

Winnipegjets.com

<https://www.nhl.com/jets/news/three-things-vilardi-scores-twice-jets-lose-to-caps>

***THREE THINGS: Jets lose fourth straight, Milic makes NHL debut
Mark Scheifele scored his 13th of the season in a 5-1 loss to the Carolina Hurricanes***

By Jamie Thomas

Seth Jarvis scored his second career hat trick to lead the Carolina Hurricanes over the Winnipeg Jets 5-1 at Lenovo Center. The Jets losing streak has reached four games and they are now 12-11 on the season. The Jets longest losing streak last season was four games, from Nov. 27 – Dec. 3. Mark Scheifele scored the only goal of the night for Winnipeg who has only scored seven times during the last four contests. Winnipeg will play the second game of a back-to-back Saturday night in Nashville.

MILIC TIME

After 99 regular season appearances in the minors (63 with AHL Manitoba, 36 with ECHL Norfolk), Thomas Milic made his NHL debut tonight in Raleigh. He is the second Jets prospect to play his first game in the National Hockey League in as many games as Elias Salomonsson did it Wednesday in Washington. Milic ended up making 30 saves and held Carolina to one goal until the 11:52 mark of the third and that opened the door for three more goals in a four goal period for the Hurricanes.

"There was some structure stuff that we got away from. The kid made some big stops, kept us in that one, obviously allowed us a chance. (We were) better in the second, a lot better in the second. We came out in the third doing the right things but those two quick ones... Was it the eight minute mark?," said head coach Scott Arniel.

"Back-to-back plays. And they were coverage plays. Both of those plays came right down, one went off one of our defenceman, the other one... Those are coming right down Grand Central. That's on us. That's on... I feel for the kid because he's giving us a chance."

QUALITY, NOT QUANTITY

The Hurricanes are well known for not giving up many shots, so you have to cash in when opportunity presents itself. With Carolina leading 1-0 in the second period, Gabe Vilardi spotted Mark Scheifele behind the Canes defence and Scheifele skated in and scored on the breakaway for his 13th of the season. Per NHL Stats, Scheifele boosted his totals to 13-17—30 (23 GP) – the second-fewest games he's needed to reach the 30-point mark in a season (22 GP in 2020-21). The last Jets/Thrashers player other than Scheifele to hit 30 points in 23 or fewer games was Ilya Kovalchuk (21 GP in 2007-08).

The Jets secondary scoring was not there again tonight as the last forward to score for Winnipeg outside of the top line was Adam Lowry in the first period of the Jets 5-2 win over Columbus on November 18. Winnipeg did have some great chances, Elias Salomonsson rang one off the crossbar, Kyle Connor had a breakaway, and Cole Perfetti had three quality scoring opportunities.

COUPLE MANITOBA KIDS KEY TO CANES WIN

The last time these two met a week ago, Winnipeg product Seth Jarvis scored a shorthanded goal in the 4-3 Canes win. Tonight, Jarvis opened the scoring at 16:06 of the first period.

Brandon's Jordan Martinook restored the Carolina lead at 11:52 of the third and Jarvis followed that up with his second and third goals of the evening to give him 15 on the season.

Winnipeg Free Press

<https://www.winnipegfreepress.com/breakingnews/2025/11/28/milic-thrown-to-the-wolves>

Milic thrown to the wolves

Arniel lambastes Jets as Jarvis, Hurricanes light up rookie goaltender

By: Mike McIntyre

RALEIGH, N.C. — Poor Thomas Milic. He never really stood a chance.

The 22-year-old goaltender, making his NHL debut on Friday afternoon in Raleigh, was thrown to the wolves by a spiralling Winnipeg Jets team that suddenly can't score, defend... or win.

A 5-1 loss to the Carolina Hurricanes would have actually been much worse if not for Milic, who stopped 31 of 35 shots he faced and deserved better. Thanks entirely to him, this was actually a 1-1 game with less than nine minutes to play until the Jets completely imploded.

However, it wasn't just the foul finish that had head coach Scott Arniel fuming as he spoke with the Free Press outside the team's room at Lenovo Center.

"We had a lot of guys that forgot to show up at the start of the game," said Arniel.

How could that be, especially with a veteran Jets group that had already lost three games in a row and seven of the last 10 to tumble down the NHL standings? Shouldn't they have been plenty motivated?

"To come out and start the game that way — in a building like this, knowing the opposition isn't going to be sitting back and is going to come hard — that's for all of us. You know, the young and old, whatever, part of your profession is being prepared for games," replied Arniel.

Indeed, the Jets came out flatter than a fritter, getting outshot 8-1 through the first 12 minutes. That's quite the way to welcome your top goaltending prospect to the big leagues.

"I guess I've got to do a little bit more. I've got to scream a little bit longer or harder or whatever but find a way to get these guys to be ready to play," said Arniel.

That, folks, is a pretty damning indictment of where this club, which is now 12-11-0 and taking on water fast, currently stands.

"We're scrambling. We're fighting for our lives here," said Arniel.

Carolina, which had lost two in a row, improves to 15-7-2. They outshot the Jets 35-13, with shot attempts being a whopping 71-38.

Let's break this one down further:

Buffalo boys

Safe to say the two Manitobans who are in the Hurricanes lineup had some extra pep in their step.

Let's start with Winnipegger Seth Jarvis, who continued to show why he's one of the rising stars in the NHL. He opened the scoring with just under four minutes left in the first period, ripping a quick shot past Milic.

Over to you, Jordan Martinook. The Brandon product sniped the game-winner at 11:52 of the third period, beating Milic from the slot. The puck appeared to strike a Jets player and change direction on the way in.

Back to Jarvis, who notched his second of the game 47 seconds later with the Jets seemingly in a fog.

"Back-to-back plays. And they were coverage plays. Those are coming right down Grand Central," said Arniel.

Jarvis completed the hat trick into an empty net with 63 seconds left. Hurricanes defenceman Alexander Nikishin, who was born in Russia, crashed the party when he scored with 23 seconds left and Milic back in the net, essentially left to himself with the rest of his team completely checked out.

"I feel for the kid because he's giving us a chance," said Arniel.

The lone goal

Surprise, surprise: Winnipeg's only offence once again came from the top line.

Gabe Vilardi took advantage of an egregious giveaway by Andrei Svechnikov, sending Mark Scheifele in on a breakaway to tie it up 1-1 midway through the second period.

That was it for the night. Cole Perfetti had the most glorious chances, including a clear-cut breakaway that was thwarted by Hurricanes goalie Brandon Bussi, while Kyle Connor and Elias Salomonsson found iron in the third period.

The Jets have now scored seven goals over their last four games and one or all of Scheifele, Vilardi and Connor have been involved. There's been no secondary scoring dating back to their last victory on Nov. 18 over the Columbus Blue Jackets.

That's a tough, tough way to live in the NHL.

Milic time

It took all of 13 seconds for Milic to face his first shot and the rubber kept coming early and often. The 2022 fifth-round draft pick didn't appear to be rattled, despite playing one of the league's top teams in one of the toughest buildings.

"We would have liked to give him a better result. I felt like the way he played deserved a better result," said defenceman Josh Morrissey.

"Disappointed for him, but he can hold his head really high. He played a very, very good game and gave us a chance to win. And that's all you can ask from your goalie."

Milic was called up from the Manitoba Moose just over a week ago after Connor Hellebuyck underwent arthroscopic knee surgery. He found out late Wednesday night, after the Jets began this five-game road trip with a 4-3 loss in Washington, that he'd be facing the Hurricanes.

"It was pretty cool being able to tell my parents that and have them come in," said Milic. "From there, I have been preparing for it since I was called up. I knew the time was going to come, that I had to get in there and I did my best to be ready."

Plenty of family members and friends flew in from British Columbia to witness his big-league dream come true.

"Before the game I took them into the stands and (told them) I appreciated everything they have ever done for me, my whole life, really," he said.

Milic looked calm, cool and collected throughout the contest and was tracking the puck well, often in spot to make a save before the shot was taken. He said the four that ultimately beat him were the result of some sneaky deception by the Hurricanes.

"They were great shots and great chances and that is what teams look to do, to pull everyone wide and then bring it back to the inside," he said.

"So, they did a good job of finding that soft ice. They are good shots and good goals but at some point you have to find a way to stop them."

Although the end result wasn't what he wanted, Milic said there were plenty of positives to take away from the game. He even got on the scoresheet with his first penalty, a delay-of-game call after he covered a loose puck behind the Jets net.

