



Columbus Blue Jackets Media Clips November 22-24, 2025

Columbus Blue Jackets News

PAGE 2	The Athletic / Blue Jackets Monday Gathering: Rash of late-game collapses costing crucial points
PAGE 8	The Athletic / As Blue Jackets blow another lead, Dean Evason isn't concerned: 'I'm not focused on it'
PAGE 10	The Columbus Dispatch / Breaking down the Columbus Blue Jackets at the quarter point
PAGE 13	The Columbus Dispatch / Columbus Blue Jackets letting late leads vanish too often: Takeaways
PAGE 15	The Columbus Dispatch / Detroit Red Wings top Columbus Blue Jackets in overtime
PAGE 16	The Hockey Writers / Blue Jackets Lose Third-Period Lead, Fall in Overtime to Red Wings
PAGE 18	The Hockey Writers / Blue Jackets' Adam Fantilli Becoming More Complete Player in Third NHL Season

Cleveland Monsters / Prospects News

PAGE 20	NHL.com / Color of Hockey: Payne's hands-on approach paying off for Cleveland kids
---------	--

NHL News

Multimedia

The Athletic / Blue Jackets Monday Gathering: Rash of late-game collapses costing crucial points

By Aaron Portzline – November 24, 2025

A collection of notes, insights, ruminations and did-you-knows gathered throughout the week that was for the Columbus Blue Jackets:

Item No. 1: Dean in denial

Last season, as the Blue Jackets saw their record tank in the second half of back-to-back games, coach Dean Evason remained steadfast. It wasn't that their struggle was mental or physical, he insisted: there *wasn't* a struggle.

It's been much the same this season, but with a different topic: the Blue Jackets' difficulty holding a lead late in games, especially over the last three weeks.

Five times in that span they've let games slip away, costing them at least five or six points in just their last 11 games. The most recent happened on Saturday in Detroit, when a 3-1 lead midway through the third turned into a 4-3 overtime loss to the Red Wings.

It sounds like something from George Costanza, who once opined, "It's not a lie if you believed it at the time!"

Evason, who blamed the media for making the Blue Jackets' recent rash of blown leads "a thing" after Saturday's game, seems to be pushing a theory that it's not a problem if you don't acknowledge it.

In some ways, honestly, you can understand it. Evason doesn't want to create a mental hurdle such that every third-period goal allowed comes with a feeling of "here we go again." But, at some point, you're ignoring the elephant in the dressing room.

Also, there's no easy fix. Because there's not one reason for the unraveling.

It's not as if the Blue Jackets are simply coming unglued in third periods. We've seen that before, and it has accounted for at least one of the recent losses. But they've also been guilty of playing way too passively in at least two of the games. On top of that, they've endured some crummy luck and puck bounces. Hockey can be weird. But the Blue Jackets have been outscored 17-6 in the third period beginning with that loss to the New York Islanders. Something is going on here.

Here's a look at each of the five games — two regulation losses, two overtime losses, and a shootout win — in which the Blue Jackets frittered away two points, one point or gave an Eastern Conference rival a point they didn't deserve.

Each loss will be graded on a scale of 1-10 on the gag-o-meter, with one being mostly tough luck and 10 being a massive meltdown.

Nov. 2 at New York Islanders

The lead: The Blue Jackets led 2-1 until the game neared the final minute.

The loss: With 1:07 remaining, Zach Werenski inadvertently redirected a Matthew Schaefer shot, lifting it over goaltender Elvis Merzlikins to tie the score at 2. With 37.3 seconds remaining, New York's Anders Lee snuck a puck past Merzlikins at the near post, and Simon Holmstrom tucked it home for a 3-2 win.

The damage: The Blue Jackets were 67 seconds from two points and flew home with zero. Worse, they gave two points to the Islanders, who look like they're going to hang around in the playoff race this summer.

Gag-o-meter: 8

Nov. 8 at Vancouver Canucks

The lead: The Jackets led 2-1 earlier in the game, but this was letting a clutch road point slip away in what was a tight game with the Canucks well into the third.

The loss: With only 5:45 remaining, Vancouver's Brock Boeser was allowed to get behind defenseman Ivan Provorov, sending a puck off Merzlikins' glove and into the net for a 4-3 lead. The Jackets had a late power play (so a two-man advantage with the goalie pulled) but couldn't tie it.

The damage: Evason was irate by the lack of situational awareness, saying: "We'll have to talk to some individuals and figure out what we're thinking in that situation, if we *are* thinking."

Gag-o-meter: 5

Nov. 10 at Edmonton Oilers

The lead: The Blue Jackets led 4-2 and were playing a very impressive game until late in the third period.

The loss: Connor McDavid blew past Kirill Marchenko and beat Jet Greaves with 6:21 remaining, but the Jackets still had a 4-3 lead. And with 2:18 remaining, they were awarded a power play, which should have been an easy path to icing the win. Instead, they came unglued. Werenski's shot was blocked out of the zone, and so began a sequence where the Blue Jackets played with the puck deep in their own zone. Eventually, Mathieu Olivier inadvertently deflected a pass into his own net with 57.2 seconds remaining to tie it. In overtime, a late line change sprung former Jacket Jack Roslovic on a game-winning breakaway and a 5-4 Oilers win.

The damage: These are the ones that can really rattle a team. Bad luck with the Olivier deflection, sure, but there's no reason the Blue Jackets assumed all of the risk in the game over the final minutes.

