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***Vilardi leads Jets with goal, assist in win over Rangers
Vilardi ties career high with 27 goals, Jets finish road trip 1-1-1***

By Jamie Thomas

Kyle Connor scored the shootout winner to lift the Winnipeg Jets to a 3-2 victory over the New York Rangers at Madison Square Garden. Adam Lowry and Gabriel Vilardi scored for the Jets who finished their three-game road trip with a 1-1-1 record and also tasted victory in their final matinee game of the regular season improving that record to 8-1-2. Eric Comrie made 27 saves and is now 12-9-1. The Jets return home to host the Vegas Golden Knights on Tuesday.

COMRIE CONTINUES HIS SOLID PLAY

Comrie's performance since January 1 has been impressive and has now won a career best six straight starts while allowing no more than two goals during the win streak. In a game that the Jets absolutely had to have with the team getting one out of a possible four points to start the road trip, Comrie was steady throughout the day. He was solid in overtime when Winnipeg had to kill a penalty and maybe most importantly, he made the first stop on Vincent Trocheck to give his team some much needed momentum.

SHOOTOUT SUCCESS

The Jets were 1-4 in the shootout this season after their loss in Pittsburgh Saturday afternoon and Scott Arniel was trying something new going with Jonathan Toews and Gustav Nyquist against the Penguins. At MSG, Arniel went back to his star players Kyle Connor and Gabe Vilardi against rookie goaltender Dylan Garand who was making his NHL debut. Connor went first for the Jets and went five hole on Garand, after JT Miller missed, Vilardi finished things off firing a shot over the Rangers goaltender's glove.

"No, because we've been hitting some goalposts here too. Lately, obviously, it starts with [Comrie] making that first stop, and then Trocheck and then obviously KC, when you can get the opposition down one, it puts a little heat on them," said Scott Arniel.

"Yeah, I mean, young goaltender for them and I'm sure is, you know, he was pretty good and obviously it was different for the guys not knowing what to expect. Usually have a little bit of a read on goalies. So I just like the fact that two good (shooters), KC and Gabe, picked the corners nice."

NICE CONTRIBUTION FROM VILARDI

Gabe Vilardi has been counted on heavily as of late and again he delivered for the Jets. In the first period, he was instrumental in helping Adam Lowry score his first goal since January 13. The Jets opened the scoring on a nice passing play with Cole Perfetti to Vilardi and he hit the captain for the easy tap in goal.

With the game tied at one in the second, the Jets were on the power play, Vilardi started at the point with the puck, sent it to the corner to Connor and went to the front of the net for the return pass, Vilardi's one timer gave him 27 goals on the season. That tied his career high set last season. The 26-year-old wasn't concerned about tying a career best after the game.

"I think it's just a matter that we're in a playoff push right now, and that's bigger than my personal goals and points and whatnot," said Vilardi.

"So that's my job to produce. So I'm gonna keep trying to do that and keep trying to get set career highs every year."

NHL.com

<https://www.nhl.com/news/winnipeg-jets-new-york-rangers-game-recap-march-22-2026>

Jets recover for shootout win against Rangers Vilardi has goal, assist; Garand makes 35 saves in NHL debut for New York

By Darrin Bauming

Gabriel Vilardi had a goal and an assist for the Winnipeg Jets in a 3-2 shootout win against the New York Rangers at Madison Square Garden in New York on Sunday.

"We're in a playoff push right now," Vilardi said. "And that's bigger than my personal goals and points and whatnot. So, that's my job to produce, so I'm going to keep trying to do that and keep trying to set career highs every year."

Adam Lowry scored, and Eric Comrie made 27 saves for the Jets (29-29-12), who ended a three-game skid (0-1-2) and have points in five of six (3-1-2).

Winnipeg is five points back of the Nashville Predators for the second wild card into the Stanley Cup Playoffs from the Western Conference.

"It is a sprint to the finish," said Lowry, the Jets' captain. "The margin for error is slim for us, and we know the position we are in and we know the teams coming up. But we have got to take care of the one game in front of us and not look to far ahead and hope you are getting help on the out-of-town scoreboard."

Dylan Garand made 35 saves in his NHL debut for the Rangers (28-33-9), who've lost four straight (0-3-1) since winning four in a row. J.T. Miller had two assists.

