

## **WinnipegJets.com**

<https://www.nhl.com/jets/news/blog-boumedienne-and-freij-win-gold-at-world-juniors>

### ***BLOG: Boumedienne and Freij win gold at World Juniors Sweden beats Czechia 4-2 to win first gold medal in 14 years***

By Jamie Thomas

Winnipeg Jets prospects Sascha Boumedienne and Alfons Freij have gold medals from the World Junior Hockey Championships after Sweden beat Czechia 4-2 in the final on Monday night ending Sweden's 14-year drought at the event.

Boumedienne (2025, 1st round) scored the eventual gold medal winning goal at 3:47 of the third period which gave Sweden a 3-0 lead at the time. Czechia came back and scored two goals late in the period before the Swedes wrapped up the gold with an empty netter with eight seconds left in the contest. The 18-year-old finished the tournament with a goal and a couple of assists.

Freij (2024, 2nd round) seven assists had him tied for fourth in the tournament, he was also a plus five.

With the event shifting back to Canada next December in Edmonton and Red Deer, the Swedes could have as many as 12 returning players.

## **NHL.com**

<https://www.nhl.com/news/winnipeg-jets-frustrated-with-results-after-winning-presidents-trophy-last-season>

### ***Jets frustrated with results after winning Presidents' Trophy last season Winnipeg has lost 9 in row, is last in NHL standings***

By Derek Van Diest

Kevin Cheveldayoff understands the frustration of Winnipeg Jets fans.

The general manager is also frustrated watching the Jets go from Presidents' Trophy winners to the bottom of the NHL standings this season.

Unless the Jets can turn it around, they're in jeopardy of becoming the fifth team in history to go from having the best record in the League to missing the Stanley Cup Playoffs the following season, joining the New York Rangers (1992-93 and 2024-25), Boston Bruins (2014-15) and Buffalo Sabres (2007-08).

"Certainly, fans in our market are very, very passionate, and that is something we care deeply about," Cheveldayoff said on Monday. "Again, this isn't something you plan out, and obviously sports are unpredictable. That's the nature of the game here now."

"I think if you look at the situation here, again over the course of time, certainly we've had a lot of success. This is a results-orientated business, and you live in the moment right now. And again, just going through the last couple of games, it's a frustrating thing."

The Jets (15-21-4), who have lost nine in a row (0-6-3), are last in the NHL standings, nine points behind the Los Angeles Kings for the second wild card into the playoffs from the Western Conference. They will begin a five-game homestand against the Vegas Golden Knights at Canada Life Centre on Tuesday (8 p.m. ET; TSN3, SCRIPPS).

"We're at the halfway point and your record is your record, and all you can do is control what's in front of you," Cheveldayoff said. "Adversity is part of this game, it's part of life. The art in it is how you handle it, and I think that's the thing. You can choose any different direction, but when I woke up this morning, for me the choice is put your head down and find a way to keep pushing this team to get better."

The Jets were hoping to have similar success this season after they were eliminated by the Dallas Stars in six games in the Western Conference Second Round last season. But after starting 9-3-0, they have gone just 6-18-4.

"Certainly, you go into the season and you have very high expectations," Cheveldayoff said. "I think every team that goes in feels they have that opportunity to spread their wings and try to compete for a Stanley Cup. We've said it all along, first and foremost, your first job is to find a way to get into the playoffs, and that comes with the ability to go through a season and earn your way to that."

"To this point, obviously, it's been very disappointing. I think to a man, top to bottom, it starts with me. I think everyone would feel like there's a level of responsibility here that we need to find a way to be better."

Playing without injured goalie Connor Hellebuyck for 12 games from Nov. 18-Dec. 11 didn't help. The reigning Hart Trophy winner as the NHL's most valuable player and the two-time reigning winner of the Vezina Trophy as the League's top goalie, had a minor knee procedure, which left the goaltending duties to Eric Comrie and Thomas Milic.

Winnipeg went 3-8-1 without Hellebuyck, who is 1-5-3 with a 2.69 goals-against average and .888 save percentage since returning. He was named to Team USA's roster for the Olympic Winter Games Milano Cortina 2026 last week.

"If you look at all the different things, it's a tough league to win in," Cheveldayoff said. "And certainly the situation that we're in, be it one-goal games, be it not maybe playing to the defensive structure that has become our signature for the last couple of years, all of a sudden you find yourself in this predicament."

Cheveldayoff said he is looking at options to improve the roster, whether it's internally by calling a player up from Manitoba of the American Hockey League or through a trade.

"If you look around the League, there's lots of teams that are fighting for their lives right now," he said. "There are teams that are below the [playoff] line that, like ourselves, felt they should be above the line. There's lots of those kinds of things that are ongoing. At this point in time of the season, most teams, including ourselves, you're having organizational meetings."