Gag-o-meter: 10

Nov. 17 vs. Montreal Canadiens

The lead: The Jackets had taken charge in the second period and were leading 3-1 near the midpoint of the third period.

The “loss”: Another former Jacket, Josh Anderson, scored off a rebound at 8:48 of the third to make it 3-2. With 1:19 remaining, Lane Hutson fired a puck through traffic to tie it.

The damage: The Blue Jackets, who won in a shootout, earned two points, and that should not be overlooked. The crime here, however, is that they gifted a point to the Canadiens, who beat them out of the final playoff spot last spring and may be well in position to do it again next April. Also, the Jackets didn’t get credit for a regulation win, and those come in handy as tiebreakers in a tight race.

Gag-o-meter: 4

Nov. 22 at Detroit Red Wings

The lead: A gorgeous goal by Werenski put the Blue Jackets ahead 3-1 midway through the third in a game they were mostly commanding.

The loss: Ben Chiarot fired a puck past Greaves with 9:37 remaining to pump a little life into a quiet building. With 6:35 to go, Moritz Seider scored through traffic to tie it at 3. At 1:50 of overtime, Alex DeBrincat found a crevice between Greaves and his near post, sneaking the puck through to give the Wings a 4-3 win.

The damage: Put the Wings right there with the Islanders and the Canadiens as clubs who could well be in the battle for wild-card spots in the spring. And they come out of this meeting with the two points.

Gag-o-meter: 9

Item No. 2: Gone missing

When the Blue Jackets were thriving last season, all four lines had well-defined roles and tendencies, and took turns contributing offensively. It’s a big reason the Blue Jackets set a franchise record for goals (267) and finished tied for seventh in scoring.

It hasn’t come as easily this season.

The No. 1 line has been the best line on the ice in most games. Currently, that’s 21-year-old center Adam Fantilli between wingers Dmitri Voronkov and Kirill Marchenko.

The third line has made a huge impact, too, typically as the line Evason uses to check the opponent’s top line, but also by having sporadic bursts of offensive impact. The fourth line, which plays limited minutes, has been about what you’d expect.

What the Jackets have struggled with mightily is finding a second scoring line.

Sean Monahan was replaced by Fantilli on the top line earlier this month, landing on a second line between wingers Boone Jenner and Kent Johnson. Jenner is out of the lineup with an injury, but all three of those players were off to slow starts this season.

Recently, Evason has played Miles Wood and Kent Johnson on either side of Monahan, and he insists that as long as the line is working hard and checking well, he’s not concerned about the production following.

“There’s another level for sure,” Monahan said. “We’re getting a few chances each game, but ... I definitely have to be better. You have to find ways to produce, and that’s not happening right now. But you have to stick with it, be hungrier, and find ways to do that.”

Monahan was speaking the day before Saturday’s loss in Detroit, but that game was like so many others he’s endured in recent weeks.

At 6:53 of the second, Wood set him up on the doorstep, but his shot was denied by the left pad of Detroit goaltender Cam Talbot. He had a short-handed breakaway in the third period that would have given the Blue Jackets a 4-2 lead, but was denied again.

Through 22 games, Monahan has 2-8-10 and a plus-2 rating. At this point a season ago, he had 7-13-20 and a plus-9 rating, earning rave reviews for elevating Voronkov and Monahan to new heights.

Meanwhile, Johnson has just 2-3-5 with a garish minus-12 rating in 21 games. (He was a healthy scratch for one game.) One year ago, he had played only eight games, but had 5-6-11 and an even rating.

“Part of it is just burying our chances,” Johnson said. “Our shooting percentages are down, or at least I know mine is. That’s just one-on-one with the goalie, and I have to hit my spots. I don’t think we’re far off, but it can definitely get frustrating when it’s not going in.”

Johnson was correct. After shooting 19.5 percent last season, he’s at 5 percent now. Monahan, who scored on 14.8 percent of his shots in 2024-25, is at just 4.7 percent.

Evason thought Saturday’s game in Detroit was one of the their better games. They’ll likely be intact on Monday, when the Blue Jackets play in Washington.

“You just have to work,” Monahan said. “I’ve been through it plenty of times, when it’s just not going in, or things are going well. You have to work your way out of it and stay mentally strong.”

Item No. 3: Take 5, Jet Greaves

“Take 5” is our weekly brief and (mostly) non-hockey conversation with a Blue Jackets player, coach, broadcaster or staffer. This week, goaltender Jet Greaves:

What part of Columbus did you settle in?

Grandview Heights. Nice neighborhood, nice to walk around. It’s pretty safe and relaxed, you know. I like all of that. There’s nice little shops and restaurants and stuff like that. It’s close to the rink but it very much has its own feel. A lot of the other young guys live downtown, so I’m really close to them.

Any hidden talents?

Juggling. It’s kind of a goalie thing. I can do three or four. I can keep three balls going and interchange them with both hands, does that make any sense? I can keep four going, but that’s two balls per hand either each hand independent. I can’t do four balls all at once with both of my hands. I learned it to improve my hand-eye coordination between games. It’s a goalie thing. (laughs) I’m not sure how hidden of a talent that is.

What's your guilty pleasure song?

There's a lot. Currently, there's like a lot of girl country music that I like, so I guess that's maybe a bit of a guilty pleasure. Like Ella Langley, Lainey Wilson, that type of music. I think a lot of hockey guys are into country now. We always have country on in the room.