"It was pretty surreal," Garand said. "Really, just try to be present and then take it all in. It was everything you could ever hope and dream of, and you know it (stinks) to not get the win for the guys. But it was a dream come true."

Lowry gave the Jets a 1-0 lead at 13:06 of the first period. He won a puck battle inside the defensive zone and finished a quick passing play from Cole Perfetti and Vilardi with a tap-in at the crease.

"I like the way they sort of materialized coming out of our end off of coverage, and then the three of them sprint on the breakout," Winnipeg coach Scott Arniel said. "Real nice play. I like the fact that both guys drove, sort of the double drive, getting to that net, and real nice, nice finish. Nice pass by (Vilardi) to finish out to (Lowry)."

Tye Kartye tied it 1-1 just 41 seconds into the second period. Miller batted a contested puck to Kartye in the slot, and he went skate-to-stick and beat Comrie over his right pad.

Vilardi gave the Jets a 2-1 lead on a power play at 6:43 one-timing a feed from Kyle Connor in the slot. It was his 27th of the season, tying the career high he set with the Jets in 2024-25.

Mika Zibanejad tied it 2-2 at 14:03 on the power play with a one-timer from above the left dot.

“I think Mika has been arguably our best forward all year,” New York coach Mike Sullivan said. “Not just with how he’s scoring goals, but with how he’s playing the game. As far as his goal-scoring ability, I think it’s on display every night. ... The puck comes off his stick differently than most, the way he shoots the puck, and that for me, is a sign of a true goal-scorer.”

Winnipeg was forced to kill a penalty in overtime after center Mark Scheifele was whistled for interference. Connor and Vilardi then scored in the shootout; Miller and Vincent Trocheck were unable to score for New York.

Comrie has won each of his past six starts since Jan. 9 and has a 1.48 goals-against average and .943 save percentage in that span.

“Comrie made some saves, and he was lights-out in the shootout, and his streak of great play continues,” Lowry said. “That was a big (penalty) kill for us (in overtime), and Comrie was a big reason why.”

NOTES: Jets defenseman Neal Pionk had a game-high five shots on goal and played 25:27. ... Zibanejad scored his 280th career goal with the Rangers, tying Adam Graves for fourth in franchise history; Rod Gilbert leads with 406. ... Zibanejad reached the 30-goal mark for the fourth time in his career, all coming with New York. ... Rangers defenseman Braden Schneider had a game-high five hits and was plus-1 in 24:38 of ice time.

Winnipeg Free Press

<https://www.winnipegfreepress.com/breakingnews/2026/03/22/jets-secure-shootout-win-over-rangers>

Jets secure shootout win over Rangers

By: Mike McIntyre

NEW YORK — This time, the Winnipeg Jets didn’t shoot themselves in the foot.

Head coach Scott Arniel invited plenty of second-guessing Saturday when he kept his team’s biggest offensive weapons on the bench in favour of Jonathan Toews and Gustav Nyquist — two questionable choices who both misfired in a costly 5-4 extra-time loss to the Pittsburgh Penguins.

Less than 24 hours later, Arniel was back in the same spot, staring down another breakaway competition to settle the deadlocked score. This time, there was no hesitation. Out came the big guns — Kyle Connor and Gabe Vilardi — and both delivered, lifting the Jets to a 3-2 victory over the New York Rangers.

The Jets were facing a Rangers goaltender making his NHL debut in Dylan Garand, so they didn't have much of a scouting report on his habits and tendencies the way they would with most big-league netminders.

Maybe that worked in Winnipeg's favour. The Jets had lost four of five shootouts this season, scoring just once on 13 total attempts — a goal by Vilardi, who admitted some improvisation was required against Garand.

"If it's a newer goalie, like the guy today, I wasn't sure. I have a few different moves that I like to do in those situations," he said.

"It's kind of a cat-and-mouse game in the shootout, right? You want to see who moves first. If you go slow, then maybe the goalie oversteps or doesn't follow the puck at the right speed kind of thing? Everyone has different mindsets towards the shootout."

Winnipeg improves to 29-29-12 after going 1-1-1 on this quick three-game Eastern Conference road trip. They are at 70 points through 70 games, keeping them within sniffing distance of the final Western Conference wildcard playoff spot.

"Proud of all the guys that we pulled that one off," said Arniel.

