers history. Scheifele also has had a point in 10 straight games (13 points; four goals, nine assists) against the Oilers dating to March 3, 2023. It is the second double-digit point streak of his career against one franchise (12 games against the Dallas Stars from 2015-16 to 2017-18). ... Connor's assist on Morrissey's goal was his 30th of the season. He reached the mark for the sixth time, tying Dustin Byfuglien for the third most in franchise history.

Canadian Press

<https://www.chrisd.ca/2026/01/08/winnipeg-jets-edmonton-oilers-game-loss-recap/>

Bouchard Completes Oilers Rally Over Lowly Jets; Winnipeg's Winless Skid Goes to 11

By Jim Bender, The Canadian Press

WINNIPEG – The Edmonton Oilers took advantage of a team that was riding an inglorious 10-game winless streak.

Evan Bouchard scored a power-play goal midway through the third period to give the Oilers a 4-3 come-from-behind victory over the Winnipeg Jets on Thursday. But it was Connor McDavid's goal with 21 seconds left in the second period that had pulled Edmonton within a goal and turned the tide.

"That was a really important goal at the end of the period," said Oilers coach Kris Knoblauch. "A fragile team and it's just scored on so, to eliminate their lead just to one puts a lot of pressure on them."

Leon Draisaitl set McDavid up for the key goal. McDavid also had an assist as he extended his point-scoring streak to 17 games, matching a career high, earning 18 goals and 41 points in that span.

"With 30 seconds left, they've got two of the best players in the world on the ice and we give up a three-on-two," said a frustrated Jets coach Scott Arniel. "You can't do that."

Winnipeg had taken a 3-1 lead in the first period on goals by Josh Morrissey, Tanner Pearson and Kyle Connor.

"Aside from about five minutes at the end of the first period, I thought we played pretty well," Knoblauch said. "I liked the fact that we were down 3-1 and we stuck with it. We didn't generate very much in the second period, but we still pushed and were finally able to get a second goal at the end of the period."

Zach Hyman had tied the score 3-3 midway through the third, setting up Bouchard's heroics.

"Timing is everything," said Bouchard, who scored with Nino Niederreiter off for delay of game. "Momentum in the game is a big swing in the game when you get a chance like that — especially in the third period, near the end.

"It's one that you've got to capitalize on, and we were really at our best."

After surrendering a goal to Morrissey late in the first, Edmonton goalie Calvin Pickard blanked the Jets for the final two periods, stopping 13 shots.

Bouchard credited Pickard for helping to turn the game around.

"He was great," he said. "He kept us in there when it was 3-1 and they had chances and were pushing. He made the saves. When he's in the net, we're confident playing in front of him. So, it was good for him to get the win."

Vasily Podkolzin also scored for Edmonton.

"I think we played a good 40 minutes, to be honest," Pearson said. "That late one at the end of the second was kind of a killer. We weren't able to get momentum back."

It was Winnipeg's 11th consecutive winless game. They are 0-7-4 during that streak.

"I think we are all getting mental right now in the sense that it's in everybody's head," Arniel said. "But, at the end of the day, we have a job to do. We have to play and our best players have to be our best players in a game like that. Our role players have to play their roles.

Connor Hellebuyck stopped 26 of 30 shots for Winnipeg (15-22-5).

Winnipeg Free Press

<https://www.winnipegfreepress.com/breakingnews/2026/01/08/losing-streak-cranked-to-11>

Losing streak cranked to 11 Jets dig themselves back into hole after building a lead against Oilers

By: Mike McIntyre

We may be reaching the point where Winnipeg Jets players and fans aren't sure whether to laugh or cry.

How else do you cope with a 4-3 loss to the Edmonton Oilers on Thursday night at Canada Life Centre — one that followed an eerily familiar script from so many recent gut-punching defeats?

It's Groundhog Day all over again for this group, which has now gone 11 games without tasting victory (0-7-4) and has just six wins in its last 30 outings (6-19-5).

"I think we are all getting mental right now in the sense that it's in everybody's head," said Jets head coach Scott Arniel.

When the tombstone is eventually inscribed on the Jets' 2025-26 season — and it's probably not too early to start drafting it — the epitaph will likely read: So close, and yet so far.

"Find a way," said defenceman Neal Pionk. "Wish I could tell you the exact answer, but we'll have to come together as a group and figure it out."

Winnipeg remains dead last in the NHL with an ugly 15-22-5 record. Edmonton improves to 22-16-6 after sweeping the three-game season series.

"We're not kids in here. It's a veteran group. We've got to put our foot down and capitalize on those ones," forward Tanner Pearson said of letting yet another one slip away.

Tremendous twenty

This wasn't a case of digging an early hole for which they couldn't escape.

The Jets came out with some serious fire, taking the play to the Oilers early and often. And they were rewarded with a 3-1 lead after one period which — in hindsight — had us all fooled.

Kyle Connor got the scoring going when he buried a beautiful feed from linemate Mark Scheifele for his team-leading 21st of the year.