What's your favorite restaurant?

I went to this really good spot in Grandview. I don't know how well known it was, but very good. It's called La Tavola. I've only been there once, but I'll be back. I like Italian food, so ... There's some really good restaurants here by the rink, too. Martini is very nice.

What's a movie you watch over and over?

I don't have the deepest movie bag. There are a lot of movies I haven't seen, but I love movies. If I had to pick, I'd say "The Outsiders." That's my favorite movie. It's sick. I'd put "Good Will Hunting" in there, too. I've watched them both a lot. Like, not a ton, but ... high single digits for each of them. Great movies.

Item No. 4: Snacks

- Tonight the Blue Jackets finish a stretch in which they've played 9 of 12 games away from Nationwide Arena. It's been a wild run, but the Jackets are 4-4-3 heading into tonight's game with the Capitals. The schedule gets much easier down the stretch. After they play in Utah on Jan. 11, the Jackets play 14 of the final 16 road games in the Eastern time zone, and the two exceptions are Chicago and St. Louis, in the Central.
 - Remember how the Blue Jackets' biggest concern in the first two weeks of the season was the penalty kill? They allowed 11 power-play goals in their first eight games, sitting in last place in the NHL (60.7 percent). Since then, they've allowed only three power-play goals in the last 14 games, an 88.5 percent kill rate that ranks fifth in the NHL in that span. Also, don't look now, but the Jackets are 4 of 13 on the power play in their last seven games.
 - Get ready for a series of Charlie Coyle milestones. Coyle's next point will be the 500th of his career. He's also 28 games away from 1,000 and eight goals away from 200.
 - On a recent episode of "The Bill Simmons Podcast," Simmons was answering a fan question when he agreed with the fan that the Blue Jackets are "the most irrelevant franchise in professional sports." Obviously, the Blue Jackets were none too pleased, taking a swipe back via social media.
- Werenski was asked about this after Thursday's morning skate in Toronto, and said: "Yeah, it doesn't matter. It is what it is, I guess, right? I'm not going to lose sleep over it. I like Columbus, I like playing there, and I don't care what Bill Simmons has to say."
- Adam Fantilli's game-winning overtime goal on Thursday in Toronto was the first OT winner of his career. He became the third Blue Jackets player aged 21 or younger to score an overtime winner, joining Kent Johnson (Dec. 14, 2023) and Cole Sillinger (Jan. 30, 2025).

- This week's Monday Gathering trivia question(s): Which player has scored the most points in his career against the Blue Jackets?
- Can nothing be easy or done without drama? Eight of the Blue Jackets' last nine games have been decided by one goal. The exception is the 5-2 loss at Winnipeg on Nov. 18. The Blue Jackets' last *win* by more than one goal was Oct. 29 vs. Toronto, a 6-3 victory.
- It has not been an easy start at Michigan State for Cayden Lindstrom, the Blue Jackets' No. 4 overall pick in 2024. Lindstrom missed both weekend games against Wisconsin, the second straight weekend he's been out of the lineup. The word last week was that he was saddled by a groin injury, but he was expected to dress this weekend. In eight games, Lindstrom has just 1-1-2, with both of those points coming in a 4-2 win over Boston U. on Oct. 17. He last dressed in a 5-0 win over Penn State on Nov. 8. His status for two games later this week vs. Colgate is yet to be determined.
- Trivia answer: Patrick Kane. This question was prompted by Saturday's game in Detroit, when he had two more points against Columbus. In 65 career games vs. the Blue Jackets, Kane has 28-60-88, putting him way ahead of the pack. The rest of the top five: Pavel Datsyuk (21-47-68), Sidney Crosby (21-44-65), Martin Erat (17-43-60), and Jarome Iginla (27-30-57). I know, right? Erat? Crazy.
- On Friday, Luca Pinelli had a goal and two assists, including a third-period power-play goal that helped AHL Cleveland to a 5-3 win over Hershey. Pinelli, in his first pro season, has impressed the Blue Jackets so far and could be in line for a call-up at some point this season. He's currently riding a three-game goal streak and has 5-5-10, with 18 penalty minutes, in 13 games.
- It was a much-needed bounce-back game for the Monsters, who had lost to Hershey 5-2 just 24 hours earlier. Goaltender Ivan Fedotov, who started both of the back-to-back games, rebounded after allowing three Hershey goals in the first 12 minutes of Thursday's game. He's currently 3-4-3 with an .896 save percentage and 2.68 goals-against average.

The Athletic / As Blue Jackets blow another lead, Dean Evason isn't concerned: 'I'm not focused on it'

By Aaron Portzline – November 22, 2025

At what point does a tendency become a trend? And, at what point will coach Dean Evason acknowledge the unfortunate tendency that is quickly becoming a trend with the Columbus Blue Jackets?

The Blue Jackets seemed to be in full control when Zach Werenski scored on a textbook give-and-go with his defense partner Ivan Provorov, giving Columbus a 3-1 lead over the Detroit Red Wings at 8:38 of the third period.

But if you've watched these Blue Jackets early this season, you know the age-old hockey adage about a "two-goal lead being the worst lead in hockey" is pertinent for the Jackets so far this season.

The Red Wings scored two goals only three minutes apart in the last half of the third period to tie it, then won it 4-3 at 1:50 of overtime on Alex DeBrincat's goal that squeezed inside the near post on Blue Jackets goaltender Jet Greaves.