"I'm happy with how a lot of the game went," said Milic, who shouldn't have to wait too long for his second start. The Jets are playing five more times over the next eight nights.

Key play

The second goal by Jarvis, 47 seconds after Martinook had given his team the lead, was the dagger.

Three stars

1. Hurricanes, Seth Jarvis: 3G
2. Hurricanes, D Shayne Gostisbehere: 2A
3. Hurricanes, Jordan Martinook: Game-winning goal.

Extra, extra

Defenceman Luke Schenn and forward Cole Koepke were the healthy scratches for the Jets, while defenceman Neal Pionk (lower-body) missed a second consecutive game. Haydn Fleury (concussion protocol) remains on injured reserve along with Hellebuyck.

The Jets went zero-for-two on the power play and four-for-four on the penalty kill. Two of those infractions happened early in the first period — tripping calls against Dylan DeMelo and Colin Miller that Arniel called "sloppy" by the veteran defencemen.

Shortly after that, Arniel moved DeMelo off the top pairing with Morrissey, putting Salomonsson with him. DeMelo slid down to play with Dylan Samberg.

“That had to with certain people weren’t ready to play,” said Arniel.

The Jets flew to Nashville immediately after the game and will face the Predators on Saturday. Eric Comrie is expected to get the call in net.

“A chance to right the ship,” is how Morrissey described it.

<https://www.winnipegfreepress.com/sports/2025/11/27/all-signs-point-to-milic-against-hurricanes>

***All signs point to Milic against Hurricanes
Jets’ backup netminder took starting goalie reps at Thursday’s practice***

By: Mike McIntyre

RALEIGH — We take you back to Nov. 27, 2015, when a 22-year-old Connor Hellebuyck made his NHL debut against the Minnesota Wild. The fifth-round draft pick of the Winnipeg Jets stopped 15 of 16 pucks that night in St. Paul as his team skated to a 3-1 victory.

The rest, as they say, is history. Hellebuyck has since become one of the league’s premier puckstoppers, with three Vezina trophies and a Hart Trophy on his mantle.

Now, exactly one decade later, the door appears open for Thomas Milic — also 22, also a fifth-round pick — to tend a big-league crease for the very first time. All signs point to him getting the nod on Friday afternoon as the Jets face the Carolina Hurricanes in the second stop of a five-game road trip.

No pressure, kid.

“I think it’s exciting for him and his family. And that definitely gives us a bit of a boost,” defenceman Dylan DeMelo said following Thursday’s practice.

With Hellebuyck sidelined four to six weeks after arthroscopic knee surgery, backup Eric Comrie has assumed the No. 1 spot. He’s made four straight starts, losing the last three after giving up 13 goals on 114 shots (3.02 goals-against average, .897 save percentage). He could likely use a breather.

That was probably coming at some point this weekend anyway, with the Jets also playing Saturday in Nashville. But it appears the plan may be to give Milic the front end of the back-to-back and let Comrie handle the divisional clash against the Predators.

Milic went through Thursday drills typically reserved for the next game’s starter, a strong hint of things to come.

This will mark the second straight game a rookie Jets player gets the “hot lap” treatment. Defenceman Elias Salomonsson made his debut Wednesday night in Washington.

“It’s great. Those guys work their rear end off to get to this point. It’s a long journey for everyone,” said forward Morgan Barron. “It’s been great to see those guys come up, get their

first (NHL) road trip, be part of the group. I'm really excited to see (Milic). He looks great in practice."

Milic has been off to a sizzling start with the Manitoba Moose, posting a 2.14 GAA and .921 SV% in nine AHL games. The 2023 Western Hockey League Goaltender of the Year, who went to the Memorial Cup with the Seattle Thunderbirds in his final junior season, said earlier this week he had family members on standby to fly to wherever his first start came.

Unfortunately for Salomonsson, his parents couldn't make it from Sweden to Washington in time, so they watched on television. His girlfriend, however, did make the trip.

PIONK WATCH: There appeared to be some good news at Thursday's practice, with defenceman Neal Pionk a full participant in a regular sweater. The veteran suffered a lower-body injury on the first shift of last Sunday's game against Minnesota and didn't return.

Pionk tested things out during brief skates on Tuesday and Wednesday but didn't play against the Capitals, which cleared a path for Salomonsson to make his debut. Head coach Scott Arniel said it "didn't feel quite right."

There is no morning skate on Friday, so we won't know until close to game time if Pionk could be an option.

SCHEIFELE WATCH: It may be nothing. It may be something. But top centre Mark Scheifele has now skipped two practices this week — something he rarely ever does over the course of his career. Might he be battling through an ailment?

It's also notable that there were a handful of occasions in Wednesday's game where he didn't take a defensive zone faceoff, with Barron actually spelling him off. That's also unusual.

Scheifele has continued to produce, scoring his team-leading 12th goal of the year against the Capitals. He also leads the team with 29 points as he continues to push for a spot on the Canadian Olympic team.

HURRICANE WATCH: Carolina could be in a surly mood after suffering a rare loss on home ice Wednesday night to the New York Rangers. Although they outshot the visitors by a 38-18 margin, a late push couldn't lead to the equalizer, with an empty-netter finishing them off.

Winnipegger Seth Jarvis scored his team-leading 12th goal in the game, while former Jets winger Nikolaj Ehlers recorded an assist. After going his first five games without a point, Ehlers now has points in 14 of the past 18 games (4 goals, 11 assists). That included setting up the game-winning goal last Friday night in Winnipeg as the Hurricanes beat the Jets 4-3.

<https://www.winnipegfreepress.com/sports/2025/11/27/everyone-needs-to-look-in-the-mirror>

'Everyone needs to look in the mirror'

Jets frustrated, but remain hopeful club can turn around losing skid

By: Mike McIntyre

RALEIGH — The Winnipeg Jets celebrated American Thanksgiving here on Thursday, sitting down together as a team to enjoy turkey, stuffing and all the trimmings.

What they really need is a different type of feast: goals and, most importantly, wins. Starved for secondary scoring, they've dropped seven of their last 10 games, including three straight, as they spiral down the NHL standings.

You know the old saying "misery loves company?" That could describe every Winnipeg forward right now excluding the top trio of Mark Scheifele, Kyle Connor and Gabe Vilardi. They're not just leading the offence. They are the offence, along with No. 1 defenceman Josh Morrissey.

Head coach Scott Arniel has tried juggling the lines, which some might compare at this point to re-arranging deck chairs on the Titanic. There's been additional video sessions and speeches about "going to the hard areas" and "getting a greasy one." And yet, the problems persist.

"To be a successful team, someone has to step up every night. We can't expect it to be Scheifele's line every night," Cole Perfetti told the Free Press on Thursday following his team's optional practice at Lenovo Center, where they'll face the Carolina Hurricanes on Friday afternoon.

"I don't think it's lack of effort or lack of trying. I think all three of the other lines are working our asses off. Puck's just not going in right now."

The numbers tell the story. Perfetti has one goal in eight games since returning from a high-ankle sprain. Gustav Nyquist — signed in the off-season to partly fill the scoring void left by Nikolaj Ehlers — is still without a goal in 17 games. Vlad Namestnikov has gone 10 games without a point, Alex Iafallo five.

Jonathan Toews and captain Adam Lowry each have one goal in 10 games. Nino Niederreiter (one goal in 12 games), Morgan Barron (one assist in 12), Tanner Pearson (one goal in 16), and Cole Koepke (two assists in 16) are also ice cold.

At what point does general manager Kevin Cheveldayoff start taking some heat for assembling a roster that, based on statistical production, contains far too many fourth-liners and fringe players? What if this is truly who they are, just one year removed from winning the Presidents' Trophy as the top regular-season team in the NHL?

Not so fast, cautioned Perfetti.

"Everything regresses to the mean. The math always comes back to level. Right now I think everyone (except the top line) is obviously way below what reality should be," he said. "You know, someone's going to score, hopefully (Friday), and then I think the floodgates are going to open for everyone. We're going to get the mojo and feel good about ourselves."

Even a trickle of offence would be welcome at this point. The Jets have had more "expected goals" than their opponent in the three straight losses, but that's little consolation. They need to start finishing those chances, especially with goaltender Connor Hellebuyck sidelined four to six weeks following arthroscopic knee surgery.

"We do need secondary scoring, no doubt about that. But we've shown over the last few years this team has that," said Perfetti. "It's going to flip the other way."