A coaching change at this point seems unlikely. Scott Arniel is in his second season after replacing the retired Rick Bowness, and in his first season he guided the Jets to the best regular-season record in franchise history (56-22-4).

"Scott and his coaching staff are working extremely hard, there's no if, ands or buts about that," Cheveldayoff said. "I think there's a frustration level with them as well."

The Jets have 16 games, 10 at home, before the Olympic break from Feb. 5-24.

"From a coaching perspective, they're trying to do everything that they can," Cheveldayoff said. "From a management perspective, we have to look at different avenues at some point in time here to see if there is something available. But again, it's not an ideal situation and I know they feel the same disappointment that I do."

## **Global Winnipeg**

<https://globalnews.ca/news/11599527/analysis-moore-winnipeg-jets-struggle/>

### ***ANALYSIS: Change required for struggling Jets***

By Kelly Moore CJOB

There may still be half a season to play for the Winnipeg Jets, but the team's performance during last week's three-game road trip has left no doubt that the jig is up.

I fancy myself as an eternal optimist, but watching the Jets find three different ways to lose in Detroit, Toronto and Ottawa — after the back-to-back, "deserved a better result" defeats on home ice to Minnesota and Edmonton coming out of the Christmas break — the glass isn't even half empty. It's bone dry.

And you'd have to think there is a similar mindset developing in the sixth-floor offices at True North Square.

Maybe not to the extreme of utter hopelessness described here, but the harsh realization is this team, in its current makeup, is incapable of playing itself out of what is now a franchise record tailspin.

That became clearly evident during the second-half collapse in Toronto, and then the brutal second period Saturday night in Ottawa.

Change is expected. It's required at this point.

And before we even go there, I call B.S. on that old theory about "you can't replace 20 players, so it's easier to fire the coach."

Because in this scenario, 20 players don't need to be replaced. There's still a solid core group here.

Who knows if one or two changes result in the spark Scott Arniel has been trying to ignite for the past two months?

And the head coach wasn't burying his head in the sand during the 9-3 start either. This group had been forewarned well in advance of the bottom falling out.

Perhaps there will be a desired response from the anticipated callups of Manitoba Moose prospects — who now see a real opportunity to make the big club, for the first time in years.

If it takes even more transactions to produce results, continue to ship out those players who have performed their way into “expendable” status.

As we’ve witnessed over the first 40 games of 2025-26, that’s a list that runs deep.

<https://globalnews.ca/news/11599541/winnipeg-jets-kevin-cheveldayoff-mid-season-news-conference/>

### ***Winnipeg Jets ‘paying a little bit of a price’ for trading draft picks: GM***

By Aaron D'Andrea Global News

The Winnipeg Jets are “paying a little bit of a price” for their lack of draft capital as the team sits last in the NHL, Kevin Cheveldayoff says.

The Jets’ general manager spoke to reporters Monday, 40 games into the season. The Jets, who hold a 15-21-4 record, are at the bottom of the Central Division, Western Conference and overall standings with just 34 points.

The team’s record so far stands in stark contrast to this time last year, when the Jets were 27-11-2 through 40 games played. They would eventually go on to win the President’s Trophy – awarded to the team with the best regular-season record – having finished 56-22-4 with 116 points.

“Your first job is to find a way to get into the playoffs and that comes with the ability to go through a season and earn your way to that point. Obviously, it’s been very disappointing,” Cheveldayoff said.

“It starts with me, [but] I think everyone would feel like there’s a level of responsibility here that we need to find a way to be better.”

The Jets are currently on a nine-game losing streak, having last secured a victory on Dec. 13 against the Washington Capitals. Three of the Jets’ losses have come in overtime, while four regulation losses have been decided by just one goal.

“That hurts you not only defensively but offensively as well because you’re playing a lot in your own end and you’re expelling too much energy to try to defend as opposed to going on the offence.”

Except for the departure of winger Nikolaj Ehlers through free agency in the off-season, the Jets roster has largely remained intact. Cheveldayoff did sign Winnipeg native and NHL legend Jonathan Toews in the off-season; Toews had missed multiple seasons while dealing with long COVID-19 symptoms.

Cheveldayoff said roster changes through trades at this point in the season are proving to be tricky.

"You do look at different opportunities to see what's potentially available, some of the things that if you look around the league, there's been a handful of moves from a trade perspective, some of them involving currency that we don't have, that we've spent," he said.

"We've traded a lot of draft picks ... and I think we're paying a little bit of a price for that right now."

Cheveldayoff said head coach Scott Arniel and his staff "feel the same disappointment that I do" and are trying everything they can to turn it around.

He added that right now, the focus is simply on one game at a time.