Several teams ahead of the Jets have been scuffling along lately, which has allowed them to stay in this race, which is more like a turtle derby at this point.

"Outside of Nashville it seems like whenever we stub our toe all the other teams stub their toe, as well," said Jets captain Adam Lowry.

"We have gotten a lot of help from the out-of-town scoreboard, but we have to start stacking some wins and take care of our own business. Getting three of four (points) this weekend — especially after the start on Saturday, getting down two (goals) just two minutes in and a quick turnaround, back-to-back, against a rested team — bodes well."

New York falls to 28-33-9.

ALL HE DOES IS WIN: Eric Comrie is making a compelling case for more playing time.

The backup goaltender was terrific in this game, stopping 27 of 29 shots during regulation and overtime and then turning aside both breakaways during the shootout.

Comrie has now won six consecutive starts dating back to January, which is the longest streak of the year for a Winnipeg goaltender. He's given up nine goals in that span, for a 1.50 goals against average, stopping 149 of 158 shots for a .943 save percentage.

The only two pucks that beat him Sunday — off the stick of Tye Kartye early in the second to tie the game 1-1, and a power play blast by Mika Zibanejad later in the middle frame to tie the game 2-2 — can be filed under the category of "no chance" to stop.

"His streak of great play continues," said Lowry.

Connor Hellebuyck had started 11 of 13 games coming out of the Olympic break and was really looking tired of late. He gave up 13 goals over his last three games this week, going 0-1-2 in the process.

Could Comrie's surge along with Hellebuyck's struggles lead to some goaltending plans being changed for upcoming games, especially with the Jets in desperate need of results?

"We'll see. We're going to see how this plays," said Arniel.

"The schedule is so crazy. We do have a two-day break coming (next Sunday and Monday) and that will be the end of it for the rest of the year, We'll look at it and see how we're lined up, making sure that both goaltenders are more than likely going to get an opportunity."

SLUMP BUSTER: Lowry is the first to admit he hasn't produced the way he'd hope this season. Offseason hip surgery, which caused him to miss the first few weeks of the year, has been an obvious factor.

But the proud veteran centre still has a knack for coming up big, as he did Sunday when he opened the scoring in the first period following a beautiful Tic-Tac-Toe passing play with linemates Vilardi and Cole Perfetti.

It was just Lowry's fifth of the year — and his first in 25 games.

"There have been some chances the last few games, tipped one off the post," Lowry said of thinking his puck luck was about to change.

"I felt like that one was going to fall and sometimes when you go a long time without scoring you stop shooting the puck and you stop wanting the puck around the net. So that was a heck of a play by Perfetti and a heck of a play by Vilardi to allow me to tap that one in."

NEW HEIGHTS: Vilardi gave the Jets their second lead of the day early in the second period when he pounced on the power play, scoring his 27th of the season.

That ties the career-high he set last year (in one additional game than he's played so far this year), but the young winger wasn't celebrating the milestone.

"Doesn't mean much," he said. "I think it's just a matter that we're in a playoff push right now, and that's bigger than my personal goals and points and whatnot. So that's my job to produce. So I'm gonna keep trying to do that and keep trying to set career highs every year."

Vilardi is now up to 58 points, which is just three off the career high he set last year.

KEY PLAY: The decision by Arniel to send his best shooters over the boards for the shootout.

THREE STARS:

1. WPG RW Gabe Vilardi: 1 goal, 1 assist
2. NYR G Dylan Garand: 35 saves in his NHL debut
3. WPG LW Cole Perfetti: 1 assist, and at least two, possibly three posts hit.

EXTRA, EXTRA: The Jets were furious in overtime when Mark Scheifele was called for interference, believing a very similar infraction (essentially a pick play) had just happened against them seconds earlier.

“Our penalty kill came up big,” said Arniel. “That was huge. It gave us a chance to get to the shootout.”

Winnipeg went 1-for-4 on the power play, while New York went 1-for-3.

Defencemen Jacob Bryson and Ville Heinola were the two healthy scratches for the Jets.

Winnipeg flew home following the game and will spend Monday away from the rink. They return to action on Tuesday when they host the Vegas Golden Knights at Canada Life Centre.

“It is a sprint to the finish,” said Lowry.