Following Wednesday's 4-3 loss in Washington to kick off this five-game road trip, Arniel conceded he may have no choice but to eventually break up his top line if the others can't get going, and fast.

Consider this: A pair of stay-at-home defencemen with limited offensive upside in Dylan DeMelo (10 points) and Logan Stanley (nine points) currently sit sixth and seventh in overall team scoring. Great for them, not so great for the team as a whole.

"Everyone needs to look in the mirror. You know if you have more to give or not," said DeMelo. "You know what you need to do to help our team out. Take care of that, stay positive, stay with it, continue to work hard. Just stay focused on the task at hand and worry about the next game."

With the 12-10-0 Jets preparing to face the 14-7-2 Hurricanes and old friend Ehlers here in his new hockey home, you can't help but wonder if the departure of the dazzling Dane in free agency hasn't done more damage than many anticipated. Namestnikov and Perfetti seem adrift without their former linemate.

"You just have to keep working through it," insisted Namestnikov. "This happens throughout a season. You're only going to get out of it through hard work and doing little things the right way. I think the main thing is don't get frustrated. I know it's not ideal, obviously a lot of guys are in slumps, but we're going to have to work at it together."

Thursday's skate was optional. Namestnikov, Lowry, Lafallo, Toews, Scheifele and Connor stayed off the ice, as did Arniel, leaving his assistants to run the rest of the group. There were no line rushes, so we'll have to wait until Friday's late afternoon puck drop to see if any tweaks are made.

"I think right now we're tending to get away from the net. When you're in a slump you should go to the net," Namestnikov said of what he thinks the group's biggest issue is right now.

"Be more simple, more predictable."

The Jets will play six games over the next nine days, including two sets of back-to-backs. That creates an opportunity to turn things around quickly — or dig an even deeper hole.

"Every team is going to go through a rough patch this year. We're getting ours out of the way early," said Perfetti. "You go on a four, five game run here and confidence gets going, now you're feeling good about yourselves, you climb up the standings a little bit and you're in a spot you want to be."

Last season, the Jets set the bar high with a 15-1-0 start en route to a 56-22-4 campaign. Now they enter Friday's game sitting sixth in the Central Division, 12th in the Western Conference (three points out of a playoff spot), and 26th overall based on points.

Oh, how the mighty have fallen?

"You don't think about last year too much, but at the same time we have a lot of new guys on the team. I think we're still learning how to play with each other," said Namestnikov.

"It's a new year, a new team, and we just have to figure out a way to win games this year."

NHL.com

<https://www.nhl.com/news/winnipeg-jets-carolina-hurricanes-game-recap-november-28-2025>

***Jarvis scores hat trick for Hurricanes in win against Jets
Gostisbehere, Svechnikov each has 2 assists for Carolina; Milic makes 30 saves in debut for Winnipeg***

By Kurt Dusterberg

RALEIGH, N.C. -- Seth Jarvis scored a hat trick, and the Carolina Hurricanes defeated the Winnipeg Jets 5-1 at Lenovo Center on Friday.

"I've just been focused on shooting pucks more, putting the puck to the net," Jarvis said. "And I think my confidence hasn't really wavered. I still believe every shot should go in. So it's been that way all season and hopefully it continues."

Jordan Martinook and Alexander Nikishin also scored, and Shayne Gostisbehere and Andrei Svechnikov each had two assists for the Hurricanes (15-7-2), who had lost two in a row. Brandon Bussi made 12 saves.

"It alleviates a lot of stress," Carolina coach Rod Brind'Amour said. "We've been playing well. We had one bad game in there (a 4-1 loss at the Buffalo Sabres on Nov. 23), but the rest has been good hockey. It's easy to get discouraged when it's not working, but they stuck with it and we got rewarded tonight finally."

Mark Scheifele scored for the Jets (12-11-0), who have lost four in a row. Thomas Milic made 30 saves in his NHL debut. The 22-year-old was selected by Winnipeg in the fifth round (No. 151) of the 2023 NHL Draft.

"We didn't start very good," Winnipeg coach Scott Arniel said. "In the first period, we had a lot of guys who forgot to show up at the start of the game. We lost a lot of battles, and [there were] some structure things we got away from. [Milic] made some big stops and kept us in that one."

Carolina took a 1-0 lead at 16:06 of the first period. Gostisbehere received a drop pass from Sebastian Aho and skated below the left face-off circle before sending a pass to Jarvis, who scored on a snap shot from inside the left hash marks.

Winnipeg capitalized on a turnover to tie it 1-1 at 10:41 of the second period. Gabriel Vilardi intercepted Svechnikov's pass inside the Carolina offensive blue line and sent Scheifele in for a breakaway goal.

"A lot of times, you're not going to feel like it's going to be a pretty night in this building," Jets defenseman Josh Morrissey said. "But you've got to weather the storm and try to take advantage of your opportunities to score."

Bussi kept the game tied early in the third period when he stopped Kyle Connor's short-handed breakaway at 5:49, stretching out with his right toe at the left post.

"You never know as a goalie when that moment will be, if there will be a moment, for a big play or something crazy to happen," Bussi said. "So just kind of mentally staying with it. I think I got a pretty good plant on my back leg there to kind of keep myself from shifting over."

The 27-year-old goalie, who made his NHL debut in a 5-1 win against the San Jose Sharks on Oct. 15, is 6-1-0 after being claimed off waivers from the Florida Panthers on Oct 5.

"It's not knowing when your next start is. Since he arrived on the scene, that's kind of what it's been," Brind'Amour said. "Nothing but a great attitude, and at the end of the day, every start has been solid."

Martinook made it a 2-1 lead at 11:52 of the third period, taking Mark Jankowski's pass from along the goal line and scoring on a snap shot from above the right face-off dot.

"It's been tough sledding," Martinook said. "I feel like I go through highs and lows, and it's been a little bit of a low, so I'll take that. I was calling for it. I wanted it and he saw me."

Jarvis scored on a quick-release snap shot from the right hash marks off a pass from K'Andre Miller to make it 3-1 at 12:39.

Jarvis then made it 4-1 with an empty-net goal on a backhand from the left boards with 1:03 remaining to complete the hat trick, and Nikishin scored on a one-timer from the left point with 23 seconds left for the 5-1 final.

"They were great shots and great chances," Milic said. "That's what teams look to do, pull everyone wide and come back to the inside. They did a good job of finding that soft ice. But at a certain point, you've got to find a way to stop them."

Milic learned he would make his first NHL start after Winnipeg's 4-3 loss at the Washington Capitals on Wednesday.

"That was a goal for me before the game even started -- don't take everything too seriously," Milic said. "Just take a second to take a couple deep breaths and soak it all in. At the end of the day, it was a lot of positives from my end. [I'm] pretty happy how a lot of the game went."

NOTES: Winnipeg forward Morgan Barron won 10-of-13 face-offs. ... Gostisbehere has five points (two goals, three assists) in a three-game point streak. ... Hurricanes forward Justin Robidas earned an assist on Nikishin's goal, his first point of the season in his second game. He has three points (one goal, two assists) in three career NHL games.

Global Winnipeg

<https://globalnews.ca/news/11549780/manitobans-light-the-lamp-as-winnipeg-jets-fall-5-1-in-carolina/>

Manitobans light the lamp as Winnipeg Jets fall 5-1 in Carolina

By Christian Aumell & Russ Hobson Global News

Things are not going very well for the Winnipeg Jets right now.

The Jets could not capitalize on several scoring chances before the Carolina Hurricanes pulled away late in a 5-1 win Friday afternoon in Raleigh, the fourth straight defeat for Winnipeg and their eighth loss in their last 11 outings overall.

Winnipegger Seth Jarvis recorded a hat trick and Brandonite Jordan Martinook also scored as the Hurricanes beat the Jets for the second time in just a week.

The Hurricanes dominated much of the first period, but it was a four-goal final frame that really sunk the Jets to spoil goalie Thomas Milic's NHL debut.

"We had a lot of guys who forgot to show up at the start of the game," said Jets head coach Scott Arniel. "That first period – we got the kid in net and we take two sloppy penalties. But we got stuck in there a few times, lost a lot of battles, some structure stuff that we got away from. The kid made some big stops and kept us in that one and obviously allowed us a chance.

"You got to find a way to be better to not allow those moments to happen. We're scrambling, we're fighting, we're fighting for our lives here."

The Jets haven't even had a lead the last three games and they've surrendered the game's first goal in the last four in a row.