"The guys obviously are the ones that play the game. They're the ones that go out on the ice and lay their heart and soul each and every day. My commitment to them hasn't wavered; my commitment to ownership hasn't wavered," he said.

"Obviously, you'd like success to be instantaneous, and in a situation like this, all we can control right now is the next game in front of us. That's got to be our mindset. I don't think that group in there feels that they're down and out of it. I think if you look at the way things have happened, even with some other teams in the National Hockey League this year, things can happen quickly the other way as well if you get on the right track."

The Jets' next game is against the Vegas Golden Knights Tuesday in Winnipeg.

### **Sportsnet.ca**

<https://www.sportsnet.ca/nhl/video/did-jets-stanley-deserve-suspension-for-punching-senators-tkachuk/>

### ***Did Jets' Stanley deserve suspension for punching Senators' Tkachuk? (VIDEO)***

Nick Kypreos, Justin Bourne, and Sam McKee discuss Winnipeg Jets defenceman Logan Stanley receiving a one-game suspension for roughing Ottawa Senators forward Brady Tkachuk and debate whether supplementary discipline was warranted.

### **Winnipeg Free Press**

<https://www.winnipegfreepress.com/breakingnews/2026/01/05/few-concrete-answers-for-jets-tailspin>

### ***Few concrete answers for Jets' tailspin***

### ***GM Cheveldayoff continues to preach patience despite club's basement status***

By: Mike McIntyre

Winnipeg Jets general manager Kevin Cheveldayoff isn't ready to abandon ship — or even declare a "mayday" — despite the fact his hockey club has sunk to the very bottom of the NHL standings.

Instead, the longtime architect is still preaching patience as the Jets hit the midway mark of a season that began with Stanley Cup aspirations and is now teetering toward unmitigated disaster.

“To this point, obviously it’s been very disappointing. Top to bottom, it starts with me,” Cheveldayoff said Monday during a 30-minute state-of-the-union media session marked by pointed questions and few concrete answers.

“I think everyone would feel like there’s a level of responsibility here that we need to find a way to be better. Your record is your record and all you can do is control what’s in front of you. Adversity is part of this game, it’s part of life.”

The 15-21-4 Jets have lost nine straight games (0-6-3) and 22 of their last 28 (6-18-4), leaving them nine points out of the final Western Conference wild-card spot as they prepare to open a five-game homestand Tuesday against the Vegas Golden Knights.

It represents a stunning fall from grace for a Presidents’ Trophy-winning team that went 56-22-4 last season — and would need to go 41-1-0 over its final 42 games just to match that total.

“The fire still burns very, very deeply here.”

“Didn’t necessarily see it coming,” said Cheveldayoff.

“But if you look at all the different things, it’s a tough league to win in and certainly the situation that we’re in — be it (losing) one-goal games, be it not maybe playing to the defensive structure that has become our signature for the last couple of years — all of a sudden you find yourself in this predicament.”

Cheveldayoff, who has been at the controls since the franchise relocated from Atlanta in 2011, assembled the current underperforming roster, including recent free-agent signings Tanner Pearson, Gustav Nyquist, Cole Koepke and Jonathan Toews, along with trade addition Luke Schenn — moves that have not panned out as hoped.

Although there has been no indication his job is in jeopardy, might he be feeling some heat?

“It’s not so much about how do you feel. It’s, ‘Do you still have the passion? Do you still have the willingness to put it in the grind?’” he replied.

“Because I think in this job here, you serve obviously at the pleasure of ownership. The ability to have that passion — and if you don’t have it, then you should be getting out of the game. The fire still burns very, very deeply here.”

How about the job security of second-year head coach Scott Arniel, who was a runner-up for the Jack Adams Trophy a year ago but now can’t seem to spark his struggling squad?

“Scott and his coaching staff are working extremely hard. There’s no (doubt) about that,” said Cheveldayoff.

“I’ve just got to do my job. You start worrying about what’s going to happen... you’re not focusing on what’s happening today.”

"I think there's a frustration level with them as well. They're trying to do everything that they can. From a management perspective, we have to look at different avenues at some point in time here to see if there is something available. But again, it's not an ideal situation and I know they feel the same disappointment that I do."

To that extent, Arniel was asked if he's losing any sleep over his employment status these days.

"I'm not thinking about that. I've just got to do my job. You start worrying about what's going to happen, the unknown, what's going to happen down the road, you're not focusing on what's happening today," he said.

"So that's all I can do, is be the best coach I can be. It's part of the business, but at the end of the day I've got to make sure me and my staff, that we're doing the right things to prepare our group."

Co-owner Mark Chipman has a strong voice in the operations of the team. Although he doesn't typically speak publicly with media, he does chat with Cheveldayoff on a daily basis.

"Mark obviously cares deeply. He's probably a bigger fan more than he is the owner, so to speak, and you know he feels it," said Cheveldayoff.

