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<https://www.nhl.com/jets/news/jets-one-point-back-of-playoff-spot-thanks-to-kc>

***Jets one point back of a playoff spot thanks to KC
Kyle Connor scored 33 seconds into overtime as Jets beat Hawks 4-3 in Chicago***

By Jamie Thomas

Kyle Connor scored 33 seconds into overtime to lift the Winnipeg Jets to a 4-3 win at United Center in Chicago. The Jets have won the first two games of their four-game road trip and now sit just one point back of the Nashville Predators for the final wild card spot in the west. Winnipeg has 76 points, so do the Los Angeles Kings but the Kings have played one fewer game. Mark Scheifele had three assists, Kyle Connor also had an assist to go with his game winning goal and Josh Morrissey had a goal and an assist. Winnipeg will head to Dallas now to face the Stars on Thursday.

"We just said to take care of our own business and that's what we're trying to do. We got ourselves here, but we can't take our foot off the gas," said head coach Scott Arniel.

"It doesn't get any easier in going into Dallas and then Columbus, so a lot of heavy lifting still to go. We have got to make sure that we continue to do those things that keep us in games and that gives us a chance to win."

TURNING THE TABLE

After a less than memorable opening period in which the Jets gave up a goal to Anton Frondell (his first NHL goal), Winnipeg woke up in the second. It all started with Josh Morrissey continuing his dominance of the Blackhawks. The Jets defenceman came into the night with 27 points in 34 games and a plus 27 in his career against Chicago. Morrissey took a pass from Kyle Connor and started skating towards the Hawks goal and it looked like he was going to go behind the net, but Morrissey made a quick cut to the front and beat Spencer Knight for 13th of the season.

Winnipeg would take the lead at 11:19 while on the power play, Chicago had a shorthanded opportunity that was broken up at the Jets blueline. That allowed Alex Lafallo and Cole Perfetti to break out on a two-on-one, Lafallo sent a perfect feed to Perfetti, and he would one time home his 12th of the campaign.

Shortly after that, Winnipeg made it 3-1 as Isak Rosén scored his second goal as a Jet and first since March 12. Danny Zhilkin attempted to score on the wraparound, the puck bounced out into the slot and that's where Rosén found it and beat Knight. Zhilkin obviously got the assist on the goal, which is his first point in the NHL.

SCHEIF TO KC FOR THE WIN

After the Jets took the two-goal lead, Tyler Bertuzzi scored at 13:26 of the second and again at 9:46 of the third to tie it. The game would go to overtime, and it didn't take long for the trio of Morrissey, Scheifele and Connor to end the game. Winnipeg concluded March with a 9-4-3 (21 points) record after entering the month 10 points back of the 'playoff line'. After the game, Morrissey gave a glowing review of the pass that Scheifele gave to Connor on the GWG.

"The three of us have spent a lot of time together in overtime and we take a lot of pride in it, as well. We haven't ended as many games this year as we have in years past, in OT, but it was just a great play on that one," said Morrissey.

"I tried to go to the net and take somebody with me and then Scheifele makes an incredible play and that is the type of finished KC has. I don't think anyone is stopping that. It was a great play by those guys. Just try and read off them and like I said, it is nice to be able to get that."

SIMILAR PATHS

Monday, the Blackhawks announced that they would honour alumni and former broadcaster Troy Murray by making him part of the organization's inaugural Hall of Fame class as a builder. Murray, who also played for Jets 1.0 and was one of their captains, was a big part of Jet forward Jonathan Toews career when Toews was a longtime member of the Blackhawks. Earlier on Tuesday, Toews spoke with the media about Murray.

NHL.com

<https://www.nhl.com/news/winnipeg-jets-chicago-blackhawks-game-recap-march-31-2026>

Jets recover to defeat Blackhawks in OT, move 1 point back of wild-card spot Connor wins it at 33 seconds for Winnipeg; Frondell scores 1st NHL goal for Chicago

By Tracey Myers

CHICAGO -- Kyle Connor scored 33 seconds into overtime, and the Winnipeg Jets recovered to defeat the Chicago Blackhawks 4-3 at United Center on Tuesday.

Mark Scheifele won the face-off to start overtime and soon after passed to Connor, who scored the winner with a wrist shot top shelf from the slot.

"We've seen a lot of that over the years," Jets coach Scott Arniel said of Scheifele's pass in overtime. "That just, it's kind of been his whole season. When we need a big moment, a big play, he certainly responded. It was a heck of a play."

Josh Morrissey, Cole Perfetti and Isak Rosen each scored in the second period, Scheifele had three assists, and Connor Hellebuyck made 18 saves for the Jets (32-30-12), who have won four of their past five games and moved to within one point of the idle Nashville Predators for the second wild card into the Stanley Cup Playoffs from the Western Conference.

"The second point is huge," Morrissey said. "We have been fighting, clawing, scratching to try and get closer and closer to the playoff line, and when it is all said and done, I think it is going to come right down to the wire, and an extra point here and there is the difference. We are going to be in more situations like this as we go along, as the games are tight, and we have to continue to try and get two points."