"The young and old, whatever, it's part of your profession is being prepared for games," Arniel said. "I guess I got to do a little bit more, scream a little bit longer or harder or whatever, but find a way to get these guys to be ready to play."

Mark Scheifele scored the Jets only goal in the loss and none of their forwards outside their top line have scored a goal the last four straight games.

The Jets have now lost back-to-back games to start the five-game road trip as they enter a busy stretch with six games in the span of just nine days.

The game was tied until the Hurricanes scored four goals in the final 8:08.

"Those are the games we want to win," said defenceman Josh Morrissey. "It's disappointing we couldn't find a way and it's frustrating right now, but the best part of the NHL is we have a game tomorrow and a chance to right the ship here."

With Milic getting the start, it's the first time since the 2018-2019 season the Jets have used three goalies in the same season.

Milic stopped 30 of 34 shots in his first ever NHL appearance and after learning on Wednesday he'd be in the game, his parents were able to fly in from British Columbia to witness his NHL debut. He allowed just one goal in the first 51 minutes before the Hurricanes scored two goals in only 47 seconds.

"They're good shots and good goals but at a certain point you got to find a way to stop them," Milic said.

Carolina controlled the first half of the period thanks to a pair of power play opportunities but were unable to get one past Milic.

With just under four minutes to go in the first, the Hurricanes struck first. Sebastian Aho won a race to the puck in the Winnipeg end and dropped it back to Shayne Gostisbehere, who drove down low towards the net, drawing lots of attention from the Jets' defenders.

That allowed Jarvis to get open in the slot and bury a pass from Gostisbehere for his second goal in as many games against his hometown team this season.

Cole Perfetti had a golden opportunity to level the score when he found himself alone on a breakaway, but his shot was turned aside by Brandon Bussi to keep it 1-0 Carolina after 20 minutes.

The Jets drew level just past the midway point of the second, taking advantage of an egregious error by Carolina's Andrei Svechnikov.

Carolina had the puck in the Winnipeg end as Aho dropped it off to Svechnikov near the point before Svechnikov tried to send a cross-ice pass to Jalen Chatfield. It was a terrible read as he sent the pass right to the tape of Gabriel Vilardi in the middle of the zone.

Thanks to Scheifele getting back in the play a little late, he was able to get free of Gostisbehere, take a pass from Vilardi, burst into the Hurricanes' zone and wire a shot through Bussi at the 10:41 mark.

Winnipeg failed on a couple of power play looks in the second while Carolina also came up empty after Milic was called for delay of game for freezing the puck in the trapezoid, leaving the game tied heading to the third period.

The Hurricanes outshot the Jets 10-5 in the first and 10-5 in the second, but it was Winnipeg who had a glorious chance to grab the lead early in the third when Elias Salomonsson drifted down from the point and into the slot, took a pass and whipped a shot that rang off the crossbar.

Carolina also hit the post a couple of times in the third before they regained the lead at the 11:52 mark. Mark Jankowski wound up with the puck below the Winnipeg goal line and skated out from behind the net before finding Martinook in the slot. The Brandon native quickly released a shot that beat Milic, who was completely screened by Logan Stanley on the play.

The goal opened the floodgates for Carolina as they doubled their lead 47 seconds later. Jarvis was able to take advantage of a breakdown in the Winnipeg defensive structure, finding all kinds of open ice in the slot before collecting a pass and firing it past Milic for his second of the night.

The Winnipegger finished off the hat trick with an empty netter with 63 seconds left, and Alexander Nikishin added insult to injury with another goal with 23 seconds to go.

Bussi only had to turn aside 12 shots, but he did have to make some high-quality stops.

The Jets will look to snap out of their slide Saturday when they visit the NHL-worst Predators. The puck will drop shortly after 6 p.m. with pregame coverage on 680 CJOB starting at 4 p.m.

<https://globalnews.ca/news/11548700/analysis-shannon-winnipeg-jets-panic/>

ANALYSIS: It's not time for Jets fans to panic ... at least not yet

By John Shannon CJOB

So here we are, Black Friday. It's around this time of year when fans and pundits around the NHL world start to claim to see trends that will show which of the 32 teams will make the Stanley Cup Playoffs.

History suggests about 75 per cent of teams in playoff spots today will make the post-season in April. With that in mind, and the Jets on the outside looking in, I think this is the one year when those statistics just might not be accurate.

Oh sure, Winnipeg doesn't have its number one goaltender available for six more weeks ... maybe longer. Oh sure, the team isn't playing consistently with the same structure and depth we came to expect last season. Oh sure, they've lost three games since losing Connor Hellebuyck. But that doesn't mean this coaching staff and these players can't get themselves out of this funk and back into a playoff spot.

But the question really is ... when should the panic set in?

Mark Scheifele, Josh Morrissey, Kyle Connor and Adam Lowry are all long-time veterans of this league. They know what it takes to win. They know what it takes to play Winnipeg Jets hockey. They understand that every aspect of the way this team plays has to improve — on the offensive side of the puck, the defensive side of the puck, and certainly in goal, where Eric Comrie and Thomas Milic have the unenviable task of replacing the NHL's MVP.

This is where we should see the character of this group.

Jets fans are feeling the strain of this losing streak, and you can bet the players are, too. The players know the stakes. The players know the stakes. And you can bet they know there are eight teams within seven points of a playoff spot today.

After Carolina today, and as this road trip rolls to Nashville, Buffalo and Montreal (all teams that are struggling as well), the urgency to right the ship will grow more intense, and the leadership — on the ice, not the coaches or the management group — will have to ensure that this team is an exception to the U.S. Thanksgiving playoff predictor. These are three winnable games.

So, now is not the time to panic. But this road trip might just be an early indicator of how serious this issue truly is.

The Athletic

<https://www.nytimes.com/athletic/6837189/2025/11/26/nhl-playoff-picture-teams-thanksgiving/>

The NHL playoff picture at Thanksgiving: The contenders, surprises and disappointments

By Shayna Goldman

American Thanksgiving is viewed as an important marker in the NHL season — in the salary cap era, 77 percent of teams in a playoff position at Thanksgiving go on to qualify in the spring. In 2024, 12 of 16 teams (75 percent) held on to their Thanksgiving playoff spots.

But this season may throw a wrench into that pattern. The Eastern Conference is as tight as ever, with just nine points separating first (the Hurricanes, with 30 points) from last (the Maple Leafs, with 21 points). In the West, there is more distance between the top (Colorado, 37 points) and bottom (St. Louis, Vancouver, Calgary and Nashville, ranging from 20 to 16 points) of the conference. But only eight points are separating second in the conference (Dallas) and 12th (Chicago).

It isn't worth treating this year's playoff picture as written in stone. A lot can shuffle after tonight's 15-game slate, and beyond at this rate. So instead, let's check the vibes around some of the strongest contenders, surprise teams shaking up the picture and disappointments floating around the playoff bubble.

Playoff contenders

Twenty-two games into the season, the Avalanche have only one regulation loss. With a 16-1-5 record, a league-leading 37 points, and 0.841 points percentage, Colorado is a wagon. With this incredible start, the Avalanche have become the measuring stick for the rest of the league.

Star power leads the way in Colorado. The Avalanche have outscored opponents 37-13 with at least one of (or both) Nathan MacKinnon and Cale Makar on the ice at five-on-five. Unlike last year, the Avs are still leading the way without their franchise cornerstones on the ice with a 24-20 scoring edge and 60.7 percent xG rate (compared to getting outscored 72-82 and hovering around break-even in xG a season ago). Goaltending's also been a key part of their success, thanks to Scott Wedgewood and Mackenzie Blackwood giving them a chance to win on most nights.

The Avalanche are a tier above the rest right now, with a 99-plus percentage chance of reaching the postseason. But a few other expected contenders are rising to the top.

In the West, Vegas and Dallas are the strongest competitors behind Colorado.

The Golden Knights have had to deal with a lot of key injuries and absences in the early going. But others have stepped up — the offense is clicking, the power play is dangerous, and Shea Theodore and Brayden McNabb have been excellent in their own zone with league-high plus-6.3 and plus-5.1 Defensive Ratings, respectively. Pair that with the benefit of a weaker Pacific Division and a league-high seven loser points, and Vegas should be a lock for the playoffs.

The same goes for the Stars, who have finally found more consistent five-on-five scoring. Ahead of Tuesday's matchup in Edmonton, Dallas scored at a rate of 3.10 goals per 60 in 11 games

this month, after snailing through most of October. Dallas is one of the deepest teams in the league, but some stellar individual performances have helped lift this team over the last stretch; Jason Robertson has been on a tear, while Miro Heiskanen has been an all-around threat.