A matinee crowd of 19,515 in Little Caesars Arena was delighted. The visitors dressing room was thrust back into the awkward spot of having to acknowledge their recent rash of blown leads, but not wanting to make it a bigger deal — perhaps a mental hurdle — by talking about it too much.

Evason is firmly in the latter camp.

"I know you guys (the media) are focused on it a little bit," Evason said. "I'm not focused on it. I'm focused, our staff is more focused, on just playing the right way, consistently, throughout the whole game. We're not going to concentrate on one period (the third period). We're looking for consistency in all periods."

Evason pointed to the Blue Jackets' record after two periods: 7-0-2, including Saturday's loss. Though that looks, say, decent on paper, it's one of the more misleading stats in the NHL, much like blown leads after the eighth inning in baseball.

Case in point: the worst team in the Eastern Conference last season was the Philadelphia Flyers, who were 20-3-6 (.690 points percentage) when leading after two.

"It's a thing because you guys (the media) bring it up," Evason said. "It's not a thing within our room, but because you guys keep bringing it up ...

"We don't bring it into the group. What we *do* bring into the group is that we do play the same way regardless of the score. If we're up one or two or down one or two, you don't change, you just play."

It is true, as Evason and Werenski noted, the Blue Jackets did not play the third period Saturday with a sense of panic. They did not look hesitant. They did not get scrambled. They did not ice the puck rather than skate it out of the zone and try to possess it. They played.

But they didn't get the job done. It's been a theme this month. On Nov. 2, the Blue Jackets led 2-1 nearing the final minute of play against the New York Islanders in Elmont, N.Y. They lost the lead with 1:07 remaining and lost the game 3-2 with 38 seconds on the clock.

That game started the spiral. In the past 11 games, starting with that loss to the Islanders, the Blue Jackets have been outscored 17-6 in the third period. Before that, the Jackets had matched opponents (15-15) in the third.

"Do we talk about it?" Blue Jackets winger Miles Wood said, reiterating a reporter's question. "Yeah, of course we talk about it. You know, it's been a few games now, and we don't want it to snowball into something larger than what it already is.

"Certainly, we talk about it as a team, and we've just got to take small steps and try to improve that. We have the guys in the room to do it. We work as a team for 2 1/2 periods, but we just kind of came apart late in the third."

The Blue Jackets have not cost themselves standings points with their third-period collapses, but they've handed points to other Eastern clubs — the Islanders, the Montreal Canadiens, the Red Wings, etc. — against whom they might need to outplay next spring in a battle for playoff positions.

It would be an easier problem to fix, perhaps, if there were one common thread through all of the late losses. But there isn't.

Wood, Werenski and Adam Fantilli each scored for the Blue Jackets, and Greaves finished with 29 saves. It was 3-1 Columbus at 8:38 of the third period when Werenski darted to the net and had a step on his Red Wings defender when Provorov found him open in the slot.

The Wings pulled to 3-2 on a Ben Chiarot goal at 10:23 and tied it at 13:25 when Moritz Seider scored through traffic with a wrist shot from the point.

Between those two goals, Blue Jackets center Sean Monahan had a short-handed breakaway attempt that would have put Columbus ahead 4-2 and possibly (maybe?) ended it. But Monahan's shot was denied with ease by Detroit goalie Cam Talbot.

In overtime, Detroit's DeBrincat fired from the right circle with Greaves pinned tight against the near post, or so he thought. Somehow, the puck managed to sneak into the net, to the surprise of Greaves.

"It's a few tough bounces," Monahan said. "But at the end of the day, you've got to find ways to win in this league."

The Columbus Dispatch / Breaking down the Columbus Blue Jackets at the quarter point

By Brian Hedger – November 22, 2025

The Blue Jackets are moving through this season at the NHL equivalent of warp speed.

The league's February break for the 2026 Winter Olympics in Italy has compressed its schedule before and after that pause, so the Jackets have already passed the quarter point. They're seated sixth in the Metropolitan Division with 24 points and reside one spot out of a playoff spot via tiebreaker in the tightly-packed Eastern Conference.

That's not bad, but it's also not where they'd like to be with 75% of the season remaining. Here's a look at the good, the great, the bad and the ugly so far for the Blue Jackets in 2025-26:

Columbus Blue Jackets quarter point breakdown: The Good

Like last season, the Jackets are solidly in the top half of the league in 5-on-5 play, which is a big reason they're usually playing tight games.

According to Natural Stat Trick, they rank 16th in the NHL with a 50.2% Corsi percentage (shot attempts), 14th with a 49.8% Fenwick (unblocked attempts, 16th in shots on goal (49.6%), 12th in goals-for percentage (47-44, 51.7%) and 15th in expected goals-for percentage (49.8%).

The Blue Jackets have also made giant leaps in improving their road record and record in back-to-backs, going 6-5-1 away from Nationwide Arena and 6-3-1 in their first five of 15 scheduled back-to-backs. Should they continue to succeed at those rates in those scenarios, the Jackets' odds of qualifying for the playoffs will be higher than last season at 14-23-4 on the road and 8-14-2 in back-to-backs.

Offensively, the Blue Jackets have taken a step back through their first 21 games from last season's 3.26 goals per game scoring rate, now averaging 2.95 goals per game. They've compensated by improving from 3.26 in goals-allowed per game last season to 3.16 allowed per game through the first quarter of this one.