Anton Frondell scored his first career NHL goal, Tyler Bertuzzi scored twice, and Spencer Knight made 20 saves for the Blackhawks (27-34-14), who are 1-4-2 in their past seven games.

"We were excellent in the third and I think we only gave up one chance in the third. I don't want to say we deserved a better fate because at the end of the night chances were exactly equal.

We haven't been good enough on 3-on-3, so that's frustrating for all of us," Blackhawks coach Jeff Blashill said.

Fronnell, the No. 3 pick by Chicago in the 2025 NHL Draft, gave the Blackhawks a 1-0 lead at 4:42 of the first period. He scored on one knee from the slot thanks to a pass from Ilya Mikheyev, who had retrieved the loose puck off defenseman Louis Crevier's wide shot attempt.

"An amazing feeling," Frondell said. "Dream come true and happy to do it in my first home game."

Morrissey tied the game 1-1 at 1:06 of the second period when he skated in along the Blackhawks' goal line and flipped the puck past Knight glove side on the backhand.

The Jets took a 2-1 lead on Perfetti's power-play goal at 11:19. Blackhawks forward Landon Slaggert's pass in the Jets' zone hit Scheifele and was picked up by Alex Lafallo, who went in on a 2-on-1 with Perfetti. The forward scored from the bottom of the right circle with 13 seconds remaining on the power play.

Rosen gave the Jets a 3-1 lead at 11:57, putting the rebound of Danil Zhilkin's wraparound attempt past the left pad of Knight after he was left alone in front. It was the forward's fifth goal of the season and second with the Jets, who acquired him as part of the trade with the Buffalo Sabres on March 6 for defensemen Luke Schenn and Logan Stanley.

"You've got to perform under pressure. I think that's the biggest thing," Jets captain Adam Lowry said. "We know every game is important. We came and talked about it after the first intermission. We don't have time to just squander points. We can't have these letdowns where we play one great game, and then come down and take a breath. So, it was a big win for us. You know, tight game. You've got to give Chicago credit. I thought they played a pretty good game."

Bertuzzi pulled the Blackhawks back to within one, 3-2, at 13:26, scoring on a spinning backhand that beat Hellebuyck cleanly to the glove side. He then tied the game 3-3 at 9:46 of the third period, jamming it through Hellebuyck's five-hole off a pass from Mikheyev. The tying goal also set a new career high for Bertuzzi at 31 on the season.

"I've done it before," Bertuzzi said on reaching 30-plus goals. "I'm going to keep going to the net, keep doing the same things. My body's been feeling good. It's been keeping me in games and being able to compete at the hardest I can, and at the highest level I can. Obviously, playing with some good players helps."

NOTES: Hellebuyck is 23-8-1 against the Blackhawks, the most wins he has against any NHL team. ... Scheifele's assist on Connor's overtime goal was the 58th time that duo has factored in on a goal this year. No other duo in the NHL has factored in on more goals together this season. ... Frondell is the third Blackhawks player in the past 15 years to get five or more points (one goal, four assists) in his first five career games, joining Henri Jokiharju (five assists in 2018-19) and Artemi Panarin (two goals, three assists in 2015-16). ... Bertuzzi's previous career high of 30 goals came with the Detroit Red Wings in 2021-22.

Associated Press

<https://www.sportsnet.ca/nhl/article/kyle-connor-scores-ot-goal-as-jets-defeat-blackhawks/>

Jets move within one point of playoff spot after OT win over Blackhawks

By Associated Press

CHICAGO — Kyle Connor scored 33 seconds into overtime to lead the Winnipeg Jets to a 4-3 win over the Chicago Blackhawks on Tuesday night.

Josh Morrissey, Isak Rosen and Cole Perfetti also scored, and Mark Scheifele added three assists for the Jets, who were coming off a 4-2 win over the NHL-leading Colorado Avalanche.

The surging Jets are now just one point behind the Nashville Predators for the final wild-card playoff spot in the West.

"The second point is huge," Morrissey told reporters. "We've been fighting, clawing, scratching to try to get closer and closer to the playoff line. When it's all said and done, I think it's going to come right down to the wire. An extra point here and there is going the difference."

Tyler Bertuzzi scored twice and Anton Frondell also scored for Chicago, which has lost four in a row.

Bertuzzi's wrist shot 9:46 into the third period sent the game to overtime.

Connor Hellebuyck made 18 saves in the win for the Jets. Spencer Knight made 20 saves for the Blackhawks.

The Jets won 66.7 per cent of the faceoffs in the game.

"There's no quit in here, we're going to fight right to the end," Morrissey said.

Up next

Jets: Visit Dallas on Thursday.

Blackhawks: Start their final road trip of the season at Edmonton on Thursday.

Winnipeg Free Press

<https://www.winnipegfreepress.com/breakingnews/2026/03/31/jets-within-striking-distance>

Jets within striking distance Overtime win in Chicago leaves them one point behind wildcard spot

By: Ken Wiebe

CHICAGO — Scott Arniel clearly understood the challenges of facing the 31st team in the NHL standings was considerably different than facing the top team, like the Winnipeg Jets did in the two prior games.

