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<https://www.nhl.com/jets/news/three-things-jets-get-character-win-over-champs>

### ***THREE THINGS: Jets get character win over champs***

***Scheifele scores game winning goal with 4:14 left in the third in 2-1 win over Panthers***

By Jamie Thomas

Mark Scheifele scored at 15:46 of the third period to give the Winnipeg Jets a well-deserved 2-1 win over the Florida Panthers at Amerant Bank Arena. Cole Perfetti scored the other goal for the Jets who are now 2-1 on their four-game road trip. Eric Comrie won his third consecutive start making 27 saves. The Jets will play their final road game before the Olympic break Monday in Dallas.

### ***PLENTY OF GOOD LOOKS***

Despite the fact the Jets didn't score in the first two periods, it sure wasn't because they didn't have any good chances to beat Sergei Bobrovsky. In the first period while on their third power play, Cole Perfetti was left alone in the slot and his shot got through the Panthers netminder, but Bobrovsky reached back and pulled it away from the goal line. While on the same man advantage, Perfetti beat Bobrovsky but not the crossbar. In the second period, Mark Scheifele found Kyle Connor in front, but Bobrovsky's glove would keep the Panthers ahead 1-0.

### ***THIRD PERIOD BREAK THROUGH***

Winnipeg remained patient going into the third period and they were rewarded for that patience especially Perfetti. Eight and a half minutes into the period, Gabe Vilardi stepped around Sam Bennett and got a shot off that was stopped by Bobrovsky, but Perfetti went to the net and scored on the rebound.

"Yeah, it's obviously a good feeling. Like you said, got a lot of chances there earlier in the game and wasn't able to find it," said Perfetti.

"So, just keep going to the net, trying to generate and try to get those chances, and go the net and get rewarded. So felt good."

Another brilliant individual effort came from Gustav Nyquist on the game winning goal, Nyquist entered the Panthers zone and slid a perfect pass to Connor who fed Scheifele who had a wide-open net for his team leading 27th goal. Per NHL Stats, Scheifele factored on a go-ahead goal in the third period for the 53rd time in his career, two shy of Blake Wheeler (55) for the most by a Jets/Thrashers skater.

### ***KEEP COMMS AND MOVE ON***

Comrie was solid when he had to be to winning his third consecutive start and has done that by posting a save percentage of .950 or better in each of those appearances.

"I felt good. I feel like I'm not pressing the issue. Earlier I was pressing the issue a little bit, trying to do a little bit too much. Trying too hard is a weird way to say it, but I feel like I was trying too hard," said Comrie.

"I was putting a lot of pressure on myself, trying to do too much instead of just letting things happen and playing my game. I feel like I'm getting back to just, hey, relax, you don't have to put pressure on yourself."

<https://www.nhl.com/jets/news/prospect-report-kieron-walton>

**PROSPECT REPORT: Kieron Walton**

**Walton on trade to Petes: "It was a crazy week, a lot of emotions, but I'm happy."**

By Jamie Thomas

It's been an eventful five months for Winnipeg Jet prospect Kieron Walton.

Back in September, the 2024 sixth round pick took part of the 2025 Prospect Showcase in Montreal with his fellow Jets prospects. The opening game of the tournament was against the host Canadiens in front of a packed Bell Centre which was a big change from the rookie tournament in Penticton BC.

"Yeah, that was one of the coolest, I mean, warmups of my life. That was really cool kind of coming out, and it was super loud," said Walton.

"And I know Montreal fans are really passionate, so that was a great time. Had my family there. But before the hit, it was a lot of fun."

The hit that Walton is referring to is one he took from Canadiens prospect Owen Protz as Walton released a shot from the slot. Walton did get up from the ice and skated off on his own but did not return to the game and missed the next game against Ottawa.

"Yeah, I just saw (the) puck in the slot, went for it. Little bit of a blindside (hit) is what it is. And then I just remember I wasn't staying down in front of 20,000 people," said Walton.

"So, I was getting up and getting to the bench. I got to the bench. I didn't really know where I was, but I knew I just wasn't staying down."