Not bad. Not great.

Individually, veteran defensemen Ivan Provorov and Damon Severson deserve credit for providing defensive dependability whenever they're on the ice, whether they're skating as a pairing or split onto separate pairs.

Columbus Blue Jackets quarter point breakdown: The Great

As a team, the Blue Jackets have a couple of specific areas where they're among the NHL's best, starting with high-danger scoring chances at even strength.

Natural Stat Trick uses NHL data points to qualify scoring chances and high-danger chances along with total goals and high-danger goals scored off high-danger chances. High-danger implies that a goal is more likely to be scored considering factors such as location of a shot and distance from the net.

The Blue Jackets are fourth in the league at 62% in high-danger goals-for percentage (31-19), trailing the Washington Capitals (73.2%), Colorado Avalanche (67.3%) and Chicago Blackhawks (64.4%). They're sixth in high-danger shooting percentage (22.5%) and second in high-danger save percentage (87.5%).

Are those last two sustainable? If so, the Blue Jackets will likely be part of the playoffs.

Individually, Zach Werenski and Kirill Marchenko have been great in the first quarter of the season, giving the Blue Jackets the biggest push thus far. Charlie Coyle's contributions centering the team's most effective checking line has been important, along with Adam Fantilli's resurgence since joining the top line and goalie Jet Greaves' steady hand in net.

Columbus Blue Jackets quarter point breakdown: The Bad

First, a caveat.

The Blue Jackets' special teams have improved from where the power play and penalty kill ranked after two weeks, but that was expected since their early numbers were comically bad.

Things still aren't humming along, especially on power plays, but the penalty kill has made huge strides. The Jackets rank 27th while short-handed at 68.4% overall, but they're sixth at 87.5% since Oct. 28. The power play is 3 for 12 (25%) over the past six games but ranks 23rd at 16.7% overall.

That continues to hinder all the good work the Blue Jackets are doing at 5-on-5 and even strength. Individually, the Jackets aren't getting enough production from two-way center Sean Monahan, playmaking forward Kent Johnson or physically gifted forward Yegor Chinakhov.

Monahan hasn't looked like the same player who averaged a point-per game when healthy last season, Johnson hasn't approached anywhere near his offensive capabilities and Chinakhov has looked like a guy just waiting for an unrequited trade request to provide an escape hatch from Columbus.

Columbus Blue Jackets quarter point breakdown: The Ugly

It's tempting to put the Chinakhov situation here, but the Blue Jackets have other issues that are more pressing.

They took encouraging strides trying to correct the biggest issue with how they played in the third period Nov. 20 in Toronto, playing more on their toes than sitting on their heels while leading the Maple Leafs 2-1 starting out.

John Tavares tied it 2-2 off a rush before the Jackets could widen their lead, forcing overtime, but it was refreshing to watch the Blue Jackets play with mostly the same intent they had when building a 2-0 lead in the second period.

That hasn't been the case nearly enough, and they've paid a high price for getting too complacent while leading in third periods. While being outshot 230-202 in third periods and outscored 30-20, the Jackets have blown third period leads in four games.

That includes four two-goal leads that vanished. They're fortunate to have a 2-1-1 record in those meltdowns, but they've left three points on the table.

What difference would that make?

Well, the Blue Jackets would be tied with the New Jersey Devils at 27 points and sit either second or third in both the Metropolitan Division and Eastern Conference. Every point matters, so they can't keep fumbling them away.

As far as players go, it'd be nice to get some kind of offensive production out of Isac Lundestrom. He was signed as a free agent to replace Sean Kuraly as center of the fourth line, and so far the Columbus-raised Kuraly is out producing him as the Boston Bruins' fourth line pivot.

Kuraly has two goals, three assists and five points in 22 games to Lundestrom's 0-2-2 in 20. Lundestrom has a better faceoff percentage (53.5% to 47.3%) but plays about two minutes fewer per game. The Blue Jackets don't need a high scoring rate from Lundestrom or their fourth line, but they do need more offense than they've gotten from that group.

The Columbus Dispatch / Columbus Blue Jackets letting late leads vanish too often: Takeaways

By Brian Hedger – November 22, 2025

The numbers, as a whole, aren't terrible.

The Blue Jackets have held third-period leads in 12 of their first 22 games, a solid 54.5%, and they're 9-1-2 to win 75% of the time in that scenario. The problem is what happened Nov. 22 at Little Caesar's Arena in Detroit, where the Red Wings overcame a two-goal deficit in the third period to down the Blue Jackets 4-3 in overtime.

It was the seventh time the Jackets have coughed up a lead in the third period, and their fifth blown two-goal lead in a third period. That includes two separate two-goal leads that evaporated in the third period of a 5-4 loss Nov. 10 at Edmonton.

The Blue Jackets (11-8-3) have also made six third-period leads stand up as regulation wins, but every point is massive right now within a tightly packed Eastern Conference. Taking a second look at their 9-1-2 record in games they led late, the four points left on the table stand out like missing teeth in a hockey smile.

The Blue Jackets sat fourth in the Metropolitan Division and sixth in the conference with 25 points after their afternoon fumble in Detroit but could have been as high as second in each. That might not seem like a big deal now, but it's got to sting even more for a team that missed last season's playoffs by two points.

Blowing third-period leads was one of the biggest reasons the Blue Jackets didn't win enough for Pascal Vincent to get more than the 2023-24 season as head coach, and now they're doing it again under the more experienced Dean Evason.