But the head coach gave his group a quick mathematics lesson as part of his message before they faced the Chicago Blackhawks on Tuesday night.

“Two points against Chicago are the exact same two points against Colorado,” said Arniel. “We have to make sure what we did the other night is a constant. It isn’t changing because we’re playing a different team.”

Well, the outing wasn’t quite as crisp as it was in Denver in the 4-2 triumph over the Avalanche but the final outcome brought the two points Arniel was seeking after a 4-3 overtime victory that pulled the Jets within one point of the final playoff spot in the Western Conference.

Mark Scheifele showed great patience and found Kyle Connor alone in the slot 33 seconds into overtime for the goal that secured the valuable extra point.

“We’ve seen a lot of that over the years,” said Arniel. “It’s kind of been his whole season: when we need a big moment, a big play, he’s certainly responded. It was a heck of a play.”

Securing the additional point in extra time has been a challenge for the Jets this season, but this play was a thing of beauty.

“The three of us have spent a lot of time together in overtime and we take a lot of pride in it,” said Jets defenceman Josh Morrissey, who tied the game 1-1 early in the second period on a nifty individual effort. “We haven’t ended as many games this year as we have in years past, in OT, but it was just a great play on that one. I tried to go to the net and take somebody with me and then Scheifele makes an incredible play and that is the type of finish that KC has. I don’t think anyone is stopping that.”

The Jets, who improved to 32-30-12, have eight games remaining in the regular season and continue this four-game road trip on Thursday against the Dallas Stars.

Here’s what else transpired in this one:

FOURTH LINE STRIKE

Without having the benefit of the last change on the road trip, there hasn’t been a ton of ice time available for the Jets’ inexperienced fourth line of Danny Zhilkin, Isak Rosen and Parker Ford.

But the trio was sent over the boards for an offensive-zone faceoff during the second period and they delivered an important goal that gave the Jets a two-goal lead.

Ford won a battle down low and Zhilkin drove the puck to the net on a wraparound chance that bounced in front, where Rosen pounced on the rebound and buried his shot.

For Zhilkin, it was his first NHL point while Rosen scored his second goal in his 13th game since joining the Jets in the deadline deal with the Buffalo Sabres.

Later in the game, Zhilkin was called upon for an important defensive-zone draw on the penalty kill that he ended up winning.

“You know what, he’s good at face-offs and that’s great that he can get out there and do those things,” said Arniel. “But to get a point – I know he was up earlier in the year and had some

looks – but that’s great for him to feel a part of it. Everybody has got to chip in and it’s great to see him do that too.”

POWER (PLAY) RESTORED

To say the Jets’ power play has suffered an outage lately is an understatement.

But after a seven-for-66 stretch during the previous 24 games that dropped them to 28th among 32 teams, the Jets got a massive goal with the man-advantage during the second period.

With 13 seconds remaining in a minor penalty for tripping to Blackhawks defenceman Ethan Del Mastro, Cole Perfetti buried a one-timer on a two-on-one rush after a perfect pass from Alex Lafallo to give the Jets a 2-1 lead.

There probably isn’t nearly enough runway for the Jets to move into the middle third of the NHL in power play efficiency, but those numbers won’t matter if they can find a way to deliver a few more important goals during the stretch run.

The Jets also survived a two-man disadvantage in the third period that lasted more than a minute.

THE KEY PLAY

Scheifele made a perfect pass in the slot to Connor for the overtime winner.

THE THREE STARS

Mark Scheifele, Jets: Three assists to hit 92 points.

Tyler Bertuzzi, Blackhawks: Two goals.

Kyle Connor, Jets: Overtime winner.

RETURN TO ‘NORMAL’

Jets centre Jonathan Toews will be eternally grateful for the heartwarming and thunderous ovation he received in his return to the United Center in January, but he also welcomed the fact this latest visit wasn’t filled with as much pomp or circumstance.

“Yeah, a little bit more relaxed,” Toews said after the morning skate when he was surrounded by a dozen reporters. “(This time) it’s all hockey. That was a super special moment (last time). Had no expectation whatsoever and that blew it out of the water.”

THE UPDATE

Following the game, Arniel said the plan for Jets forward Morgan Barron is to meet the team in Dallas, though it’s unclear if he will be an option to suit up on Thursday or not.

Barron has been in concussion protocol since taking a hard right hand to the chin in a fight with Avalanche defenceman Josh Manson, but he was back on the ice on Monday as he continues his recovery.

Fellow forwards Nino Niederreiter and Vladislav Namestnikov (both dealing with lower-body injuries) remained in non-contact jerseys and there is no timetable for their return.

EXTRA, EXTRA

Prior to the game, Connor saluted the work of Blackhawks anthem singer Jim Cornelison.

“It’s awesome. Every time you hear the anthem, it’s a lot of fun but here, it gets the whole crowd going and it almost seems like they pump in noise because it’s so loud,” said Connor. “But it’s because everybody is just so fired up. He does a great job. It’s one of the best buildings to hear the anthem in, for sure.”

