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<https://www.nhl.com/jets/news/complete-team-effort-helps-jets-beat-avs>

Complete team effort helps Jets beat Avs Jets block 24 shots on route to a 3-1 win over Avalanche

By Jamie Thomas

WINNIPEG – Mark Scheifele had two assists and reached 80 points for the second consecutive season as the Winnipeg Jets beat the Colorado Avalanche 3-1 at Canada Life Centre. Connor Hellebuyck made 27 saves to improve to 8-2 in his last ten starts against Colorado. Kyle Connor, Alex Iafallo and Cole Perfetti scored for the Jets who are 27-28-10 on the season. The Jets get right back to work Sunday afternoon when they host the St. Louis Blues at 2 CT.

NEEDED EVERYONE

Scott Arniel said on Friday that the Jets were going to need everyone to get the right result against the league leading Avalanche. He alluded to the team's performance in a 4-1 win over the Tampa Bay Lightning in the second game of this homestand. The Jets kept most shots to the outside, cleaned up any second chance opportunity in front of Hellebuyck and blocked 24 shots including Dylan DeMelo helping out his goaltender in the third period saving a sure goal.

"Yeah, it was great. You know, the details were there. We had a lot of jump. We played together," said Hellebuyck.

"Very little mistakes. And, you know what, some help from DeMelo blocking some goal line shots. So, yeah, we had it all."

30 GOALS FOR KC

After a scoreless first period, the Jets opened the scoring at 2:05 of the second, Mark Scheifele entered the Avalanche zone and spotted Kyle Connor alone in the slot and Connor fired home his 30th of the season. It's the eighth time that Connor has reached 30 goals in his career which is the most in franchise history, passing Ilya Kovalchuk. Consistency clearly has been the key for the Jets sniper reaching the 30 goal mark in eight of his nine full seasons in the NHL.

"Yeah, that's obviously a big part of it, consistency and in your game," said Connor.

"And, trying to bring that level every single night, and with such a grind of a season, and then we're obviously down to the wire here with the push that we need to have, and it needs to be there every single night. And yeah, it's something that it's tough to do."

CAREER BEST FOR SCHEIFELE

Scheifele tied his career best for assists on the Connor goal with his 50th and joined Blake Wheeler (3), Josh Morrissey (2) and Slava Kozlov (2) as the only players in franchise history with multiple 50 assist campaigns. On top of that, he registered his 80th point of the season on the Connor goal. Almost 10 minutes after Connor's goal, Scheifele would set a career best with his 51st helper on Alex Iafallo's goal that made it 2-0 Jets.

NHL.com

<https://www.nhl.com/news/colorado-avalanche-winnipeg-jets-game-recap-march-14-2026>

***Connor has 2 points, Jets hold off Avalanche
Reaches 30 goals for 8th time in career, Scheifele has 2 assists for Winnipeg***

By Darrin Bauming

WINNIPEG -- Kyle Connor had a goal and an assist for the Winnipeg Jets in a 3-1 win against the Colorado Avalanche at Canada Life Centre on Saturday.

"I felt like we played a solid game," Connor said. "They're obviously a dangerous team, and they like to wind it up. We just were aware of that and did a good job of (guarding against) that. And they were doing lots of switches, crossing drops, and I thought our D-zone was great. We're just kind of patient and help each other out, and are able to jump on a lot of plays."

Alex Iafallo and Cole Perfetti also scored, and Connor Hellebuyck made 28 saves for the Jets (27-28-10), who had lost two straight and have points in seven of nine (5-2-2). Mark Scheifele had two assists.

"I thought I was able to see pucks, and the rebounds were staying in front of me and they were cleaning them really well," Hellebuyck said. "When you have everything to the outside and shot lanes that you see, it's a pretty easy job out there."

"I think if we play like this we've got a shot. Now we've just got to bring consistency and put that same effort on the ice every night and see what happens."

Martin Necas scored, and Mackenzie Blackwood made 15 saves for the Avalanche (44-12-9), who've lost two of three after winning five straight.

"I just feel like we didn't really get there the first couple of periods like we wanted to," Colorado defenseman Cale Makar said. "But I feel like we were better in the third, but I don't think we tested them enough around the net to get better opportunities."

The Avalanche experienced an extended delay before their flight was permitted to take off from Seattle on Friday. The team spent eight hours on the tarmac, eventually arriving in Winnipeg at 11 p.m. local time, 14 hours before the matinee against the Jets.