After Oilers forward Vasily Podkolzin tied it up later in the frame, the hosts struck twice in 40 seconds to put them back in control.

First up was Pearson, who notched his fifth of the year. That was quickly followed by Canadian Olympian Josh Morrissey, who got a bit of puck luck when his shot appeared to hit a couple of Edmonton players on the way in.

The Jets seemingly had the Oilers on the ropes, playing the kind of hockey that you know they are capable of but has been in short supply this season.

Farcical final 40

This really is a bad movie which just keeps playing on a loop.

Last Thursday in Toronto, the Jets built a two-goal lead which was cut to a single tally when Auston Matthews scored with two seconds left in the second period. The Maple Leafs went on to complete the comeback.

On Tuesday in Winnipeg, the Jets built a two-goal lead against Vegas which was cut to a single tally when Mark Stone scored with 51 seconds left in the second period. The Golden Knights went on to complete the comeback.

On Thursday, the Jets built a two-goal lead against Edmonton which was cut to a single tally when Connor McDavid did Connor McDavid things and scored with 21 seconds left in the second period. And we know how this one ended.

“With 30 seconds left (in the second period), they’ve got two of the best players in the world on the ice and we give up a three-on-two. You can’t do that,” said Arniel.

The Jets have no one to blame but themselves. After 11 first period shots, they managed a grand total of five shots — three in the second, two in the third — as they did their best impression of a group of deer in headlights.

Sitting back against any NHL opponent, let alone one which possesses the best player in the world and several other scoring stars, is a recipe for disaster.

“That late one at the end of the second was kind of a killer,” said Pearson.

Zach Hyman tied it up with just under 12 minutes left in regulation when he walked in and roofed a shot past Connor Hellebuyck. At that point, the only question was whether the Jets could somehow survive and get the game to overtime.

They could not.

Less than two minutes later, Nino Niederreiter — a ghost of his past self who hasn’t responded at all to being healthy scratched against the Maple Leafs — accidentally fired a puck into the crowd and gave the league’s top power play a chance to grab the lead.

Which is exactly what happened as McDavid helped set up Evan Bouchard, who beat Hellebuyck with a blast with just over nine minutes to play.

Game, set, match.

“That was obviously us on our heels. We got tentative and afraid of making a mistake instead of staying aggressive,” said Arniel.

“Obviously we backed off in the second half, not by design. Certainly not by design. I heard the players barking at each other, I was barking at them. I said the same thing before the start of the third. We can’t sit on our heels, we’ve got to go.”

Key play

McDavid going beast mode late in the second period clearly spooked the Jets, who desperately needed to get to the dressing room with a two-goal lead.

McDavid now has a 17-game point streak which includes a ridiculous 18 goals and 23 assists.

THREE STARS:

1. EDM C Connor McDavid: 1 goal, 1 assist
2. EDM D Zach Bouchard: 1 goal, 1 assist
3. WPG C Mark Scheifele: 2 assists

Vlad's been bad

A week ago, Arniel made the difficult decision to scratch Niederreiter, who recently played his 1,000th career game but has struggled mightily.

On Thursday, he opted to sit down Vlad Namestnikov, who has gone 17 consecutive games without a point and has one assist in his last 29 outings.

Mark this down under the category of message-sending.

"Believe me, I've got the utmost respect for Vladdy," Arniel said prior to puck drop. "At the end of the day, I'm trying to spark us. I'm trying to find a way. I'm trying to do something that maybe gives us that edge tonight."

Forward Danny Zhilkin was called up to make his NHL debut, while energy forward Cole Koepke also drew into the lineup Namestnikov and another veteran, Gustav Nyquist, were told to watch from the press box.

On the blue-line, defenceman Logan Stanley returned following his one-game suspension and took the spot of Haydn Fleury, who is sidelined indefinitely following a nasty spill into the end boards which led to a broken nose and other upper-body injuries. Colin Miller was the healthy scratch.

EXTRA, EXTRA: The Jets again lost the special teams battle — that's been a recurring theme of late — as they went 0-for-2 on the power play and killed off one of their two penalties.

Hellebuyck stopped 26 of 30 shots, while Winnipegger Calvin Pickard turned aside 13 of 16 pucks he faced.

The Jets are back in action right away, hosting the Los Angeles Kings on Friday night. Backup goalie Eric Comrie is expected to get the start.

<https://www.winnipegfreepress.com/sports/2026/01/08/zhilkin-fired-up-to-face-oilers-in-nhl-debut>

Zhilkin fired up to face Oilers in NHL debut Hard-working Moose forward gets start on Jets' fourth line

By: Ken Wiebe

The topic nearly brings a tear to the eyes of Danny Zhilkin and it's easy to understand why, once you peel off a few layers of his back story.

Making sacrifices are an essential part of the long and winding journey for every player that realizes the dream of making it to the NHL, but it doesn't often include moving to a foreign land at a young age just to enhance your opportunity.