In the East, the Hurricanes and Lightning lead the way with at least 90 percent odds of reaching the playoffs.

Carolina's start was far from perfect, with Andrei Svechnikov and offseason addition Nikolaj Ehlers struggling to put up points early on. A Jacob Slavin injury has diminished their usual defensive structure and penalty killing. But the Canes have gotten by, and their five-on-five offense has a lot to do with it. The team ranks in the top five in xG generation (3.32 per 60) and scoring (3.03 goals per 60).

The Lightning opened the season even slower than the Canes. Just one month ago, they sat at the bottom of the Eastern Conference with a 2-4-2 record and 0.375 points percentage. Another 11 wins (and some disappointing performances by projected contenders, we'll get there) helped push the Lightning to the top of the Atlantic Division, despite Victor Hedman, Ryan McDonagh, Brayden Point and Erik Cernak sustaining injuries along the way, and power-play struggles. Tampa Bay's lead is slim; Detroit, Ottawa, Boston, Montreal and Florida are all within three points of the Lightning. But the star power of their roster (when healthy) and a good supporting cast have helped get them back on track.

While the Senators, Wild, Kings, Devils and Capitals were all expected to stay in the playoff picture after qualifying last year, a handful of teams have emerged against the odds.

In the East, the Red Wings, Islanders, Bruins and Penguins have all exceeded expectations through the first quarter of the season. Pittsburgh's come back down to Earth with a 3-4-3 record over its last 10, but the Islanders keep trending up in the Metro, boasting a 7-3-0 record in that same stretch.

After spinning their wheels in the fringes of the playoff picture over the last few years, a new general manager, Mathieu Darche, brought a new vision to Long Island. Kicking off a retool rightfully changed expectations for the Islanders. It starts with Matthew Schaefer, whose dynamic play is a must-watch on a nightly basis. Ilya Sorokin, after a shaky start, is so back with 14.6 goals saved above expected in 15 games. And up front, Bo Horvat is leading the way offensively, with help from up and down the lineup.

The Bruins, like the Islanders, are also in the midst of a retool that began when management sold at last year's trade deadline. Boston's core players, David Pastrnak, Jeremy Swayman and Charlie McAvoy, have pushed them higher in the standings than anticipated, along with Morgan Geekie, Nikita Zadorov and new coach Marco Sturm. But whether the Bruins (and Islanders) maintain their standings in the top eight in the East depends on two things: Whether expected contenders can get it together and knock these teams out of the way and management's commitment to continuing the retooling process. The Islanders could move pending free agents Anders Lee, Jean-Gabriel Pageau and Casey Cizikas, among others. Boston doesn't have as many rental players to flip, but it could continue what was started last spring to keep the big picture in mind.

Granted, this could all change on a dime, considering how close the Atlantic Division is, the Red Wings' current second-place standing is a real feat. The team has been poised to take the next step for some time, but has continued to fall short of the postseason. Underwhelming deadlines

and offseasons have only added to the problem. This season has been far from perfect, but the Red Wings' core players, Dylan Larkin, Lucas Raymond and Moritz Seider, have fueled their move up the standings. The question is whether those players can keep this up without support, or if management can find reinforcements.

In the West, the Kraken and Sharks are off to better-than-expected starts. Seattle came into the season with a 12 percent chance of making the playoffs and now sits second in the Pacific with 28 points. The Sharks initially had a six percent chance of reaching the postseason, and are only two points out of a wild-card seed.

Despite stronger starts than expected, it hasn't moved the needle enough in their playoff projections. The Kraken are here thanks to strong goaltending, with a collective 0.909 save percentage in all situations that ranks third in the league, and 10 overtime appearances. The Sharks' young guns, Macklin Celebrini, William Eklund and Yaroslav Askarov are some of the keys behind San Jose's progression, too. But neither one of these situations feels sustainable, yet.

And that's what separates the Ducks from those Western Conference surprise teams. The Ducks have a bit more oomph behind their rise. Anaheim is first in the Pacific and third in the West, with a 14-7-1 record and 29 points.

The Ducks' defense recovered from a really challenging start, but it still has room for improvement. The goaltending, led by Lukáš Dostál, has covered up a lot of those lapses with 11 quality starts in 17 appearances. And that contributes to the real story behind Anaheim's success: player progression. Leo Carlsson is developing into a dominant all-around center, while Cutter Gauthier has taken offensive strides. Their development has moved Troy Terry into a more fitting position as a productive top-six winger after years of playing above his depth in a chaotic situation.

With teams such as the Golden Knights and the Oilers in the division, the Ducks could have some trouble holding onto first place. But this team has boosted its playoff odds from 25 to 65 percent.

Disappointments

There really isn't anything shocking about the Flames or Predators sitting in the basement of the standings. The Maple Leafs falling to last in the East, however, is much more surprising and seriously disappointing. While there is only a seven-point gap between Toronto and Tampa Bay, some concerning trends are spelling trouble for the projected contender.

And the Leafs aren't the only expected contender falling short.

In the West, Edmonton and Winnipeg have struggled this season. Injuries are a big part of the conversation, especially for the Jets, who had to start the year without two defensive stalwarts in Adam Lowry and Dylan Samberg, plus Cole Perfetti. And that likely contributed to some really suspect underlying numbers throughout October. A high shooting percentage and strong goaltending helped the Jets navigate through the month, with a second-place standing in the Central Division. Since Halloween, the team has slipped out of the playoff picture and is three points behind Utah for a wild-card spot. As much as the defense has stabilized, the Jets aren't generating enough offense. And now comes the real test to find goal support, without Connor Hellebuyck as the great equalizer in net for the next few weeks.

In Edmonton, Connor McDavid and Leon Draisaitl aren't up to their usual game-breaking standards. But this team has had to navigate a lot of injuries and a ton of time on the road (16 of 24 games). Zach Hyman is back, while Ryan Nugent-Hopkins, Jake Walman and Kasper Kapanen are all expected to return soon. That could help Edmonton get out of its early-season funk, which has become all too familiar over its last few seasons. While there isn't a ton of concern there just yet, even if the team rebounds, the question will remain whether the Oilers have enough strength up and down the lineup, and most importantly, in net.

Speaking of starting with key injuries, the reigning champs know a thing or two about that. The Panthers have unsurprisingly struggled without two elite forwards, Aleksander Barkov and Matthew Tkachuk. That has exposed players such as Sam Bennett, who has had to fill a role above his depth. As much as Sam Reinhart, Brad Marchand and Gustav Forsling are leading the way in Florida, the supporting cast behind them is also short-handed. And Sergei Bobrovsky hasn't been at his best either. So there is some reason to worry here, too. But the Panthers aren't that far out of the playoff picture, and have help on the way with Tkachuk expected to return in December.

A few weeks ago, the Rangers looked poised to return to the playoff picture. And then the season started, and the team forgot how to score at home. As solid as New York was on the road, even that has become a problem lately. So while Adam Fox and Vladislav Gavrikov are thriving in big minutes on defense, the rest of the team is falling short of expectations — and it's showing in the standings with a middling 11-11-2 record. The roster strength is a weakness, and so is the sum of its parts — and that's going to be tested over the next couple of weeks with all five of the projected contenders on the schedule.

Like every other disappointing team, the Leafs have had their share of injuries this season. Auston Matthews, Matthew Knies, Nicolas Roy, Chris Tanev, Brandon Carlo and Anthony Stolarz are all sidelined at the moment. But this team had two-way problems before falling this short-handed. For all of his playoff shortcomings, this looks like a team that didn't adequately replace a 100-point producer who contributed in all situations. Even when Mitch Marner was in Toronto, though, the team still had depth scoring problems. And that's only exacerbated when top-sixers such as Matthews and Knies aren't playing up to expectations. Defense and the penalty kill have become weaknesses in Toronto, and the team's lack of speed has been exposed as well.

As much as these teams have disappointed early on, there is still a path for most to return to the postseason. There are three-quarters of the season to disprove the Thanksgiving theory.

<https://www.nytimes.com/athletic/6844093/2025/11/29/nhl-quarter-season-grades-report-cards/>

NHL report cards: Grading every team at the quarter mark of the season

By The Athletic NHL Staff

Last week, the 2025-26 NHL season passed its quarter point. It's still early, but with one of the big demarcation points on the league's calendar, U.S. Thanksgiving, behind us, we are starting to get an idea of what each team is and isn't.

