



## **Columbus Blue Jackets Media Clips October 10, 2025**

### **Columbus Blue Jackets News**

- PAGE 2      The Athletic / A tough break — and another tough loss — for the Blue Jackets in Music City
- PAGE 4      The Columbus Dispatch / Columbus Blue Jackets see positives in opening loss to Nashville Predators: Takeaways
- PAGE 6      The Columbus Dispatch / Overturned goal spoils Columbus Blue Jackets' opener against Nashville Predators
- PAGE 8      The Hockey Writers / 4 Takeaways From the Blue Jackets' 2-1 Loss to Predators

### **Cleveland Monsters / Prospects News**

### **NHL News**

### **Multimedia**

## The Athletic / A tough break – and another tough loss – for the Blue Jackets in Music City

**By Aaron Portzline – October 10, 2025**

Twenty-five years, and nothing's changed: The Columbus Blue Jackets can't catch a break — or win a game — in Music City.

Ryan O'Reilly scored a go-ahead power-play goal early in the third period, and the Nashville Predators went on to a 2-1 win over the Blue Jackets before 17,244 in Bridgestone Arena, the season-opening game for both clubs.

It marked the 10th consecutive loss in Nashville for the Blue Jackets (0-8-2) and dropped them to 1-11-2 since the start of the 2014-15 season. How's this for a sad old country tune? The Blue Jackets are just 9-37-1-7 all time in Nashville.

And there was salt for the wound, too.

The Blue Jackets appeared to score a go-ahead goal late in the second period, but Mathieu Olivier's rebound put-back with 17.1 seconds remaining was challenged by the Predators and ultimately overturned after a relatively brief replay.

The NHL ruled that Olivier impeded Nashville goaltender Juuse Saros' ability to play the puck, but replays showed only minimal contact.

Blue Jackets coach Dean Evason, who appeared to be cursing profusely on the bench in the seconds after the goal was taken off the board, took the high road after the game.

"I don't even know what to say, because ... I don't know what to say," Evason said. "I mean, you just don't know, right?"

"I'll tell you our explanation (from officials). We think Saros slides out. That's why he's not able to make the second save. He makes the first saves. We think (it's) him sliding (that) takes him out of position, not Ollie hitting him. So that's what's difficult for us."

Olivier, who started his career in the Nashville organization, was careful with his words, too.

"Their (defenseman) was pushing me in (to the crease), and I was trying to push him out so I could skate out of it," Olivier said. "So that's the situation. I can't talk more about it. I've got nothing to gain by saying more, so I'll leave it at that."

Dmitri Voronkov's first-period goal was the only score for the Blue Jackets, and Jet Greaves, making his first opening-night start, had 29 saves.

The Blue Jackets carried play for long stretches of the game, especially in the first two periods. Kirill Marchenko, who tied for the club lead with 31 goals last season, had eight shots on goal — five in the first period — but couldn't solve Saros.

"We just chatted about our group (in the coaches' office)," Evason said. "You know, we evaluate every player, but there's not one guy that we thought didn't do what he's capable of doing. Again, we ran into a hot goaltender who was obviously really good."

“Otherwise, I think the story would have been a lot different here.”

Three Blue Jackets players made their Columbus debuts Thursday: third-line center Charlie Coyle, and fourth-line forwards Isac Lundestrom and Miles Wood. Coyle played 16:53 and won a club-high 10 faceoffs (in 18 attempts). He also had a team-high four hits.

Evason announced early in the day Thursday that Greaves would be the Blue Jackets’ starter over incumbent starter Elvis Merzlikins. Greaves has been called up to play in Columbus in each of the previous three seasons, but this will be his first full NHL campaign.

“I was comfortable,” Greaves said. “I was excited for the opportunity to be out there with the guys tonight. I think there were some positives, but also some things to improve on. So, it’s a good step, but there’s a lot there for myself and for us to learn from going forward.”

The Blue Jackets did not impress with their energy or execution throughout the preseason, but they were dialed in from the start Thursday.