That's part of why Zhilkin couldn't wipe the smile off his face as he prepared to make his NHL debut for the Winnipeg Jets on Thursday against the Edmonton Oilers.

Zhilkin was recalled from the Manitoba Moose of the American Hockey League on Monday and the first call he made after hearing the news was to his parents.

"It was awesome. They work so hard for my siblings and I. Just to move over here (to Canada) from Russia at the age of nine," said Zhilkin. "They left everything over there. It was super emotional. I'm very thankful."

Moving to another country at such a young age brought some challenges, but Zhilkin did his best to roll with the punches and adapt.

"Well, I'm not going to lie, when I was just nine years old and I was just doing what my parents told me. I was just along for the ride," said Zhilkin, whose younger brother Dima is a forward with the Saginaw Spirit of the Ontario Hockey League. "But just leaving all my friends over there and my grandparents are still back home. Moving over here I didn't speak a single word of English. So that was pretty cool, to learn the language."

Zhilkin's family moved to Ontario and, after working his way up the minor hockey ranks, the smooth-skating centre played one U16 AAA season for the Toronto Marlboros before joining the Guelph Storm of the OHL in the fall of 2019.

Chosen by the Jets in the third round of the 2022 NHL draft, Zhilkin was a productive player in the OHL, spending the bulk of three seasons with the Storm before a trade sent him to the Kitchener Rangers to close out his junior career.

He also had a lost season during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, when the OHL didn't play any games, though he suited up for the Canadian team that won a gold medal at the U18 World Championship in Frisco, Texas.

During his first two professional seasons, Zhilkin's development was stunted a bit by injuries, but after a strong summer of training, he arrived for the prospects tournament in Montreal and made an immediate impact.

Zhilkin carried over that momentum into having a strong showing during training camp and the exhibition season before he was eventually assigned to the AHL.

Clearly, he had made an impression on head coach Scott Arniel and the Jets coaching staff and now it's up to Zhilkin to show what he can do.

"I don't think it's really sunken in yet," said Zhilkin, noting he's fired up to play against Oilers captain Connor McDavid. "Just being out there (for) the morning skate, coming out of the other door and not the Moose side, it's special."

“Morgan Klimchuk, an assistant coach with the Moose, told me to take a moment in warmup to soak it all in because you only get one (first) NHL game.”

By his own admission, it's been an emotional few days for Zhilkin, who received word of his recall from Moose head coach Mark Morrison after getting a haircut on Wednesday.

“I was actually sitting in a barber chair and I missed his first phone call,” said Zhilkin. “I was getting up to pay and he called me again. Just overwhelmed with emotion, I just started crying while paying for my haircut. It was great.”

At a time when the Jets are looking for a spark, Zhilkin immediately jumped into the lineup as a fourth-line centre and he could be given some runway to show what he can do.

“It's always fun to see guys playing their first game or getting their first goal,” said Jets centre Jonathan Toews. “It's always a reminder to you as well, that you were there once and to never take it for granted and try and go out there with that same energy that they have.”

Arniel has been impressed by the growth in Zhilkin's game during his third professional season.

“We talked to the coaches with the Moose and this was the No. 1 name,” said Arniel. “He's really recognized that it's (about) more than scoring goals or more than just being a one-way player. He's really taken it upon himself to be good in all areas and thinking the game and recognizing that he has to do certain things every night to be successful.”

Zhilkin, who turned 22 last month, is a strong skater that can play a two-way game and over time might be able to contribute on the penalty kill as well.

“I worked really hard this past summer and just tried to show up every day after a couple tough seasons with the Moose. Just being hurt a couple times,” said Zhilkin, who has seven goals and 14 points in 30 AHL games this season. “Just tried to keep positive, play as hard as I can. Obviously, when I got the call it was a dream come true.”

With Vladislav Namestnikov in the midst of a deep offensive funk — with no points in 18 games and just one assist in the past 29 — there's a chance he could be moved to the wing if Zhilkin shows he can handle the responsibilities.

Even with a number of Jets forwards going through offensive slumps, Zhilkin wasn't spending a lot of time wondering when his first NHL recall would come.

“I've been just focused on the Moose. I've been working hard with them and it's been going pretty good so far. I was surprised when I got the call,” said Zhilkin, who was asked about how he's taking a step forward in his game this season.

“I think just experience in the league as well. It was the same thing when I was playing junior, the first couple years were tough and the game's kind of fast for you, and then it just slows down as you get older and bigger and stronger and you get more confidence with the puck. I think confidence was one of the major things.”

Winnipeg Sun

https://www.winnipegsun.com/sports/oilers-send-the-jets-tumbling-to-an-11th-consecutive-loss/article_47708208-ff38-496b-868b-0f245902edeb.html

Oilers send the Jets tumbling to an 11th consecutive loss

By Gordon Anderson

A Connor McDavid dagger set the stage for another crushing loss for the Jets.