"He shares that disappointment. But again that's sports, and that's the reality of the National Hockey League. And you can't take anything for granted. And, like I say, all you can do is how you handle that adversity."

So what is Cheveldayoff going to do about it? Despite the prolonged skid, he has yet to make a trade, place a player on waivers or promote anyone from the Manitoba Moose outside of injury-related recalls. The same healthy 23-man roster has remained intact for weeks.

Is maintaining the status quo really the plan?

"You're always looking, you're always trying to evaluate what options are out there, whether it's internally, whether it's externally," he said.

"Some decisions that we make obviously work, some decisions that we make don't. It's one of those things where you don't just change things overnight."

The lack of movement has renewed scrutiny of the organization's once-prized draft-and-develop pipeline. Only Cole Perfetti and Dylan Samberg have become regulars since 2017. Cheveldayoff acknowledged that's partly the cost of years spent pushing all-in.

"We've traded a lot of draft picks. We've done a lot of that, and I think we're paying a little bit of a price for that right now," he said.

"When you have that opportunity to try to push forward a group, you do the things that are available for you to do. That being said, you're sitting here today with lots of capital that was expelled over the course of those years. There's an opportunity cost with every decision that you make."

One of the season's low points came Saturday in Ottawa, when a Jets fan wearing a paper bag over his head — emblazoned with "From First to Worst" — was shown on Hockey Night in Canada.

"Certainly fans in our market are very, very passionate, and that is something we care deeply about," said Cheveldayoff.

"Again, this isn't something you plan out, and obviously sports are unpredictable. That's the nature of the game here now. But from a fan's perspective, we're going to continue to look and work, and I feel their disappointment as much as they do."

"It is on my shoulders each and every day."

Fan anger and attendance concerns have become increasingly relevant as losses mount.

"It is on my shoulders each and every day. You don't just sit there last year and win a President's Trophy and feel like, 'OK, put your feet up, it's all good,'" said Cheveldayoff.

"The NHL is a very expensive league for people to come and watch. Certainly, the players are aware of it, too. That's how their salaries are paid. It's the passion that pays us all, so to speak. You can never, ever take anything in this game for granted, certainly not the fans.

"But I think if you're a true fan of any team, the ups and the downs and the celebrations and the heartbreaks are all part of fandom. What makes sports the most unpredictable thing is that."

Despite seemingly insurmountable odds, Cheveldayoff still believes this team can compete for a championship.

"I think if you look at this core, it's a strong core. It's a good group of players. A lot of them are still in their prime and are going to be in their prime for a period of time," he said.

"I think that it's just the opportunity to find some additional players, some additional people that fit to surround that core to make it better."

As a result, don't expect a major organizational pivot toward selling or rebuilding, not with Connor Hellebuyck, Mark Scheifele, Kyle Connor, Josh Morrissey and Adam Lowry all under long-term contracts.

"My commitment to them hasn't wavered. My commitment to ownership hasn't wavered," said Cheveldayoff.

"In a situation like this, all we can control right now is the next game in front of us. I don't think that group in there feels that they're down and out of it. I think if you look at the way things have happened even with some other teams in the NHL this year, things can happen quickly the other way as well if you get on the right track."



<https://www.winnipegfreepress.com/breakingnews/2026/01/05/jets-hoping-theres-no-place-like-home>

***Jets hoping there's no place like home  
Club looks to climb out of league's basement during homestand***

By: Mike McIntyre

You'll forgive Logan Stanley for losing track of just how deep the current nosedive has become. The Winnipeg Jets defenceman, speaking with the media on Monday, was asked about the keys to climbing out of an extended slump like the one his team is experiencing.

"Not taking a shift off or a period off or a night off. We miss a little bit of compete and passion sometimes, and that's tough when you're losing 10 in a row and you're down in the dumps," said Stanley.

A slight correction: the Jets have lost nine in a row so far, though double digits could be looming as they open a five-game homestand Tuesday night against the Vegas Golden Knights. Stanley won't be able to try and help the cause as he serves a one-game suspension for sucker-punching Brady Tkachuk during Saturday's 4-2 loss in Ottawa.

He explained himself to the media, essentially reiterating what he told the NHL's department of player safety during a phone hearing.

"He finishes his check in front of the bench and kind of starts a little bit of an altercation. He's trying to push me into the bench or whatever it is. When that's done, he's still kind of grabbing on, so I think we're fighting and I throw the first punch," said Stanley.

"Once he goes down, I obviously stop. I'm glad he's alright and not injured. I don't want to hurt anybody. That wasn't the goal."

Stanley said he had no idea Tkachuk had his right hand taped under his glove, which would have made him ineligible to fight under NHL rules (a match penalty would have resulted).

"I don't follow the Senators, I don't know anyone on their team, I don't know Brady personally. So, no," he said.