"I think yesterday took a toll on our guys like when it comes to their legs," Colorado coach Jared Bednar said. "But the top guys who played a lot the other night, they just didn't have it. So hopefully we get our energy back. We get in at a pretty good hour tonight and get a day of rest tomorrow, and we'll turn the game over and go again against Pittsburgh."

Makar said, "Stuff like that's going to happen and it's obviously out of our control, but I felt like it was a good team-bonding experience. And unfortunately we got in late, but at the same time we're used to it. It's like playing a back-to-back. You're flying into the next city and getting in late anyway. So, obviously (an) early game, but definitely not an excuse. I felt like we had our legs tonight, just not fully there, technically."

Connor made it 1-0 at 2:05 of the second period. Scheifele stole a Nathan MacKinnon drop pass, carried the puck into the offensive zone and set up a trailing Connor for a wrist shot from above the left hash marks.

The goal gave Connor his fifth straight 30-goal season and eighth overall in the NHL, all with the Jets.

"I think players recognize how dangerous he is," Winnipeg coach Scott Arniel said. "I don't know if everybody around North America recognizes how good, what a great goal-scorer he is. He has got an unbelievable release, and he has a knack for finding that open ice. And him and Scheifele with their chemistry. That puck comes off his stick in a hurry, and he is, as you saw tonight, it doesn't take much, he just needs a lane to get that shot off. From my history here, the four years, if you watch him in practice or you watch him in games, he is a pure goal-scorer."

Connor and Scheifele combined on the same goal for the 50th time this season.

"It's a constant work in progress," Connor said, "and it's something that (Scheifele and I) both take a lot of pride in, and pushing each other, and working at just tons of different areas where we can get better. And constantly talk to each other about what we're seeing. We've been able to play it together and kind of build that chemistry and work with each other. He's such a heads-up player, and everything matches the speed, the hands, can shoot the puck, as well. And it's just a lot of fun to learn from him and get to pick his brain in those situations as well."

Iafallo made it 2-0 at 11:52. Scheifele's one-timer from just inside the blue line hit him in the stomach at the edge of the crease, and he quickly tucked the loose puck around Blackwood.

Necas cut it to 2-1 at 18:44 of the third period, scoring with a one-timer from the left face-off circle to spoil Hellebuyck's bid for his first shutout of the season.

"I didn't think we did, especially through the first half of the game, or the first period especially, we didn't get enough traffic or inside opportunities on them," Bednar said. "And then we started to get some of them (at the) start of the second and then spurts after that. But I think we need to do more on the offensive side to score, but (Hellebuyck) certainly had a good night."

Perfetti scored into an empty net at 19:18 for the 3-1 final.

NOTES: Avalanche defenseman Brent Burns played his 990th straight game since Nov. 21, 2013, passing Keith Yandle for the second-longest consecutive-games streak in NHL history. Phil Kessel is the all-time leader with 1,064. Burns has the longest active streak. ... Connor passed Ilya Kovalchuk for the most 30-goal seasons in Jets/Atlanta Thrashers history. ... Scheifele reached 51 assists, setting an NHL career high (50 in 2016-17). He also has 81 points (30 goals), tying Kovalchuk for the most 80-point seasons in Jets/Thrashers history (four).

Canadian Press

https://www.ctvnews.ca/winnipeg/article/consistent-connor-continues-to-fuel-jets-playoff-pursuit/?taid=69b6b7e756707400019602ed&utm_campaign=trueAnthem%3A+Trending+Content&utm_medium=trueAnthem&utm_source=twitter

Consistent Connor continues to fuel Jets playoff pursuit

By The Canadian Press

WINNIPEG — In a season for the Winnipeg Jets defined by inconsistency, Kyle Connor has been the exception to the rule.

The Jets' star winger set a new franchise record on Saturday, passing Ilya Kovalchuk by registering his eighth career 30-goal season in a 3-1 victory over the Colorado Avalanche in front of 14,956 at Canada Life Centre.

For a Jets club still desperately trying to secure a playoff spot and find its rhythm, Connor's effort — and production — against the Avalanche is exactly what Winnipeg needs to reach its goal. It also speaks to Connor's consistency, and not just this season, but since becoming a regular with the team during the 2017-18 NHL season.

In fact, over his nine-year career, the only time Connor did not reach the 30-goal mark was during the 56-game schedule in 2020-21, shortened owing to the COVID-19 pandemic. He did, however, net an impressive 26 goals.