"That late one at the end of the second (by McDavid) was kind of a killer," Tanner Pearson said following a 4-3 loss to the Oilers at Canada Life Centre on Thursday night. "We weren't able to get momentum back. I thought we played a simple game those first 40 minutes and got away from it."

The McDavid goal, scored at 19:39 of the second period, trimmed the Jets advantage to 3-2 after 40 minutes. Zach Hyman and Evan Bouchard scored in the third period for the Oilers.

Lately, head coach Scott Arniel has talked a lot about his team's lack of closing skills, a collective failure in recognizing the time and the situation of the game. You simply cannot allow an odd-man rush with McDavid and Leon Draisaitl on the ice.

"Those are things, and I have said this before, those are moments with 30 seconds left, and they got two of the best players in the world on the ice and we gave up a 3-on-2," Arniel said, adding a long pause for dramatic effect. "You can't do that."

In this winless skid (0-7-4) the club has lost nine one-goal games and a pair of two-goal games. After a 5-2 win over the Pittsburgh Penguins, increasing the team's record to 9-3-0, they have compiled a 6-19-5 record. The club is 15-22-5. Last season, the Jets lost 22 games during the regular season.

"We have to find a way," Neal Pionk said. "I wish I could tell you the exact answer, but we'll have to come together as a group and figure it out."

It's like Deja vu all over again, on repeat.

The same scenario played itself out on Tuesday night as the Jets built a two-goal lead against the Vegas Golden Knights. Mark Stone scored a powerplay goal with 51 seconds remaining in the second to cut the deficit to one. The Jets ended up losing 4-3 in overtime.

Going back further to New Years Day, the Jets held a 4-2 lead over the Maple Leafs until Auston Matthews scored a power-play goal with three seconds remaining in the second period. The Jets eventually lost 6-5 to Toronto.

Kyle Connor, Josh Morrissey and Pearson scored for the Jets. Connor Hellebuyck stopped 26 of 30 shots.

Vasily Podkolzin also scored for the Oilers.

The Jets host the Los Angeles Kings on Friday night.

Ice Chips

Vlad Namestnikov, Gustav Nyquist and Colin Miller were scratched.

A debut

Danil Zhilkin made his NHL debut, centering a line between Cole Koepke and Pearson.

The 22-year-old was engaged with Bouchard for ice in front of Pickard when Pearson swooped from behind the net and jammed the puck through the Edmonton netminder for his fifth of the season at 18:16 of the first period.

Zhilkin logged 6:55 of ice time on 10 shifts, including an extended leg burner inside the defensive zone against McDavid. Zhilkin wore No. 53. The last Jet to wear the number 53 was blue liner Brett Festerling, during the 2011-12 season. Festerling played five games for the club.

"I thought (Zhilkin) played well," Pearson said. "He picked up pucks. He was talkative. It was easy to play with him."

Approximately six and half hours before game time, Zhilkin was quite emotional when he talked about the call with his parents, giving them the good news. His parents departed Russia for Canada when he was nine years old, eventually settling in Windsor, Ont.

"They work so hard for my siblings and I," he said. "Just to move over here from Russia they left everything over there. It was super emotional. I'm very thankful."

Zhilkin's younger brother, Dimian Zhilkin, plays left wing for the Saginaw Spirit of the OHL. The 17-year-old has 19 goals and 17 assists in 30 games played. He is eligible for the NHL draft in 2027.

https://www.winnipegssun.com/sports/danny-zhilkin-to-make-his-nhl-debut-against-the-oilers/article_cfb7b9df-81ba-4858-9c5d-36b5cdad2897.html

Danny Zhilkin to make his NHL debut against the Oilers

By Gordon Anderson

Well, talk about cutting it close.

"I was sitting in a barber's chair, and I missed Mark Morrisson's phone call," Danil Zhilkin said when asked about his call to the big time. "I was getting up to pay, and he called me again. I was overwhelmed with emotion. I just started crying while paying for my haircut. It was great."

The 22-year-old Zhilkin will make his NHL debut when the Jets host the Edmonton Oilers on Thursday night.

Morrisson is the head coach of the Manitoba Moose. The Jets promoted Zhilkin on Wednesday following the injury to Haydn Fleury on Tuesday night against the Vegas Golden Knights.

"Zhilkin is a guy that I saw down in Montreal, when I went down to watch the rookie tournament, and he was one of the best players on the ice," Jets head coach Scott Arniel said.

The head coach says the young forward's progression didn't stop when he arrived back in Winnipeg for training camp in September.

"In training camp for us, in the games he played, in the practices, his detail, that's probably the biggest thing," Arniel said. "He's recognized - and I know it's his third year - he's really recognized that it's (about) more than scoring goals or more than just being a one-way player."

With the Moose, Zhilkin is usually paired up front with AHL veteran, and part-time NHLer, Jaret Anderson-Dolan.

"You need veterans in the American league to help your young guys, to learn what it takes to be a pro, learn how to handle yourself, not just on the ice but off the ice and how you prepare for a game, how you train," Arniel said. "When you have the right people around the guys, it goes a long way."