The healthy scratches for the Jets were defencemen Haydn Fleury and Ville Heinola, while forward Gustav Nyquist is dealing with an undisclosed ailment.

<https://www.winnipegfreepress.com/breakingnews/2026/03/31/thats-colonel-connor-to-you>

That’s Colonel Connor to you Jets forward goes full KFC in new partnership

By: Ken Wiebe

CHICAGO — Kyle Connor isn’t expecting to become the next Peyton Manning or Charles Barkley as someone who is routinely called upon to promote a lengthy list of products.

Having said that, the Winnipeg Jets left-winger recently shot a commercial with KFC where he fully leaned into the Kyle Freakin’ Connor persona.

“I don’t think I’m getting any (lead) roles anytime soon,” Connor said before the Jets faced the Chicago Blackhawks on Tuesday night at the United Center. “But it’s fun to be able to do something like that.”

Decked out in a white suit and a Kentucky bow tie that Colonel Sanders made famous, the video shows Connor arriving at the rink in a snazzy white sports car and entering the building before nodding at several staff members who are enjoying fried chicken.

Connor is shown briefly on the ice in his No. 81 jersey with KFC on the nameplate.

Near the end, a Colonel Sanders look-a-like compliments Connor on his suit, noting it has “finger lickin’ good” written all over it.

“They wanted to get something out and build off the bucket (hats promotion) last year,” said Connor, referring to the Stanley Cup playoff promotion that encouraged fans to wear buckets on their heads at a home game. “They said they had a great reception. Fans really took to it. It was such a fun and easy experience for me. It’s so lighthearted.”

Connor isn’t someone who necessarily craves the spotlight, but found the experience to be enjoyable.

“I’m not carrying anything crazy for 30 seconds,” said Connor. “There weren’t many words. It was pretty simple for me. They had a whole production crew and director and everything. It was pretty much show up and do what you’re told.”

The Kyle F#@in’ Connor meal features a chicken sandwich, two wings, fries and a drink, all in a custom-designed box.

Might the response to the advertisement encourage Connor to bust out the white suit and bow tie for one of the games remaining this season?

“Yeah, I might have to,” he said.

Jets centre Jonathan Toews, who was called upon as a spokesperson at various points of his NHL career, is impressed by what he saw from Connor.

“Pretty good. Apparently, he had a couple of lines and those got cut, so I don’t know what that says,” said Toews, who took a good-natured shot at his teammate before praising him.

“Other than that, it’s pretty cool. Obviously, he’s very deserving of the success he’s had in his career. Those are fun things to do off the ice and he deserves that recognition.”

The Wrigley experience

Although he’s done it before, Toews was happy to have another opportunity to throw out the ceremonial first pitch at Wrigley Field on Sunday before the Chicago Cubs faced the Washington Nationals on the opening weekend of Major League Baseball action.

“There have been a couple of times over the years. Not one of the worst ones, I don’t think,” said Toews, who was joined at the game by his Jets’ teammates.

“The last day we had one as a team was back in early November. Since then, it’s been all hockey. So, it’s nice to take your mind off hockey for one day and go out and just enjoy some time as a team. Obviously, the Cubs were really great in getting us to the game, so we were able to enjoy Chicago for a day. It was a beautiful day, too, so it was great.”

Salute to Murray

Toews was asked about the passing of former Blackhawks and Jets centre Troy Murray as part of his availability on Tuesday following the morning skate.

Murray, who played 15 NHL seasons, worked as an analyst for Blackhawks games during Toews’ tenure with the Original Six franchise and the two formed a bond, given their respective paths.

“You know how much he went through and how hard he fought and happy on some level he’s found peace with all the suffering he’s been through,” said Toews. “Troy was someone I looked up to. Obviously, I didn’t grow up watching a ton of his games when I was a kid but just getting to know him and who he was as a person, as a player throughout his career, he’s the kind of guy who makes it special to play for the Hawks and for the Jets.

“He wore No. 19, played at North Dakota, played for the Jets as well. It’s just cool in a lot of ways to follow in his footsteps and honour him. He meant a lot to me over my career.”

Global Winnipeg

<https://globalnews.ca/news/11754322/winnipeg-jets-blow-two-goal-lead-before-downing-blackhawks-4-3-in-ot/>

Winnipeg Jets blow two-goal lead before downing Blackhawks 4-3 in OT

By Christian Aumell & Russ Hobson Global News

After picking up arguably their biggest win of the season in Colorado on Saturday, the Winnipeg Jets had a chance to move within a point of a playoff spot in Chicago Tuesday night.

Things looked dicey for a while but, in the end, the Jets picked up two precious points thanks to a 4-3 overtime win over the Blackhawks, pulling within one point of the idle Nashville Predators for eighth place in the Western Conference.

The Jets were on their heels for much of the first period, but took the game over in the second, outshooting the Hawks 15-2 in getting out to a two-goal lead, but Chicago tied the game in the third before Kyle Connor sniped the overtime winner.