But at 6:45 of the first period, the Blue Jackets were a little too cute with the puck in their own end, making a series of short, quick passes in the middle of the ice, eventually coughing it up. Nashville’s Michael Bunting stepped into a one-timer from the right circle and blistered it past Greaves for a 1-0 lead.

The Jackets pulled even later in the period when Voronkov, who had 23 goals last season, swatted home a puck from in front of Saros.

Otherwise, the Blue Jackets created a bevy of scoring chances — especially the No. 1 line, with Sean Monahan between Marchenko and Voronkov — but couldn’t beat Saros. It helped, too, that the Predators blocked 20 shots, including six by Jackets defenseman Damon Severson.

The Blue Jackets thought they were headed to the second intermission with a lead, but the NHL’s ruling — that “Columbus’ Mathieu Oliver made contact in the crease with goaltender Juuse Saros that impaired his ability to play his position prior to the goal” — changed the tenor.

When O’Reilly found open ice in front of Greaves, Nashville’s Filip Forsberg feathered the puck through traffic to give him a clean look. He went forehand, backhand in a flash, and lifted the puck over Greaves and under the crossbar.

“He made a great shot there,” Greaves said. “Obviously, I’d like to save every puck I can, especially in a tight game like that. But, I mean ... he made a good shot.”

## The Columbus Dispatch / Overturned goal spoils Columbus Blue Jackets' opener against Nashville Predators

**By Brian Hedger – October 10, 2025**

The Blue Jackets' 25th anniversary season began Oct. 9 at Bridgestone Arena with a little controversy.

Despite outplaying the Nashville Predators for most of the season opener for each team, the Blue Jackets lost 2-1 after their own 2-1 lead late in the second period was erased by a disputable coaching challenge for goaltender interference.

The NHL ruled that Blue Jackets forward Mathieu Olivier interfered with Predators goalie Juuse Saros before scoring off a rebound with 17.1 seconds left in the second, which deflated an elated Columbus bench heading into the second intermission.

"They make the decision," Olivier said. "Our job is to play. I'd love to give you a better quote on that, but ultimately I can't do much about it. They made the decision and we move on."

The Predators took advantage of their break early in the third.

Ryan O'Reilly broke a 1-1 tie to give Nashville a 2-1 lead at 2:41 of the third to cap a power play, which was all Saros needed during his 37-save performance. Jet Greaves (29 saves) started for the Blue Jackets (0-1-0), who finish their first road trip Oct. 11 at the Minnesota Wild.

Michael Bunting scored the first goal for the Predators (1-0-0) and Dmitri Voronkov scored the lone goal for Columbus.

Olivier's overturned goal was a point of contention after the NHL ruled that he interfered with Saros in the crease.

Replays showed Olivier standing in the crease before Saros initiated contact with him, but the league cited rule 69.1 in its decision, which states in part: "Goals should be disallowed only if: (1) an attacking player, either by his positioning or by contact, impairs the goalkeeper's ability to move freely within his crease or defend his goal."

Olivier felt he was pushed into the crease by Predators defenseman Justin Barron, but the NHL apparently didn't agree. Unlike offside reviews, which have become mostly clear cut, rulings on goaltending reviews are highly unpredictable.

"I don't know what to say, because you just don't know," Blue Jackets coach Dean Evason said. "We think Saros slides out. That's why he's not able to make the second save. He makes the (first) save. We think him sliding takes him out of position, not (Olivier) hitting him. That's what's difficult for us. Hopefully we'll get an explanation (Oct. 10), but you never know. So, we'll see."

Each team scored a goal in the first with the help of fortunate bounces.

Bunting made it 1-0 at 6:45, scoring with a long wrist shot after getting the puck back off a blocked attempt. Voronkov tied it, 1-1, with 3:59 left by simply reaching his stick out in front of the net to deflect Damon Severson's deflected shot from the point.

The Blue Jackets outshot the Predators 38-31 and controlled play for most of the first two periods. They just couldn't get beat Saros more than once despite generating numerous scoring chances.