Alongside Anderson-Dolan, Zhilkin had seven goals and seven assists in 30 games with Manitoba this year.

"We've been clicking right off the hop," Zhilkin said of Anderson-Dolan. "We both see the game really well. He's a super star player. He's got a great two-way game. He plays simple and smart. He's always in the right spot and super easy to find."

The former Guelph Storm forward is taking this whirling dervish of emotion in stride. To him, this first call up is not an accident, but a culmination of good habits built upon and solidified by multiple seasons of grinding in the minors.

"I worked really hard this past summer and just tried to show up every day after a couple of tough seasons with the Moose," Zhilkin said. "Being hurt a couple of times, I tried to keep it positive and play as hard as I could. Obviously, when I got the call, it was a dream come true."

Zhilkin won't have a large entourage to watch his debut against Connor and company. Hopefully, he can sway the thousands that will be in attendance to join his small, but important watch party.

"Well, not going to lie - it's just going to be my girlfriend because my dad is coming in from Moscow, but he lands at 10:30 p.m. and he's going to miss it."

Global Winnipeg

<https://globalnews.ca/news/11605673/winnipeg-jets-reach-new-low-falling-4-3-to-edmonton-for-franchise-record-11th-straight-loss/>

Winnipeg Jets reach new low, falling 4-3 to Edmonton for franchise-record 11th straight loss

By Christian Aumell & Russ Hobson Global News

Just when you think the Winnipeg Jets are finally ready to snap out of their long losing spell, they author another destructive collapse.

The Jets failed to hold on to a multi-goal lead for the third time in their last four games, dropping a 4-3 decision to the Edmonton Oilers Thursday night for their 11th loss in a row.

That eclipses the previous franchise mark held by the Thrashers in their inaugural season in 2000. It also passes the longest losing streaks that the original Jets had, as they lost ten in a row in 1980 and 1994.

The Jets had a 3-1 lead 39 minutes into the hockey game, but Connor McDavid flipped the momentum with a goal with just 21 seconds left in the second period.

“30 seconds left, they got two of the best players in the world on the ice and we give up a 3-on-2 – can’t do that,” said Jets head coach Scott Arniel.

The losing streak is clearly taking its toll, and the Jets appear to be a fragile group right now as they looked to be in complete control until the Oilers second goal.

“We just sat on our heels,” said Jets defenceman Neal Pionk. “You know at this point I think it’s mental, so we got to overcome that tomorrow.”

Kyle Connor scored for the third straight game, while Josh Morrissey and Tanner Pearson had their other markers.

It’s yet another one-goal defeat for a club that’s now lost their last 13 one-goal games.

“It’s in everybody’s head,” said Arniel. “But at the end of the day, we have a job to do. We have to play. Our best players have to be our best players in a game like that. Our role players have to play their role. I don’t care what the scenario is, you’re out on the ice, you’re playing a game, something you’ve done your whole life.

“We’re in a situation like that; however you go about it, you got to find a way. You got to find a way to get yourself over the hump. We got to find a way to get ourselves over the hump. We’re so close, but at the end of the day then we shoot ourselves in the foot in those moments that kinda happen in a game.”

The Jets scored the first goal for the fourth straight game. But after outshooting the Oilers 11-7 in the first period, the Jets recorded just three shots on goal in the middle frame, and it took them 14 minutes to register their first shot in the third, finishing with just two shots in the final frame.

“We’re not kids in here,” said Pearson. “It’s a veteran group. We got to put our foot down and capitalize on those ones.”

Forward Danny Zhilkin made his NHL debut in the loss but had less than seven minutes of ice time in his first game with the team.

Not much happened over the first 11 minutes, save for an unsuccessful Oilers power play, but the Jets were able to open the scoring at the 11:11 mark.

Alex Iafallo cycled the puck down low where Mark Scheifele grabbed it and took it behind the net. He then tried to pass the puck to Connor in the slot, and while the pass didn’t quite get

through cleanly, Connor was still able to get decent enough wood on a shot to get it past Calvin Pickard.

With just under three minutes left, the Oilers struck back. Kasper Kapanen took the puck low in the Jets end and as he went behind the net, he passed it behind him, catching the Jets slightly off-guard. The pass went to Vasily Podkolzin, who was almost tied up by Lafallo and nearly whiffed on a shot, but it fluttered past a fooled Connor Hellebuyck to level the score.

Just over a minute later, Winnipeg answered back. After winning a race to a dumped-in puck, Pearson took it low behind the Oilers net and then doubled back, spinning in front before sliding the puck through Pickard.

40 seconds later, the Jets scored again on a weird one. Morrissey sent a shot on goal that was slowed by the stick of Matthew Savoie, but as it skittered to the front of the crease, it hit another Oilers stick and slipped past a flailing Pickard to make it 3-1 after 20 minutes.

Winnipeg outshot the Oilers 11-7 in the first despite being outshot 5-0 over the first eight minutes of the game.