Once again, two years later, it's a vexing issue.

Bad luck burns Columbus Blue Jackets in overtime vs. Detroit Red Wings

Hockey has more odd bounces that seem to factor into the outcome of games than most sports, and the Blue Jackets found that out the hard way in Detroit.

The Red Wings' first goal, which tied it 1-1 just 36 seconds into the second period, was scored after Blue Jackets defenseman Ivan Provorov sent the puck off linesman Tyson Baker trying to clear the puck from the Columbus zone. Lucas Raymond scooped it up, made a quick stickhandling maneuver and backhanded his shot past Blue Jackets goalie Jet Greaves.

That was the Jackets' first sting of bad puck luck.

Ben Chiarot's goal in the third was even worse, cutting the Blue Jackets' lead to 3-2 after defenseman Dante Fabbro blocked Patrick Kane's shot in the left circle. Chiarot ripped a shot that sailed between Brendan Gaunce's skates as the Blue Jackets center tried to block it.

Instead, he screened Greaves from seeing the shot leave Chiarot's stick and Greaves had no shot to stop it. That's what ignited the Red Wings' comeback, which was further aided by a Detroit power play after Charlie Coyle was penalized for hooking on the next shift.

Moritz Seider tied it 3-3 two seconds after Coyle was freed from the box, leading to overtime.

Columbus Blue Jackets star Zach Werenski stings Detroit Red Wings again

Facing the Red Wings always brings out the best in Zach Werenski, who grew up rooting for them in the Detroit suburb of Grosse Pointe.

He logged two more points against his hometown team with a goal and assist and fired the Jackets' only overtime shot. Werenski, who has a six-game points streak, assisted Adam Fantilli's goal in the first period for a 1-0 lead and put the Jackets up 3-1 lead at 8:38 of the third.

His career numbers against the Red Wings moved up to five goals, 17 assists and 22 points in 26 games to go with a +9 plus/minus rating.

Columbus Blue Jackets' Adam Fantilli stays hot against Detroit Red Wings

After leading the Blue Jackets to a 3-2 overtime win Nov. 20 in Toronto, near his hometown, Fantilli's hot hand remained red hot against the Red Wings. A day after watching his brother, Luca, play for Michigan against Ohio State in Ann Arbor, Michigan, Fantilli scored his seventh goal in the past eight games.

He's been on a hot streak since a 4-3 loss Nov. 8 in Vancouver, when he moved up to center the top forward line with wingers Kirill Marchenko and Dmitri Voronkov. Fantilli has seven goals, four assists and 11 points in nine games since the promotion.

Columbus Blue Jackets becoming overtime connoisseurs

All things considered, it could have been worse.

Greaves made three more stops following Seider's goal to keep the game tied and force the game into overtime to assure both teams at least one point in the standings. It was the sixth time in the past eight games the Blue Jackets have needed either OT or a shootout to decide who gets the second point with a win.

The Jackets have gone past regulation eight times, which works out to 36% of their 22 games.

The Columbus Dispatch / Detroit Red Wings top Columbus Blue Jackets in overtime

By Brian Hedger – November 22, 2025

The Blue Jackets continue giving wins and points away by losing leads in third periods, particularly the two-goal variety.

Despite Zach Werenski giving them a 3-1 lead at 8:38 of the third against the Detroit Red Wings on Nov. 22 at Little Caesar's Arena, the Blue Jackets lost 4-3 on a goal by Alex DeBrincat 1:48 into overtime after coughing up their fifth two-goal lead in the first 22 games of the season.

The Red Wings (13-8-1) needed less than five minutes to overcome the Blue Jackets' two-goal margin, tying it 3-3 on goals by defensemen Ben Chiarot with 9:37 left in the third and Moritz Seider with 6:35 to go, pulling his team even two seconds after a Detroit power play ended.

Blue Jackets center Sean Monahan was stopped cold on a short-handed breakaway by Red Wings goalie Cam Talbot (30 saves) during that power play, 40 seconds before Seider's goal to tie it. Blue Jackets goalie Jet Greaves (29 saves) stopped Dylan Larkin 20 seconds into OT on a breakaway, but DeBrincat beat him to the short side 1:28 later to end it.

Adam Fantilli and Miles Wood scored the first two goals for the Blue Jackets (11-8-3). Lucas Raymond scored the first goal for the Red Wings. Fantilli gave the Blue Jackets a 1-0 lead with 6:42 left in the first, scoring his seventh goal in the past eight games to cap a 5-on-3 power play after Detroit's Travis Hamonic and Chiarot were penalized 22 seconds apart.

It rewarded Greaves for keeping the Red Wings from building a quick lead during an early push that gave Detroit a 10-4 edge in shots before Hamonic was called for cross-checking Miles Wood to start the sequence that led to Fantilli's goal.

It stayed 1-0 starting the second, until Raymond tied it 1-1 for the Red Wings 54 seconds into the period. A Blue Jackets clearing attempt hit linesman Tyson Baker, dropped to the ice and Raymond scooped it to score off a backhand.

Wood put Columbus right back in the lead, though, making it 2-1 by getting his stick on Denton Mateychuk's shot 18 seconds later for his sixth goal of the season. Those turned out to be the only goals in the second, sending it to the third in another tight finish for the Blue Jackets.