"I think it's just the heat of the moment. Adrenaline is pumping and I'm just thinking we're getting into a scrap. He's definitely a willing combatant and has fought many times in his career. When you do get in them, you want to be throwing first and not waiting to see what happens."

The league essentially ruled he decked an "unsuspecting player" which led to the one-game timeout.

"I don't play the game with regret. You can't play that way. I'll continue to play hard and on edge," he said.

"It obviously sucks to sit out. You want to play in every game. I'll use it as a little bit of rest in this crazy schedule and get a couple of good skates in and a couple of good workouts in the gym and reset and be ready to go (on Thursday)."

Based on line rushes during Monday's skate, it appears Haydn Fleury will take Stanley's spot in the lineup and skate with Luke Schenn on the third pairing, since Stanley and perpetual healthy scratch Colin Miller were the other duo.

"I think our game is getting closer. I know that sounds awful to say after losing (nine) in a row but we've just got to piece together 60 minutes and not have these lulls in a game," said Stanley.

"There are parts of our game that are really good and then we dip and all of a sudden we're down two goals or chasing the game again. It's just (about) finding a way to play a complete 60 (minutes)."

Why are these dips happening to a group that finished atop the NHL standings just a year ago?

"It's definitely a fair question to ask. We're asking ourselves the same thing," said Stanley.

"We're talking about it in here and it's definitely not acceptable. We've got an older team, we've got Stanley Cup champions, we've got guys who have been here for a long time and know how the game is supposed to be played. It's frustrating right now, but we can only focus on (Tuesday's) game and try to get two points."

The Jets will face a Golden Knights team with the same number of regulation wins (13) as they do through 40 games this season, and just two more victories overall (17). However, Vegas sits atop the Pacific Division, aided by 12 of their 23 losses coming in overtime or a shootout.

"We've got nine of our next 11 (on home ice). This is reality. We've got to be good. We've got to find a way," Jets head coach Scott Arniel said of the opportunity in front of his group.

"Those three games that we just played on the road — those were three games that we should have won. I do believe that (in) all three of them we had the opportunity. But there were moments, there were mistakes, there was, again, execution. There were certain situations where we found a way to lose those games."

Winnipeg's nine consecutive losses have all come by one goal (seven games) or two (including one with an empty-netter), suggesting the Jets are routinely snatching defeat from the jaws of victory.

"We're staying in games. Now we've got to go the next step. The next step is finding ways to win these games," said Arniel.

"And I think our leadership, I've talked to them about keeping the group up. We've got to stay up. You're not going to have any success if everybody's dragging themselves. I can't scream and holler all day long, but if I'm just scaring them into playing some game that they're not going to play, then it's not going to help us."

Veteran forward Nino Niederreiter — who has gone 15 games without a point and was a healthy scratch for the first time in his career last Thursday in Toronto — said everyone understands the urgency.

"I haven't produced in a lot of games and haven't done the things I'm supposed to do on the ice," he said of the benching.

"It's a good reminder that no day in this league (should be taken) for granted. Obviously I passed the 1,000 game mark (just last month) but hopefully many more games to come. But at the same time you've got to find a way within the group, within the organization to make changes."

Niederreiter was asked if there's a sense players are waiting for some kind of change to happen — whether it's a trade or a demotion — to wake everyone up.

"It's tough to say. If you're waiting for that, it could be you that has your foot out the door," he said.

"So it's a dangerous thing to just sit down and wait for something to happen. At the end of the day you've got to change whatever you can in your own part and that's where you've got to go with it."

For Niederreiter, that means going to the hard areas of the ice — like in front of the net — with greater frequency and showing the coaches he's worthy of more ice time than he's been getting lately. Based on Monday's skate, he looks to be playing on the third line beside Adam Lowry and Morgan Barron.

"My mindset now is going out there and doing whatever I can to earn more minutes," he said.

"The biggest thing is try not to be negative, try to be positive. And hope for a better outcome. But at the same time you can't just hope, you gotta go take."

### **Winnipeg Sun**

[https://www.winnipegsun.com/sports/winnipeg\\_jets/friesen-inaction-from-jets-kevin-cheveldayoff-a-head-scratcher/article\\_24625341-0db2-47cb-bb4a-f1895a23df38.html](https://www.winnipegsun.com/sports/winnipeg_jets/friesen-inaction-from-jets-kevin-cheveldayoff-a-head-scratcher/article_24625341-0db2-47cb-bb4a-f1895a23df38.html)

### ***FRIESEN: Inaction from Jets' Kevin Cheveldayoff a head-scratcher***

By Paul Friesen

Maybe it's time for a paper-bag night. What better way to send a message to the people who run the Winnipeg Jets?