“The margin for error is slim for us and we know the position we are in and we know the teams coming up. We’ve got to take care of the one game in front of us and not look too far ahead and hope you are getting help on the out-of-town scoreboard. There are a lot of really good teams coming up for us and we are going to need to play our best hockey here.”

<https://www.winnipegfreepress.com/breakingnews/2026/03/22/pro-womens-hockey-game-inspirational>

Pro women’s hockey game inspirational Canada Life Centre awash with jerseys as Montreal plays Ottawa

By: Eva Wasney

The game hadn’t started yet, but Emery Martens was already celebrating a win.

Wearing an oversized Marie-Philip Poulin jersey and a toothy grin, the six-year-old Teulon Tigers forward was feeling “very good” about her new souvenir: a puck flipped over the glass while the Montreal Victoire and Ottawa Charge were warming up ahead of the first-ever Professional Women’s Hockey League (PWHL) game in Winnipeg.

Emery and mom Stephanie Martens were quick to snag tickets to the historic event when it was announced the PWHL’s Takeover Tour would be coming to town.

“It’s emotional,” said Stephanie, a lifelong hockey player who now coaches her daughter’s team. “(The game) has come a really long way and it’s getting recognized more and more and it makes everyone proud.

“These women are huge, huge role models.”

Canada Life Centre was awash with jerseys of every colour as 15,225 fans from club teams, provincial squads and beer leagues filled the stands during the sold-out Sunday night game.

Madison Friesen and her friends were among the first in the building when the doors opened. They drove in from Steinbach for the game — the shortest trip thus far for Friesen, who has travelled across Canada to watch Laura Stacey and Poulin play with the Victoire.

The PWHL, which is now in its third season, has been an inspiring development for the 17-year-old goalie, whose playing career is currently paused due to injury.

“I’ve played with guys all my life and my goal was always the NHL, but now there’s the PWHL to look up to,” Friesen said. “I think it’s so good for the younger girls to see that there is a future... you can actually play, this could be your job.”

Sporting hockey jerseys over long colourful dresses, Chloe Maendel and her teammates from the Baker Hutterite Colony were excited to watch Canadian Olympians take the ice, including hometown heroes Kati Tabin and Jocelyne Larocque.

They were also excited to represent Manitoba’s female Hutterite hockey community.

“It’s always fun to contradict the Hutterite stereotypes,” Maendel, 16, said with a laugh.

Hockey has been a generational sport for the girls, whose moms and aunts got them into the game as soon as they were old enough to skate.

Like many in the stands, the group had crafted homemade signs for Sunday’s games. On a yellow sheet of construction paper the words “Play Like A Girl” were scrawled in bubble letters and surrounded by photos of themselves and their favourite female athletes.

“This is me,” Alexa Maendel, 14, said, pointing to a photo of her celebrating in full hockey gear. “We had a tournament, there was about 90 boys and like six girls and I had the most goals out of all of them.”

Julie Koch, 34, and Krista Magotiaux, 33, were loading up on hats, sweaters and T-shirts at the merch store before heading to their seats to join the rest of the Shenarwhaligans (a Winnipeg women’s beer league team named for a portmanteau of Narwhals and Shennanigans).

It’s the second PWHL game the team has attended together.

“It’s really special, even being in the audience, the crowd at PWHL games are so much different than like a Jets game, no shade to them, but it’s a very femme-positive atmosphere,” said Koch.

“Women’s hockey is always so supportive and positive,” Magotiaux added.

The vibes were exceedingly positive inside the arena. Squeals of excitement sailed around the stands while Charge and Victoire players sped up and down the ice and crashed into one another. Taylor Swift and Chappell Roan blasted from the speakers between plays. The jumbotron was constantly alight with beaming faces and dancing bodies.

The PWHL has had a tangible impact on hockey in Manitoba well before its inaugural game in the province.

The Manitoba Women’s High School Hockey League (MWHSHL) has introduced a jailbreak rule — which allows a player serving a minor to break out of the penalty box if their team scores a shorthanded goal — inspired by the pros.

“We thought it was such a cool thing, they’re seeing it on TV so why don’t we put it into our league?” said Brad Nechwediuk, president of the MWHSHL and coach of the Glenlawn Lions female hockey team, which became provincial champs last week.