"That's obviously a big part of it, having consistency in your game," Connor said. "And trying to bring that level every single night. With such a grind of a season, we're obviously down to the wire here with the push that we need to have, and that needs to be every single night.

"It's something that is tough to do. These games add up, especially at this part of the season, and to be able to be consistent every night is what you strive for, it's what you hope for."

Connor opened the scoring early in the second period, beating goaltender Mackenzie Blackwood at the 2:05 mark. The goal was set up by Mark Scheifele, who tied his own single-season career high with his 50th assist on the play, before recording his 51st on another second-period goal by Alex Iafallo.

Jets head coach Scott Arniel has had a front-row seat to Connor's development and believes the winger doesn't always get the love and respect that his numbers demand.

"I don't know if everybody around North America recognizes how good, and what a great scorer he is," Arniel said. "He has got an unbelievable release, and he has a knack for finding that open ice, and him and Scheifele with their chemistry, that puck comes off his stick in a hurry.

"As you saw tonight, it doesn't take much, he just needs a lane to get that shot off. From my history here, the four years, if you watch him in practice or you watch him in games, he is a pure goal-scorer."

When asked what allows him to reach the 30-goal plateau every year, Connor deflected the praise, giving an assist to his longtime centreman Scheifele and other quality teammates he's played with.

"Health, obviously, plays a big part of it," Connor said. "But we've had a lot of good teams, and I've been fortunate to play with a lot of great players. Scheifele, he's probably assisted on almost all of them. Before that, Blake Wheeler, as well as Josh Morrissey on the power play. It goes back to that consistency and just taking pride in that and just being a teammate that can be relied upon."

Goaltender Connor Hellebuyck, who turned in a stellar 28-save performance against Colorado, has been with the organization for Connor's entire run.

"It's been an honour watching him," Hellebuyck said. "I've kind of watched right from the start, so I've seen the skills develop. Just seeing the little things he's picking up on and the speed and how much faster he's getting every single day, it's been a true pleasure."

While Connor's individual consistency is now cemented in the club's history books, the Jets know they need that same strong effort from the entire roster if they hope to land a post-season spot. The Jets improved to 27-28-10 with the win, but remain several points out of the final playoff spot, with a few teams ahead of them fighting for the same position.

Perhaps a win over the first-place Avalanche, who dropped to 44-12-9 with the loss, will be the catalyst to a more consistent, collective effort for Winnipeg.

"We're not (going to succeed) by six or seven people, we're by committee — everybody has got to be doing this," Arniel said.

"Prior to the playoffs, this is the hardest hockey you're going to see all season long. If you're not all in, you're not going to have success, you're going to be chasing games."

Winnipeg Free Press

<https://www.winnipegfreepress.com/breakingnews/2026/03/14/hellebuyck-stuns-avs-top-guns-again>

Hellebuyck stuns Avs top guns again After golden Olympic display, Jets goalie spectacular in win over NHL's best squad

By: Mike McIntyre

Nathan MacKinnon has seen this Connor Hellebuyck movie before. Cale Makar and Devon Toews, too.

A dominant performance from the Olympic gold-medal goaltender powered the Winnipeg Jets to a surprising 3-1 victory over the Colorado Avalanche on Saturday afternoon at Canada Life Centre.

Hellebuyck stopped 28 of the 29 shots as the Jets handed the NHL's No. 1 team just its 12th regulation loss of the season.

Mackinnon, Makar and Toews were all members of the Canadian team that had to settle for silver last month in Milan — undone in large part by Hellebuyck's heroics and Jack Hughes' overtime winner.

The stakes weren't nearly as high this time, even though the end result was familiar.

Hellebuyck's latest highlight reel includes an outstanding third-period stop on Toews, who may have experienced a case of *deja vu* — the Avalanche defenceman was robbed by Hellebuyck's paddle in Italy in what became a signature save of the best-on-best tournament.

"It was great. I was able to see pucks and the rebounds were staying in front of me and they were cleaning them really well," said Hellebuyck, who was making his season-high eighth straight start in net.

"When you have everything to the outside and shot lanes that you see, it's a pretty easy job out there."

The reigning Hart and Vezina Trophy also got a helping hand from a couple teammates — Dylan DeMelo made a sprawling block in the crease while Gabe Vilardi likely stole a goal from Brett Kulak by lifting his stick at the last minute.