What better time to break out our red pens and hand out some grades? That's exactly what The Athletic did this week when it asked its NHL staff to assign a grade to every team with

expectations in mind. You'll definitely want to show some of these to your parents (or general managers). Others ... maybe not.

Winnipeg Jets: C

It would be disingenuous to publish a story called "The Winnipeg Jets are going to struggle. Don't count them out when they do" to preview the season and then act shocked or appalled that the Presidents' Trophy winners are just 12-11-0. Winnipeg is going to have to scratch and claw for a playoff spot this season, if it makes it that far. The Jets started to play better when Dylan Samberg, Adam Lowry and Cole Perfetti returned to the lineup, but they're getting outchanced again and are losers of four straight. There's a better team than we're seeing, but Winnipeg's problems — pace, structure, consistency and secondary scoring — are plentiful so far this season. — Murat Ates

<https://www.nytimes.com/athletic/6840312/2025/11/27/winnipeg-jets-five-changes-playoffs/>

Five changes the Winnipeg Jets need to make to make the playoffs

By Murat Ates

It's normal for there to be alarm bells not just ringing but blaring down Main Street as the Jets have lost three straight games, falling out of playoff position at precisely the moment in the season when good teams are meant to lock down their spots.

As Shayna Goldman wrote on Tuesday, 77 percent of teams in a playoff position at U.S. Thanksgiving in the NHL's salary cap era have gone on to qualify in the spring. Last season, Winnipeg was one of 12 teams that made good on that statistic, consolidating a scorching start to the season with a strong second half, a President's Trophy, and a third consecutive playoff spot.

Now the Jets are three points shy of the playoff cut line, their franchise goaltender is recovering from knee surgery, and Mark Scheifele's line is the only one scoring goals with any consistency at all. As Scott Arniel laments the Jets' lack of secondary scoring — most evident against in Wednesday night's 4-3 loss at Washington, where Gabriel Vilardi and Scheifele scored all three of Winnipeg's goals — there's legitimate risk that the their biggest critics have been right all along: Winnipeg is too old and too slow to earn playoff spot without Connor Hellebuyck.

Could the Jets really join the 2024 Rangers as the second straight team to go from No. 1 in the NHL in one season to missing the playoffs the next? It's a reasonable question to ask of a team that's three points out of a spot, with four teams to pass.

Here's what the Jets need to change to keep that from happening.

1. Find some secondary scoring

Duh.

Honestly, that's a good rebuttal. Everyone knows that Scheifele, Kyle Connor, and Josh Morrissey drive the offensive bus for Winnipeg, with contributions from Vilardi. Scheifele and Connor are having brilliant offensive seasons, but it's a problem when your No. 1 and No. 2 point producers have more than three times the number of points as anyone playing on the second, third, or fourth line.

Expand your scope to the four players listed — Scheifele, Connor, Morrissey, and Vilardi — and they've scored more points than the entirety of Winnipeg's roster thus far, including players who are injured or have been assigned to the Moose. So it makes sense that Scott Arniel's assessment of Winnipeg's recent struggles include, "We've got to find a way to get some secondary scoring."

The real question is how.

Arniel's strategy so far has been to double down on his top line of Connor, Scheifele, and Vilardi. They're winning their minutes, generating most of Winnipeg's offence at even strength while also constituting 3/5 of Winnipeg's top power play. If Arniel can use them as a "set it and forget it" solution, trusting that his top three forwards can keep winning their minutes, then he needs to find solutions on his second, third, and fourth lines.

The problem is that, while Connor, Scheifele, and Vilardi have outscored teams 17-12 while playing the most minutes together of any line in the NHL, the rest of the Jets forwards have yet to replicate that success. Whether it was Jonathan Toews centering Morgan Barron and Gustav Nyquist, Adam Lowry centering Nino Niederreiter and Alex Iafallo, or Vladislav Namestnikov centering Cole Perfetti and Tanner Pearson on Wednesday, every single line gave up a goal. Only Scheifele's line scored.

2. Consider a top line split

Arniel has two choices now. One is to keep Scheifele's line together — it's the one that works — while working on finding chemistry among his other nine forwards. The other is to separate Connor, Scheifele, and Vilardi in an effort to create at least two lines that work. It's not something the Jets have tried very often — Connor and Scheifele have played over 90 percent of their even strength minutes together — so Arniel may not want to mess with the one thing he feels like he can count on.

If Connor and Scheifele are so good they can create offence without each other, Winnipeg gets to enjoy new opportunities. Maybe Connor can get something going with Toews and Perfetti. Maybe Scheifele and Vilardi can still produce if Niederreiter plays at left wing.

Or maybe it's on Toews, Perfetti, and company to start burying some of their chances. Toews' on-ice metrics have improved in his last 10 games, for example, but he's somehow been outscored 7-1 while earning approximately 50 percent of expected goals. Perfetti's enjoyed an even higher share of scoring chances than Toews' has had (and did some of his best work when the two played together, with Namestnikov) but Perfetti has been outscored 5-1.

Connor and Scheifele might be Winnipeg's only offensive players who can create without needing another play driver on their line.

3. Give Elias Salomonsson a longer look

If you've only watched the highlights from 21-year-old Elias Salomonsson's NHL debut, it's possible that your only takeaway is that he made two mistakes.

On the first, he was late in recognizing John Carlson as a threat on a Capitals' counterattack. There were multiple miscues on this play, including Dylan Samberg moving away from the middle of the ice to help Vilardi with Tom Wilson and Connor not identifying Carlson to his left. The error was not solely Salomonsson's low positioning — and in fact, he had reason to be where he was if he thought he needed to cover the middle for Samberg.

But Carlson exploited the space and scored.

The second one was less ambiguous. Salomonsson crossed the offensive blue line to join a Jets attack but overskated an awkwardly placed pass from Perfetti. The pass was into Salomonsson's left foot and not an easy one to deal with but he looked awkward as he tried to adjust, leading to Connor McMichael racing down the ice to score the game-winning goal.

Salomonsson told reporters in Washington that his teammates were quick to offer him support.

"The guys came and said, 'Don't worry,'" he said.

If all you've seen are the highlights, I'd urge you not to worry about Salomonsson's ability to play at the NHL level. There may be growing pains if he ends up sticking with the Jets once Neal Pionk recovers from his injury, but Salomonsson made a long list of good plays in his debut.

His breakout passes were crisp, with pucks landing on teammates' tape. His shoulder-checking and scanning of the ice showed a good understanding of the defensive zone. Salomonsson made confident plays in the offensive zone, too, darting to his right late in the first period before putting a pass onto Scheifele's stick in the middle of the ice. The pass led to a scoring chance and Vilardi scored right after the ensuing faceoff.

"I thought he showed a lot of maturity at times tonight," Arniel said. "There were some real nice plays, he had some real nice breakouts and nice plays offensively. This is a tough building, that's a tough team, that's a tough game to come into and I thought he held his own."

The Jets might rotate players through their lineup while Pionk is hurt. Luke Schenn sat on Wednesday, while Logan Stanley and Colin Miller played on the Jets' third pairing. Salomonsson may make the best breakout passes of the three and is under team control until 2032. Winnipeg has more to gain from his development than that of pending UFA right-shot defencemen like Schenn and Miller.

And we know that clean zone exits contribute to offence. Salomonsson may help more than he hurts, even as he grows.

That's not to say he's a finished product or should never see the AHL again, but I think the Jets have more to gain from continued Salomonsson opportunity.

4. Remember that there's a ton of season left

Maybe this is just a writer's version of Charlie Brown trying to kick a football but there's a chance the Jets will get healthy this season.

If Hellebuyck returns to game action after six weeks — the longer end of the four-to-six week timeline we were given — then he'll play against Ottawa on January 3. On that date, the Jets will still have 43 games left on their schedule. Their other injured players — Lowry, Perfetti, and Samberg, who have all recently returned to action, plus Pionk — will have had another month to get up and running.

I can't write a season preview about how Winnipeg will struggle (and why fans shouldn't write the Jets off, despite those struggles) and then write Winnipeg's season off with 60 games left to

play. They've been a maddening team — they're great at looking good for 8-10 minutes at a time — but they have shown measurable improvement in the past couple of weeks.

The Jets do need to find secondary scoring. They are slow enough such that they struggle to break games open, outside of their top players. Their lack of foot speed also reduces the margin of error on every single read they make on the ice. And Hellebuyck's return should coincide with a team playing a stronger five-on-five game than it did prior to his injury.