One Jets fan did just that in Ottawa the other night, pulling a bag over his head with the words "From First to Worst" scrawled on the front, complete with a pair of teardrops drawn under the eye cutouts.

I don't know if GM Kevin Cheveldayoff caught the moment on the TV broadcast, but I figured he should know it's come to that, for some.

So I told him on Monday, when he held his mid-season Q & A with the media. I also asked what he'd say to anyone who might make the same statement when his last-place team begins a home stand on Tuesday.

"Certainly fans in our market are very, very passionate," the GM said. "And that is something that we care deeply about. This isn't something you plan out, and obviously sports are very

unpredictable. That's the nature of the game here right now. If you look at the situation here, over the course of time certainly we've had a lot of success.

"But from a fan's perspective, we're going to continue to look and work. And I feel their disappointment as much as they do."

Looking at Cheveldayoff's 15-year tenure, the phrase "we've had a lot of success" is certainly debatable.

I'd argue making the playoffs in six of the last eight seasons and seven times in 14 years – soon to be 15, barring a miracle – is best described as "some" success, not "a lot."

Winning four rounds spread out over those seven playoff seasons is modest, at best.

Last year's first-place regular-season finish and the seven-game thriller that followed in Round 1 against St. Louis eased some of the angst that had built up and continued to bring some of the fans back after a few years of attendance decline.

It remains to be seen what this year's plunge into the cellar will do.

The most puzzling part: the lack of action from the GM's chair.

While coach Scott Arniel juggles his lines, trying everything except the separation of Mark Scheifele and Kyle Connor – that's a subject for another day – his boss twiddles his thumbs and rues the draft picks he's traded away the last few years.

He did some of the latter on Monday.

"It is a concerning thing when you've traded a bunch of draft picks, or some of the draft picks that you've made haven't gotten to that level," Cheveldayoff said. "They are your lifeblood. And maybe not having some guys totally ready forced us to make some decisions in the summer that we did."

Like signing free-agent vets with little left in the tank, such as Jonathan Toews and Gus Nyquist.

The fact there are no prospects good enough on the farm and not enough draft picks to swing a deal these last few weeks as his team free-falls is a damning one-two punch for the architect of the whole thing.

This was supposed to be Year 3 of the wide-open window of Stanley Cup contention, the window that enticed players like Mark Scheifele, Connor Hellebuyck, Kyle Connor and Gabe Vilardi to stick around, long-term, for the view.

Instead, they're looking at a site littered with unmet expectations. Coming on the heels of 56- and 52-wins seasons, the Jets are on pace to win a smelly 30, showing all the resilience of a wet paper bag.

Good luck selling that over the last half of the season.

"Lots of it's on my shoulders each and every day," Cheveldayoff said. "The National Hockey League is a very expensive league for people to come and watch. The players are aware of it too. That's how their salaries are paid. It's the passion that pays us all, so to speak.

"But if you're a true fan of any team, the ups and the downs and the celebrations and the heartbreaks are all part of fandom."

So is the decision on when to bail.

At one point, Cheveldayoff was asked if he's done enough to give fans value for those dollars.

"Some decisions that we make obviously work, some decisions that we make don't," he said. "But when you don't make any decisions, that's just as fatal as well."

That seems to be the route he's chosen. Perhaps at this point, victory would be staying in last place and getting the No. 1 draft pick next summer.

Cheveldayoff didn't address that, or lay out any kind of plan at all, choosing the vagueness that has become all too predictable at these sessions.

"You don't just change things overnight," he said. "You have to keep working at it."

Any fans looking for a full mea culpa, or for hope, had come to the wrong place.

If they're looking for paper bags, well, those should be easy to find.

[https://www.winnipegssun.com/sports/winnipeg\\_jets/despote-nhl-standings-jets-coach-arniel-remains-unfazed/article\\_1c29b927-31ba-4c7f-a166-97aa9996a4bb.html](https://www.winnipegssun.com/sports/winnipeg_jets/despote-nhl-standings-jets-coach-arniel-remains-unfazed/article_1c29b927-31ba-4c7f-a166-97aa9996a4bb.html)

### ***Getting fired last thing on Arniel's mind as Jets prep for Vegas***

By Paul Friesen

His team may be all alone in the NHL basement, but Winnipeg Jets head coach Scott Arniel says he's not worried about his job security.

He's too busy trying to figure out how to get his club back on track.

"I have been around now 44 years, 25 years in coaching," Arniel said on Monday. "I'm not thinking about that. I've just got to do my job. Same thing I say to the players... you start worrying about the unknown, what's going to happen down the road, you're not focusing on what's happening today. So that's all I can do, is be the best coach I can be.

"Hopefully that starts (Tuesday) and a win for us."

Losers of nine straight, the Jets host Vegas on Tuesday, the start of five straight games, and nine of their next 11, on home ice.