"(DeMelo) wants to come into our goalie video session tomorrow so he can work on his craft a little more, his goaltending craft," joked Hellebuyck. "No, it's great. It shows how much mini-sticks he's been playing lately."

According to Natural Stat Trick, the Avalanche had 18 high-danger chances to just two for the Jets. Yet the only puck to beat Hellebuyck came on a 6-on-5 late in the third period, when Makar and Mackinnon set up Marty Necas for a perfect one-timer.

The Jets, who were coming off a pair of uninspiring losses to the Anaheim Ducks and lowly New York Rangers, improve to 27-28-10 on the year, including 4-2-0 on this season-long eight-game homestand. The victory moves them to within five points of the final Western Conference wildcard spot, pending other results on Saturday night.

"If we play like this, we got a shot," said Hellebuyck. "Now we just got to bring consistency and, you know, put that same effort on the ice every night and see what happens."

Colorado falls to 44-12-9. The Jets and Avalanche will face each other two more times this season — March 26 in Winnipeg and March 28 in Denver.

"I thought we were competitive on pucks. We knew that with their talent and skill, and they come in with speed, we did a really good job of protecting the guts of the ice," said Jets head coach Scott Arniel.

"There were a couple of breakdowns, but Hellebuyck was there for those. At the end of the day, I thought we did a really good job managing the game. Doing a good job of getting our five above their five and for the most part we did a strong job of that."

Top line shines

Winnipeg's offence came from a familiar place on Saturday.

That would be the top line, which has largely carried the team in that department this season. Specifically the duo of Mark Scheifele and Kyle Connor, who seemingly can do no wrong regardless of whether Virdi or, as was the case against the Avalanche, Alex Lafallo is on the right-wing.

Connor gave the Jets a 1-0 lead early in the second period when he took a pass from Scheifele — who intercepted a MacKinnon drop pass in the neutral zone — and ripped a shot past Mackenzie Blackwood for his 30th of the season.

Connor, who was on the gold medal team with Hellebuyck but was a healthy scratch for the final four games in Milan, is the picture of consistency. He's now hit at least 30 goals in eight of his nine full NHL seasons. The only time he didn't was during the 2020-21 campaign, which was shortened to just 56 games due to the pandemic. (He still has 26 that year).

"I don't know if everybody around North America recognizes what a great goal-scorer he is," said Arniel.

"He has an unbelievable release, and he has a knack for finding that open ice, and him and Scheifele with their chemistry, that puck comes off his stick in a hurry. It doesn't take much, he just needs a lane to get that shot off. From my history here, the four years, if you watch him in practice or you watch him in games, he is a pure goal-scorer."

Next up was Lafallo, who took a slap shot from Scheifele to the mid-section, then spun around and buried the loose puck for his 11th of the year at 11:52 of the middle frame. Connor also had a helper on the goal, which turned out to be the game-winner.

The assist by Scheifele moves him to 51 on the year, which eclipses the career-high of 50 he had in 2016-17. Scheifele is also up to 81 points, just six away from his career-high he set last year. With 17 regular-season games remaining, he seems likely to set a new benchmark.

"He's so dialed in and he studies the game so well and he works so hard at it," Hellebuyck said of Scheifele.

"Even over (the Olympic) break, he never got off the ice. He was on the ice the entire time just working on his craft. The way he sees the game and the vision he has and the control he has on both his forehand and his backhand, it's just bar none."

Praise for Perfetti

Another notable development Saturday was seeing young forward Cole Perfetti given the task of trying to shut down the mighty Avalanche late in the game with his team clinging to a one-goal lead.

Yet there he was, immediately after the Necas goal at 18:44 — and Perfetti rewarded his head coach for the leap of defensive faith.

Perfetti stripped MacKinnon of the puck in Winnipeg's end, then fired a long-range missile into the empty net to seal the victory.

His ninth of the season was nearly followed by his 10th, as Perfetti hit the post on another empty-net bid as the final seconds ticked off the clock.

"I thought Cole earned the opportunity to be there," said Arniel, who couldn't help but take a playful shot while handing out praise.

"I can't believe he didn't get two."

Key play

lafallo's rebound goal just past the midway mark of the second period gave the Jets a bit more breathing room and ended up being the game-winner.