Walton was scheduled to take part of Jets training camp but was unable to do so.

"Yeah, I'd say it was about a 10-day process where I started to feel kind of really back to normal and was able to kind of skate a little bit harder and stuff," said Walton.

"And then probably about 13, 14 days, I started to feel like back to myself and not slow or anything, not dizzy and stuff like that. But the Jets staff and the Moose staff, they took great, great care of me."

Walton was sent back to the OHL's Sudbury Wolves where he had an outstanding season in 2024-25 with career highs in goals (38), assists (54) and points (92). The 19-year-old had been putting even more pressure on himself to make sure he built off his breakout year in major junior.

"Yeah, definitely. I like having pressure on myself. I think it's good. And yeah, I definitely wanted to have a really good year as well with numbers," said Walton.

“I definitely put a lot of pressure on myself when it comes to that.”

Walton did just that as he led the team in points heading into 2026 but with the Wolves fading out of contention in their conference, the organization started to make moves with the future in mind. As January arrived, it became more and more clear that Walton could be on the move. On January 5, the Wolves shipped out Blackhawks prospect Alex Pharand and Kraken prospect Nathan Villeneuve to Windsor in a deal that saw eight OHL Priority Selection picks coming back to Sudbury. Four days later, Walton was moved to the Peterborough Petes in another huge trade.

“Then a couple rumors went around that Peterborough was interested or whatever. And then I got a call at my buddy's billet house, and they're like, ‘Hey, do you get traded?’ So, I talked to Peterborough, all positive. I said I'm gonna sleep on it and stuff like that,” said Walton.

“Woke up next morning, was really pumped to get there, so went to the rink and was on my way to Peterborough with my dad. So, it was a crazy week, a lot of emotions, but I'm happy.”

The Petes are currently sitting in fourth spot in the Eastern Conference and have hopes to make a run with the addition of Walton.

“Yeah, it's been super cool. Kind of my first week here, I I've just realized kind of, it's like a different, they're always trying to win, and it's been really cool to see, and I'm looking forward to seeing what we can do,” said Walton.

“I haven't been able to have playoff success in the past with my OHL career so far. So that was another big thing, kind of I wanted to go to a team that has a chance to win and wants to win.”

As of January 30, Walton is tied for the scoring lead with 62 points in 41 games and has quickly acclimated to his new surroundings.

“That's definitely been my goal. Kind of be up there with a lot of good players up there, but yeah, my goal is to lead the league this year (in points),” said Walton.

“So, but we'll see what happens. But that that's been my goal kind of starting as the year went on.”

### **Associated Press**

<https://globalnews.ca/news/11647319/jets-rally-capped-by-scheifeles-late-goal-in-2-1-win-over-panthers/>

### ***Jets rally capped by Scheifele's late goal in 2-1 win over Panthers***

By The Associated Press

SUNRISE, Fla. (AP) — Mark Scheifele scored the go-ahead goal with 4:14 remaining, lifting the Winnipeg Jets to a 2-1 win over the sliding and short-handed Florida Panthers on Saturday.

Winnipeg was 1-18-2 in games where it trailed entering the third period going into the game, and was down 1-0 with 20 minutes left against the Panthers. But the Jets scored twice in a span of just over seven minutes to take command.

Cole Perfetti scored with 11:26 left to tie the game, then Scheifele got his 27th of the season for what became the game-winner.

Eric Comrie stopped 27 shots for the Jets, including one with 37.1 seconds left on a shot by Matthew Tkachuk. Sam Reinhart and Sam Bennett got shots to the net after that as well for the Panthers, but neither got by Comrie and the Jets prevailed for just the third time in their last nine games.

Eetu Luostarinen got the goal for Florida, which has dropped three straight and ended the game eight points back of the second wild-card spot in the Eastern Conference. The Panthers — who have been without Aleksander Barkov all season — played Saturday without Brad Marchand, who is day to day, along with Anton Lundell and Seth Jones, among others.

It was the first time this season that Florida took a lead into the third period and failed to get at least one point out of a game. The Panthers were 17-0-1 in such situations entering Saturday, the fifth-best record in the league.

