

***THREE THINGS: Jets comeback attempt falls short
Mark Scheifele scores twice and Logan Stanley had the other goal in 4-3 loss to Stars***

By Jamie Thomas

WINNIPEG – The Dallas Stars jumped out to a 3-0 second period lead and held on for a 4-3 win over the Winnipeg Jets at Canada Life Centre. The Jets fell to .500 on the season (14-14-1) with the loss. Mark Scheifele scored twice and Logan Stanley had the other goal, Kyle Connor had two assists and Eric Comrie finished with 15 saves. Winnipeg will continue the homestand Thursday when they welcome the Boston Bruins.

A LOT BETTER

After losing 6-2 in Edmonton on Saturday night, the Jets used the two days off between games to their advantage. Dallas scored 44 seconds into the game and led the whole night but Winnipeg carried most of the play especially 5-on-5 and outshot the Stars 33-19.

"Yeah, I thought we played great. You know, that's obviously a stretch of games - well, that Edmonton game - that we like our game," said Scheifele.

"It was nice to get two days of rest before this one, so, you can look at that one and look what worked, and keep doing that."

NOT GIVING UP

The Jets top line had a productive first period, but it really picked things up in the second period down by a few goals. Mark Scheifele started things off at 11:04 when he forced Nils Lundqvist to turnover the puck, Scheifele then one-timed a pass from Kyle Connor past DeSmith for his 15th of the season.

With just over a minute left in the second and with their power play just ending, the Jets won a puck battle in the corner, the puck ended up on Josh Morrissey's stick, and he spotted a wide open Scheifele to get the Jets within one goal.

After Dallas made it 4-2 with their second power play goal of the night, the Jets didn't back off as Logan Stanley pulled Winnipeg within one goal again pouncing on his own rebound.

"The scores 3-nothing, but we didn't feel like we were out of the game. We thought we were playing well and we missed some chances early, and they capitalized on a couple mistakes," said Logan Stanley.

"So we thought we were right in it, and I thought we did a good job responding."

SPECIAL TEAMS

For the sixth straight game the Jets gave up a power play goal (two tonight against the third best power play in the league) and had four power plays of their own including one late in the game that would have tied the contest. Dallas did not allow the Jets to get set up on their final man advantage of the night. It's now seven straight games that Winnipeg has gone without a power play goal.

"That's something they're good at," said Mark Scheifele.

"That's an opportunity where we need to get one, or at least get some opportunities or get some chances. It sucked that we didn't."

NHL.com

<https://www.nhl.com/news/dallas-stars-winnipeg-jets-game-recap-december-9-2025>

***Stars hold off Jets, extend point streak to 11
Rantanen has 3 assists for Dallas; Scheifele scores twice for Winnipeg***

By Darrin Bauming

WINNIPEG -- Mikko Rantanen had three assists, and the Dallas Stars extended their point streak to 11 games by holding off the Winnipeg Jets for a 4-3 win at Canada Life Centre on Tuesday.

Rantanen has 14 points (three goals, 11 assists) on a seven-game point streak.

"He's such a dangerous, elite player, right? And you can't win without those superstars and you can't win without a power play like that," Dallas coach Glen Gulutzan said. "And he's a huge part of that, and he's a part of the fabric of our leadership there. So, you can't say enough about the guy."

Esa Lindell, Roope Hintz, Alexander Petrovic, and Jason Robertson scored for the Stars (21-5-5), who have won four straight and are 9-0-2 during their point streak. Wyatt Johnston had two assists, and Casey DeSmith made 30 saves.

"A hard-fought divisional game. It's always like that in this building," DeSmith said. "We get out to a 3-0 lead and no lead is safe here. Obviously, they played hard and got back into the game, made it real interesting. Great job by our guys late. That was kind of a sticky situation there (with Winnipeg on a 6-on-4 advantage with their goalie pulled) and we really didn't give them anything."

Mark Scheifele scored two goals, Logan Stanley also had a goal, and Kyle Connor had two assists for the Jets (14-14-1), who have lost four of five (1-3-1). Eric Comrie made 15 saves.

"I think there's the threat of the opposition and how good of a team they are," Winnipeg coach Scott Arniel said. "We know what they're doing right now. ... But our pressure on them I thought helped an awful lot. Our forecheck was really good, we didn't spend a lot of time [in our defensive zone]. I know we made a couple mistakes that ended in the back of our net, the first one at the start of the game and obviously the one in the second, but for the most part we did a really good job defending when we didn't have the puck. That has to be more of what we look like as a group."

Lindell scored just 44 seconds into the first period, beating a screened Comrie with a point shot to give Dallas a 1-0 lead.

"There's room, we need to improve 5-on-5," Gulutzan said. "Special teams will carry a long way when you win that battle, especially with the goaltending we're getting with [DeSmith and Jake Oettinger], so we got three of the four working. But you know there's a lot of room for improvement in our 5-on-5 game."

Hintz made it 2-0 at 1:16 of the second period, finishing a quick, down low passing play with Johnston and Rantanen on the power play.

"You're not always going to be able to go by the book, especially on a power play," Johnston said. "So, I think it's important, and that's what we've been really good at this year, is just kind of being a little bit instinctual and just kind of playing hockey."

Petrovic pushed it to 3-0 at 2:31, scoring with a one-timer through traffic from the top of the right circle.

"I thought they were better than us 5-on-5," Gulutzan said. "I thought they had a lot of push 5-on-5. Again, I think when you lose the special teams game 2-0 it's hard to win. But the rest of their game looked intact, so for me, you know, they keep playing that way things (will) turn."

Scheifele cut it to 3-1 at 11:04, intercepting Nils Lundkvist's pass before Connor set him up for a snap shot from the right face-off dot.

"I thought we played great," Scheifele said. "It was nice to get two days of rest before this one, so you can look at that one and look at what worked, and keep doing that."

Scheifele scored six seconds after a power play expired to make it 3-2 at 18:52. He buried a one-timer from the same spot as his first goal of the night.

"Tonight was a good example. You want to get the result, you want to get wins," Scheifele said. "We got pucks deep, we had a good forecheck. We didn't give them a lot of time and space. Our 'D' were gapping up really well which made it tough for them to make any plays, so a lot of guys played really good."