The Jets came close to making it 4-1 with just under seven minutes left in the second when Logan Stanley blasted a one-timer from the point off the post.

Edmonton started to pepper Hellebuyck with shots late in the middle frame, outshooting the Jets 8-0 in the final 5:11, with the last of the eight proving to be a crucial one for the visitors.

Ryan Nugent-Hopkins got the play started in his own end when he patiently waited for his teammates to skate up the ice before he sent a stretch pass to Evan Bouchard, who then steered it to Leon Draisaitl across the Winnipeg blue line.

He sent a hard backhand pass that eluded Pionk and found a cutting McDavid, who kicked the puck to his stick before deking out Hellebuyck for his 29th of the season with just 21 seconds to go in the second.

The goal also marked the third time in four games that the Jets, while in the lead, have allowed a goal in the final minute of the second period.

Thanks to that late surge, the Oilers outshot the Jets 12-3 in the second.

Edmonton continued to pour on the pressure in the third, leading to the equalizer with 11:41 to go. Dylan DeMelo tried to clear the puck but couldn't as Darnell Nurse kept it in, sending a hard pass across the ice to an uncovered Zach Hyman. He skated the puck down low before roofing it over the shoulder of Hellebuyck.

Just over a minute later, Nino Niederreiter put the puck out of play from his own end, putting the Oilers on a power play that they took advantage of.

After the Jets failed to get a shot on a shorthanded chance, the Oilers broke back the other way on a 4-on-2. McDavid drifted down low with the puck, collapsing the Jets' structure as players raced back into the play. That led to Nugent-Hopkins sending a pass to a trailing Bouchard, wide open in the slot, who whipped a shot past Hellebuyck to give Edmonton its first lead of the game at the 10:37 mark of the third.

Winnipeg didn't get a shot on goal in the period until Pickard turned aside a Morrissey point shot on a power play with 5:32 to go, ending an 18-0 Oilers run in shots on goal that spanned over 20 minutes.

The Jets' second shot of the third came with the goalie pulled in the final two minutes, their last before the horn sounded on yet another back-breaking defeat.

Winnipeg was outshot 23-5 over the final 40 minutes of the contest, part of a quiet night at the office for Pickard who only had to make 13 saves for the win. Hellebuyck turned aside 26 in defeat.

The Jets will try to avoid a 12th straight loss when they host the L.A. Kings Friday night.

Sportsnet.ca

<https://www.sportsnet.ca/nhl/article/trent-frederic-energizes-oilers-to-come-from-behind-victory/>

Trent Frederic energizes Oilers to come-from-behind victory

By Mark Spector

Connor McDavid scored his 29th goal of the season, sparking a two-goal comeback as the Edmonton Oilers defeated the Winnipeg Jets 4-3, extending their losing streak to 11 straight games.

This is what hockey players do. And to a degree, ya gotta love 'em for it.

"Fighting, as much as people want to phase it out of the game, there is still an element to it that can help turn the team game around," began Zach Hyman after a come from behind, 4-3 win at Winnipeg. "I thought that Freddy, sticking up for (Connor McDavid), fighting a big man..."

"People might say it's coincidence that we went out and scored a couple of shifts later, but there's something to that. He's done it a couple of times now. Good on Fred."

Evan Bouchard, a man of fewer words, opened his post-game interview with the same thought: "Big fight for Freddie to get us going. I think that really rallied us together."

Look, everyone in Edmonton — players, fans, casual observers — knows what kind of year it's been for Trent Frederic.

The guy signs an eight-year contract, inserts himself right into the heart of the Oilers' future — and presumably, their leadership group — and after a half-season he has three lousy points. Now he's hanging around the dressing room as a healthy scratch, jumping on the bike while the rest of the guys are heading out on the ice.

It's embarrassing, more than anything. And in a high-functioning National Hockey League dressing room, the search is always quietly on for something that could perhaps help revive a player that should be able to help the cause more than he has.

They search for a moment where players can rally around something, anything, that a guy like Frederic can do. Build one rung on the ladder, and maybe the player can use that rung to climb out of whatever hole he's been in thus far.

It's a hockey thing, and it's been around a loooong time.

So, when Frederic picks a fight in a 3-1 game with big Logan Stanley (six-foot-seven, 231 pounds), and the Oilers score a couple of shifts later to make it 3-2? Well, when the game ends 4-3 for Edmonton, you bet every guy in that room is making sure that Frederic knows he helped win a game — despite just 6:47 of ice time and zero shots on goal.

"Freddy's fight kind of turned it around a little bit," said head coach Kris Knoblauch, joining the chorus. "(McDavid) scored a really important goal at the end of period. You know, they're a fragile team, and to score that and (reduce) their lead just to one puts a lot of pressure on them."

Losers of 11 straight games, using the word "fragile" to describe the Jets is like calling McDavid an "above-average skater."

Winnipeg scored twice in the final 1:44 of Period 1 to take a 3-1 lead, but beginning in the second period they would go a span of 20 minutes without a shot on goal, firing only two pucks on Calvin Pickard in the game's final 25 minutes.

