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<https://www.nhl.com/jets/news/three-things-morrissey-hits-300-career-assists-jets-lose-to-mammoth>

***THREE THINGS: Morrissey hits 300 career assists, Jets lose to Mammoth
Morrissey first defenceman in franchise history with 300 career assists***

By Jamie Thomas

WINNIPEG – Dylan Guenther scored the game winning goal with 5:36 remaining in the third period as the Utah Mammoth beat the Winnipeg Jets Sunday night 3-2 at Canada Life Centre. Dylan DeMelo and Mark Scheifele scored for the Jets (6-3) and Josh Morrissey had a couple of assists; Connor Hellebuyck made 29 saves. Kyle Connor also had an assist and that moved him into third place on the franchise list with 305. The Jets will face another Central Division rival on Tuesday when they travel to St. Paul to face the Minnesota Wild.

SELF INFLICTED WOUNDS

With the game tied at two late in the third period, the Mammoth found a way to steal two points from the Jets. JJ Peterka forced a turnover in the Jets end and Logan Cooley spotted Dylan Guenther in the slot and he beat Connor Hellebuyck high glove side to make it 3-2.

"I think, it's kind of a back-and-forth game, pretty sloppy out there, but you're in a 2-2 game late in the third, and kind of just a weird series of events, one timer with a pretty dangerous guy in the slot," said Josh Morrissey.

"We really liked her first, didn't love our second, and then the third, I think it was kind of there for the taking, and they found a way to get that one that one and that was it."

BACK AND FORTH SECOND PERIOD

After a scoreless first period, the two Central rivals combined for four goals in the middle frame. Dylan DeMelo scored his first goal since January 20 when he fired a shot off the post and in beating Vitek Vanecek to make it 1-0 at 0:45.

Utah would score two goals 1:04 apart when Mikhail Sergachev and Michael Carcone giving Utah their first lead of the night and at the midway point of the period, the Mammoth had taken over the game. But Utah John Marino took an interference penalty at 13:12. With time winding down on that power play. Mark Scheifele beat Vanecek between the pads for his eighth of the season.

300 APPLES FOR MORRISSEY

The Jets have played three games in four days, but it didn't seem to affect their star defenceman Josh Morrissey. He played 28:13 vs. Seattle, 26:13 vs. Calgary and 00:00 against Utah. Morrissey recorded primary assists on both of the Jets goals in the second and reached 300 career assists, becoming the first defenceman in franchise history to reach that milestone and fifth player overall joining Blake Wheeler, Mark Scheifele, Kyle Connor and Bryan Little.

<https://www.nhl.com/jets/news/blog-former-olympic-teammate-cheering-for-toews>

***BLOG: Former Olympic teammate 'cheering' for Toews
Flames radio/TV analyst Meghan Mikkelsen impressed with Toews return to NHL***

By Jamie Thomas

WINNIPEG – Before Friday's 5-3 win over the Calgary Flames, a couple of former Canadian Olympic legends reunited.

The Winnipeg Jets Jonathan Toews and current Calgary Flames radio/TV analyst Meaghan Mikkelson chatted in the Jets dressing room. Both were part of the Canadian contingent at the 2014 Sochi Olympics. Toews and the men's hockey team won gold beating Sweden 3-0 in the final and Mikkelson and the women's squad won their fourth consecutive gold medal after beating the United States 3-2 in overtime. Mikkelson explained about the photo that you see above that was taken at Fisht Olympic Stadium on February 23.

"When Jonathan and I were chatting this morning, we were kind of reminiscing about how, like the women's team you play your gold medal final game about four days before the closing ceremonies," said Mikkelson on The Check In.

"The men's gold medal game is literally right before the closing ceremonies. So, all of the guys had just rushed from finishing the game, winning, getting their medals and what not. But they rushed to make sure they could make it on time."

"It was fun to just reminisce about it and yeah, the second photo was taken this morning (Friday morning). It was funny because Jonathan was like 'Well I look older, but you look exactly the same'," said Mikkelson.

After Toews goal Friday night, Mikkelson has now been in the building for both of Toews' goals this season and admitted that she was thrilled for her former Canadian teammate. Mikkelson also took some time away from the game she loved to have her son, Calder.