After a three-game road trip produced zilch, they've fallen to 15-21-4, nine points out of the last playoff spot with eight teams to get past.

Yet, Arniel doesn't see it as hopeless.

"Because (if) we get going here, we're in that mix," he said of a crowded Western Conference. "But we've got to get going. We're in that mix if we change these one-goal games.

"And we're staying in games. The next step is finding ways to win these games."

The Jets have won just four of 18 one-goal games, the worst mark in the NHL.

Their troubles have been on both sides of the puck: an offence that's shrunk to 22nd place, a defence ranked 18th, the latter after two seasons of leading the league.

Winger Nino Niederreiter is one of several poster boys for the futility, as he's gone 15 games without scoring.

"I don't think I've ever been in a situation where there's so many guys having slumps at the same time," Niederreiter said. "I went and backtracked and I'm always slumping around the same time, which is this time, so it's nothing new to me. The only new part is that we lose a lot of hockey games, which makes it even harder."

A healthy scratch in Toronto last Thursday, Niederreiter says the hardest part is staying positive.

"I haven't produced in a lot of games and haven't done the things I'm supposed to do on the ice," he told reporters. "It's something that gets away from you when you get frustrated with your game, and when you're losing it doesn't help either.

"It's like you, if you're writing a bad newspaper story make sure you come up and write the next one better."

Players go through a mental battle in these situations, Niederreiter said, trying not to lose focus and sticking with the game plan.

As for hoping the organization makes a move to get some help, he says that's a slippery slope to go down.

"If you're waiting for that, it could be you that has your foot out the door. So it's a dangerous thing to just sit down and wait for something to happen. At the end of the day you've got to change whatever you can in your own part."

[https://www.winnipegssun.com/sports/winnipeg\\_jets/no-regrets-jets-stanley-takes-suspension-in-stride/article\\_df088cd1-2af5-4737-a42f-05d3a9013121.html](https://www.winnipegssun.com/sports/winnipeg_jets/no-regrets-jets-stanley-takes-suspension-in-stride/article_df088cd1-2af5-4737-a42f-05d3a9013121.html)

### ***No regrets: Jets' Stanley takes suspension in stride***

By Paul Friesen

Logan Stanley has no regrets about the right cross he landed on the mug of Ottawa's Brady Tkachuk on Saturday.

The Winnipeg Jets defenceman joined his team at practice on Monday, after learning the night before that the punch cost him a one-game suspension.

"No, I don't play the game with regret," Stanley said. "You can't play that way. I'll continue to play hard and on the edge. I'm never looking to hurt anybody and I'm glad he's alright."

Stanley got into a clash with the Senators captain at the Ottawa bench, taking a hit to start it, pulling Tkachuk's helmet off, then warding off the rugged forward's attempts to lift him into the bench.

The run-in ended when the 6-foot-7 Stanley delivered the punch, knocking Tkachuk to the ice.

"When that's done, he's still grabbing on, so I think we're fighting and I throw the first punch," Stanley explained. "Once he goes down, I obviously stop. I don't want to hurt anybody. That wasn't the goal."

Tkachuk never did drop his gloves.

"I obviously wasn't happy getting suckered," he told reporters in Ottawa on Monday. "But the league made its decision, and I'm over it. Honestly, I was still watching the play, then out of the corner of my eye I see the punch coming. Caught me by surprise. I didn't really expect it."

Not usually one to shy away from a scrap, Tkachuk, who's 6-foot-4, says he wasn't about to drop his gloves because he doesn't want to risk injury after having thumb surgery earlier this season.

Stanley says he had no idea his normally-feisty combatant was still protecting his hand.

"Not at all," he said. "I didn't know he had the tape on his hand. I don't follow the Senators, I don't know anyone on their team, I don't know Brady personally. It's just the heat of the moment. Adrenaline is pumping and I'm just thinking we're getting into a scrap. He's definitely a willing combatant and has fought many times in his career."

"When you do get in them, you want to be throwing first and not waiting to see what happens."

Stanley argued his case to the NHL Department of Player Safety in a Sunday hearing.

"That it was an altercation and if you want to start one with me, I'm more than willing to fight," is how he described his defence. "I've never had a hearing before, so I didn't really know what to expect. With no history of suspensions or warnings or fines, I figured I was getting a fine or a game."

Stanley will miss Tuesday's home game against Vegas, as the Jets start a five-game home stand.

He'll be eligible to return Thursday against Edmonton.

## **Canadian Press**

<https://www.tsn.ca/nhl/article/jets-gm-cheveldayoff-searches-for-answers-as-winnipeg-sinks-to-nhl-basement/>

### ***Jets GM Cheveldayoff searches for answers as Winnipeg sinks to NHL basement***

By The Canadian Press

WINNIPEG — Reporters asked plenty of questions, but Kevin Cheveldayoff had few solutions for how the Winnipeg Jets can climb out of the NHL basement.