Frederic fought Stanley with two and a half minutes left in the second period, and he did just fine in the scrap. Two minutes later McDavid kicked a puck up to his stick and deftly lifted it up over Connor Hellebuyck, extending his scoring streak to 17 games and sending the Jets to their room with a head full of doubt with 20 minutes still to play.

"I think we are all getting mental right now, in the sense that it's in everybody's head," said the Jets beleaguered head coach Scott Arniel. "We are so close, but at the end of the day, we shoot ourselves in the foot within those moments that happen in the game."

Eleven losses in a row. One win in 15. A solid hold on 32nd place in the NHL — and this team won the Presidents' Trophy a year ago.

Ya think it's mental?

"You're just searching for that one, right? It's not easy," said veteran winger Tanner Pearson. "Everyone is trying to do the same thing in this league; everyone is trying to win. It just seems like right now, that wall is 100 feet high. We've got to knock it down with an axe or something. We've got to get there."

McDavid ended the night with a goal and an assist, and made a key defensive play to deny the Jets a goal. Bouchard had the same totals, and his game-winner came seconds after he denied Adam Lowry an empty net — a crucial defensive play by a player who doesn't get much credit in that department.

OIL SPILLS: McDavid tied the longest points streak of his career — 17 games (three times) — with 1-1-2. He has 18 goals and 41 points during his skein, with a chance to set a new personal high Saturday against L.A. It's the longest streak in the NHL this season ... Vasily Podkolzin's goal in the first period was his 10th of the season, but his first since Dec. 16. It came on a nifty

feed from Kasper Kapanen, who has three points in two games since his return from injury ... Final shots on goal were 30-16 for Edmonton. McDavid had five, and has 91 shots on goal during his streak.

<https://www.sportsnet.ca/nhl/article/analyzing-how-the-jets-can-avoid-making-the-wrong-kind-of-history/>

Analyzing how the Jets can avoid making the wrong kind of history

By Adam Vingan

Halfway through the season, the Winnipeg Jets are on track to make the wrong kind of history.

Never has a reigning Presidents' Trophy winner finished the following season with the NHL's worst record. But the Jets, who have lost 10 in a row (0-6-4) and 13-of-14 (1-9-4), could become the first if they do not quickly get their act together. (Winnipeg would be the fifth reigning Presidents' Trophy winner to miss the playoffs.)

"I think everyone would feel like there's a level of responsibility here that we need to find a way to be better," Jets general manager Kevin Cheveldayoff told reporters earlier this week. "Your record is your record, and all you can do is control what's in front of you."

The Jets' nonexistent scoring depth has been a contributing factor in their downward spiral. They have a league-low four players — Kyle Connor, Mark Scheifele, Gabriel Vilardi and Josh Morrissey — who average at least 0.5 points per game. That is down from seven last season, and only one of those players (Nikolaj Ehlers) left the Jets in the off-season.

Connor and Scheifele have carried the offence, outscoring opponents 42-33 when sharing the ice at five-on-five this season. When Connor and Scheifele are both off the ice, the Jets have been outscored 51-39.

Despite the Jets' desperate need for secondary scoring, coach Scott Arniel has resisted splitting up his top two forwards. It is somewhat understandable: Connor and Scheifele, who have combined for 40 goals and 97 points this season, have played together for nearly 3,400 minutes at five-on-five since the start of the 2021-22 season. Winnipeg has outscored opponents 184-163 during those minutes.

"We've talked about it," Arniel told reporters Wednesday. "It's hard when you have that chemistry and they have the puck the whole time. I don't know if we're in a position to split them up and (hope that) they create chemistry with the next guys they're playing with."

But at this critical point, what do the Jets have to lose? No other forward combination has been responsible for more than four goals for the Jets at five-on-five.

Winnipeg's second line, which has been anchored by Jonathan Toews, has been ineffective in its various forms this season. The Jets have a minus-nine goal differential and minus-44 scoring-chance differential during Toews' minutes at five-on-five.

"It's a tough assessment, in some respects," Cheveldayoff told reporters, citing Toews' long layoff from playing. "For him to come into a year where the frequency of games doesn't give you

as much opportunity to recover after not playing for two years (has been difficult). But (Toews) is one of the hardest workers in the group.”

On Tuesday, Arniel swapped Vilardi for Alex Iafallo on the top line, dropping Vilardi to the second line with Toews and Cole Perfetti. The second line was responsible for the Jets’ first goal against the Vegas Golden Knights, but the Connor-Scheifele-Iafallo line did not generate much offence and was out-chanced 6-3 at five-on-five. (Arniel told reporters that he plans to use the same top six against the Edmonton Oilers on Thursday.)

The Jets have played close to 110 minutes at five-on-five this season with either Connor or Scheifele on the ice without the other. While the sample is small, the results are encouraging. Winnipeg has generated 52.2 per cent of the expected goals, compared to 52.6 per cent when Connor and Scheifele are together. The goals are 6-2 in the Jets’ favour. That suggests that a breakup between Connor and Scheifele would not completely tank Winnipeg’s offence.