"It was almost two full years between when I played, it was actually the gold medal game in Sochi to when I was back on the ice. Just how valuable that time away can actually be, not just for your body but for your mind as well. Your perspective really changes as a person and as a player as well," said Mikkelson.

"He scored his first goal in two and a half years on Monday in Calgary at the Saddledome and you guys know the saying 'there's no cheering in the press box'. Even though I'm calling the game for the Flames, just having been a teammate of his quote unquote as a member of Team Canada and just hearing his story and everything he has gone through, I was cheering a little bit in the press box."

NHL.com

<https://www.nhl.com/news/utah-mammoth-winnipeg-jets-game-recap-october-26-2025>

***Guenther breaks tie in 3rd, Mammoth edge Jets for 7th straight win
Vanecek makes 28 saves for Utah; Hellebuyck stops 29 for Winnipeg, which has lost 2 of 3***

By Darrin Bauming

WINNIPEG -- Dylan Guenther broke a tie with 5:36 remaining in the third period, lifting the Utah Mammoth to their seventh straight win, 3-2 against the Winnipeg Jets at Canada Life Centre on Sunday.

After JJ Peterka won a race to the puck in Winnipeg's zone, Logan Cooley sent a backhand pass to Guenther, who scored on a one-timer from the slot.

"I think one at a time, honestly. We're not getting too high," Guenther said. "I think you can sense it in the room. In the past we were a little more emotional in a different way. I think we're a little more on an even keel this year."

Jets defenseman Josh Morrissey said of Guenther's goal: "Kind of just a weird series of events, one-timer with a pretty dangerous guy in the slot. We really liked our first [period], didn't love our second, and then the third, I think it was kind of there for the taking and they found a way to get that one and that was it."

Four of Guenther's five goals this season are game-winning goals, which is tied with Carolina Hurricanes forward Seth Jarvis for the most in the NHL.

"It's huge. They're kind of an in-your-face team, a little bit heavier than us, and we're on a back-to-back (Utah won 6-2 at the Minnesota Wild on Saturday)," Guenther said. "So, I think just adapting, just managing the game a little bit better and not giving them anything, and then just capitalizing when we get our opportunities."

Mikhail Sergachev and Michael Carcone also scored, and Vitek Vanecek made 28 saves for the Mammoth (8-2-0).

"Good performance by [Vanecek]," Utah coach Andre Tourigny said. "First, he made a key save at key moments, as well our fourth line I think gave us a lot of energy. I said before we're a four-line team, and I think they provide a lot of energy, they create good offense. They came up with a big goal, so I'm really proud of [Kevin Stenlund's] line."

Dylan DeMelo and Mark Scheifele scored, and Morrissey had two assists for the Jets (6-3-0), who have lost two of three after winning five straight. Connor Hellebuyck made 29 saves.

"They came as advertised," DeMelo said. "We knew that they have been playing really good hockey. A good up-and-coming team and every year they seem to get better and better. It was a tight game. It felt like we had some self-inflicted wounds that ended up costing us in the end."

DeMelo gave the Jets a 1-0 lead just 45 seconds into the second period, scoring on a snap shot through traffic from above the circle.

"Second period they [have] a quick score, and then of course you're trying to be quiet in the net, but the guys played amazing," Vanecek said. "You know, back-to-back it's always, always a hard game, but [my teammates] played amazing."

Sergachev tied it 1-1 at 10:03, scoring on the power play with a wrist shot following a face-off win by Nick Schmaltz.

"The first period was perfect, that's the type of game you have to play," Winnipeg coach Scott Arniel said. "The second period was the exact opposite. Self-inflicted. We just decided that maybe that was too much hard work and we didn't think we could do it for the second period. It's a broken record. We keep seeing this in the second period and we keep talking about these second periods. All it does, especially in our building, is give the opposition momentum. Mistakes happen. On the second goal, we got on the wrong side of people, a terrible line change, back of the net."

Carcone put Utah ahead 2-1 at 11:07, finishing a setup from Kailer Yamamoto with a one-timer on a 2-on-1 rush.

It was the first point of the season for Yamamoto, who was a healthy scratch the previous five games.