Three stars

1. WPG Connor Hellebuyck: 28 saves
2. WPG LW Kyle Connor: 1 goal, 1 assist
3. WPG C Mark Scheifele: 2 assists

Extra, extra

A crowd of 14,756 took in the matinee.

Winnipeg failed to convert on its one power play opportunity, but they managed to kill off both minor penalties they took against Colorado.

Ville Heinola was the lone healthy scratch for the Jets.

Veteran defenceman Brent Burns dressed for a 990th straight game on Saturday, which moved him past Keith Yandle and into second place all-time on the NHL "ironman" list. Burns, 41, now trails only the retired Phil Kessel, who played in 1,064 straight games.

The Jets don't have much time to savour this victory — they'll host the surging St. Louis Blues on Sunday (2 p.m CT). Winnipeg then wraps the homestand on Tuesday night against the Nashville Predators.

Is Hellebuyck expecting to make a ninth straight start?

"I hope not," he replied.

"One night off, give Coms (Eric Comrie) one. He's been working so hard, he earned it."

Winnipeg Sun

https://www.winnipegsun.com/sports/jets-stymie-nhl-s-best-earn-a-3-1-win-over-the-avs/article_6f166014-7db9-4e83-b28c-4487489a2754.html

Jets stymie NHL's best, earn a 3-1 win over the Avs

By Gordon Anderson

The Winnipeg Jets snapped a two-game losing skid and beat the Colorado Avalanche 3-1 on Saturday afternoon.

"I thought we were competitive on pucks," Jets head coach Scott Arniel said in his post-game comments. "We knew that with their talent and skill and they come in with speed, we did a really good job of protecting the guts of the ice. There were a couple of breakdowns, but Hellebuyck

was there for those. At the end of the day, I thought we did a really good job managing the game.”

True enough, as the only goal the Avalanche scored came during a 6-on-5 situation with Mackenzie Blackwood on the bench for the extra attacker. Nate MacKinnon found Martin Necas with a cross-box pass. The shot beat Hellebuyck before he could get over the right post with 1:16 remaining in the game.

“I was able to see pucks, and the rebounds were staying in front of me, and they were cleaning them really well,” Hellebuyck said. “When you have everything to the outside and shot lanes that you see, it’s an easy job out there.”

Hellebuyck (17-18-9) stopped 28 of 29 shots.

Cole Perfetti iced the game with an empty-net goal, taking the puck away from MacKinnon just inside the Jets blue line and managing to hit the open net at 19:18.

The Jets have allowed 13 goals in six-on-four situations. They have scored four goals at six-on-four.

The final shots were 13-6 for Colorado in the third period and 29-18 overall for the visitors. The analytics site Natural Stat Trick had the Avs favoured at 9-0 in third-period high danger chances and 18-2 in high-danger chances for the game.

Kyle Connor and Alex Iafallo also scored for the Jets (27-28-10). Mark Scheifele picked up two assists and now has a career-high in helpers with 51. Scheifele earned 50 assists in the 2016-17 season, his previous best.

The Avalanche (44-12-9) is 4-10-6 when trailing after two periods of play and 10-10-5 when the opposition scores first. Blackwood (18-8-1) stopped 15 of 17 shots.

The Jets host the St. Louis Blues on Sunday afternoon.

Ice Chips

Vlad Namestnikov and Ville Heinola were scratched.

By the numbers

Connor’s goal in the second period entered the net at 72.9 miles per hour ... The Jets entered Saturday’s game ranked 27th in the league in powerplay opportunities with 177. The squad had 10 powerplay chances in the first five games of this eight game homestand ... Iafallo reached the 11-goal mark for the second time as a Winnipeg Jet ... Mark Scheifele set a career-high in assists with 50 when he set up Connor for his 30th ... Through 64 games played, the Jets skated a total of 4,680.99 kilometres as a team. Scheifele led the way with 365.43 km’s skated ... The Jets are -22 in the third period goals for, goals against stat line. The Avs are plus-34 ... Prior to their arrival in Winnipeg late last night, the Avs spent eight hours on the tarmac in Seattle.

An illusion

The Jets finished the first period with five shots. They registered three in the final 58 seconds of the period. Their first shot of the opening 20 minutes came 22 seconds into the period. Their second shot was registered 6:07 after the first shot on goal. Winnipeg went 13:55 between its

second and third shots. Winnipeg has totaled 37 shots in its last six first periods. The high was 10 against the Vancouver Canucks and the low was two against the Anaheim Ducks.