“That game – a tail of two tapes for me,” said Jets head coach Scott Arniel. “I think the first period we weren’t ready to go in a sense that Chicago came out and really got after us. They doubled up chances against but the second period we dominated and we responded. That was a huge goal by (Josh) Morrissey and then obviously getting the 3-1 lead was real helpful.

“The third period was a little bit more of a saw off. When you have a lead like that you want to keep it.”

Mark Scheifele recorded three assists to give him a four-game point streak. He made a great setup on Connor’s game winner just 33 seconds into the extra frame.

“The control he has to put it right in the wheelhouse for KC,” said Jets captain Adam Lowry. “It’s something we get to see every day. I think it goes a little unnoticed if you just watch him in games.”

Morrissey, Cole Perfetti and Isak Rosén also scored for Winnipeg in the win. Connor, Morrissey and Perfetti all extended their point-streaks to five games.

It’s their ninth win in the month of March which is a season-best and they have at least a point in eight of their last ten games, including wins in four of their last five games.

“We have no quit in this locker room,” said Morrissey. “The guys had a great Olympic break and everything from what we were working on, what the coaches brought out for us, competitiveness. I think it just set the tone coming out of that break. And just really proud of the way we battled.”

What was an 11-point deficit to make the playoffs only a month ago has now been chopped down to just a single point with eight games left.

“We just said take care of our own business and that’s what we’re trying to do,” Arniel said. “We got ourselves here, but we can’t take our foot off the gas. It doesn’t get any easier going into

Dallas and then Columbus. So, a lot of heavy lifting still to go and we got to make sure that we continue to do those things that keep us in games that give us a chance to win.”

The Blackhawks controlled play for the bulk of the first, taking a 1-0 lead into the intermission but it could have been a lot worse for Winnipeg if not for the play of Connor Hellebuyck.

He was forced to make several big saves in the opening 20 minutes with Chicago getting numerous good looks in transition, but the Hawks were able to get one past him thanks to their youngest player.

Chicago had the Jets chasing the puck in their own end, leading to a point shot from Louis Crevier that badly missed the net. But it ricocheted to the side of the crease for Ilya Mikheyev, who poked it to the slot where Anton Frondell wired it through Hellebuyck at the 4:42 mark.

It was the first NHL goal for the 3rd overall pick in the 2025 draft, playing in his fifth NHL game.

Chicago wound up outshooting the Jets 9-6 in the first, and if Winnipeg wanted to pick up the two points, they were going to have to overcome a rough trend: entering the night, the Jets had just three wins all season when trailing after 20 minutes.

But it was clear early in the second period that the Jets were going to do everything in their power to buck that trend.

It started with a fantastic play by Morrissey, who got the puck at the left point in Chicago's end, skated down the wall around Frondell then cut in from the corner, skated in front of the net and deposited a shot past Spencer Knight to tie the game just 66 seconds into the period.

The game stayed tied past the midway point even though Winnipeg was dominating possession, resulting in the first power play look of the game for the Jets.

It figured to be a tough task for Winnipeg, as their power play has been woeful since the Olympic break and Chicago's penalty kill is the stingiest in the league.

But thanks to an overly aggressive shorthanded rush, the Blackhawks gave up a 2-on-1 late in the man advantage and Winnipeg capitalized to take the lead.

Landon Slaggert had the puck inside the Winnipeg blue line and tried to centre it to Teuvo Teravainen, but it hit the skate of Scheifele and drifted into the neutral zone where Alex Lafallo picked it up.

He carried it into the Chicago zone on a 2-on-1 before sending a perfect pass across to Perfetti that he buried past Knight with 13 seconds left in the power play and 8:41 to go in the period.

Just 38 seconds later, Winnipeg doubled their lead. After the Jets won an offensive zone draw, Neal Pionk rimmed the puck down along the boards. Danny Zhilkin collected the puck behind the net, took it in front and tried to stuff it through Knight but the puck careened off Knight's left pad and right to Rosén in the slot, who fired it off the post and in for his second as a Jet.

Chicago drew back within one at the 13:26 mark with their first shot on goal of the period. Elias Salomonsson had the puck in his own end and passed it across to Jacob Bryson, who whiffed on the reception and got hit by Mikheyev, allowing Tyler Bertuzzi to grab the puck. He skated

towards the net before cutting into the slot and sending a backhander on goal that eluded Hellebuyck to make it 3-2.

It was one of just two shots the Blackhawks got on net in the frame, with the final shot total favouring Winnipeg 15-2.

The Jets took their first penalty of the night just over four minutes into the third when Perfetti was called for holding and 57 seconds into the penalty, Cole Koepke was called for tripping, giving the Blackhawks a golden opportunity to tie the game.

But a slumping Chicago power play, with just one goal on 26 tries over their last nine games, was unable to get the job done.

The Blackhawks did not sag after failing on the 5-on-3, however, tying the game just a few minutes later.

It came as Chicago had the puck in Winnipeg's end for a lengthy shift. A wrist shot from the left point sailed wide and rimmed around the boards to Crevier at the left point. He sent it back around the boards for Mikheyev behind the net, who passed it to a wide-open Bertuzzi in front for a tap-in goal with 10:14 remaining.