Robertson scored with a one-timer on the power play to push the lead to 4-2 at 4:46 of the third period. Robertson has scored in 12 of the Stars' past 15 games and leads the team with 19 goals.

"The 'PK' was huge," Johnston said. "Some huge kills there, especially that one at the end. Couple ones on the power play and then Casey [DeSmith] was awesome."

Stanley scored on his own rebound at 5:54 for the 4-3 final.

"I think we liked a lot of our game tonight. I thought that we were the better team and maybe deserved a little better, but that's kind of the funk we're in right now," Stanley said. "We keep battling through it. That's a good start and a good kind of game plan for us going forward. We want to play like that. I thought we did a lot of good things."

NOTES: The Stars went 4-for-4 on the penalty kill and have now killed 29 straight power plays dating back to Nov. 25 (nine games). ... DeSmith (7-0-3) extended his point streak to 10 games. He is the third goaltender in Stars history with a run of that length, joining Ed Belfour (11 games in 1998-99) and Scott Wedgewood (10 games in 2023-24). ... Scheifele has 10 points (five

goals, five assists) on an eight-game point streak. ... Connor has nine points (four goals, five assists) on a six-game point streak.

Winnipeg Free Press

<https://www.winnipegfreepress.com/breakingnews/2025/12/09/silver-linings-not-enough>

Silver linings not enough Jets' loss to Stars follows familiar script

By: Ken Wiebe

The silver linings were there in plain sight and it didn't require excessive squinting or a pair of rose-coloured glasses to see them.

Yet, for a team like the Winnipeg Jets in the midst of an increasingly difficult stretch, this 4-3 loss to the Dallas Stars had a familiar tone.

It was close to the template, but just not quite close enough.

There were improvements in five-on-five play and defensive-zone structure in this battle against one of the best teams in the NHL, but ultimately, it's another loss for the Jets to a team above the playoff line.

Those have been far too plentiful of late, which is why the Jets are currently on the outside looking in.

During times like this, the Jets are trying to build on the positives, while fully recognizing there's another level they need to reach to turn things around.

"We liked a lot of our game. We were the better team and maybe deserved a little better, but that's kind of the funk we're in right now," said Jets defenceman Logan Stanley. "We've got to keep battling through it. That's a good start and a good game plan for us going forward. We did a lot of good things."

With just five wins during the past 17 games (5-11-1), the Jets fell to .500 for the season at 14-14-1 and they haven't posted a W over a team above the playoff line since Nov. 1 against the Pittsburgh Penguins.

That means the Jets have to try and straddle that fine line between trusting the process, while trying to limit the mistakes that have cost them valuable points in the standings and left them staring up at teams like the Stars and Colorado Avalanche, who are in a two-way race for top spot in the Central Division.

"It's a bit of both," said Jets centre Mark Scheifele. "You want to get the result, you want to get wins. You have to look at that one and look at what went well and keep trying to fight for that every night."

Let's take a closer look at what transpired in this one:

STAYING HOT

Scheifele banged home a pair of one-timers from nearly the identical spot, moving him back into the team lead for goals with 16.

The first one, set up by Kyle Connor after a defensive-zone blunder by Nils Lundqvist, got the Jets on the board after they fell behind 3-0.

Then, moments after a minor penalty to Wyatt Johnston had expired, Josh Morrissey made a cross-ice feed and Scheifele blasted another shot past Stars backup goalie Casey DeSmith.

On a night when Jets head coach Scott Arniel shuffled the lines before the game and again while it was ongoing in an effort to find some additional scoring, the Jets' top line led the way with two of the three goals.

One of the ways the Jets can try and work their way through this is by getting some additional production from the other three forward lines.

PK SPRINGS A LEAK

The Jets penalty kill has been an asset this season and resided inside the Top-10 for the majority of the first third of the season, but it hasn't been quite as efficient of late, allowing a power-play marker in six consecutive games.

After the Jets played a strong opening period, they gave up a power-play goal to Roope Hintz that made it 2-0.

Then in the third period, the Stars had great puck movement and possession in the offensive zone before Jason Robertson ripped home a one-timer of his own to restore the two-goal cushion.

"I hate saying a rough-stretch type thing, there's mistakes that happen, too," said Arniel. "Obviously that's a real good power play. Both of them, we got caught on the length, we were stuck out there tired and then it's more of a pack mentality, you kind of drop back on it. You've got to stay tighter to the net.

"The hard part is we didn't get any clears when we needed to. And then when your penalty killers are that tired and they have a good power play, they're going to move the puck around. As they did. As we did on ours, we caught their penalty killers tired at the end. It needs to be better. That was a heck of a game from us and to give up two PK goals, it's the difference."

The Jets lost the special-teams battle 2-0 in this game, though the second Winnipeg goal actually came with four forwards still on the ice and Johnston not yet back in the play despite coming out of the penalty box seconds earlier.

The Stars entered the contest with the third-ranked power play in the NHL and it has played a big role in the success for the team trying to chase down the Avalanche in the Central Division.

"It's been the single biggest reason why we're in the position that we are, especially with the way it started the year," said Gulutzan. "It got us on some solid ground."

THE CHANT

It's not uncommon for M-V-P chants to rain down from the rafters inside Canada Life Centre, but those are usually reserved for reigning Hart Trophy winner and three-time Vezina Trophy winner Connor Hellebuyck.

On Tuesday night, the chorus was reserved for Stanley, who took the initial shot and scored on his own rebound at 5:54 of the third period to once again make it a one-goal game.

"No, I didn't hear that," said Stanley. "It was nice to get one (goal) and make the game close."

Stanley is up to four goals and 10 points for the season — and his four goals already represent a career-high for the 18th overall pick from the 2016 NHL Draft.

THE STRATEGY

It was a bold strategy by Stars head coach Glen Gulutzan to leave goalie Jake Oettinger in the bullpen on this night, but not as bold as one might think about how well DeSmith has played this season.

"He's given us everything you can ask for," said Gulutzan. "It's important now in the league, especially in an Olympic year but in the league in general. Just with the workload, you have to have two guys and we really do. It's nice for a coach to have that luxury."