Nechwediuk has also noticed an uptick in interest among high schoolers who are new to hockey. The Manitoba-wide league counted 29 teams this year, a new record he chalks up, in part, to excitement about the PWHL.

“We know representation can go a long way in anything in life. If you can see yourself there, then you can dream,” he said.

Judging by the cheers of “We want a team” that ricocheted around the arena, the dream is very much alive for Winnipeg hockey fans.

Global Winnipeg

<https://globalnews.ca/news/11741503/analysis-winnipeg-jets-connor-hellebuyck-workload-eric-comrie/>

ANALYSIS: Winnipeg Jets don’t have to run Hellebuyck ragged to stay alive

By Kelly Moore CJOB

ANALYSIS: Winnipeg Jets don’t have to run Hellebuyck ragged to stay alive - imageView image in full screen

The Winnipeg Jets still have a pulse in the NHL West playoff race with 12 games to go after picking up three of six points on a difficult road trip.

But after another excellent start by Eric Comrie, the Jets don’t have to play the legs off Connor Hellebuyck to avoid “flat-lining.”

The last time the Jets desperately tried to stay in a playoff race was three years ago, when they had to go right down to the second-last game of the season before clinching the eighth and final post-season berth.

Hellebuyck started 13 games in a row before getting a rest for a meaningless Game 82.

There is no way Hellebuyck will make that many consecutive starts this spring — because the Jets only have a dozen games remaining on the schedule.

And unlike the spring of 2023, when “Big Save” Dave Rittich could not provide reliable relief, this time around, Winnipeg has a backup goalie they can trust for games that matter in Comrie.

Now this is not to say head coach Scott Arniel and goalie guru Wade Flaherty are going to abandon the schedule they’ve mapped out for as long as the Jets remain relevant in what has turned out to be somewhat of a turtle derby for that final Western wild card berth.

But Comrie’s latest effort Sunday afternoon at Madison Square Garden, to extend a personal winning streak to six games, has to give the coaching staff something to think about. And Arniel

did not discount that possibility in his post-game conversation with Mike McIntyre of the Winnipeg Free Press.

Hellebuyck has allowed three or more goals in 11 of his last 16 starts, winning just five times over that stretch. Meanwhile, Comrie has a 1.48 goals-against average and .939 save percentage in his six consecutive wins.

Yes, Hellebuyck has a Hall of Fame pedigree, and for sure, he will always provide the Jets with a best-chance-to-win scenario.

But you know what? So will Comrie. And that just might count for something, especially with a remaining schedule of 12 games in 26 days, starting Tuesday night against Vegas.

Canadian Press

<https://globalnews.ca/news/11741957/winnipeg-pwhl-team/>

Winnipeg would embrace a PWHL team, players and fans say

By Jeff Hamilton The Canadian Press

The Professional Women's Hockey League came to Manitoba for a hockey game, but what fans witnessed was a 48-hour audition for a ninth franchise.

From packed morning practices at the Hockey For All Centre to a sold-out crowd of 15,321 at Canada Life Centre on Sunday night to watch the Ottawa Charge play the Montreal Victoire, the PWHL Takeover Tour proved that Winnipeg has an undeniable appetite for professional women's hockey.

Now for the ultimate question: Could the city support a PWHL team?

For the local players, both of whom had a strong showing of support in the stands, the answer is easy. Ottawa defender and Ste. Anne native Jocelyne Larocque — who had an estimated 280 extended family members and friends in attendance — believes the market is a perfect fit.

“Geographically, it makes a lot of sense,” said Larocque, shortly after the Charge's 2-1 overtime victory. “We're right central in Canada, but I think this city just loves hockey and the fact that the city doesn't have a pro women's sports team at all, hockey would be a great first one and the city would really rally behind it.”

Larocque noted how surreal it was to finally play professionally in her home province.

“Growing up, I wasn't sure if this day would come,” she said. “I looked up to NHL players and I looked up to Team Canada, but a pro women's hockey league, and to be able to be a part of it, it's pretty special. All Manitobans, it's great people can watch us on TV, but to see us live is definitely something different.”

Victoire defender and Winnipeg native Kati Tabin also believes Winnipeg would be an ideal PWHL destination. Tabin, who had around 80 friends and family take in the event, hadn't played a competitive game in front of her local support system since her high school days nearly 11 years ago.