Chicago dominated the third, pouring all kinds of pressure on the Jets but they were unable to find the back of the net before the final horn despite outshooting Winnipeg 10-2 in the period.

Breathing a sigh of relief to pick up one point, the Jets doubled up thanks to a quick overtime session. After the Blackhawks poked the puck out of their own end, Scheifele got it back in the neutral zone and drifted into the Chicago end.

He carried it to the faceoff dot to Knight's left before sending it to a streaking Connor, who steered it home for his 34th of the season and 14th career regular season overtime goal.

Hellebuyck made 18 saves to get the win, while Scheifele broke 90 points for the first time in his NHL career.

Winnipeg will look to continue to climb the standings when they visit the Dallas Stars Thursday night. The puck drops just after 7 p.m. with pregame coverage on 680 CJOB beginning around 5:15 p.m.

TSN.ca

<https://www.tsn.ca/nhl/video/>

How have the Jets gotten back into the playoff race? (VIDEO)

The Winnipeg Jets have now won four of their last five games and sit just one point back of the second wild card spot in the west. TSN's Craig Button breaks down how the Jets have gotten back in the Western Conference playoff picture.

The Athletic

<https://www.nytimes.com/athletic/7158872/2026/04/01/winnipeg-jets-playoffs-remaining-schedule/>

Could the Winnipeg Jets still make the playoffs? Breaking down their remaining schedule

By Murat Ates

The Winnipeg Jets are within a point of a playoff position.

Winnipeg's win against the Chicago Blackhawks brings the Jets within a point of the Nashville Predators for the second wild-card spot in the Western Conference. This is a team that was in last place as recently as Jan. 8 and went on a tear, just to return from the Olympics 11 points back of a wild-card spot.

It is to the Jets players' immense credit that they've forced a playoff position back into the conversation at all. Depending on which game you watch in any given week, the Jets might play well but lose, play poorly but win or play with such control it's obvious they're still in the playoff race. Sometimes, as during Tuesday night's 4-3 overtime win against Chicago, the hapless and dominant versions of the Jets make appearances in the very same game.

But the team's effort has never faltered.

Its star players continue to make huge plays, whether Josh Morrissey's game-changing backhand drive to the net that kick-started Winnipeg's offence after a poor start Tuesday or Kyle Connor's goal to end it in OT.

So what would it take for the Jets to complete the comeback, clawing all of the way back into playoff position?

Let's study each team the Jets are up against, sorting through their schedules and making educated guesses as to the outcome of each game. We'll consider strength of opponent and current performance level in an attempt to take a more subjective, nuanced look at Winnipeg's road to the playoffs. We'll also look at Dom Luszczyszyn's points projections independently of my manual, game-by-game analysis, to come up with Winnipeg's ultimate playoff road map.

Western Conference wild-card race

The easiest answer to the problem at hand is for Winnipeg to win out, but that's the hardest result to achieve. The Jets technically have two teams to catch, as the Los Angeles Kings have achieved their 76 points in one fewer game, and the Jets remain 1 point back of Nashville for the wild card spot.

Here's a look at the standings as they sit today:

Winnipeg is projected to get as close to the playoffs as possible without making it — while dropping in draft position — meaning Cole Perfetti (No. 10, 2020) would still be its highest pick since the lottery led to Patrik Laine at No. 2 in 2016. That outcome would make Winnipeg the textbook definition of “mushy middle.”

But what about the Jets' path to 89 points, surpassing the Kings' projection? What if the Kings don't get hot at all, despite their projected strength?

There is some good news. Winnipeg has a better record in its last 10 games than every team it is chasing, for one, while the playoff cut line in the West could fall to 90 points (or fewer) for the first time since 2018-19. There are a lot of seasons in which a team with Winnipeg's record would already be out of the race, but the Jets are every bit a contender in the Western Conference turtle derby wild-card chase.

Nashville: 77 points, 8 games remaining

The Nashville Predators hold the second wild-card spot but have lost three straight games. Their schedule is difficult from a travel perspective — Nashville is in the midst of a five-game road trip that started in Florida and has taken it to California on the opposite coast — but the Predators do have control over their playoff path. They play five straight road games, including two against the Kings and one each against the Sharks and Ducks, before closing their road trip against Utah.

Projected record down the stretch (my picks): 3-4-1

Final point total (my picks): 84 points

Luszczyszyn projections point total: 84.2 points

Los Angeles: 76 points, 9 games remaining

Los Angeles is a team with plenty of roster quality, especially with Artemi Panarin skating alongside Anze Kopitar on the top line and Quinton Byfield on a hot streak that includes 9 points in his last seven games. Its schedule includes a pair of back-to-backs and three games against teams currently in playoff position. I like the Kings to beat Nashville at least once and to clean up against Vancouver and Calgary, and I've projected a strong 6-2-1 finish as a result, despite the team's .521 points percentage to date.