"Everyone on this team plays a huge role, and guys like Yamamoto are really good offensively and it helps a ton," Guenther said. "We've been scoring a lot lately and getting contributions from a lot of guys."

Scheifele tied it 2-2 with a power-play goal at 15:09 of the second, scoring with a wrist shot along the ice from the right circle.

"They have a good team," Vanecek said. "We just have to play with them [and] be above their players, and then we score three and they score two, so that's the key."

NOTES: Schmaltz has 16 points (seven goals, nine assists) in 10 games this season, which is tied with Jack Eichel of the Vegas Golden Knights for the NHL lead. ... Cooley has eight points (five goals, three assists) in his past three games.

Canadian Press

<https://www.chrisd.ca/2025/10/26/winnipeg-jets-utah-mammoth-game-story-loss/>

Mammoth Ground Jets 3-2 for Seventh Straight Win

By Jim Bender, The Canadian Press

WINNIPEG – The Utah Mammoth are the hottest team in the West.

Dylan Guenther scored the winner with less than six minutes left in the game to pull out a 3-2 triumph over the Winnipeg Jets on Sunday to record their seventh straight victory.

"It's great," Guenther said. "Winning's fun and we're playing a lot of games, too. We'll just continue to keep it rolling and enjoy this one a bit and get ready for the next one."

Guenther, who posted his fourth game-winning goal this year, has recorded seven points in his last five games, but he credited the Mammoth netminders for their success.

"That's the biggest part of your team, really, is your goaltending," he said. "They've been unbelievable."

Utah goalie Vitek Vanecek made 28 saves to stave off the Jets and disappoint the 13,678 fans at Canada Life Centre.

Guenther's goal gave the entire team a lift.

"I was like, four minutes still left, and then we got a power play," Vanecek said. "But that team (is) gonna cheat (at) that point, and then they're gonna try go behind us to get the breakaway or something like that. But we handled it really well and then they didn't get anything. So, great win."

Utah coach Andre Tourigny was pleased with the result.

"Good performance by V (Vanecek)," he said. "First, he made a key save at key moment(s), as well as our fourth line, I think, gave us a lot of energy."

Tourigny also credited the change in his players' outlook after they improved their record to 8-2.

"I think we dig deep, and last year, there's a lot of frustration where against that kind of a team (Jets), we were there after two (periods) and we played good, but we could not find a way to get the two points," he said.

"Tonight, we did. We're there after two (on a back-to-back) and we find a way in the tough schedule, so I'm proud of the boys. I think there's a level of maturity, obviously, but I think it's more in the demeanour on the bench.

"When adversity hits, the guys stay composed, they're not (having an) overflow of emotion or frustration on the bench. They're rarely the guys who show that frustration. There is frustration but the guys stay under control. So, I think we're not wasting our energy at the wrong place and there's a level of belief, as well, in our team."

Guenther concurred.

"We've talked about it (communication) a lot in the past but we're living it now," he said. "I mean, we've got a lot of good veterans on our team and us younger guys are just starting to embrace it and it's just a part of us now. It's a good learning experience and we just keep getting better."

And they are not getting carried away with their early success.

"Honestly, we're not getting too high," Guenther said. "I think you can sense it in the room. In the past, we were a little more emotional in a different way. I think we're a little more on an even keel this year."

Michael Carcone and Mikhail Sergachev scored the other goals for a team that is constantly improving after failing to make the NHL playoffs last season, its first after moving to Utah from Phoenix.

"I think they have been building their brand of how they want to play over the years," said Jets defenceman Dylan DeMelo, who opened the scoring. "It hasn't been easy for that organization. Obviously, they have gone through a lot of ups and downs. I think that move to Utah has really strung things in their favour and you can see the boost that they have when they play there.

"Their top-end guys are playing the right way. I'm not saying that they maybe weren't doing it before, but it's more consistent. Their back end is a lot better than it used to be. They have great depth up and down that lineup. It's a fantastic team, there's no doubt about it and they're off to a hot start.

"Their top guys are feeling it and carrying the load offensively there. We knew it was going to be a tough matchup there and again, we got away from our game there a little bit and had some self-inflicted wounds."