Sergei Bobrovsky stopped 19 shots in the Florida net.

*Up next*

Jets: Visit Dallas on Monday.

Panthers: Host Buffalo on Monday.

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<https://www.nhl.com/news/winnipeg-jets-florida-panthers-game-recap-january-31-2026>

***Jets score twice in 3rd period to rally past Panthers  
Scheifele gets game-winner at 15:46; Florida loses 3rd in row***

By George Richards

SUNRISE, Fla. -- The Winnipeg Jets rallied with two goals in the third period and handed the Florida Panthers their third straight loss, 2-1 at Amerant Bank Arena on Saturday.

Cole Perfetti and Mark Scheifele scored for Winnipeg (22-25-7), which had lost three of its past four, including a 2-1 shootout loss to Florida at home on Jan. 22. Eric Comrie made 27 saves for his third straight win.

“I thought we played a hell of a hockey game,” Jets coach Scott Arniel said. “I just liked the way we competed. We played, like I said the other day, nose-to-nose with those guys. That’s what you have to do, because if you back off, they’re going to run you over. I thought we did a good job of winning our share of puck battles, limiting what we gave up.”

Eetu Luostarinen scored, and Sergei Bobrovsky made 19 saves for Florida (28-23-3).

“When you play in these tight, tight games, it’s going to be one shot,” said Panthers coach Paul Maurice, whose team has lost three straight one-goal games.

"We played hard, we played our tails off. It's tight right now with some of our challenges. We just have to keep the faith. Maybe that's the test of where we're at, the thing we do to win this year is to keep your belief and keep your fight, even when it's going against you."

Perfetti tied it 1-1 at 8:34. After Gabriel Vilardi was stopped by Bobrovsky on a drive to the net, the puck came free, and Perfetti tapped in the rebound near the left post.

"Obviously a good feeling," Perfetti said. "A lot of chances there earlier in the game and [I] wasn't able to find it. So, just keep going to the net, trying to generate and try to get those chances, and go the net and get rewarded."

"... That's a good team. They play a hard style. It's not easy once they get up. It's not easy to score on them. They really clog things up and make it hard on you. So, to come from behind and get a win in this building, hopefully it's huge for momentum. And I think the guys are feeling really good right now."

Scheifele gave the Jets a 2-1 lead at 15:46 on their fourth shot on goal of the period, taking advantage of a Panthers line change. Kyle Connor drove in on a 2-on-1 and sent a cross-ice pass to Scheifele, who shot over Bobrovsky's glove from in close.

"I thought we had the majority of the chances all game long," Comrie said. "I thought our team played really well all game long, really controlled a lot of the play. ... We're a pretty good team. When we put our heads together and play the right way we get a lot of chances. And today, we capitalized on two. That's all we needed."

Winnipeg rallied despite managing five shots in the third.

"We gave up five shots and I don't expect Sergei to have that second one," Maurice said. "We just got caught flat-footed on a line change and that's my fault as much as anyone else."

Florida took a 1-0 lead at 14:40 of the first period, five seconds after a Panthers power play ended.

With Logan Stanley racing out of the penalty box, Florida forward Evan Rodrigues took a floating wrist shot from just above the right circle that deflected in off of Luostarinen, who was screening Comrie at the side of the net.

"We were fine, and then a couple of sloppy plays or mistakes and they scored on us," Luostarinen said. "Frustrating way to go down. If we're not scoring more than one, we have to keep our net clean and we didn't do that today. It's tough. We battled."

**NOTES:** The Panthers were without forwards Brad Marchand (lower body) and Anton Lundell (upper body). Lundell missed a second straight game; Marchand sat out after not playing following the second period of a 5-4 loss at the St. Louis Blues on Thursday. ... Scheifele, who has 20 points (nine goals, 11 assists) in his past 16 games, all in January, scored the 53rd go-ahead, third-period goal of his career. He is two behind Blake Wheeler for the most in Jets/Atlanta Thrashers history. It also was Scheifele's fifth go-ahead goal in the final five minutes of regulation. Only Marc Savard (seven) has more in franchise history.