The Hockey Writers / Blue Jackets Lose Third-Period Lead, Fall in Overtime to Red Wings

By Mark Scheig – November 22, 2025

The Columbus Blue Jackets were looking to build off of an overtime win against the Toronto Maple Leafs. They got to overtime again. But this time, they fell short.

Alex DeBrincat scored in the extra session to lift the Detroit Red Wings to a 4-3 win over the Blue Jackets on Saturday afternoon. That capped three unanswered goals by the Red Wings to end the game.

The story of this game was two different sides of the Blue Jackets showing themselves.

Game Recap

With the early start, it was a matter of which team got to their game first. It was the Red Wings early on. Jet Greaves was by far the best Blue Jacket in the first 10 minutes of the game.

The Red Wings built a 9-3 shot advantage. But then penalty trouble caught up to them.

Video Player is loading.

First Travis Hamonic slashed Miles Wood. Then Ben Chiarot cleared the puck over the glass. On the resulting 5-on-3 power play, Adam Fantilli continued his recent hot streak. He beat Cam Talbot to make it 1-0.

The second period got off to a weird start for the Blue Jackets. A clearing attempt hit the linesman. Lucas Raymond was there to collect the puck and made a nice move to tie the game just 36 seconds into the middle frame.

From there, the Blue Jackets got to their game and dictated pace.

Just 18 seconds after Raymond's goal, Miles Wood deflected Denton Matechuk's shot to make it 2-1 Blue Jackets. Those were the only two goals of the second. But the Blue Jackets had the puck a lot and allowed very little to the Red Wings.

The third period started well for the Blue Jackets. Off a great defensive play by Cole Sillinger, Zach Werenski scored in his hometown to make it 3-1.

After a TV timeout midway through the third, the Red Wings made their push and were able to tie the game.

First, it was Chiarot finding room the slot to beat Greaves. Then just two seconds after the Red Wings' power play ended with Charlie Coyle in the box, Moritz Seider was able to make it 3-3.

The Blue Jackets were able to settle themselves down and get to overtime. That's where DeBrincat went to work. He found room on the short side of Greaves after attacking down the wing. Comeback was completed.

Greaves took the overtime loss after making 29 saves. Talbot was great at times including a save on a Sean Monahan breakaway in the third to keep the game at 3-2. He finished with 30 saves.

The Blue Jackets will finish their road trip Monday night in Washington against the Capitals. The Red Wings will head to New Jersey to face the Devils also on Monday night.

The Hockey Writers / Blue Jackets' Adam Fantilli Becoming More Complete Player in Third NHL Season

By Mark Scheig – November 22, 2025

Adam Fantilli continues to improve as he plays through his third NHL season with the Columbus Blue Jackets. While he's making news with how he's impacting games on the ice, he's quietly doing something with the rest of his game that everyone will notice sooner rather than later.

Fantilli continues to become a more complete player.

Scoring 31 goals in your sophomore season will garner a lot of attention. But it's what he's doing with the rest of his game that will continue to elevate him into an eventual NHL superstar.

In fact, that process started in earnest last season.

Beyond Goals & Points

Fantilli takes a lot of pride playing both sides of the ice. While he loves to score, he loves to play defense too.

Some of his other numbers bear that out. In 2024-25, Fantilli recorded 113 hits while playing in all 82 games. He also blocked 56 shots showing a commitment to trying his best to keep the puck out of the net.

So far in 2025-26, Fantilli has 22 hits and 13 blocks in 21 games. But where he's really elevated himself is in the faceoff circle. He's a much-improved player at the dot.

Fantilli's success rate has jumped 10% from 41.2% in 2024-25 to 51.1% entering Saturday's game against the Detroit Red Wings. He's proving he belongs in every important situation.

Coach Dean Evason mentioned Fantilli's work ethic as a reason why he's becoming a more complete player today.

"It started last year, his commitment to play the game the right way and to play both ends and to concentrate on his defensive game." Evason said. "It's helped his offensive game. He's put himself in really good positions to check which gives him the opportunity to get the puck which gives him an opportunity to score goals. So yeah, his commitment level in all areas has continually gotten better because of his mindset to do it."

Fantilli took full advantage of his time at the Men's World Championships this past offseason as a key for him to reach the next level. This was especially evident on becoming a more dependable faceoff man.

"I think faceoffs honestly, talking to a lot of guys," Fantilli said. "I talk to (Sean Monahan) all the time. I talked to (Sidney) Crosby overseas. I talk to (Dylan) Larkin in the summers. I want to get better at them. And everyone says it comes with experience and being in those situations. And also practicing your

timing and your skills and everything that way. But a lot of it comes with experience of just being in there and understanding players that you're going against and situations that you're in."

"I think I've been taking enough where I'm getting to the point where I'm starting to understand and starting to get a little bit better. Hopefully, I can continue to get better."

Even before being moved to play with Dmitri Voronkov and Kirill Marchenko, Fantilli's confidence never wavered. Even though he wasn't getting the numbers, he still thought his game was in a good place. It was just a matter of time.

"I knew I was playing well," Fantilli said. "I liked my game. I'm really happy we started contributing on the scoresheet. That's something I've come here for and what I have to do. But I still liked the way I was playing."

Fantilli has 8-8-16 in 21 games entering play on Saturday putting him on an over 30-goal pace again while impacting more areas of the game overall. After a slower start to the season, he is shining with Voronkov and Marchenko.