Mark Scheifele scored the other Winnipeg goal. Josh Morrissey assisted on both goals to reach 300 helpers for his NHL career.

"Yeah, it's cool, for sure," Morrissey said.

Winnipeg Free Press

<https://www.winnipegfreepress.com/breakingnews/2025/10/26/self-inflicted-loss-uncharacteristic-miscues-leave-jets-coach-frustrated>

'Self-inflicted' loss: Uncharacteristic miscues leave Jets coach frustrated After 'perfect' first period, Jets abandon their blueprint in second: Arniel

By: Ken Wiebe

The frustration was palpable and Scott Arniel didn't hold back in his assessment.

The message from the head coach of the Winnipeg Jets in the aftermath of a 3-2 loss to the Utah Mammoth on Sunday was both succinct and direct.

The overriding theme after a 1-2 homestand left the Jets with a record of 6-3-0 was that the Jets still have plenty of work to do in order to reach the high standard they've set for themselves.

Arniel was thrilled with the way the Jets played during a high-paced, tight-checking first period but couldn't believe how quickly things changed during the second.

"The first period was perfect. That's the type of game you have to play," said Arniel. "It's the first time all year long that we played all 18 skaters the way we need to play, for that period. We stayed over top of people, we got pucks deep, defended from the inside out, we were physical, we attacked the net, got through the neutral zone.

"The second period was the exact opposite."

Arniel was just getting started and went through a litany of issues that require further attention.

“Self-inflicted,” said Arniel. “We just decided that maybe that was too much hard work and we didn’t think we could do it for the second period. It’s a broken record. We keep seeing this in the second period and we keep talking about these second periods.”

Video sessions have identified the problems, yet the execution required for the solutions to be successful very much remains a work in progress.

“We’re in Game 9 here. It’s time to end that stuff,” said Arniel. “It’s about playing 60 minute games in this league. What we did in the first period was hard work and it has to happen each and every shift and it has to happen from all four lines and all of our D.

“Our DNA is usually our work ethic and our compete and I didn’t like what we saw in the second period.”

Arniel wasn’t the only one exhibiting frustration over uncharacteristic miscues.

“The goals obviously stand out because they were goals, but there was just stuff throughout the game,” said Jets defenceman Dylan DeMelo, who scored his first goal of the season and logged nearly 23 minutes of ice time. “Things we preach on all year so far that we haven’t been able to do for 60 minutes, with regards to gaining zones, getting pucks in, establishing our forecheck. It seems like the second period has been our achilles heel in regards to drop off for some reason. The first period was great, I thought it was a really great period from our group.

“That was the exact blueprint of what we wanted to do for three periods. Then in the second period we got away from it. We’ve got to stay with it and stay patient with our game. We’re still trying to find that right now.”

The Jets are back in action on Tuesday with a road game against the Minnesota Wild.

Let’s take a closer look at what transpired on Sunday:

The knockout punch

There’s no better example of what’s been ailing the Jets than what transpired on what ended up being the game-winning goal from Mammoth forward Dylan Guenther.

With a battle for the puck in the corner in the defensive zone, the Jets got caught puck watching a bit, which allowed Guenther to come off the bench after a change and find a quiet zone in the high slot.

After Logan Cooley came out with the puck after JJ Peterka got rocked with a hit, Cooley identified Guenther in the high slot and made a perfect pass that Guenther stepped into for his fourth game-winning goal of the campaign.

“We got on the wrong side of the puck on the (zone) entry, everybody got their eyes on the guy in the corner with the puck and their forward came off the bench and walked down the pipe,” said Arniel. “That’s just awareness of what’s around.”

Simply put, there have been too many defensive-zone breakdowns for a team that has won the Jennings Trophy in each of the past two seasons for allowing the fewest goals in the NHL.

The team on the rise

There are some obvious parallels between this Mammoth team and the Jets when it comes to a group of homegrown players coming into their own.

The Mammoth play an up-tempo style and have taken important strides when it comes to the commitment level required over 82 games to have success in the meat grinder that is the Central Division.

Those qualities were on display in this game and while both teams were playing a third game in four days — including the Mammoth playing on consecutive days with travel from Minnesota — you get the sense these teams will have plenty on the line during the final two meetings that will take place in Salt Lake City.

