

Winnipeg Sun

<https://winnipeg.sun.com/sports/hockey/nhl/winnipeg-jets/heinola-samberg-get-chance-in-wide-open-blue-line-battle>

Heinola, Samberg get chance in wide-open blue-line battle

By Scott Billeck

One of the prevailing thoughts through the first few days of training, at least in the case of yours truly, has been how difficult the job must be to juggle implementing a new system while also trying to evaluate talent in a way that would fit nicely into it.

Similarly, how difficult must it be for a player pushing for a roster spot to try and not only take in all the information flying their way, but also to regurgitate it on the ice as perfectly as they can to show they can thrive in it better than the veteran they're trying to take a job off of, or the prospect next to them they're trying to fend off.

It's a pressure cooker, certainly.

On Tuesday night at Canada Life Centre, a few more hopefuls will hit the ice for the Winnipeg Jets against the visiting Ottawa Senators in their quest to move the needle inside head coach Rick Bowness's head.

Many will be interested in seeing Ville Heinola and Dylan Samberg suit up for the Jets for the first time this preseason. They're two of the protagonists in an audition to find, at the moment, one final spot on Winnipeg's blue line to start the season.

Logan Stanley, the incumbent, struggled in Sunday's 4-0 loss to the Edmonton Oilers, leaving the door wide open for someone else to walk through it. But others have stepped up to the plate, as it were, including Kyle Capobianco, who had an excellent game despite the lopsided final score.

It's the sort of camp battles that make training camp more than just the means-to-an-end, can-this-just-be-over-with? that it's often made out to be.

Heinola seems like a shoo-in for a system that wants more activation from its defence.

Bowness wasn't pleased with the team's basement-dwelling 24 goals from defenceman last season, and is hoping to nearly double that total this year with a more offensive-minded approach.

That's right in the young Finn's wheelhouse, even if he has to work on his own defensive game, as Bowness alluded to earlier this week. Still, Heinola possesses the offensive prowess and creativity, and Bowness knows what a young Finn with those elements in his game can do having coached Miro Heiskanen in Dallas.

"He's got so much skill and talent and he just wants to get better," Brenden Dillon said last week when asked about Heinola. "I want to give him the puck. He can have it all day long. I think when it comes to the defending part, we just like to chat a lot out there about what's going on."

Bowness was still quick to temper expectations.

"Listen, this kid can move the puck, he's got great wheels with the puck, heads up, I get all that," he said. "But we've got to learn, can we win with this guy? That's what it comes down to, can we win with this?"

The low-hanging fruit rebuttal is an easy one: They didn't win without him last season.

Anyway, Dillon and Heinola are likely to be paired with one another come Tuesday night and it's the latter's chance to show Bowness they can, indeed, win with him.

Meanwhile, if there was anyone who had the inside track to win a spot coming into camp, it would have been Samberg.

He is far more defensive-minded in how he plays the game than Heinola is, for instance. He's smart in his own zone, making safe, effective plays to get the puck moving the other way and his size lends itself to the physical game, which are problems in Stanley's offering.

There wasn't much, if anything, to complain about Samberg's 15 outings last season. He just went out there and looked like a guy who had played a heck of a lot more games at the NHL level.

And he, too, can benefit from Bowness's system. He has a shot on him, we just didn't see it much during his brief stint with the Jets last season, when Winnipeg's D weren't being asked to produce offence in the same way.

Expect to see Samberg with Neal Pionk in Winnipeg's veteran-lade lineup at home. Josh Morrissey and Simon Lundmark should round out the other pair.

Jets will get a look at most of their top six on Tuesday

While Pierre-Luc Dubois will get the night off after playing in Edmonton on Sunday, the rest of what's thought to be Winnipeg's top-six forward contingent will suit up against the Sens.

Kyle Connor, Mark Scheifele and Nikolaj Ehlers will feature as the team's top line, while Cole Perfetti, who played Sunday, will get his second straight game with Adam Lowry in Dubois's spot at centre and Blake Wheeler out at right wing.

Other than Lowry, this looks to be Winnipeg's top two lines to start the season come Oct. 14 against the New York Rangers.

Perfetti and Dubois have chemistry dating back to last season, prior to the former's season-ending injuries, and seemed to pick up where they left off on Sunday.

You really get the sense the Jets are trying to fast-track Perfetti's game-action readiness. This will be his fifth game if you include the three he featured for the team in Penticton at the Young Stars Classic.