Oettinger is expected to be on Team USA along with Jets goalie Connor Hellebuyck and either Jeremy Swayman of the Boston Bruins or Spencer Knight of the Chicago Blackhawks.

KEY PLAY

A power-play marker from Stars sniper Jason Robertson — who is up to 19 goals this season — at 4:46 of the third period proves to be the game-winner.

THREE STARS

Mikko Rantanen, Stars: Chipped in three assists.

Mark Scheifele, Jets: Scored two goals.

Wyatt Johnston, Stars: Produced two assists.

EXTRA, EXTRA — The Jets scratches were defenceman Colin Miller and forward Gustav Nyquist, who was out for a fourth consecutive game as a healthy scratch. Nyquist, who has no goals and six assists in 20 games this season, had never been a healthy scratch during his NHL career before that. What has the message been from Arniel to Nyquist?

"You know what, just be patient," said Arniel. "He knows, he's an older guy, a veteran guy and he's been good with it. His opportunity will come again, just take advantage of it when it does."

Prior to the game, the Jets reassigned defenceman Elias Salomonsson to the Manitoba Moose of the American Hockey League, leaving them a spot to use when fellow blue-liner Haydn Fleury is activated off injured reserve. Salomonsson had no points in four games, showing glimpses of his long-range potential.

By going 7-3 during their past 10 games, the Moose have improved to 13-9-2 and currently sit second in the Central Division standings with 28 points.

David Gustafsson leads the Moose with 14 points in 23 games, while off-season addition Walker Duehr leads the team with eight goals.

***Toews taking demotion in stride
Jets' forward moves from second centre to fourth-line winger***

By: Mike McIntyre

We take you back to July 4, when the Winnipeg Jets were publicly celebrating the signing of hometown hockey hero Jonathan Toews with a glitzy news conference at the downtown rink.

"There's a lot of names at the top of the list of who is a free agent, but I'd like to think we got the best one," Jets head coach Scott Arniel told reporters that day.

Then, when asked where Toews might fit into the lineup, the bench boss recalled a telephone chat the two men had shared prior to pen being put to paper.

"One the conversations was, 'Arnie, I don't want anything given to me, I'll start on the fourth line,'" said Arniel, who laughed at the notion.

"I don't think that would go over very well, a month or two on the fourth line."

Fast forward to the present, and history shows Toews was immediately given second-line duties on a team coming off its best season in franchise history.

But now — two months after his NHL comeback story began — there was Toews down on the fourth line. And not even at his natural position of centre, but on the right wing beside Morgan Barron and Cole Koepke.

"I've always prided myself on the way I play at both ends of the rink and playing a two-way game as a centreman."

So how, exactly, is that going over?

"I think there's a little part of it where it's a little bit of a check to your ego," Toews told the Free Press prior to puck drop against the Dallas Stars.

"And I think I've always prided myself on the way I play at both ends of the rink and playing a two-way game as a centreman, so the second you kind of see your name on the wing, it's a bit of an adjustment."

This is obviously not how anyone drew things up, but desperate times call for desperate measures. And the slumping Jets simply can't afford to wait any longer to see if the struggling Toews can re-discover his game, at least not in a prominent role.

Arniel said Toews took the demotion like a champ.

"That's the part about Jonathan, he's been fantastic about everything. Our very first conversation, way, way back in the summer, was just, 'I want to fit in and I just want to do whatever I can to help the team win,'" Arniel said.

"I didn't envision him being where he is right now. I'm just trying to get four lines going and I'm trying to get him going."

Toews has just one point — a secondary assist — over his last 12 games. His nine points (three goals, six assists) in 28 games are the fewest of any NHL team's second-line centre except for the last-place Vancouver Canucks.

"It's just taking a little bit of the wear and tear of (Toews) having to defend all of the time in our end of the rink," Arniel said of the shift to the wing.

"At the end of the day, he's open. For me, with Jonathan, he just wants us, first, to have success. The biggest thing is us winning, that's what he cares most about. However it comes about, wherever he is and the part he plays, however large or small. Because that's what he wants first and foremost."

The Jets — and Toews himself — have always insisted this relationship was never about how he plays in October, November or even December. The hope was for him to keep building, with the payoff coming in the spring, where his three Stanley Cups might help lead to a lengthy playoff run.

There's just one potential problem.

"We've got to get in," said Arniel. And right now, the Jets are on the outside looking in, and a lack of production from Toews along with plenty of his ice-cold teammates is a big reason why.

"With Jonathan, he just wants us, first, to have success. The biggest thing is us winning, that's what he cares most about."

The original plan was for Toews to anchor Winnipeg's second line with Cole Perfetti and fellow free-agent signing Gustav Nyquist on the wings. Against the Stars, none of them were in the top six: Toews was on the fourth line, Perfetti was moved to the third line with Vlad Namestnikov and Tanner Pearson, and Nyquist was a healthy scratch for a fourth straight game.

"Regardless of (where) your name is on that that board and the lineup you just want to go out there and help your team, and I think we've been working hard as a group to break through and find some offence," said Toews.

The 37-year-old admitted the NHL game has changed considerably during his two-year, health-related hiatus, which has caught him by surprise at times.

"Everyone on the ice is so skilled nowadays and the game is so fast. There's not a lot of room," he said.

"For me, it's not just when I have the puck and getting my feet moving and creating space for myself, it's playing a little bit better without the puck and being a little bit more of a threat to be a shooter in certain areas when my teammates or my linemates have the puck."

Toews insisted he's feeling "better and better" physically with each passing game, even if the results aren't showing. All of which can take an emotional toll on a proud athlete not used to any type of struggle.

"Sometimes it's a little bit easier to not get wrapped up in your own thing when the team's going through it. You tend to find a way to gravitate to the energy that the locker room needs when we're all going through something like that," he said.

"Everyone on the ice is so skilled nowadays and the game is so fast. There's not a lot of room."

"I think it's just trying to be a positive, lighthearted energy that's showing up grateful to play hockey and grateful to go to work and to be able to do it in a locker room like this every day. You keep reminding yourself of the big picture of what things look like and what they could look like at the end of the year."