That line is outscoring opponents 7-6 at 5-on-5 (per Nat Stat Trick) and controlling the majority of scoring chances while on the ice together. But it is Fantilli's understanding of the importance of the other side of the puck that has him in position to continue his rapid improvement as a complete two-way center.

"I got to play the right way. For the most part, I think I've been doing that. I want to get on the scoresheet. I want to help us win games and you can't win without scoring. So I want to contribute there. But you also can't win without playing the right way and defending properly. So just continue to do that. Everyone's doing a great job of that so far."

NHL.com / Color of Hockey: Payne's hands-on approach paying off for Cleveland kids

Community impact exec for Blue Jackets' AHL affiliate making impact in hometown

By William Douglas – November 24, 2025

Raven Payne is senior manager for community impact & engagement for Cleveland of the American Hockey League -- and an occasional chauffeur.

Payne found herself shuttling seven local youth hockey players for a nearly three-hour drive to Detroit in May 2024 for them to participate in a weekend meetup with players from Detroit Ice Dreams and Los Angeles' 24 Degrees of Color, nonprofit youth hockey organizations that strive to make the sport more accessible and affordable to children and families from underrepresented communities.

"For a lot of the kids, an out-of-town experience was Youngstown, 45 minutes from home, or some of their out-of-town experience was nothing," Payne said. "They didn't have the means. I'm, like, 'Raven's on the company insurance. How are we able to get the kids into a space where they're able to just have fun with kids that look like them and are from a different place?'"

The Detroit road trip typifies Payne's hands-on -- and sometimes skates-on -- approach in trying to expand hockey's reach in Cleveland and Ohio, particularly among girls and within communities of color.

The 30-year-old Clevelander is in her seventh season with Cleveland, the Columbus Blue Jackets' AHL affiliate, and is among the growing number of Black women in key positions in hockey from the minor leagues to the NHL who are impacting the sport.

Payne, who received the Rising Star award from Women in Sports and Events Cleveland for being an emerging professional who demonstrates leadership and the sports and events industries, said she admittedly knew little about hockey when she joined the Monsters after earning a Bachelor's degree in sports and fitness administration/management from Ohio's Bowling Green State University in 2018.

"I grew up probably 10 minutes from downtown, and I didn't hear much about the hockey team," she said. "Looking back on it, I was, like, 'Wow, they were right here this whole entire time I was in school.' I was, like, 'All right, I can actually make an impact on a lot of kids that I know and a lot of people who were in the same predicament, that were in the same proximity (to hockey) but didn't know there was a team or about the great work it's doing.'"

Payne can often be found in the middle of Cleveland's Mini Monsters Learn to Play, an introductory hockey development program for boys and girls ages 3 to 13; the Monsters Floor Hockey Program that introduces the sport to local schools by providing equipment and lesson plans to incorporate into their physical education programs; and at Girls Grow the Game events, street hockey clinics in the summer and on-ice sessions during the season for girls ages 8-14.

"I'm not the best skater but I'll get out there," she said. "I don't mind, because I always want to lead by example, to say, 'Hey, I'm not the greatest, I'm not the best at this thing, but let's do this together. Hey, I'm willing to get out there and if I fall, I fall, I but I'm going get back up.'"

Payne's skills were on display in February when she and the Monsters partnered with the Black Girl Hockey Club and hosted 40 middle school girls at the city's Halloran Park rink. BGHC is a nonprofit group founded by Renee Hess, a Riverside, California resident, in 2018 that seeks to inspire and sustain passion for hockey within the Black community, particularly among Black women, and provide access to the sport through education and scholarships.

"We were able to just talk to our experiences within the sport, but then also to about our experiences as Black women," Payne said. "Renee was there also to talk to her experience and what made her even start Black Girl Hockey Club. For them to see people in spaces and to see people that are doing great things that look like them, was truly the important part, in my opinion."

Hess said she was impressed by Payne's passion for hockey and dedication to serving the community.

"Raven has an authentic desire to connect kids of color in Cleveland to the game of ice hockey," she said. "I was lucky enough to see Raven at action at a game, and she is everything, everywhere, all at once in that arena. She knows everyone by name and does her best to connect and make each person she encounters feel special and seen.

"That is such an important skill to have in the workplace but also in hockey spaces. Where some folks might feel less comfortable than others, Raven makes sure to let each person she meets know that they are important to her and to the spaces they occupy."

Jason McCrimmon had the same impression after watching Payne chauffeur and shepherd the seven young Cleveland players during a Michigan weekend meetup, when the kids skated, toured USA Hockey facilities in Plymouth, Michigan, and met Blake Bolden, a Cleveland and former professional player who is a scout and community and hockey development specialist for the Los Angeles Kings and ESPN hockey analyst.

The weekend was supported by the NHL and NHL Players' Association's Player Inclusion Coalition, a panel of current and former NHL players and women's professional hockey players to advance equality and inclusion in hockey on and off the ice.

McCrimmon, a 2022-23 NHL Willie O'Ree Community Hero Award winner, used three words to describe Payne.

"She's for real," he said.

Payne said people sometimes give her curious looks when she tells them she works in hockey or ask about whether she would be more comfortable working for the Cleveland Cavaliers of the National Basketball Association.

“I always tell people the opportunity that hockey gives me is to fill in a gap,” she said. “It was 100 percent meant for me to be here, meant for me to stand in this space, meant for me to speak up in spaces where people don’t necessarily always look like me.”