“They came as advertised. We knew that they have been playing really good hockey. A good up and coming team and every year they seem to get better and better,” said DeMelo. “They have been building their brand of how they want to play over the years. It hasn’t been easy for that organization; obviously they have gone through a lot of ups and downs. That move to Utah has really strung things in their favour and you can see the boost that they have when they play there.

“Their top-end guys are playing the right way. I’m not saying that they maybe weren’t doing it before, but it’s more consistent. Their back-end is a lot better than it used to be. They have great depth up and down that lineup. It’s a fantastic team, there’s no doubt about it and they’re off to a hot start. Their top guys are feeling it and carrying the load offensively there.”

The key play

Logan Cooley found Dylan Guenther alone in the slot for a one-timer that proved to be the difference in a tight game.

The three stars

Dylan Guenther, Mammoth – Delivered the game-winning goal.

Josh Morrissey, Jets – Chipped in two more assists.

Vitek Vanecek, Mammoth – Finished with 28 saves.

The next step

Jets captain Adam Lowry (hip) shed the non-contact jersey for Saturday’s optional skate and is working towards returning to the lineup by early November.

On Sunday, Arniel provided a hint of what could be on the horizon for Lowry.

“We’ve got some ideas, we’ve just got to float it by him and management,” said Arniel. “We’re just going to talk some things out and see where we’re at. He’s really getting close but now, he needs the contact. He needs five-against-five type stuff, where he’s working in heavy traffic areas, he’s working in tight areas. But he’s certainly a heck of a lot closer.”

Although Arniel didn’t come right out and say it, it sounded like the prospect of a conditioning stint with the Manitoba Moose of the American Hockey League was under consideration, given the busy nature of the Jets schedule.

The Moose face the Tucson Roadrunners on Tuesday and Wednesday in Arizona before returning home to face the Texas Stars next Sunday and Monday.

Extra, extra

Jets centre Mark Scheifele had the other goal for the home team, scoring with three seconds left in a second-period power play, which moved him to eight goals and 13 points in nine games.

With two assists on Sunday, Morrissey became the first defenceman in franchise history to reach 300. "It is cool, for sure," said Morrissey. "You just have to keep on going."

The Jets healthy scratches were defenceman Colin Miller and forwards Brad Lambert and Parker Ford.

<https://winnipegstar.com/sports/jets-winger-gabriel-vilardi-still-on-the-lookout-for-his-first-goal-of-the-season>

Jets winger Gabriel Vilardi still on the lookout for his first goal of the season

By Gordon Anderson

Seven is perhaps the luckiest number of all, but not for Jets forward Gabe Vilardi.

Now seven games into the regular season, Vilardi is still looking for his first goal.

"I feel like I've had a lot of opportunities, and obviously I'm not scoring," Vilardi said prior to Friday night's game against the Calgary Flames. "Whether that's luck or just bearing down and being more deadly with your chances, I think it's a little bit of both."

According to Natural Stat Trick, Vilardi is the sixth unluckiest player in the league for skaters with zero goals. His expected goal number is 2.36 heading into Friday night's game.

There is similar precedence as the 26-year-old waited six games to get his first goal last season. And last season didn't turn out so unlucky for No. 13, as he scored a career-high in goals with 27 in 71 regular-season games played.

"It is very frustrating. I'm not going to lie and say it's not," Vilardi said. "There's a flow to the season, and you go through your streaks where it seems like everything's going in, and then you go through the streaks like this one where it seems like nothing is going in and you can't catch a break. Whether it's a stick lift or goalies making a crazy save. You just kind of remind yourself of the flows of the season."

On Thursday night against the Seattle Kraken, Vilardi was given a glorious chance to get on the board late in the first period.

The Kingston, Ont., native was battling with Kraken defenceman Jamie Oleksiak in the goal crease when Josh Morrissey's point shot pinged off the post and bounced down into the crease, with Vilardi ready to knock the puck home. Unfortunately for Vilardi, Oleksiak lifted his stick, and the chance was gone.