Projected record down the stretch (my picks): 6-2-1

Final point total (my picks): 89 points

Luszczyszyn projections point total: 88.2 points

Seattle: 75 points, 9 games remaining

Seattle isn't controlling the flow of play of late, nor does it have the top-end roster quality to inspire belief in an 8-1-0 type of run to end the season. I've given Seattle a split with the Golden Knights but it might be generous; the Kraken have the worst record over their past 10 games of any of the teams discussed in this piece.

Projected record down the stretch (my picks): 3-5-1

Final point total (my picks): 82 points

Luszczyszyn projections point total: 83.9 points

San Jose: 75 points, 10 games remaining

San Jose's biggest strength in this race is one more game remaining than Los Angeles, Seattle or St. Louis has — plus two more games left compared with Winnipeg or Nashville. There's time to get hot. The Sharks have also posted some of their best underlying numbers of the season since the Olympics. My analysis of each team's remaining schedule favours the Kings, but I'm not closing the door on San Jose's top-end talent, Macklin Celebrini's superstar status or the extra game San Jose has left to play.

Projected record down the stretch (my picks): 5-4-1
Final point total (my picks): 86 points
Luszczyszyn projections point total: 85.1 points

St. Louis: 73 points, 9 games remaining

Jeremy Rutherford did a phenomenal analysis of the Blues' remaining schedule, looking for a path by which St. Louis could make a shocking end-of-season surge. I think the Blues are coming from too far back and think their schedule is a tough one, with six of their nine games to come against playoff-bound opponents. Even giving them what I expect the comments section to view as a controversial win against Winnipeg, I don't like the Blues' odds at all.

Projected record down the stretch (my picks): 4-4-1
Final point total (my picks): 82 points
Luszczyszyn projections point total: 82.5 points

Winnipeg: 76 points, 8 games remaining

Winnipeg plays five of its final eight games on the road, where it's gone just 14-16-6 — including Tuesday's overtime win in Chicago. It avoids most of the top teams in the West, facing Dallas in a tough road matchup and then otherwise playing middling competition. The other projected playoff teams on the docket are Rick Bowness' Blue Jackets, a struggling Golden Knights team (with John Tortorella now at the helm) and the Utah Mammoth. There's room for Winnipeg to get hot, and I've given it points against everybody but Vegas and Dallas to show belief in Winnipeg's top-end talent delivering down the stretch.

Morrissey, Connor, Mark Scheifele and Connor Hellebuyck are consistent threats to steal games. Perfetti has started to score, too, while Gabriel Vilardi has emerged as an offensive contributor on or off the top line. The Jets are even getting offence from their bottom six.

But is it enough?

Projected record down the stretch (my picks): 5-2-1
Final point total (my picks): 87 points
Luszczyszyn projections point total: 85.7 points

Conclusion

Paul Maurice used to say that coaches make plans and the hockey gods laugh.

In the end, I think the 7 points Winnipeg gave away late in games it led against Minnesota, Toronto, Vegas, and Edmonton — and the Jets' 12 shootout and overtime losses — are enough to sink an otherwise plausible wild-card bid. Even a 5-2-1 record in the Jets' eight remaining games would leave them just short at season's end.

Here is a look at the NHL's final standings if I were to nail every game outcome and points projection in the piece. I still can't shake the idea that it's the Kings who have the best shot at making it, with Winnipeg and San Jose close behind.

But let's say the Kings stumble for even a moment. There's a chance that Winnipeg's season is on the line right through its season-ending game against the Sharks on April 16. You wouldn't like the Jets' odds against Colorado, nor would you love their position in the 2026 entry draft, but these Jets seem determined to keep you guessing right until the final buzzer.

Winnipeg Sun

https://www.winnipegsun.com/sports/connor-nabs-the-ot-winner-jets-playoff-push-intensifies/article_853a8a70-3c44-4729-89ef-3fa5bc11b395.html

Connor nabs the OT winner, Jets playoff push intensifies

By Gordon Anderson

In the end, it came down to two divergent offensive players, doing what they do best as individuals, all for the betterment of the team.

Kyle Connor scored the game-winning goal and the Jets beat the Chicago Blackhawks 4-3 in overtime on Tuesday night.

“The finish (was) elite,” Adam Lowry told reporters in Chicago. “The way Scheifele works on his game every day in practice, scanning the ice, working on holding (the puck) that extra second, forcing guys to come to him, draw them with his eyes, with his body, and then the control he has to put it right in the wheelhouse for Connor. It’s something we get to see every day.”

With his three assists, Scheifele continues to build upon his career year. He now has 92 points in 74 games.

Connor took the pass from Scheifele and showed a measure of patience, waiting for the puck to reach his strong side. The redirect zipped between the body and right arm of Spencer Knights just 33 seconds into the extra session. The goal was Connor’s 34th of the campaign.

“I don’t think anyone is stopping that,” Josh Morrissey said.

The Jets are now tied with the Los Angeles Kings on points, both teams with 76, just one point behind the Nashville Predators for the second wildcard spot in the Western Conference. The Seattle Kraken lost 3-0 to the Edmonton Oilers on Tuesday night. The San Jose Sharks were idle.

Winnipeg has whittled an 11-point deficit to one since the restart of the league on Feb. 25.