“Just the growth of our league is awesome,” Tabin said. “I just remember being a little girl in Oakbank, Manitoba, and I didn’t even think this dream was possible to play in the (Winnipeg) Jets’ rink. It would mean the world.

“Winnipeg is a great community. I think it would be a great spot. There’s so much hockey love here in the city, so it would be a great option.”

That hockey love was evident throughout the weekend. The PWHL embedded itself in the community, hosting a hockey operations career panel at the University of Manitoba, a business panel featuring PWHL executives and youth clinics at Camp Manitou.

Ottawa forward Rebecca Leslie noticed the impact immediately.

“Just walking through the practice rink the other day, there were lineups of people on a Saturday morning and afternoon just to watch us practice,” Leslie said. “To see all the little girls in the stands and for them to have an opportunity to watch us live, it’s just so special.”

Montreal forward Abby Roque pointed to what she witnessed in the moments before puck drop as a prime example of why the league is expanding its footprint.

“One of the biggest things was in warm-ups, looking around at how many young girls were right on the glass with so many signs,” Roque said.

“The fans really showed up today, having 15,000, but I just think having a community that really wants a team, being able to show the young girls that this is the hockey you can play one day if you really put your mind to it. That’s a really special thing.”

For Ottawa head coach Carla MacLeod, the energy in the building was a blast from the past. MacLeod won a world championship gold medal with Team Canada on the exact same ice in 2007.

“It’s a hockey town,” MacLeod said. “We walk out to that arena and it’s full, and that’s a great arena, super steep, with fans on top of you. There’s a rich history of hockey here and not just men’s hockey but women’s hockey.

“We never take for granted when we walk into a building like this and it’s full. This market is a hockey market and we got to see that again today.”

Associated Press

<https://www.sportsnet.ca/nhl/article/vilardi-lifts-jets-past-rangers-in-shootout-spoil-garands-nhl-debut/>

Vilardi lifts Jets past Rangers in shootout to spoil Garand's NHL debut

By Associated Press

NEW YORK — Gabriel Vilardi tied his career high with his 27th goal of the season and won the game in a shootout, captain Adam Lowry ended his lengthy scoring drought and the Winnipeg Jets ended their three-game losing streak by beating the New York Rangers 3-2 on Sunday.

Vilardi and Kyle Connor scored in the shootout to spoil the NHL debut of Rangers goaltending prospect Dylan Garand. The 23-year-old impressed by stopping 35 of the 37 shots he faced in regulation and overtime and was arguably one of the best players on the ice.

Garand's biggest save came midway through the second period when he denied Connor on a shorthanded 2-on-0 breakaway. He was fortunate minutes later when Cole Perfetti's shot from in tight clanked off the crossbar and out.

Lowry scored on a tic-tac-toe passing play from Perfetti and Lowry 13 minutes in that Garand had little chance of preventing. Lowry's goal was his first since Jan. 13, which was 25 games ago.

Jets backup Eric Comrie made 27 saves in regulation and overtime, then two more in the shootout.

The Rangers lost for a 24th time in 33 home games despite the play of Garand and a power-play goal from Mika Zibanejad. Skating in his 999th regular-season game in the league, Zibanejad reached the 30-goal mark for the first time since 2022-23 and third time in his career.

The soon-to-be 33-year-old from Sweden has scored in three consecutive games and is now tied with Adam Graves for the fourth-most goals in franchise history with 280. Tye Kartye, a late-February waiver pickup from Seattle, also scored for New York, which has lost four in a row and is last in the Eastern Conference.

Up next

Jets: Return home to face the Vegas Golden Knights on Tuesday night.

Rangers: Igor Shesterkin is expected to start Monday night at home against the Ottawa Senators.

Winnipeg Sun

https://www.winnipegsun.com/sports/vilardi-and-connor-score-jets-beat-rangers-3-2-in-shootout/article_21284572-f60f-4f2a-be02-6483f72087c7.html

Vilardi and Connor score, Jets beat Rangers 3-2 in shootout

By Gordon Anderson

The Jets doubled their pleasure, when they beat the New York Rangers in a shootout on Sunday afternoon.

"We've been hitting some goalposts here too," Jets head coach Scott Arniel told reporters following a 3-2 win over the New York Rangers. "It starts with (Eric Comrie) making that first stop on Trocheck and then (with) Connor scoring you can get the opposition down one, it puts a little heat on them. I just like the fact that two good (shooters) picked the corners."