5. Be bold enough to address things by trade

Impatience is an option, too.

Even if I believe the Jets have enough runway to work with, they may not want to leave making the playoffs to chance. Winnipeg is all-in on its star players, its core, and its captain — and willing to be all-in on this era of its own history. But the window is closing on that era, whether Winnipeg wants it to or not.

The Jets have a limited number of shots at the playoffs before Hellebuyck, Scheifele, Lowry, and the rest of the oldest roster in the league this season age out of effectiveness. Hellebuyck turns 33 before the end of the season and just had his knee scoped. How many more years can the Jets be sure their No. 1 goaltender is among the best in the league?

This could be a good year for Winnipeg to be aggressive, if not in terms of the size of the assets sent away but with respect to the urgency of players brought back. Maybe the Jets don't send a Grade A prospect and a first-round pick away for Ryan O'Reilly just yet. Maybe Alex Tuch has Winnipeg on his five-team no trade clause. Making a trade takes two teams to agree and often requires a player to waive their trade protection.

A team that wants to contend but needs help to make the playoffs would benefit from starting those conversations early this year.

Associated Press

<https://www.sportsnet.ca/nhl/article/jarvis-scores-a-hat-trick-as-hurricanes-pull-away-in-third-period-to-beat-jets/>

Jarvis scores a hat trick as Hurricanes pull away in third period to beat Jets

By Associated Press

RALEIGH, N.C. — Seth Jarvis scored three goals and the Carolina Hurricanes beat the Winnipeg Jets 5-1 on Friday in a matchup that featured a pair of rookie goalies.

Jarvis, a Winnipeg native, clinched the hat trick on an empty-net goal with 1:03 to play — one of four Carolina goals in the final 8 1/2 minutes.

Jordan Martinook broke a third-period tie with his first goal of November before Jarvis' second tally of the game came just 47 seconds later. Shayne Gostisbehere and Andrei Svechnikov each provided two assists. Alexander Nikishin completed the scoring.

Brandon Bussi made 12 saves for Carolina, which won for the first time in three games. He improved his record to 6-1.

Mark Scheifele scored his team-best 13th goal for the Jets, who have lost a season-worst four consecutive games. Winnipeg goalie Thomas Milic stopped 30 shots in his NHL debut.

Jarvis leads the Hurricanes with 15 goals.

The game was tied 1-1 after two periods but Carolina went ahead on Martinook's goal with 8:08 left, set up by a pass from Mark Jankowski.

Milic stopped the first 10 shots he faced before Jarvis scored his first, converting off Shayne Gostisbehere's pass with 3:54 left in the first period.

The Jets pulled even with 9:19 remaining in the second period, taking Carolina's offensive zone turnover the other way for Scheifele's goal. Milic stopped all 10 shots he faced in the second period.

Winnipeg has lost six of its last eight road games.

Up Next

Jets: Saturday night at Nashville.

Hurricanes: Sunday home vs. Calgary.

Sportsnet.ca

<https://www.sportsnet.ca/nhl/article/five-potential-trade-destinations-for-predators-steven-stamkos/>

Five potential trade destinations for Predators' Steven Stamkos

By Ryan Dixon

Before we contemplate where Steven Stamkos might go next, let's just take a moment to remember where this guy has been.

From the second Stamkos stepped on the ice for his sophomore NHL season, he became the best goal-scorer on Earth for, more or less, a five-year period. Between the start of the 2009-10 campaign through Nov. 11, 2013, Stamkos scored a league-high 199 goals in 311 contests. That's 34 more goals than the second-place person in that timeframe (Alex Ovechkin, 165) and 59 more than the third-place guy (Corey Perry, 140).

If you're wondering why we cited the Nov. 11 date in 2013, it's because that marked the game when Stamkos crashed into the Tampa net on a backcheck in Boston and broke his leg.

While he was certainly still a fantastic goal-scorer after that injury, he never returned to the heights he achieved during Years 2 through 5 in the league.

Stamkos is undoubtedly not that player today, toiling for a second year on a go-nowhere Nashville club that's believed to be contemplating some serious moves in the aftermath of a free-agent spending spree in 2024 that just did not work.

Both Stamkos and Preds centre Ryan O'Reilly appeared on our own Nick Kypreos' first trade board of the season. Like Stamkos, O'Reilly was part of that drunken-sailor spendfest in 2024 by Nashville GM Barry Trotz, and Stamkos' sizable \$8-million cap hit through 2027-28 is definitely a big talking point — and potential sticking point — in all this speculation.

Another part of that conversation is wondering how much the 35-year-old has left in the legs. Sure, he's not the guy who terrorized goalies at the start of his career or even the player who routinely popped 40 goals during the back half of his long run in Tampa Bay. Still, this is a winger who scored 27 times last year on a team where basically nothing went right.

And while he's scored only five times this year, when you have a track record like Stamkos' and an impeccable reputation as a teammate who wants to win, teams are going to pay attention.

The reality is, it's not going to take a club's 'A' package to acquire Stamkos, especially if said club can swing this without asking Nashville to retain much or any of Stamkos' remaining bill.

There's obviously not a cornucopia of suitors for Stamkos the way there would have been had he waited a couple more days and hit the open market in 2016, and there's likely not even a team as eager as Nashville was when it handed him a huge check 18 months ago.

That said, teams are going to kick tires, and it's worth wondering what might be in the right situation. If Stamkos is moved, here are some clubs that could be sensible landing spots.

Winnipeg Jets

Winnipeg forwards have scored 69 goals this year, and 43 of them have come from the sticks of the three guys on the top line: Mark Scheifele, Kyle Connor and Gabe Vilardi. That means one line has accounted for 63 per cent of the goals produced by forwards.

Why not try to catch the former Lightning in a bottle?

The Jets inked Gustav Nyquist to a one-year, \$3.25-million deal in the hopes he could find a little spark and pot 20 goals. So far, he's got zero in 17 outings.

Winnipeg could ship Nyquist back to Nashville to help clear some space for Stamkos.

Brad Lambert, the 30th pick in the 2022 draft, has been told by the organization he has permission to seek trade partners, and the Jets could also part with somebody like defenceman Ville Heinola — another first-round pick — if Nashville is interested in young players who need a fresh start.

It's a risk, but Stamkos would surely be invigorated playing on a team with Cup aspirations and having a Canadian postal code for the first time in his pro career.

<https://www.sportsnet.ca/nhl/video/how-many-canadian-teams-are-playoff-worthy/>

How many Canadian teams are playoff-worthy? (VIDEO)

Frank Seravalli joins Tim Micallef at the quarter-mark of the NHL season to discuss which Canadian fanbase gets to hit the panic button first, which team needs to be first to make a big move, how many Canadian teams will make the playoffs, and more.

Winnipeg Sun

<https://winnipeg.sun.com/sports/friesen-five-blue-bombers-who-shouldnt-hit-the-free-agent-market>

Slumping Jets lose fourth consecutive game, this one a 5-1 setback to the Carolina Hurricanes

By Gordon Anderson

A general lack of insurance meant no coverage against the Hurricanes.

The Jets surrendered two goals less than a minute apart in a 5-1 loss to the Carolina Hurricanes on Friday afternoon.

Jordan Martinook gave the Hurricanes a 2-1 lead when his shot from near the face-off circle to the left of Thomas Milic beat the Jets goaltender over the left shoulder at 11:52 for his third of the season.

Seth Jarvis added the insurance marker 47 seconds later when his shot from the slot went over the left shoulder of Milic for his 14th goal of the season.

"We came out in the third doing the right things but those two quick ones ... " head coach Scott Arniel said. "They were (both) coverage plays. Both of those plays came right down, one went off one of our defencemen. Those are coming right down Grand Central. That's on us. I feel for (Milic) because he's giving us a chance."

Jarvis scored an empty-net goal at 18:57 and Alexander Nikishin netted his third of the season at 19:37 to end the scoring.

Jarvis potted a hat-trick against his hometown team. The winger opened the scoring at 16:06 of the first period.

Mark Scheifele scored for the Jets. In the team's four-game losing streak, Gabe Vilardi has four goals, Scheifele has two, and Josh Morrissey has one. After starting the season with four consecutive road wins, the Jets are 2-6-0 since.

Milic stopped 30 of 34 shots in his NHL debut.

The victory snaps a two-game losing streak for the Hurricanes. The Hurricanes are 13-5-2 when they outshoot the opponent. Final shots on the net were 35-13 for Carolina.