“We have no quit in this locker room,” Morrissey said. “We had a good start and then had a large stretch of the year where it didn’t really feel like it was our group and just couldn’t get any traction. It has been well documented where the guys had a great Olympic break and everything that we had been working on that the coaches brought out for us, the competitiveness, I think it set the tone coming out of that break and I am proud of the way we have battled.”

The club is now 10-4-4 in that span, tied for the 3rd-best record in the conference over that time.

“You have got to perform under pressure,” Lowry said. “That’s the biggest thing. We know every game is important. We talked about it after the first intermission. We don’t have time to just squander points. We can’t have these letdowns where we play one great game and then come down and take a breath. So, it was a big win for us.”

The locals went 9-3-0 in their opening 12 games, following up with a 6-19-5 mark in the next 30, including an 11-game losing streak, and have rebounded to go 17-8-7 over the next 32 games. The Jets have eight games left in the season.

Morrissey, Cole Perfetti and Isak Rosen scored for the Jets (32-30-12). Rosen's goal was his second with the Jets in 13 games. Connor Hellebuyck (20-20-11) turned aside 18 of 21 shots for the win. Winnipeg improves to 6-19-6 when the opponent scores first.

Tyler Bertuzzi scored twice for the Blackhawks (27-34-14). Anton Frondell also scored. Frondell's was his first NHL goal. Bertuzzi's third-period goal was his 31st of the season, setting a career high. Previously, he scored 30 with the Detroit Red Wings during the 2021-22 season. Knight (18-21-11) stopped 20 of 24 shots.

The Jets are in Dallas to face the Stars on Thursday night.

Ice Chips

Vlad Namestnikov, Ville Heinola, Morgan Barron, Gustav Nyquist and Haydn Fleury were scratched.

Namestnikov and Nino Niederreiter skated in a non-contact jersey in Chicago on Tuesday. Barron is not with the team on the trip. He is back in Winnipeg skating. Arniel was asked for an update on Barron prior to game time, but he did not have one.

Most dominant

Perhaps the Jets felt rather unlucky they only outscored Chicago 3-1 in the second period as the Jets outshot the Blackhawks 15-2. Morrissey, Perfetti and Rosen staked the Jets to a 3-1 lead, but Bertuzzi scored on Chicago's second shot at 13:26.

Chicago turned the tables in the third period, outshooting the Jets 10-2 with Bertuzzi tying the game at 9:46.

Specials being special

The Winnipeg penalty kill gets the game puck for its work during a 1:03 5-on-3 for the Blackhawks early in the third period with the Jets nursing a 3-2 lead. The 'Hawks did not register a shot on the two-man advantage. The Jets powerplay also broke a 1-15 slide when Perfetti scored his 12th of the season at 11:19 of the second period.

The Hockey News

<https://thehockeynews.com/nhl/winnipeg-jets/latest-news/winnipeg-s-nearly-impossible-playoff-run-almost-complete-now-sitting-one-point-out-of-playoffs>

Winnipeg's Nearly Impossible Playoff Run Almost Complete, Now Sitting One Point Out Of Playoffs

By Jake Tye

After picking up a crucial two points in a 4-3 overtime victory over the Chicago Blackhawks on Tuesday, the Winnipeg Jets are within striking distance of what once seemed like an impossible playoff push. Winnipeg now sits just one point out of a wild card spot, turning a late-season surge into a legitimate postseason bid.

Since returning from the Olympic break, the Jets have been one of the hottest teams in the league, earning points in 14 of their last 18 games and posting a 10-4-4 record over that stretch. Their ability to keep games close has been a defining factor, allowing them to steadily climb the standings while other contenders have stumbled.

Among the teams battling for the final wild card positions, Winnipeg holds a subtle but important edge as they have the best goal differential at minus-15, significantly better than the current holders of those spots, the Nashville Predators at minus-26 and the next closest contender with the Jets in the Los Angeles Kings at minus-27.

Despite the momentum, the path to the playoffs remains complicated as Los Angeles controls its own destiny with what is considered the easiest remaining schedule in the league. The Kings also have two pivotal head-to-head matchups against Nashville, games that could dramatically reshape the standings.

The Predators, meanwhile, face a demanding stretch run in addition to their games against the Kings as they must take on the San Jose Sharks and the Utah Mammoth, both of whom are still part of the playoff picture. Nashville's schedule becomes even more daunting with upcoming matchups against the Minnesota Wild and two games against the Pacific Division leading Anaheim Ducks.

Winnipeg's road is no easier as they will need to maintain their strong play against direct competitors like San Jose and Utah while also navigating a series of tough games against top-tier opponents. Their remaining schedule includes clashes with the Dallas Stars, Columbus Blue Jackets, Vegas Golden Knights, and the surging Philadelphia Flyers.

According to MoneyPuck, Winnipeg's playoff odds currently sit at 15.6 percent. While those numbers remain modest, they reflect a team that has given itself a real chance down the stretch. If the Jets can sustain the level of play they have shown over the past 18 games, their late-season push may yet become one of the most remarkable turnarounds in recent memory.