## The Columbus Dispatch / Columbus Blue Jackets see positives in opening loss to Nashville Predators: Takeaways

**By Brian Hedger – October 10, 2025**

After one game, the Blue Jackets have a lot to feel good about. They just don't have a victory to show for it after a stinging 2-1 loss to the Nashville Predators in the season opener Oct. 9.

A debatable goaltending interference ruling spoiled the night, making the Blue Jackets' own 2-1 lead vanish, but plenty of other things went right.

The Blue Jackets outshot the Predators 38-31, got a strong 29-save outing from goalie Jet Greaves and dominated puck possession.

"We did so many good things in this hockey game," coach Dean Evason said. "It's frustrating, obviously. It's tough to go in the room and say, 'Keep doing that and we're good, we're fine,' but the guys know how hard and how well they played."

According to Natural Stat Trick, the Blue Jackets controlled 5-on-5 play. They finished with 19 more attempts (60-41) for a 59% edge in that area, outshot the Predators 38-24 (63%) at even strength and held commanding advantages in scoring chances (33-16, 61%) and high-danger chances (11-6, 65%).

The Jackets just couldn't get enough shots past Predators star Juuse Saros, who made 37 saves.

"There's not one guy that we thought didn't do what he is capable of doing," Evason said. "We just ran into a hot goaltender, who was obviously good. Otherwise, the story would've been a lot different here tonight."

### **Columbus Blue Jackets forward Kirill Marchenko impresses in frustrating loss to Nashville Predators**

Kirill Marchenko tied his NHL career high with eight shots to lead the Blue Jackets on a night they finished with 38. He just couldn't get single one past Saros.

The only other time Marchenko has fired eight shots was Jan. 7, 2023, at Nationwide Arena in a 4-3 shootout victory over the Carolina Hurricanes. He netted three goals in that game for his first NHL hat trick.

It was a bit of revenge for Saros, who allowed three goals to Marchenko on April 2 in Columbus. Marchenko finished that season tied with Adam Fantilli for the team lead in goals at 31, so watching him get a bunch of scoring chances in the season's first game was encouraging.

### **Columbus Blue Jackets goalie Jet Greaves solid in loss to Nashville Predators**

Evason and his staff made the decision to start Greaves in the opener prior to practice Oct. 8, but it wasn't revealed publicly until Oct. 9 in Nashville.

Elvis Merzlikins has owned the No. 1 goaltending spot in Columbus for the past three years. Evason provided context, saying Greaves isn't the Blue Jackets' main starter and that Merzlikins may play in Minnesota on Oct. 11, but this was a statement.

Greaves put together his latest strong outing in the 22<sup>nd</sup> appearance of his NHL career. He stopped 29 of 31 shots, was beaten by two good shots to the glove side and otherwise looked calm in the pressure of a road season opener.

"I felt good," Greaves said. "I felt comfortable. I was excited for the opportunity to be out there with the guys tonight. I think there were some positives, but also some things to improve on. It's a good step, but there's a lot for myself and for us to learn from going forward."

Greaves gave the Blue Jackets a chance to win.

"In terms of Jet and Elvis, you've got two good goalies who are competing, and that's a healthy problem to have," defenseman Erik Gudbranson said. "I sit beside them in the room, and they work well together. ... Coaches say it all the time, 'Just make our job difficult.' Perfect scenario for a team aspect."

### **Columbus Blue Jackets' losing ways in Nashville continue**

Nearly as unthinkable as the Blue Jackets' tendency to lose to the Pittsburgh Penguins at PPG Paints Arena in Pittsburgh is their proclivity for losing to the Predators in Nashville.

The Jackets dropped to 9-37-8 all-time at Bridgestone Arena with their 10th straight loss there. The last time Columbus has left Nashville victorious was March 30, 2019, and the Predators' all-time points percentage of .723 against the Blue Jackets prior to adding another win was their highest against any opponent.