The team's general manager held his mid-season meeting with the media on Monday while the club is mired in a nine-game losing streak (0-6-3) and sitting last in the league standings with 34 points (15-21-4) in 40 games.

It's an about-face from a year ago, when Winnipeg was second overall in the standings with 56 points (27-12-2) on Jan. 5 and finished the season as the Presidents' Trophy winner for having the league's top record of 56-22-4.

Cheveldayoff, the only general manager the team has known since it relocated to Winnipeg from Atlanta before the 2011-12 season, said the team's results are disappointing and surprising.

"Didn't necessarily see it coming," he said. "But if you look at all the different things, it's a tough league to win in and certainly the situation that we're in, be it one-goal games, be it not maybe playing to the defensive structure that has become our signature for the last couple of years, all of a sudden you find yourself in this predicament."

The Jets begin a five-game homestand Tuesday against the Vegas Golden Knights and play nine of their next 11 games at Canada Life Centre.

During their losing skid, Winnipeg has lost seven of the nine games by one goal.

Trying to find a trade to help the under-performing veteran squad or calling up players from their American Hockey League Manitoba Moose team is being considered in organizational meetings.

"You're talking about your own individual situation, you're talking about everyone else's situations, where they may go," Cheveldayoff said.

"You're having the conversations with other managers to see what their short-term and long-term plans are, and you deal with it accordingly."

He noted the Jets have given up some draft picks in the past few years and are "paying a little bit of a price for that right now."

The team lost forwards Nikolaj Ehlers, Mason Appleton and Brandon Tanev in free agency. It picked up forwards Gustav Nyquist, Cole Koepke, Tanner Pearson and Jonathan Toews, who missed the past two seasons for health reasons.



But it's only been Winnipeg's top line of Kyle Connor, Mark Scheifele and Gabriel Vilardi who are producing the bulk of the offence.

Many of the players counted on for secondary scoring are in serious droughts.

Nyquist hasn't scored in 31 games, Vladislav Namestnikov doesn't have a goal in 28 games, and Toews hasn't netted one in 24 games. Cole Perfetti hasn't scored in 16 games, and Nino Niederreiter in 15 outings.

The Jets' specialty teams have also dropped this season. Their power play is ranked 17th (19.1 per cent), and the penalty kill is 21st (78.3).

When asked what he thought of the job second-year head coach Scott Arniel has been doing, Cheveldayoff said the coaching staff is working "extremely hard."

"They're trying to do everything that they can," Cheveldayoff said. "From a management perspective, we have to look at different avenues at some point in time here to see if there is something available."

After Monday's practice, Arniel was asked whether he thinks about job security.

"I'm not thinking about that," Arniel said. "I've just got to do my job."

It's a message he also gives players.

"You start worrying about what's going to happen, the unknown, what's going to happen down the road, you're not focusing on what's happening today," Arniel said. "So that's all I can do, is be the best coach I can be."

"Hopefully, that starts (Tuesday), and a win for us and, hopefully, this helps us through this homestand. It's part of the business, but at the end of the day I've got to make sure me and my staff, that we're doing the right things to prepare our group."

As for how secure Cheveldayoff feels in his 15th season at the helm, he said he still has the passion for the job, the willingness to put in the grind and is up for the challenge.

"In this job here, you serve obviously at the pleasure of ownership and the ability to have that passion, and if you don't have it, then you should be getting out of the game," Cheveldayoff said.

"The fire still burns very, very deeply here."

**TSN.ca**

<https://www.tsn.ca/video/2026/01/05/do-the-jets-have-the-talent-to-turn-things-around-or-do-they-need-a-shake-up/>

***Do the Jets have the talent to turn things around or do they need a shake-up? (VIDEO)***

Do the Jets have the talent to turn things around or do they need a roster shake-up? What do you say to your team when nothing is going right? TSN Hockey analyst Bruce Boudreau joins

Domino's That's Hockey host Gino Reda to weigh in after Jets GM Kevin Cheveldayoff met with the media on Monday.

<https://www.tsn.ca/video/2026/01/06/whats-the-biggest-issues-with-the-winnipeg-jets-this-season/>

***What's the biggest issues with the Winnipeg Jets this season? (VIDEO)***

The Jets have had a turbulent first half of the season going from the reigning Presidents' Trophy winner to dead last in the league, and the questions keep building after Winnipeg's general manager Kevin Cheveldayoff didn't have any answers after he met with media on Monday. TSN's Hockey analyst Marty Biron joins Jay Onrait to share what he thinks the biggest issues are for the Jets, and if he thinks this group can climb out of the basement or if it's time to shake up the roster.