Hurricanes goaltender Brandon Bussi turned aside 13 of 14 shots for the win. Bussi has won four consecutive starts. He also picked up a win against the Jets on Nov. 21.

The Jets are in Nashville on Saturday night.

Scratches

Neal Pionk, Cole Koepke and Luke Schenn were scratched. Pionk picked up a lower-body injury in the 3-0 loss to the Minnesota Wild on Nov. 23. Pionk hit Danila Yurov along the sideboards near the Jets bench early in the first period and did not return. He is considered day-to-day.

Haydn Fleury is still in concussion protocol. He did not travel with the team on this five-game road trip.

Four in two

Jarvis has scored four goals in two games against the Jets. Besides his hat trick on Friday, he also bagged the go-ahead goal in Carolina's 4-3 road victory over the Jets on Nov. 21.

Jarvis is seven goals ahead of Sebastain Aho for the team lead with 15. He is second to Aho in overall points with 22. Aho has 24 points.

Muck like Josh Morrissey, Jarvis seems a good bet to make the Team Canada roster for the 2026 Winter Olympics. Jarvis played for Canada at the 4 Nations Face-Off in February.

"When you are not around the rink, you think about (playing for Team Canada) a little bit more, but around (the rink) I am focusing on what I can do to help the Hurricanes. As long as I am playing good hockey, the rest will take care of itself," Jarvis told Kevin Sawyer of TSN.

<https://winnipegsun.com/sports/strong-words-from-scott-arniel-after-jets-lose-fourth-consecutive-game>

Strong words from Scott Arniel after Jets lose fourth consecutive game

By Gordon Anderson

The way the Jets are currently languishing, desperation should be the least of their worries.

"We had a lot of guys that forgot to show up at the start of the game," head coach Scott Arniel told reporters after a 5-1 loss to the Carolina Hurricanes on Friday. "That first period, we've got the kid in net, and we take two sloppy penalties. We get stuck in there a few times, lost a lot of battles. There was some structure stuff that we got away from."

The 'kid' Arniel mentioned was rookie netminder Thomas Milic, the 22-year-old making his debut against the 'Canes. The New Westminster, B.C. native stopped 30 of 34 shots in defeat.

The Hurricanes were already in a sour mood following a 4-2 home loss to the New York Rangers on Wednesday night, and a loss to the Buffalo Sabres in their previous game. The Jets came in losers of three straight.

Arniel expected a quick start from his team, knowing the home team was desperate to regain the wind in their sails but penalties to Dylan DeMelo and Colin Miller before the game was 10 minutes old did not impress the bench boss.

Suffice it to say it was not the start he was looking for.

"We've already lost a few games now in a row," Arniel said. "To come out and start the game that way, in a building like this, knowing the opposition isn't going to be sitting back and is going to come hard, that's for all of us. Part of your profession is being prepared for games. I guess I've got to do a little bit more. I've got to scream a little bit longer or harder or whatever but find a way to get these guys to be ready to play."

And he didn't like the fact his team put Milic in a tough spot early on in his debut. Milic stopped 10 shots in the first period.

"To put a kid into a situation like that, again, he was good and did a lot of good things," Arniel said. "I thought he held his own."

As a symptom of the team's lackluster play, Elias Salomonsson started the second period with Josh Morrissey as his defensive partner.

"That had to do with certain people who weren't ready to play," Arniel said.

The coach didn't name the player specifically with his blistering post-game comments, but he appeared to be unhappy with DeMelo. The London, Ont., native took the first penalty, a tripping minor on Andrei Svechnikov at 4:46.

The overwhelming majority of the squad are veterans of the league. Arniel doesn't think he should be yelling at his players to get them motivated and sufficiently ready to play. Surely, the onus is on the players to get themselves squared away.

"These guys have been here," he said. "They know what it takes to play in this league. They know that's not good enough. Whether it's only playing two periods or it's having breakdowns where you give up goals on back-to-back shifts, whatever those scenarios might be, when you have guys that have been in this league, you've got to find a way. You've got to find a way to be better and not allow those things and those moments to happen."

Given what has transpired over the last two weeks, Arniel was perplexed as to why his players, knowing they are falling ever further behind their competitors in the Central Division and the Western Conference, would fail to come out ready to go against a team on a losing skid of their own.

Heading into league-wide action on Saturday, the Jets are 3-7-0 in their last 10 and sit 12th in the Western Conference and 26th overall in the league.

Three players have scored a goal during the current losing streak. Gabe Vilardi has four goals, Mark Scheifele with two and Morrissey with one. The secondary scoring is nowhere to be found as Gustav Nyquist has zero goals in 17 games, Nino Niederreiter has one goal in 11 games, and Cole Perfetti has one goal in nine games.

Perfetti had two excellent chances to score on Friday, but he was stopped on a breakaway by Brandon Bussi and failed to convert on a jam play at the net. Perfetti was credited with three shots in 13:15 of action.

And all-world netminder Connor Hellebuyck is approximately three to five weeks away following knee surgery.

"We're scrambling, we're fighting for our lives here," Arniel said.

The Jets face the Predators on Saturday night. The Preds are having troubles of their own as they are situated last in the Western Conference and last in the NHL, just four points behind the Jets.

"We've got a divisional game (on Saturday) and we'll go right back at it," Arniel said. "There's not much time to even dwell on this. We've got to get in and get ready for Nashville."

<https://winnipeg.sun.com/sports/winnipeg-jets-hope-to-arrest-three-game-losing-skid-in-carolina>

Winnipeg Jets hope to arrest three-game losing skid in Carolina

By Paul Friesen

The Winnipeg Jets got from Washington to Carolina quickly and directly after their Wednesday night game. Private team jets make that pretty routine.

How well they handle those two attributes of the Hurricanes will determine whether they break their losing skid or extend it on Friday.

"Carolina forces you to play a fast game," assistant coach Marty Johnston told reporters in Carolina after a Thursday skate. "They're going to be very direct and if we're direct, good things will happen."

Not enough good things have happened to keep the Jets from losing their past three, most recently a 4-3 setback to the Capitals on Wednesday.

A 3-7 record in their past 10, 12-10 overall, has put four teams between Winnipeg and a wild-card playoff spot.

"When you're losing games ... it can be a little demoralizing," forward Morgan Barron said. "But we're trying to stick to the things we're doing well. Our game is trending in the right direction even though the results aren't there. All the confidence in this group that we're going to get moving on the right track and get better results. That's the belief we have to have."

Sitting 26th, overall, purely on points, the Jets will try to turn their fortunes around against a Hurricanes squad that's 14-7-2 but has lost two straight.

They're also one of the top four highest-scoring teams in the NHL.

"We know they're coming," Barron said. "They come with a lot of speed, they're attacking off the rush, they have a ton of skill. The style they play is predictable. We'll have a good game plan."

Keeping faith in their plan becomes more of a challenge with each passing loss, though.

"Don't try to do more than what you do every night," is how defenceman Dylan DeMelo put it. "Obviously we've talked about 10 percent more, about giving more. But that doesn't mean you go outside of your foundation and what makes you successful every single night."

DeMelo says every big mistakes seems to end up in the back of his team's net.

It doesn't help that Connor Hellebuyck isn't manning it, nor does it help that the Jets are getting nearly all their scoring from one line, their top one: Mark Scheifele between Kyle Connor and Gabe Vilardi.

"The guys that aren't scoring, find a way to get some offence," head coach Scott Arniel said after Wednesday's setback. "You can't go into games with one line running."

Arniel wants more production from his blue line, too.

"We've got to get a little bit hungrier," he said. "We've got to get a little bit meaner about going and finding ways to score goals."

"You look in the mirror," DeMelo added. "You know if you've got more to give or not. You know what you need to do to help our team out. Continue to work hard and see what we can do here."

With the Jets playing Friday and Saturday (in Nashville), untested goalie Thomas Milic is expected to get the call for one of the next two.

Having a 22-year-old making his NHL debut between the pipes might not sound like the way to end a slump, but this team doesn't have any choice, so they'll draw what they can from it.

"That definitely gives us a little bit of a boost," DeMelo said. "You go back in memory lane and remember your first game and all the excitement and nerves and all that emotion. You kind of live it again."

Milic's first game will follow that of defenceman Elias Salomonsson, who marked his first in Washington.

"It's great to see these young guys make that jump, great for the organization," DeMelo said. "You obviously want to get them a win and get them on the right foot."

"Those guys worked their rear end off to get to this point," Barron added. "It's a long journey for everyone."