### **Columbus Blue Jackets take another frustrating road loss**

After finishing two points shy of a playoff spot last season, the Blue Jackets didn't need an in-depth statistical breakdown to spot one area that could have helped them immensely.

They really struggled on the road, going just 14-23-4 in 41 games. This game felt like an improvement with how much the Blue Jackets controlled the action, but it was still another road loss in regulation to start out. That was tough for them to stomach, especially after watching Mathieu Olivier's goal get overturned with 17.1 seconds left in the second to nix a 2-1 lead.

"That's definitely a point of contention from last year," Gudbranson said of road losses. "When we talk about how we didn't make it into the playoffs, it was one of those road games for sure. So, being a better road team is going to be huge for us this year."

## The Hockey Writers / 4 Takeaways From the Blue Jackets' 2-1 Loss to Predators

By William Espy – October 10, 2025

The Columbus Blue Jackets' 25th season in the NHL kicked off on the road, as they visited Bridgestone Arena and the Nashville Predators on Thursday (Oct. 9).

The Blue Jackets ended up falling to the Predators with a final score of 2-1. Let's take a look at some of the key takeaways from the night.

### **Jet Greaves Gets the Nod**

In a bit of a surprise move, head coach Dean Evason named Jet Greaves as the Blue Jackets' starting netminder for their opening game.

Greaves gave up a goal against the run of play at 6:43 of the first period. A broken play on the rush saw the puck bounce to Michael Bunting who fired a shot past the 24-year-old goaltender. Ryan O'Reilly scored the game-winning goal in the third period, making it 2-1 for the Predators.

Despite picking up the loss, Greaves played very well. He saved 29 of 31 shots, stopping chances by players like Steven Stamkos and Filip Forsberg. While a .935 save percentage is not likely sustainable in the modern NHL, it's clear that he has what it takes to be a legitimate NHL netminder at this stage in his career. If he continues to play at a high level, as he did last season as well, it's very likely that he officially becomes the Blue Jackets' starting goaltender for the long run.

### **Dmitri Voronkov Having Another Strong Start**

Last season, the majority of Dmitri Voronkov's goals were scored early in the season. He had a very strong start last fall, and now it seems like he's going to do the same this time out. He scored the Blue Jackets' first goal of the season at 16:01 in the first period, deflecting a Damon Severson shot from the point.

Entering his third season in the NHL, a strong start for Voronkov could help him catapult to the next level. With that being said, he's going to need to be consistent throughout the entirety of the season for it to truly make a difference for the team this season. For now, though, a strong start is a good sign of things to come.

### **Marchenko Looks Hungry**

Entering Thursday night, Mika Zibenejad of the New York Rangers and Quinton Byfield of the Los Angeles Kings led the NHL in shots on goal with seven. It didn't take long for Kirill Marchenko to get close to them, as just five minutes into the second period, he had six. He was shooting nearly every time he touched the puck it seemed, and it was clear he was hungry to find the back of the net.

By the end of the night, Marchenko had registered eight shots. Even though he wasn't able to score in the Blue Jackets' loss, he was generating opportunities and did whatever he could to help his team.



Coming off of a career-best 31-goal season, he seems destined to set a new career-high if he's able to keep shooting at such a high rate.

### **Penalty Kill Starts Hot**

The Blue Jackets' penalty kill started off the night looking very strong. While O'Reilly's game-winning goal for Nashville came with the Predators on a man advantage, their first three outings were very impressive as the Blue Jackets were able to kill off three penalties, including an abbreviated 5-on-3 opportunity for the home side.

Despite the penalty kill performing well for the majority of the game, it was also clear that discipline was an issue for the Blue Jackets to start the season. Giving any team four chances on the power play is a recipe for disaster, but doing so against an offense filled with talent like Stamkos, O'Reilly, and Forsberg is almost guaranteed to end badly.

Overall, the argument can be made that the Blue Jackets played a better, more complete game than the Predators despite walking away with a loss. There are certainly some positives to take away from their first outing of the season, but there are also a few things that Evason will need to address as soon as possible.