## **Winnipeg Free Press**

<https://www.winnipegfreepress.com/breakingnews/2026/01/31/jets-rally-in-florida>

### ***Jets rally in Florida***

***Go 'nose to nose' with defending champs to post second third period comeback win of season***

By: Ken Wiebe

SUNRISE, Fla. – This time, there was a willingness to do the hard things and go to the hard areas.

There were ample examples of patience and puck management against a team that won the last two Stanley Cup championships and has represented the Eastern Conference in the league final in each of the past three seasons.

Despite giving up the first goal, the Winnipeg Jets were able to rally with a pair of third-period markers to produce a 2-1 victory over the Florida Panthers on Saturday at Amerant Bank Arena.

“Obviously, that’s a good team. They play a hard style,” said Jets forward Cole Perfetti, who scored the equalizer at 8:34 of the third period. “It’s not easy once they get up. It’s not easy to score on them. They really clog things up and make it hard on you. So, to come from behind and get a win in this building, it’s hopefully huge for momentum.”

The Jets, who improved to 22-25-7, close out a four-game road trip on Monday against the Dallas Stars.

Perfetti’s goal was a great example of being rewarded for going to the blue paint, as he pounced on a rebound after Gabe Vilardi drove the puck to the net.

“I liked the way we competed,” said Jets head coach Scott Arniel. “We stayed in it. Nose to nose with those guys is what you have to do. If you back off, they’re going to run you over. We did a really good job of winning our share of puck battles and did a good job of limiting what we gave up.”

It was the second time this season the Jets have rallied to win a game when trailing after two periods, leaving their record in that situation at 2-18-2.

Let’s take a look at what transpired in this Saturday matinee.

### ***The return***

After sitting out as a healthy scratch in 12 of the past 14 games, winger Gustav Nyquist returned to the Jets’ lineup on Saturday.

While he began on the fourth line with Morgan Barron and Cole Koepke, Nyquist was bumped to the top line with Kyle Connor and Mark Scheifele during parts of the second and third periods in an effort to try to find some even-strength offence.

Well, that trio was responsible for the game-winning goal, thanks to a nifty passing play that was finished off by Mark Scheifele, who is up to 27 goals and 65 points in 54 games this season.

Nyquist did a great job finding space on the zone entry, showing patience as he cut through the middle and found Connor with a perfect pass through the skates of Panthers defenceman Uvis Balinskis.

Connor then fed the puck over to Scheifele for the go-ahead goal at 15:46 of the third period.

"He has great poise and patience with the puck," said Perfetti. "And he obviously makes a great play on the entry to (Connor). I mean, you could see it coming from the bench. We knew he was going back door, we've seen it many times. And sure enough, he puts it right on a platter for (Scheifele), and he buries it. That was a pretty play from them."

Nyquist took 18 shifts for 14:36 of ice time and he has nine assists in 33 games this season.

"I know the year hasn't gone the way a lot of people thought it would go for him, but he's a very good player," said Jets goalie Eric Comrie. "He's got a lot of good experience and a lot of great talent. I hope he really gets a chance to get some points here playing with some good players."

#### *The start*

After Connor Hellebuyck started the previous four games, Arniel went back to Comrie between the pipes on Saturday.

Much like his past two starts, Comrie was solid and gave his team a chance to win, finishing with 27 saves in his 19th start of the season.

Comrie's career-high for starts and appearances is 20, which he established last season.

Although Comrie was a bit overworked during Hellebuyck's absence due to a knee injury, he's regrouped nicely since the Jets' workhorse returned to action, allowing a total of three goals during his past three starts.

"Earlier, I was pressing the issue a little bit, trying to do a little bit too much," said Comrie. "Trying too hard is a weird way to say it, but I feel like I was trying too hard. I was putting a lot of pressure on myself, trying to do too much instead of just letting things happen and playing my game."

This recent run has allowed Comrie to lower his goals-against average to 3.07 and raise his save percentage to .892 as he improved his record to 9-9-1.