"I know he's frustrated because he hasn't scored yet," head coach Scott Arniel said. "He's one of those guys that has to play the whole time in the middle of the ice. What Connor and Scheifele

do, they have mobility, and they have the playmaking, not that Gabe doesn't. But if you look back at any highlights on Gabe, all of his stuff happens 10 feet from the net, whether it's around the back of the net, front of the net, tipping pucks, getting rebounds, or popping sticks."

The last thing Arniel wants is for Vilardi to change his scrappy and combative nature as an offensive player.

"He's got to be more consistent with that," Arniel said. "He knows it, we've talked about it and then, he's just got to stick with it. If you're looking to score goals, don't get farther away from the net. Get closer to the net. We're trying to get him in that frame of mind."

Vilardi is turning over every stone looking to break the goose egg, including video and self-analysis.

He is aware his linemates Kyle Connor and Mark Scheifele have scored 10 of the team's 23 goals. Scheifele is tied for tops in the league with seven goals. Connor has three goals, but none in his last six games.

"I kind of got caught the first few games just over-analyzing myself to the extreme, and I've kind of gotten away from that the last few games," he said. "We do a lot of video, as a team. I get to see that and the structure stuff. In terms of my own video, I feel I'll go through flows where I'm watching a lot of them and then I'll go through periods where it's like OK, take a break."

Update: Vilardi scored his first goal of the season as the Jets beat the Flames 5–3 on Friday night.

<https://www.winnipegfreepress.com/sports/2025/10/26/former-jet-schmidt-having-fun-in-utah-after-cup-win-with-florida>

Former Jet Schmidt having fun in Utah after Cup win with Florida

By: Mike McIntyre

It's hard to wipe the smile of Nate Schmidt's face at the worst of times. The man just exudes positivity. And that was certainly the case on Sunday as the 34-year-old returned to Winnipeg for the first time as a Stanley Cup champion, now a member of the upstart Utah Mammoth.

"A heck of a ride," is how the popular former Jets defenceman described his past few months in a chat with the Free Press. "And a whole heap of fun."

Schmidt spent three full seasons in Winnipeg — "the most games I've played anywhere" — then was bought out of the fourth and final year of his deal following the 2023-24 season. The Minnesota product didn't take it personally, recognizing his game was no longer up to the level of a player earning US\$5.95 million on a Jets team with salary cap concerns.

"I got it. I loved it there, but stuff had to happen. I have a lot of respect for them," said Schmidt.

Facing an uncertain hockey future, Schmidt received a lifeline in the form of a call from former Jets coach Paul Maurice whose Florida Panthers, fresh off winning the Stanley Cup, were offering him a one-year "prove yourself" contract.

Boy, did he ever. Schmidt became a regular on the club, putting up 19 points (5G, 14A) in 80 regular-season games and another 12 (3G, 9A) in 23 playoff games as the Panthers made it back-to-back championships.

Schmidt more than earned his league-minimum US\$800,000 salary, much of which was quite literally eaten away by a fun superstition he started during their playoff run last spring — team outings to Dairy Queen.

“Every single time I had to pay,” Schmidt said with a laugh. “But I told the guys if this makes us win, I don’t care what it costs. I think we went 8-1 in games after going to Dairy Queen.”

Fittingly, Schmidt ate a Blizzard out of the trophy this past summer when he got to spend the day with it surrounded by family and friends in St. Cloud.

“We just kind of revelled in it. I wanted to share it as much as possible,” said Schmidt, whose only regret was how quickly the special day flew by.

“It was like 11:30 p.m and they were putting it in the back of the car. I was thinking of trying to steal it back.”

The party didn’t end there, with Schmidt and his wife welcoming their first daughter in July, adding to the family which also includes a two-year-old son.

“The Schmidt household was a little bit of a chaos corner this summer,” he said.

“You never know how things are going to work. You get bought out, you move on. You never know. You go to a team that just won, what’s the mentality going to be?”

He credited Maurice with being up front with him right off the hop about what expectations were — and holding him to a high standard.

“That was really a comfort factor for me,” said Schmidt.

“Here’s the thing: guys want to play there. They have a recipe. They’ve shown this recipe for resuscitating defencemen over the last few years. They’ve shown what they can do. The way the system is set up, they don’t ask you to do a ton. They just dumb it way down for you. It allows you just to go out and play like you were a kid again.”