A little reality check never hurts either — such as the one he and his teammates got on Monday afternoon when they made their annual holiday visit to the Children's Hospital and Children's Rehabilitation Centre.

"It's easy to get caught up and focus on your problems or the things that you feel aren't going perfectly well in your life. But then when you go visit people who are going through some real stuff, it snaps you out of that immediately," said Toews.

"It definitely gives perspective. I think it gives you a little bit more inspiration, too, to keep counting your blessings instead of focusing on the negative and just going from there. I think it was a good thing that we did that. Obviously a lot of guys in this locker room understand the influence that they have, so it's pretty cool to be a part of that."

Winnipeg Sun

<https://winnipegsun.com/sports/winnipeg-jets-seeing-stars-after-a-one-goal-loss-to-dallas>

Winnipeg Jets seeing Stars after a one-goal loss to Dallas

By Gordon Anderson

Jason Robertson's power-play goal early in the third period stood up as the winner as the Dallas Stars trimmed the Jets 4-3 at Canada Life Centre on Tuesday night.

After Logan Stanley cut the deficit to 4-3 with his fourth goal of the season at 5:54 of the third period, the Jets had a power play late in the frame when Mikko Rantanen was whistled for tripping at 17:30.

The Jets pulled Eric Comrie with 1:22 remaining following a faceoff to the left of Casey DeSmith. Winnipeg didn't get set up once in the offensive zone, thereby failing to registering a single shot on the Dallas netminder.

The Jets came into the game with the 14th ranked penalty kill, allowing 17 goals against in 91 chances, an efficiency rate of 81.3%. The Jets have allowed at least one power-play goal in six consecutive games. The Stars entered league play on Tuesday night with the third-ranked power play at 31.6%.

Overall, the Jets went 0-4 with the man advantage. The Stars capitalized twice on four chances. Robertson's 19th goal of the season occurred at 4:46 of the third period.

Mark Scheifele scored twice for the Jets. On his 29th birthday, Kyle Connor chipped in with two assists. Comrie (6-7-1) stopped 15 of 19 shots in defeat. Winnipeg is 4-6-1 in one-goal games. Dating back to Nov. 21, a one-goal loss to the Carolina Hurricanes, the Jets have lost eight games, three of them in regulation time and one in the shootout.

Esa Lindell, Roope Hintz, Alexander Petrovic and Jason Robertson scored for the Stars. Rantanen chipped in with three assists. Dallas improved to 35-22-5 against the Jets all-time. Dallas is 11-1-4 on the road this season, including a 5-4 win over the Jets in the season opener on Oct. 9. Their only regulation loss was a 3-1 decision to the St. Louis Blues on Oct. 18. DeSmith (7-1-0) made 30 saves for the win.

The Jets play host to the Boston Bruins on Thursday night.

Ice Chips

Colin Miller and Gustav Nyquist were scratched. Nyquist was a healthy scratch for the fourth consecutive game, beginning Dec. 3 in Montreal. Nyquist has zero goals and six assists in 20 games.

"You know what, (he must) be patient," was Scott Arniel's message to Nyquist. "It really is. Be patient. He knows, he's an older guy, a veteran guy, and he's been good with it. His opportunity will come again. He just has to take advantage of it when it does."

Early woes

The Stars opened the scoring 44 seconds into the game when Lindell ripped a shot passed Comrie from the top of the faceoff circle to the right of the net with Josh Morrissey and Sam Steel fighting for position in front of the net. The goal was Lindell's fourth of the season. The Stars also scored with their first shot on the net in second period when Hintze netted a power-play goal at 1:16. Dallas also scored with their second shot of the second when Petrovic beat Comrie through a screen at 2:31. The Stars are normally in automatic win mode when they score first, as they improved to 14-2-0 when they grab the advantage. Consequently, the Jets are now 2-11-0 when the opposition scores first. Even though it didn't cost the club on the scoreboard, the second shot for Dallas in the opening period was a short-handed breakaway for Steel, but Comrie made a right leg save on the deke.

Lean on 'er

Scheifele's 15th goal of the season at 11:04 of the second period entered the net behind DeSmith at 75 miles per hour. His second goal at 18:52 of the middle frame registered at 82.3 mph. According to NHL Edge, the Jets No. 1 centre averages 81.77 mph with his shot. His hardest blast this season was clocked at 86.91 mph against Seattle on Oct. 23. Twenty-two of his registered shots are between 70 and 80 mph. Seven of his registered shots are between 80-90 mph. By comparison, Morgan Geekie of the Bruins leads the league with a blast of 103.3 mph. Jets defenceman Colin Miller registered the third hardest shot this season at 102.47 mph against the Capitals on Nov. 26.

https://winnipeg.sun.com/sports/checking-the-ego-into-the-back-seat-for-jets-jonathan-toews?taid=69396ef0f48c0f000171c497&utm_campaign=trueanthem&utm_medium=social&utm_source=twitter

Checking the ego into the back seat for Jets' Jonathan Toews

By Gordon Anderson

The opening two months of the season have been rather forgetful for Winnipeg's prize free agent signing back in the summer, leading to unforeseen changes.

At practice on Monday morning, Jonathan Toews was knocked back to the fourth line, skating up and down the left wing with Morgan Barron and Cole Koepke. On Tuesday, the situation remained static with Toews in the same place, on the fourth line with Barron down the middle and Gus Nyquist and Koepke rotated in and out on the right side.

"I didn't envision him being where he is right now," Jets head coach Scott Arniel said on Tuesday morning. "I'm just trying to get four lines going, and I'm trying to get him going (with the move to the wing). It's just taking a little bit of the wear and tear off him having to defend all of the time in our end of the rink. Not being in situations offensively where he can spend a lot of his energy."

Dollars to doughnuts, if Arniel didn't expect to see Toews in this current position, it's fair to say the player himself didn't envision this scenario when he was officially unveiled at Canada Life Centre on July 4.

Toews remains positive

"There's a little part of it where it's a little bit of a check to your ego," Toews said. "I've always prided myself on the way I play at both ends of the rink and playing a two-way game as a centreman, so the second you kind of see your name on the wing, it's a bit of an adjustment."