"He was fantastic," said Perfetti. "Their goal was a puck that was going three feet wide and banks off a guy. So other than that, he was flawless. He was amazing. And he's been like that for a while now."

"We have a lot of confidence when he's back there, and he's obviously a great guy to be around. And, when you see a guy get rewarded like that for how much hard work he puts in practice and off the ice, and he plays like that. It's awesome."

#### *The save*

Although Panthers netminder Sergei Bobrovsky wasn't taxed in terms shot volume, he came up big when called upon.

One of the best ones was a glove save off Connor, who made a good move to the backhand but was unable to lift the puck high enough to beat the goalie.

Speaking of saves, the Jets' top defence pairing was responsible for saving a pair of goals in this one, thanks to active sticks.

During a Panthers power play in the first period, Dylan DeMelo made a sliding play to prevent what looked like a goal for Matthew Tkachuk, while Josh Morrissey deflected the puck away from Carter Verhaeghe before he had the opportunity to unload his shot from the slot.

#### *The key play*

Scheifele finished off a tic-tac-toe passing play, taking advantage of a bad line change by the Panthers for the game-winner.

#### *The three stars*

Cole Perfetti, Jets, Scored equalizer, had three shots on goal.

Eric Comrie, Jets, Made 27 saves to win a third consecutive start.

Kyle Connor, Jets, Set up the game-winner, recorded five shots on goal.

#### *The scare*

Jets defenceman Elias Salomonsson was pushed from behind into the boards by Verhaeghe just three minutes into the contest.

Salomonsson, who hit his knee on the play, went down the tunnel for evaluation, but returned a few shifts later.

There was no penalty call on the play.

"We talked to the ref about it, he shoved him hard from behind and into the boards," said Arniel. "That is a dangerous situation for me and I know that Verhaeghe wasn't trying to do that but at the end of the day that is the ones where you see guys get hurt, especially races to pucks like that where a guy is at a full head of steam and he can't get his hands out to protect himself. I thought it was a two minute boarding (penalty)."

Salomonsson has been doing an excellent job on a pairing with Dylan Samberg during his second recall to the NHL.

He's up to 11 games at this level and seems to be getting more comfortable with each passing day.

Salomonsson's emergence is one reason the Jets are likely to be in the market to move a veteran defenceman or two before the March 6 NHL trade deadline.

#### *Extra! Extra!*

The Jets were zero-for-five on the power play and are in a zero-for-12 slump with the man-advantage.

Gustav Nyquist (14) during the third period against the Florida Panthers, Saturday in Sunrise, Fla.

The Jets healthy scratches were defenceman Isaak Phillips and forward Tanner Pearson.

The Panthers have been dealing with an abundance of injuries all season and on Saturday, they were without centre Anton Lundell and winger Brad Marchand, both of whom are considered day-to-day.

## **Winnipeg Sun**

[https://www.winnipegsun.com/sports/jets-stage-a-third-period-rally-to-beat-the-panthers-2-1/article\\_ed3e09c0-dab9-40eb-bc81-ed9a365eafe6.html](https://www.winnipegsun.com/sports/jets-stage-a-third-period-rally-to-beat-the-panthers-2-1/article_ed3e09c0-dab9-40eb-bc81-ed9a365eafe6.html)

### ***Jets stage a third-period rally to beat the Panthers 2-1***

By Gordon Anderson

The Jets accomplished something they rarely do when trailing after two periods: win a hockey game.

Winnipeg scored two third-period goals in a 2-1 win over the Florida Panthers on Saturday afternoon in Sunrise.

Mark Scheifele scored the game winning goal at 15:46, finishing off a slick passing sequence between Gustav Nyquist and Kyle Connor.

The Jets top centre beat Niko Mikkola to the back post and redirected the Connor pass behind Sergei Bobrovsky for his 27th goal of the season.

“You could see it coming from the bench,” Cole Perfetti said. “We knew of Scheifele was going back door, seen it many times. And sure enough, Connor puts it right on a platter for Scheifele, and he buries it in so that was a pretty play from them.”