Gabe Vilardi and Kyle Connor scored for Winnipeg in the shootout.

"It's kind of a cat and mouse game in the shootout," Vilardi said.

The locals now have three shootout goals this season. Coming into the game, Vilardi scored the lone shootout goal on Nov. 15 in a 4-3 victory over the Calgary Flames. Winnipeg improved to 1-4 in this format.

Further to Arniel's point, lady luck has not smiled on the Jets as of late.

In the shootout loss to the Nashville Predators last Tuesday, Connor hit the post. Jonathan Toews pinged the iron against Pittsburgh in the shootout loss on Saturday. Three of the team's last four games advanced to the breakaway portion.

The Jets' penalty kill performed admirably when it had to, turning away a New York powerplay when Mark Scheifele was called for interference on Vladislav Gavrikov at 1:39 of the overtime. The Jets also killed off a Josh Morrissey slashing minor in overtime against the Penguins.

"I thought there was an interference penalty 10 seconds before," Arniel said. "But we did it yesterday, our penalty kill came up big in overtime and again today, and at this time of year those are those three facets, you know, defending, offense, and then your specialty teams. Our power play scored a big goal, and that was huge at PK at the end. It gave us a chance to get to the shootout."

Gabe Vilardi scored a powerplay goal at 6:43 of the second period, giving the Jets a 2-1 lead at the time. The goal was Vilardi's 27th of the campaign. He leads the team in powerplay goals with 11. He also leads the team in man-advantage points with 20.

Adam Lowry also scored for the Jets (29-29-12) in regulation. The Jets improved to 12-16-6 on the road. The Jets have pushed the game to the extra session in five of their last six road games. This was their first win in that span as they lost three in overtime and one in a shootout.

Comrie (12-9-1) stopped 27 shots in 65 minutes of action. Comrie has won six games in a row. He has allowed nine goals during his winning streak. The Edmonton native has stopped 149 of 158 shots in the streak. His previous loss was a 6-5 setback to the Toronto Maple Leafs on New Year Day.

"Comrie made some saves and he was lights out in the shootout and his streak of great play continues," Lowry said.

Tye Kartye and Mika Zibanejad scored for the Rangers (28-33-9) in regulation. Kartye was claimed off waivers from the Seattle Kraken on Feb. 27. He has three goals and five assists in 12 games played. He recorded a goal and an assist in the previous meeting between the teams. The Rangers have lost four games in a row. The Rangers dropped to 3-1 in the shootout.

Dylan Garand (0-0-1) turned aside 34 shots in regulation and one in overtime. Garand made his NHL debut on Sunday.

Heading into league action on Sunday night, the Jets were three points behind the Kraken for the last wildcard spot in the Western Conference.

The Jets host the Vegas Golden Knights on Tuesday night.

Ice Chips

Ville Heinola, Jacob Bryson and Vlad Namestnikov were scratched.

Quarter century club

Lowry's opened the scoring with his fifth of the season at 13:06 of the first period when he finished off a three-way passing play with Vilardi and Cole Perfetti. It was his first goal in 25 games. His last marker occurred on Jan. 13 against the New York Islanders.

"It certainly has been a long time, and there have been some chances in the last few games," Lowry said. "When you go a long time without scoring, you stop shooting the puck and you stop wanting the puck around the net. That was a heck of a play by Perfetti and a heck of a play by Vilardi to allow me to tap that one in."

Early bird gets the goal

The Rangers tied the game 41 seconds into the second when Kartye received a pass from J.T. Miller in the slot and beat Comrie with a quick shot. In his previous game against the Jets, the ex-Soo Greyhound forward scored 1:15 into the third period, helping the Broadway Blueshirts to a 6-3 win on March 12.

In the loss to Pittsburgh, the home team scored twice in the opening 2:02 of the game. Egor Chinakhov gave the Pens a 1-0 lead at 1:06 and Rickard Rakell doubled the advantage at 2:02.

In the 14 games since the resumption of the season following the Olympic break, the Jets have allowed a goal in the opening 2:02 of a period in eight of those games. They have surrendered four first-period goals, one second-period goal and six third-period goals. Surprisingly, the club is 5-1-2 in those games.