The 37-year-old signed a one-year deal with a base salary of US \$2 million, plus several performance-based bonuses.

When the Jets inked the Winnipeg native, he was penciled in as the potential answer at the second line centre position, both at 5-on-5 and the power play, on a line with Cole Perfetti and Gustav Nyquist.

The original plan has gone kerflooey, to say the least. All the best laid plans of mice and men often go awry.

Perfetti has two goals and two assists in 14 games, still working his way back from a high-ankle sprain he suffered late in the pre-season and Nyquist, a healthy scratch after the Dec. 1 against the Buffalo Sabres, has zero goals in 20 games. Nyquist was a healthy scratch against the Dallas Stars on Tuesday night.

Toews has three goals and six assists in 28 games played. He is minus-13, and by some metrics one of the slowest skaters in the league with, according to NHL Edge, below the 50th percentile in speed with a 21.64 miles per hour skating speed burst as his highest rating. His slowest speed of the season so far was recorded at 20.32 mph in the loss to the Oilers on Saturday evening.

He has the right attitude to weather the storm surging around his lack of production and queries about his foot speed.

"It takes you a minute to get past that and to move on, and to just be happy to get the chance to go out there and do a job, and don't think too much about it," he said.

Given the accomplishments of the player, Arniel is impressed with Toews' professionalism. And that shouldn't be a surprise, as the No. 19 in blue and white said he wanted to be treated like one of the guys when he met with the media in the summer.

Arniel loves coaching Toews

"He's been fantastic about everything," Arniel said. "From our very first conversation back in the summer was just 'I want to fit in, and I just want to do whatever I can to help the team win.'" The biggest thing is winning, that is what he cares most about. Wherever he is and the part he plays, however large or small that's what he wants, first and foremost."

Toews was a bona fide first line player the minute the Chicago Blackhawks drafted the former North Dakota Fighting Hawks forward with the third pick overall in the 2006 draft.

In this specific case, there is no playbook for a player returning after a two-year absence due to health issues, when prior to his health problems he was an all-star player virtually every year, and a no-doubter for the hockey hall of fame when his name is on the ballot for the first time.

"It's new to me, but it's really new to him," Arniel said. "That's why we're having these conversations. We've had some good ones since the season has been going. If I'm going to do something, I've got to make sure that he understands why I'm doing it. The other side too, is that he's got a lot of knowledge in his head. We'll look at different things that may help him, whether that's through video or just communication. If we just stay on top of it that way, then the two of us are kind of on the same page."

TSN.ca

<https://www.tsn.ca/video/2025/12/10/whats-hurting-the-jets-the-most-right-now/>

What's hurting the Jets the most right now? (VIDEO)

The Jets only have 5 wins to show for over their last 17 games, what's hurting them the most over this skid? Craig Button joins Glenn Schieler to discuss.

<https://www.tsn.ca/nhl/video/2025/12/09/insider-trading-jets-goaltender-hellebuyck-could-return-from-injury-next-week/>

Insider Trading: Jets goaltender Hellebuyck could return from injury next week (VIDEO)

The TSN Hockey Insiders join Gino Reda to discuss the return of Connor Hellebuyck being tracked in days and not weeks for the Jets, Team Canada's roster consideration list being trimmed down more, how serious the NHL is taking gambling, the Avalanche wearing Nordiques jerseys for their game in Montreal on January 29 and Gary Bettman's future.

Global Winnipeg

<https://globalnews.ca/news/11571019/winnipeg-jets-cant-overcome-three-goal-deficit-in-4-3-loss-to-stars/>

Winnipeg Jets can't overcome three-goal deficit in 4-3 loss to Stars

By Christian Aumell & Russ Hobson Global News

If the Winnipeg Jets are going to start winning hockey games consistently, they're going to have to stop digging themselves deep holes that they can't escape from.

Despite long stretches of solid play, the Jets could not overcome a three-goal deficit in falling to the Dallas Stars 4-3 Tuesday night at Canada Life Centre.

The Jets gave up a goal in the game's first minute and found themselves trailing by three early in the second period. They clawed their way back in it and hung tough right to the bitter end but fell just one goal short to lose for the fourth time in their last five games.

"I thought we played great," said Jets forward Mark Scheifele. "We got puck deeps. We had a good forecheck, didn't give them a lot of time and space. Our 'D' were gapped really well, made it tough for them to really make any plays, so, a lot of guys played really good.

"We got to look at that one and look at what went well and keep trying to fight for that every night."

Scheifele scored twice in the victory, giving him an eight-game point streak. He logged an incredible 25:47 of ice time in the loss.

Jonathan Toews had a team-low 8:36 of ice time after being moved down to the fourth line.

It was a much better performance by the Jets against one of the league's hottest teams after Saturday's humiliating loss in Edmonton, but still not good enough according to the head coach.

"We're still gonna need other people to step up," said Jets head coach Scott Arniel. "I really liked a lot of what happened tonight, but I still think there's more from other people. We're a team, when we're 20 guys, everybody has to be pulling their weight."

The Stars are now unbeaten in regulation in 11 straight games and still have just one regulation loss on the road all season.

The Jets special teams continue to be a problem as they surrendered a pair of power play goals to the Stars, while going 0-for-4 on the man advantage themselves, and are now 0-for-15 on the power play in their last seven games.

Just like in Edmonton Saturday and Buffalo last Monday, the Jets wasted no time in falling behind on the scoreboard.

With Winnipeg's top line and top D-pairing on the ice to start the game, the Stars hemmed the Jets in their own end before an Esa Lindell point shot beat Eric Comrie through traffic 44 seconds into the contest.

The Jets earned a power play a short time later, hoping to level the score. Instead, a blind backhand pass from Kyle Connor in his own end landed right on the stick of Sam Steel, giving him a breakaway that Comrie turned aside.

Despite the rocky first few minutes, the Jets did have some decent stretches of play. Gabriel Vilardi had a couple of good chances, getting turned away in close on the aforementioned power play and hitting the crossbar late in the period.