Because Connor and Scheifele have spent so little time apart, it is difficult to find examples of potential new combinations that could work. But both players are skilled enough to lead their own lines. Scheifele is one of the best possession-driving forwards in the league, averaging 26 plays per game that push the puck up ice (10th at the position). Connor is not far behind him at 17th with 22.5 possession-driving plays per game.

Over the course of the Jets’ losing streak, their playoff chances have plummeted from 32.9 per cent to 4.2 per cent. Arniel has hesitated to separate his star forwards, but time is running out on the Jets’ season.

“We’re getting (really) close to everything (being) on the table,” Arniel told reporters.

Edmonton Journal

<https://edmontonjournal.com/sports/edmonton-oilers-winnipeg-jets-rousing-comeback-win>

Edmonton Oilers add to Winnipeg Jets misery with rousing 4-3 comeback win

By Robert Tychkowski

For NHL teams these days, playing the Winnipeg Jets is like an old school game of ‘Hot potato’ — where in the days before video games, kids would pass a ball around a circle and whoever was holding it when the music stopped was eliminated.

With the Jets on a 10-game losing streak despite playing well and building leads, everyone thinks it’s only a matter of time before they figure it out and finally break through. So the object is to get in and out as quickly as possible so as not to be on the wrong end of it when the music stops.

And so it was Thursday that the visiting Oilers came back from a 3-1 deficit to post a 4-3 decision — an outcome that was about as surprising as watching ice melt on a hot sidewalk.

And the only song they’re playing in Winnipeg, where last year’s President’s Trophy winners are currently in last place overall, is Highway to Hell.

The Jets pushed hard in the first period and led 3-1 at the first intermission, but with one win in their previous 14 games (1-9-4) and nine one-goal losses in their 10-game slide, it was only a matter of time before they found a way to lose.

And, thus, that 3-1 lead was a warm puddle by the middle of the third period as Edmonton outshot the Jets 23-5 over the final two periods. Close out a win? The Jets might as well have been trying to build a house of cards in a hurricane.

The end began when Connor McDavid made it 3-2 with 20 seconds left in the second period. At that point, you knew it was over.

"They're a fragile team," said Oilers coach Kris Knoblauch. "You score that, cut their lead to just one, that puts a lot of pressure on them."

Sure enough. Hyman tied it eight minutes into the third period. Winnipeg took a penalty at 9:21. And Evan Bouchard's power play goal at 10:37 put the Oilers in front for good. The Oilers had 18-straight shots from the 15-minute mark of the second period to the 15-minute mark of the third.

"They came out hard, that's a desperate team," said Evan Bouchard, who made a goal-saving defensive play at one end of the ice before scoring the winner at the other. "But we started getting together later in the game."

The Oilers, with wins over Nashville and Winnipeg, are now one-win away from their longest winning streak of the season, three games.

"They're vulnerable but I don't necessarily see them playing badly," said Knoblauch. "The parity is so even in the NHL and games just aren't going their way. They're not getting that last save or that last goal."

"They had a goal post that could have made it 4-1 in the second. They just have an accumulation of a lot of things not going their way that is making it tough for them."

Player grades: Edmonton Oilers overcome iffy start to storm by Winnipeg Jets 4-3
McDavid

- McDavid's goal extended his points streak to a career high 17-straight games. This is the third time he's done it. He has 18 goals and 41 points during the run.
- Kasper Kapanen continues to make his presence felt. He had a goal and an assist in his first game back from injury and followed it up Thursday with a nice assist to set up Vasily Podkolzin's first goal in 10 games.
- Podkolzin had been mired in a miserable slump, nine-straight games on the second line without a single point, but he had two assists in the win over Nashville and scored in Winnipeg.
- The line of Isaac Howard, Jack Roslovic and Matt Savoie had some shifts where they were creating and buzzing, combining for seven shots on net and soon good looks. But their line gave up two goals in 40 seconds late in the first period, which almost turned out to be the difference in the game.

- Trent Frederic drew in from the press box with Adam Henrique out till after the Olympics and fought Logan Stanley after his big hit on McDavid. He certainly doesn't pick his spots, with NHL heavyweight champ Mathieu Olivier and now the six-foot-seven, 231-pound Stanley on his dance card.

"Fighting, as much as people want to phase it out of the game, there is an element to it that can help turn a team around," said Hyman. "And I thought Freddie sticking up for Davo, fighting a big man... people will say it's coincidence that we score a couple of shifts later but I think there is something to that."

- Two of the three Winnipeg goals didn't look great on Pickard, but that's where it ended. He shut the door after that, which was kind of easy given that the Jets had three shots in the second period and two in the third.

"He settled in," said Knoblauch. "One was a bit of a scramble, one went off our guy and kind of squeaked through. Those happen. But he stays composed and made some key saves for us."