Unfortunately for Schmidt, he was only in Florida for a good time, not a long time. His strong play meant a new contract was needed — along with a well-deserved bump in pay — but Florida had no room against the cap to cut the cheque considering they had to re-sign pending free agents Aaron Ekblad, Sam Bennett and Brad Marchand.

When one door closes, another opens. This time, it was the Mammoth who came calling, wanting to add a seasoned defender to a team that includes plenty of talented young skaters.

“(Leaving Florida) was bittersweet. But it’s so fun now to be on a team with so much enthusiasm and youth,” said Schmidt, who signed a three-year deal with Utah which pays him US\$3.5 million per year.

“(Leaving Florida) was bittersweet. But it’s so fun now to be on a team with so much enthusiasm and youth.”

“These guys are gaining such a foothold in the league. I’m more vocal now than I’ve ever been in my career, trying to be the guy that helped me along the way. Now it’s my turn to do that.”

The early returns couldn’t be better. Utah is off to a sizzling 8-2-0 start which includes a 3-2 victory over the Jets on Sunday — their seventh straight.

“It’s fun to see these young guys have so much confidence. You need to have that little bit of swagger,” said Schmidt, who has two assists through 10 games with the Mammoth.

He’s also enjoying the chance to help sell the game to a new hockey market in Salt Lake City, not unlike what he did as a member of the expansion Vegas Golden Knights in 2017-18.

“He has a confidence and assertiveness of knowing what it takes to win,” said Mammoth coach Andre Tourigny. “His personality, his communication, his energy and everything, plus his experience in the game helps a lot with a young group like ours.”

Schmidt still keeps tabs on the Jets and hopes some of his friends on the club will one day get to experience the type of Stanley Cup celebration he’s still buzzing about.

“They’ve added some good pieces. There’s a lot to love. We’ll see what happens,” he said.

Jets coach Scott Arniel was quick to reach out to Schmidt after watching him raise the Cup in late June.

“I was real happy for him. He was great for us here and great for me when I first came in (as an associate coach) and coached him,” said Arniel.

“He was great for us here and great for me when I first came in (as an associate coach) and coached him.”

“He helped a lot of our young players. To see those guys win is always nice. And to see him get rewarded with a contract (with Utah), that’s great.”

In classic Schmidt fashion, he couldn’t help but get in a dig at Jets forward Nino Niederreiter, one of his closest buddies. They briefly crossed paths on Sunday afternoon during pre-game soccer warmups in the bowels of Canada Life Centre, then again on the ice a couple hours later.

“I made sure to flip Nino the bird (during soccer). That menace. Then, during the game, he punched me in the face during a scrum. That’s the reason you’re a menace,” said Schmidt.

“I’d like to consider him and my two-and-a-half-year-old basically the same person.”

No, there’s never a dull moment when Schmidt is involved, that’s for sure.

Winnipeg Sun

<https://winnipeg.sun.com/sports/hockey/nhl/winnipeg-jets/guenther-game-winner-loss-to-utah-oct-27-2025>

Guenther has game-winner as Jets lose 3-2 to Utah Mammoth

By Gordon Anderson

Watching the opponent skate into a legitimate scoring area is a risk most teams aren't willing to take, and for good reason.

Dylan Guenther notched the game-winning goal as the Utah Mammoth beat the Jets 3-2 at Canada Life Centre on Sunday afternoon.

"We got on the wrong side of the puck on the (zone) entry everybody, got their eyes on the guy in the corner with the puck and their forward came off the bench, walked down the pipe and that's just awareness of what's around," Jets head coach Scott Arniel said on the game-winning goal.

Guenther's marker came at 14:24 of the third period when his shot from the left face-off circle found the top half of the net to the short side of Connor Hellebuyck. Four of Guenther's five goals this season have been game-winners. Logan Cooley and J.J. Peterka picked up the assists.

Utah has won seven games in a row. Utah improved to 4-1-0 in one-goal games.

Hellebuyck stopped 29 shots in the loss.