Winnipeg also killed off a Dallas power play en route to outshooting the Stars 11-6 through 20 minutes, but they continued to trail 1-0 into the second period.

The Stars began the second with 1:32 of power play time thanks to a suspect tripping call on Morgan Barron late in the first, and they made the Jets pay.

With the power play winding down, Jason Robertson sent the puck down low to Wyatt Johnston. The puck slid off his stick and through the crease to Mikko Rantanen, who slid it in front to Roope Hintz for a tap-in as Comrie was swimming out of position.

It went from bad to worse for Winnipeg as Dallas extended the lead 75 seconds later. Logan Stanley was stripped of the puck below the goal line by Mavrik Bourque, who circled in front and lost the handle on the puck before regaining it. He slid the puck to the point where Alex Petrovic blasted a shot through traffic that beat Comrie at the 2:31 mark.

With little energy in the building, the Jets needed a spark, and they got it with just over 11 minutes gone in the second.

Nils Lundkvist had the puck behind his own net and tried to make a stretch pass up the middle, which was a bad idea because Scheifele got in the way, knocking the puck down. It wound up on the stick of Connor, who held it for a moment before firing a pass back to Scheifele that he wired past Casey DeSmith for his 15th of the season.

Winnipeg earned a power play with 3:14 left in the period, and while they didn't score with the man advantage, it led directly to a goal that made it a one-goal game.

Moments before Johnston stepped out of the penalty box, Miro Heiskanen blocked a shot but it broke his stick, so he couldn't clear the puck. This created a scramble in the corner as Johnston tried to skate back into the play.

But before he could arrive on the scene, Winnipeg won the puck battle. Connor got the puck back to Morrissey, who sent it across to Scheifele for a one-timer that beat DeSmith up high for his second goal of the night.

Winnipeg outshot the Stars 14-8 in the second for a two-period advantage of 25-14, but they still trailed 3-2 where it mattered most heading to the third.

And if the Jets were going to complete the rally, they could have to buck some trends to do so. The Stars entered the night with a perfect 12-0 record when leading after 40 minutes while Winnipeg was 1-9 when trailing after two.

Just over three minutes into the third, Dylan DeMelo was sent off for high-sticking, and Dallas struck gold on the power play for the second time in the game.

The Stars cycled it around and around before setting up the perfect play. Robertson was set up at the faceoff dot to Comrie's left and got the puck from Hintz who was below the goal line. Robertson sent it back to the point to Heiskanen, who sent it to the other side to Rantanen, back to Heiskanen, back to Robertson, over to Heiskanen and back to Robertson again for a one - timer that Comrie had no chance of stopping.

That goal came at the 4:46 mark of the third, but just 68 seconds left, the lead was cut back to one.

The puck bounced around the slot in the Dallas end with several players unable to get a handle on it before Stanley jumped into the play. He collected it and sent a shot on goal that was stopped but the rebound careened right back to him, and he deposited the puck into an open net for his fourth of the season.

Winnipeg had some good looks on a power play a few minutes later but couldn't cash in. Likewise, the Stars nearly extended the lead on a power play but couldn't quite click.

The Jets were once again granted a man advantage with 2:30 remaining when Rantanen was sent off for tripping, giving them a golden opportunity to try and tie the game and with 90 seconds to go. Comrie went to the bench to make it a 6-on-4.

But the Jets never got set up in the Dallas end as the clock ran down to zero, a disappointing end to a game where Winnipeg showed stretches of promise but once again failed to get two points in the standings.

Comrie stopped 15 shots in defeat while DeSmith made 30 saves. Winnipeg falls to 2-7-1 since Connor Hellebuyck went on injured reserve.

The Jets are back in action Thursday night when they host Boston. Pregame coverage starts just after 5 p.m. with the puck dropping just after 7 p.m.

<https://globalnews.ca/news/11571511/winnipeg-jets-loss-hope-analysis-edmonds/>

ANALYSIS: Another loss for Jets, but a glimmer of hope

By Paul Edmonds CJOB

It's difficult to sell Tuesday night's loss to the Dallas Stars as anything other than what it was for the Winnipeg Jets: another loss.

Following the 4-3 home-ice setback, Winnipeg has now won just two of its last 10 games and fallen to NHL .500 for the first time since the beginning of the season.

But when the last four weeks have been a perpetual search for not only answers, but also your game overall, Tuesday night might have offered a glimmer of hope and some signs that better days are, perhaps, ahead.

Of course, falling behind 44 seconds into the game and eventually finding themselves three goals in arrears didn't provide much optimism from the nearly 14,000 fans in attendance.

In fact, none of them would be faulted if there were a collective eye-roll and a here-we-go-again sentiment when Dallas scored twice, early in the second.

But the Jets never surrendered.

As the contest progressed, they fought back to get within a goal twice and pushed the Stars right to the final horn — a presence defenceman Neal Pionk mentioned on our post-game show that was “something to build on.”

And he's right.

There was a lot of foundational work laid Tuesday night, as the Jets looked familiar, like the team they feel they are, or can be again: quick, fast, hard to play against and connected, although there is still plenty of concrete to be poured in order for Winnipeg to build their game back to last year's form.

But in the end, regardless of the positive takeaways from Tuesday's game, trying to sell the outcome any other way other than exactly what it was would be difficult, because for the Jets, if it wasn't a win, it was simply another loss.

Canadian Press

<https://www.sportsnet.ca/nhl/article/rantanen-helps-surging-stars-ground-struggling-jets/>

Struggling Jets focus on positives despite loss to Stars

By Canadian Press

Mark Scheifele is going to focus on what went right rather than another loss for the Winnipeg Jets.

Scheifele scored twice in a 4-3 loss to the Dallas Stars on Tuesday, a game in which the Jets battled back after being down 3-0 early in the second period.

Maybe it was the rest from two days in-between their last game, or the line juggling that head coach Scott Arniel did that made him feel the Jets played “great.”

“It's nice being in your own bed. It's nice being at home on your home ice,” Scheifele said. “Who knows what it was, but you just have to look back on that game and reflect on what went well and keep doing that.”