The Jets entered the game with a 1-18-2 record while trailing after two periods of play. Their only win was a 2-1 victory over the Calgary Flames on Oct. 20. Consequently, the Panthers came into the game with a 17-0-1 record when entering the third with a lead.

Nyquist, who was a healthy scratch for the last four games, was elevated to the top line as the game progressed. Nyquist was also a healthy scratch in 12 of the past 14 games.

“He was real good and not just on the winner,” Arniel said. “It worked out in a good way that I could spot him on Scheifele’s line every now and then with him and Alex Lafallo flipping out. The setup of the lines helped me do that a little bit and (Nyquist) took advantage of it.”

Perfetti got the comeback started when he scored his fifth of the season at 8:34, redirecting a Gabe Vilardi pass behind Bobrovsky at 8:34.

Eric Comrie (9-9-1) stopped 27 shots to win his third consecutive game. After allowing six goals against the Toronto Maple Leafs on New Years Day, Comrie has allowed three goals in his last three starts. The Edmonton native stopped 23 shots in a 5-1 win over the Los Angeles Kings on Jan. 9, snapping the team’s 11-game winless streak. He also turned aside 22 of 23 shots in a 3-1 victory over the St. Louis Blues on Jan. 20, breaking the team’s two-game winless streak.

Eetu Luostarinen scored for the Panthers (28-23-3). Sergei Bobrovsky (20-16-1) stopped 19 of 21 shots.

The Jets finish their four-game road trip on Monday night in Dallas against the Stars.

### *Ice Chips*

Tanner Pearson and Isaak Philips were scratched.

### *Crisis averted*

There was a scare for the Jets early in the first period when Carter Verhaeghe pushed Elias Salomonsson into the end boards behind the Winnipeg net at 17:50. The rookie slammed his right shoulder into the boards and lay on the ice for a minute or two. Eventually, he got to his feet and made his way to the bench. He was on the ice for his next shift.

With Neal Pionk, Haydn Fleury and Colin Miller still injured, the Jets can ill-afford to lose a player who is showing promise 11 games into his NHL career. Pionk is skating with the team, but Arniel doesn't expect him to come back prior to the start of the Olympic break on Feb. 6. The same goes for Fleury and Miller.

Salomonsson was on the ice late in the game with Dylan Samberg as Florida pushed for the equalizer.

"Elias is building his confidence, and you can see it from game to game," Samberg said prior to the game. "I think he feels more established and comfortable. He is starting to get up in the rush and is turning into an everyday NHL defenceman, which is nice to see."

### *Help wanted*

With the Jets struggling to score even-strength goals lately, seven in the last four games, the powerplay had three chances in the first period to get the Jets on the board but failed in their attempts. Then again, the powerplay has struggled lately too with two goals in its last 15 opportunities dating back to Jan. 17 against the Toronto Maple Leafs. The team was 0-7 in its last four games prior to the matinee puck drop. Coming into the game, the Jets were 20th in the league with 28 goals in 145 chances, a 19.3 per cent efficiency rating. The 145 powerplay chances ranks them 27th in the league. The Panthers lead the NHL in powerplay opportunities with 196. Overall, the powerplay went 0-5.

### *One for three*

Perfetti missed two glorious powerplay chances. His first chance from the slot got through Bobrovsky, the puck leaking out the backside and into the crease. Gustav Forsling cleared the puck away before Vilardi could deposit the puck in the back of the net. On the same powerplay, Vilardi set up Perfetti in the low slot near the left post, but the Perfetti backhand pinged off the underside of the cross bar, the puck bouncing towards the corner to the right of the net. In six minutes at 5-on-4, they were credited with two shots.

After his two glorious chances on the man-advantage, Perfetti finally converted at 8:34 of the third period, tying the game at the time. Perfetti went to the right post and redirected a Vilardi centering pass behind Bobrovsky for his fifth of the season. He was credited with three shots on goal in 17:34 of ice time.

In the previous game against Florida, a 2-1 shootout win for the Panthers on Jan. 22, Perfetti rescued a point when he scored a third-period goal after a sweet set-up pass from Jonathan Toews.