The Jets received a bench minor for too many men on the ice with 2:15 remaining in the game.

The Jets pulled Hellebuyck for the extra attacker but could not get the puck behind Vitek Vanecek. The Utah netminder stopped 29 of 30 shots.

But for the Jets, the game essentially was lost in the second period.

Dylan DeMelo's goal 45 seconds into the second period gave the home side a 1-0 lead, but Utah scored twice in a 64-second span, with Mikhail Sergachev and Michael Carcone finding the net. Mark Scheifele knotted the game 2-2 with a power-play goal at 15:09.

Utah outshot the Jets 16-8 in the middle stanza. According to Natural Stat Trick, the Mammoth had nine high-danger chances for the game. Six of them came in the second period alone.

"It's a broken record," Arniel said. "We keep seeing this in the second period, and we keep talking about these second periods. All it does, especially in our building, is give the opposition momentum. Mistakes happen. On the second goal, we got on the wrong side of people, a terrible line change, back of the net."

"It seems like the second period has been our Achilles heel in regard to a drop off for some reason," DeMelo added. "The first period was great. That was the exact blueprint of what we

wanted to do for three periods. Then in the second period we got away from it. We have got to stay with it and stay patient with our game. We're still trying to find that right now."

Scheifele is tied with Shane Pinto and Jack Hughes for the most goals in the league with eight. He has scored in six of the team's nine games. The team is 5-1-0 when Scheifele scores a goal. The club is now 4-1-0 when scoring the first goal of the game.

Josh Morrissey assisted on both Winnipeg goals. He also picked up three assists in the home win over Calgary on Friday night. He has six assists, dating back to last Monday in Calgary. Morrissey reached the 300-assist mark for his career on Scheifele's goal. The Calgary native reached the third-century mark in helpers in 671 regular-season games.

He wasn't in a celebratory mood when asked about reaching a nice milestone.

"It is cool, for sure," Morrissey said. "You just have to keep on going."

The team went 1-2-0 on the home stand, with the other loss coming to the Seattle Kraken.

After a road game in Minnesota on Tuesday, the Jets are back home for games against Chicago and Pittsburgh before a six-game road trip, starting Nov. 4 in Los Angeles against the Kings. The Jets are 3-3-0 at home.


"We would like to make home ice a tough place to play and somewhere teams fear coming in, like we have done in recent years," Morrissey said. "All of those are focuses right now, and it is an opportunity to build and find ways to improve and grow and with a lot of new faces in our room."

Global Winnipeg

<https://globalnews.ca/news/11496165/winnipeg-jets-central-division-analysis/>

ANALYSIS: Wins over divisional rivals a must for Winnipeg Jets

By Kelly Moore Global News

ANALYSIS: Wins over divisional rivals a must for Winnipeg Jets -  image in full screen

We're not even into a month of the NHL season, but there are signs already to suggest the potential for a slugfest in the highly competitive Central Division.

When the season began, the narrative around the Winnipeg Jets was something like, 'They don't have to repeat their Presidents' Trophy-winning performance of a year ago. Just use the regular-season schedule to get their playoff game in order.' Or something to that effect.

And while that still seems like very sound logic for a team that has not advanced past Round 2 in seven-plus years, these first three and a half weeks of the 2025-26 campaign have given every indication it is going to be a dogfight just to capture one of the top four or five spots out of the Central Division.

We had a live look at the vastly improved and very impressive Utah Mammoth Sunday night at Canada Life Centre. Later this week, Chicago comes to town — and these Blackhawks appear to have ditched the rebuilding mode of the past half-dozen years or so.

Toss in a Nashville team on the rebound from that disaster of a year ago, and a stumble and a fumble could quickly send a team to the wrong side of the playoff line in the NHL's most difficult division.

So it's noteworthy the Jets have managed to more than just tread water in this opening month of the schedule, without the services of Adam Lowry, Dylan Samberg and Cole Perfetti — who are all projected to return at some point in November.

Sunday's disappointing loss kicked off a stretch of three in a row for Winnipeg against divisional opponents.

With what is unfolding, continuing a three-year trend of getting the most out of these "four pointers" is going to be a must for the Jets if they want to remain among the big three in the NHL's toughest group.