Logan Stanley also had a goal and Kyle Connor picked up a pair of assists for Winnipeg (14-14-1). Eric Comrie stopped 15 shots for the squad that is 2-7-1 in its last 10 games and began a four-game homestand.

Jason Robertson scored his team-leading 19th goal of the season and Mikko Rantanen contributed three assists as the Stars extended their points streak to 11 games (9-0-2).

"We got pucks deep, we had a good forecheck," Scheifele said. "We didn't give them a lot of time and space.

"Our (defence) were gapping up really well, which made it tough for them to make any plays. So a lot of guys played really good."

The Jets had a power play with 2:30 left in the third period, but couldn't get the equalizer after pulling Comrie.

"That's an opportunity where we need to get one, or at least get some opportunities or get some chances," Scheifele said. "It sucked that we didn't."

Esa Lindell, Roope Hintz and Alexander Petrovic also scored for the Stars (21-5-5). Wyatt Johnston contributed a pair of helpers and backup Casey DeSmith stopped 30 shots.

Heading into the match, Arniel had rejigged all four of his lines to try to spark more secondary scoring. That included moving winger Gabriel Vilardi off the top line with Connor and Scheifele and putting Alex Iafallo into his spot.

"I really liked a lot of what happened tonight, but I still think there's more (to give) from other people," Arniel said. "We're a team, we're 20 guys, everybody has to be pulling their weight."

The coach thought his team defended better, especially knowing the way Dallas has been playing.

"You'd like these steps against that opponent to be a win," Arniel said. "But at the end of the day, I can't knock the guys and the work ethic. The compete was there. I knew it was going to have to be, but we have to do that against Boston (on Thursday).

"We can't just do that against Dallas because they're in our division. It has to be a constant from everybody, and that's what I'm going to try to harp on for the next couple days here."

Dallas scored twice on its four power-play chances, while Winnipeg came up empty in its four tries with the man advantage.

"That was a heck of a game from us and to give up two (penalty-kill) goals, it's the difference," Arniel said.

Winnipeg has now allowed a power-play goal in six consecutive games, extending a season-long streak.

"The pressure they have and they put on you, you have to move quick and things have to happen fast," Arniel said. "I thought there were times we did it. There were some looks there but, again, obviously getting into the zone was tough."

Stanley's goal, assisted by Vilardi, was the fourth of the season for the big defenceman, who also has six assists through 29 games.

He also came away feeling positive about the team's effort, especially when they were down 3-0.

“Yeah, the score is 3-0, but we didn't feel like we were out of the game,” Stanley said. “We thought we were playing well and we missed some chances early and they capitalized on a couple mistakes.

“So we thought we were right in it, and I thought we did a good job responding.”

The Athletic

<https://www.nytimes.com/athletic/6876827/2025/12/10/jets-top-line-scheifele-connor-arniel/>

Jets finally break up their top line: What we're seeing and why it might not help

By Murat Ates

Kevin Cheveldayoff, Scott Arniel and the rest of the powers that be who influence the Winnipeg Jets must believe they have time to fix what ails the club.

Otherwise, we would be seeing more commitment to change.

Even as Arniel has broken up the Jets' top line of Kyle Connor, Mark Scheifele and Gabriel Vilardi — a trio that has played more together than any other line in the NHL this season — it's clearly a half-measure. Connor and Scheifele are the two most dangerous forwards on the team. They've produced so much — Scheifele with 38 points, Connor with 37 — on the 26th-ranked Jets that they're still among the league's top scorers.

But the 14-14-1 Jets are outside the playoffs. They made it close against Dallas after disheartening losses to the Edmonton Oilers, Buffalo Sabres and Carolina Hurricanes but fell 4-3 and are 2-7-1 in their last 10 games. There are two players on the team who can drive results by themselves on any given shift — Scheifele and Connor — but they play almost exclusively together on what's become a one-line team.

It's still an enormous deal that Winnipeg broke up its top line at all, so let's dig into Arniel's reasoning, the Jets' hopes and what it all means. This is a major move, a half-measure and not a likely solution — all at the same time.

Why Arniel's changes make sense

The degree to which Winnipeg has become a one-line team is extraordinary. Nino Niederreiter is the only forward outside of Connor, Scheifele and Vilardi who has even close to half as many points as Connor and Scheifele do. The other eight forwards on what used to be Winnipeg's second, third and fourth lines all have less than one quarter of Scheifele's 38 points.

Nikolaj Ehlers' absence has cut the offence out of last year's line with Vladislav Namestnikov and Cole Perfetti. Adam Lowry's slow return to form has eroded the Jets' shutdown line's ability to generate goals off of a heavy, grinding cycle game. Jonathan Toews' lack of footspeed, combined with a lack of game-breakers on his wing, has limited him to nine points in 29 games — the worst scoring rate of his career.

Add it all up and the storyline in Winnipeg all week has been about a lack of confidence. The crisis goes beyond the standard tropes of squeezing the stick too tightly and misfiring on scoring chances and into the hallmarks of Winnipeg's team play. Niederreiter told The Athletic it's

affecting the reads the team makes on the ice, on everything from zone exits to the consistency with which the team sticks to its game plan when games get tough.

“You’re second-guessing your instincts,” Niederreiter said. “That’s where we’re at right now.”

The Jets, who were tied with Dallas for the NHL’s third-most potent offence last season, clearly needed to do something. Arniel’s rationale is that Connor and Scheifele are the one thing Winnipeg has going for it in the offensive zone right now, and Vilardi may be good enough to spark other players.

But Connor and Scheifele are on another level, even compared to Vilardi. They’re likely to be able to spark other players by themselves. Even so, that’s a tough sell for a coach who knows Connor and Scheifele create results — and who clearly hopes to be able to keep them together even as the team struggles.

“One thing that happens when those two are on the ice (is) they are in the offensive zone a lot,” Arniel said on Tuesday. “I can break those two guys up and then three games from now, we are not scoring goals and now all of a sudden KC is not scoring, and I have to try and get him back going again. I’ve got two guys up and running that know how to play with each other, and we will work it that way for now.”

Like it or loathe it, Arniel’s reasoning is clear and he’s communicating clearly about it: He hopes to create a spark on lines two, three or four without losing the goals Connor and Scheifele are creating for him on line one. He sees risk in separating the one successful duo he has going for him right now.

Connor and Scheifele have become a little bit like Winnipeg’s equivalent of Connor McDavid and Leon Draisaitl — except the Jets don’t break them up. The Jets’ biggest need is a second line that can also win its minutes. They know Connor and Scheifele win their minutes together. They don’t know if Scheifele can drive one line while Connor drives another because Arniel hasn’t tried it.

Nathan MacKinnon and Martin Necas are the only forwards to play more total minutes together than Connor and Scheifele have this season. The Colorado Avalanche have beaten their opponents 35-9 with MacKinnon and Necas on the ice, so one understands the dedication. The Jets have beaten teams 31-21 with Connor and Scheifele on the ice — a figure that is impressive, the best on the club, and not so otherworldly as to render the duo untouchable. They’re in a class of their own, well above Vilardi, Perfetti, Niederreiter, Toews and whomever else may be looked to as secondary scorers on the Jets.

It seems possible, although not guaranteed, that Winnipeg could find two viable forward lines by splitting them up. The guaranteed part — at least until Lowry gets up and running, Toews finds his game or Perfetti takes his next step — is that no other combination of forwards seems to work. Vilardi’s addition to Lowry’s line on Tuesday did give Winnipeg a new look, but Vilardi is the third-most dynamic of Winnipeg’s top three forwards. He was good on Tuesday — just not good enough to fix things by himself.

A quick look at the Jets’ most common forward lines shows that Connor-Scheifele-Vilardi is the gold standard— and that nothing else seems to be working.

In a world where they split their two best forwards, the Jets don't need each of Connor's and Scheifele's new lines to be better than the Connor-Scheifele-Vilardi trio was. That seems like an impossible ask. Instead, they need their new top two lines to add up to what their old top two lines did. That's much less difficult.

There may be human reasons to keep Connor and Scheifele together. They're clearly great together and Winnipeg's Plan A has always been to play them together. There may also be human reasons to spread the wealth. What must it feel like to play on any of the other three lines and know that even if you work your tail off, the best you can hope to do is survive your shift until the big guns get back out there? The team needs more than two forwards to be able to feel good about their contributions to the scoresheet.

What we saw against Dallas

Winnipeg opened its Tuesday night battle against the Dallas Stars with the following lineup.

It took Dallas 44 seconds to score against the new-look top line after a long shift in Winnipeg's zone, but the Connor-Scheifele chemistry was on display later in the game. Connor was Winnipeg's most dangerous forward on the night, followed closely by Scheifele on his line and Vilardi, who started the game with Lowry and Niederreiter. Arniel swapped Vilardi with Pearson midway through the second period.

The Jets were much happier with their game than they were against Edmonton over the weekend — and I agree with that assessment — but they lost again, even though Connor and Scheifele connected for two more goals.

The trio was reunited with six and a half minutes to go in the third period with the Jets down by one, showing Arniel still has the option of running out his big guns in key moments down the stretch.

"We're still going to need other people to step up," Arniel said. "I really liked a lot of what happened tonight but I still think there's more from other people. We're a team, we're 20 guys, everybody has to be pulling their weight."

What else the Jets might try from here

With no disrespect to Vilardi, there is an angle through which the Jets haven't broken up their top line at all. I instinctively sit forward when Morrissey, Connor or Scheifele have the puck on their stick. That seems like too short a list.

It may be that the Jets simply do not have the horses.

There is a segment of the readership that just responded with a wholehearted "duh, Murat" but I hold that key Jets will improve individually as this season goes along. I think it makes sense that Lowry, Perfetti, Dylan Samberg and yes, even the 37-year-old, fourth-line Toews will improve incrementally throughout the season. There may be internal gains available.

It doesn't look like enough, though — and that's the part that's most concerning. In the past, we lauded Cheveldayoff multiple times for a hot streak that included the 2022 Andrew Copp trade, the P.L. Dubois trade and the acquisitions of Niederreiter and Namestnikov for great prices. His biggest offseason acquisition, Toews, is a fourth-line winger right now. His second-biggest offseason acquisition, Gustav Nyquist, is a healthy scratch, while Brandon Tanev signed

elsewhere and Luke Schenn is not having success on the third pair. It may be that Cheveldayoff's bet was that he had the talent in-house and just needed playoff experience.

These Jets look like they need more talent, too.

The line changes we're seeing right now are not the end step. If they don't work, we may see Winnipeg make bolder lineup decisions, including trying to find out if Connor and Scheifele can drive their own lines. If that doesn't work, we may see minor trades or even something major. The Jets will likely work through those steps in sequence.

In the meantime, one example of forward lines with Connor and Scheifele split could include:

Iafallo — Scheifele — Vilardi
Connor — Barron — Perfetti
Niederreiter — Lowry — Namestnikov
Pearson — Toews — Koepke

It's all guesswork, but the theory is that the second line would improve by more than the first line got worse. By all means, make your own suggestions in the comment section.

Final thoughts

There were two other Jets news items on Tuesday. The first was Darren Dreger's report that Connor Hellebuyck could be back in net as soon as next week.

Dec. 20 would mark four weeks since Hellebuyck's arthroscopic procedure. It was described as "minor" at the time, with a four-to-six week suggested timeline. If Hellebuyck is ready to go ahead of schedule — assuming full health, without setbacks — then Winnipeg is in a better position to win games without finding instant solutions to its forward troubles. Perhaps the Jets feel like all they need to do is buy time, given they feel like they're playing better and they know their No. 1 goalie is coming back soon.

The second item was that Winnipeg assigned Elias Salomonsson to the Moose in the wake of Haydn Fleury's return to health. The Jets have yet to find a third pair that wins its minutes this season, with Logan Stanley and Colin Miller outscored 5-0, Fleury and Luke Schenn outscored 4-0, and Stanley and Schenn outscored 4-3. Salomonsson's underlying numbers were no better, but the 21-year-old showed promise and has a brighter future than the veteran right-handers in front of him. The Jets remain all-in on their veterans.

Every decision appears to be a doubling down on the existing process — even the ones Winnipeg makes to mix things up.