Bowness needs both of the lines to buy into the system he's installing, including the important role of covering off a defenceman if they push up into the play.

Expect the bottom six lines to look something like this:

Mikey Eyssimont-Henri Nikannen-Saku Maenalanen (who gets his second game after an impressive showing on Sunday)

Daniel Torgersson-Dominic Toninato-Alex Limoges

Connor Hellebuyck and Oskari Salminen are the goalies dressing. Hellebuyck likely wouldn't suit up if he wasn't going to play, so he could get half the game before making way for the Finn.

Global Winnipeg

<https://globalnews.ca/news/9157109/mistawasis-woman-hired-winnipeg-jets/>

Mistawasis woman hired as college scout for Winnipeg Jets

By Jeanelle Mandes Global News

A 27-year-old woman from the Mistawasis Nehiyawak continues her father's footsteps into an NHL career where she joins the Winnipeg Jets.

From a hockey player to a coach, Sydney Daniels becomes the first Indigenous woman from the Treaty 6 territory as the Jets' scout.

"I feel truly honoured being part of this organization because everyone I met along the past week has been so welcoming and warming," said Daniels.

"It's been a dream. I feel like I've been dreaming the last week. It's a dream that I hopefully don't wake up from."

Daniels learned the passion for hockey by watching her father, Scott Daniels, who played professionally for the New Jersey Devils and the Philadelphia Flyers.

According to the Saskatoon Tribal Council (STC), Daniels is the former captain of the NCAA's Harvard Crimson and when her playing career ended, she joined her college team as an assistant coach.

STC Chief Mark Arcand said her skill, dedication to the sport and her academic accomplishments have helped make her the person she is today.

"It's a male-dominated sport and to have one of our own people at the top is really opening the doors for our younger people and the next generation to come," said STC Chief Mark Arcand. "She is truly a role model for our youth."

Daniels looks up to Brigitte Lacquette, who was the first Indigenous female hockey player for Canada at the Winter Olympics in 2018.

Together, they played together in this year's Fred Sasakamoose Chief Thunderstick National Hockey Championship held in Saskatoon.

Daniels hopes to inspire others through her career and past accomplishments by encouraging the younger ones to make sure they love what they do.

“My advice to the youth is to make sure you know why you play the game. If it’s because you love it, then you’re going to find success,” she said. “But if you’re doing it for someone else ... that’s not the best reason to play the sport. Do it because you love it.”

Daniels is one of three scouts the Jets hired last week.

https://globalnews.ca/news/9155883/winnipeg-jets-pierre-luc-dubois/?utm_medium=Twitter&utm_source=%40globalwinnipeg

ANALYSIS: Who gets the letters in Jets’ quest to expand team leadership?

By Kelly Moore CJOB

The first indicators of the Winnipeg Jets’ quest to expand the leadership of the hockey club were on display last night in Edmonton.

Just a handful of veterans dressed for the 4-0 pre-season opening loss to the Oilers, so in terms of deciding who would wear As for the game, the options were limited for Rick Bowness and his coaching staff.

Defenceman Dylan DeMelo and right winger Mason Appleton were ideal candidates to get a letter, in that they’ve been around for a while, are respected teammates, but are not thought of as guys with a voice in the room. At least from the outside looking in.

I’m thinking this is exactly the result of the process Bowness was looking for when he decided to go into this season without a captain or any alternates in place.

It was the coaching staff’s choice of the third player to have an “A” attached to the left of his jersey last night — Pierre-Luc Dubois.

If PLD was committed to the Jets on a long-term basis, he’d be a slam dunk for a letter.

But because Dubois has chosen to play his cards “one year at a time” — while the clock ticks closer to him becoming an unrestricted free agent at the end of next season — is the sixth-year centre worthy of the honour that goes along with wearing an “A” for a hockey club?

There’s not a lot to be read into that decision, because, as GM Kevin Cheveldayoff has made very clear, the focus of the franchise is on this year and this year alone.

There may be questions about what happens down the road when it comes to #80.

But Pierre-Luc Dubois has also made it abundantly clear — with a very noticeable “positive” start to training camp — for this coming season, he shares that focus as well.

CBC Saskatchewan

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/saskatchewan/treaty-6-first-nations-woman-becomes-1st-to-join-nhl-s-winnipeg-jets-as-scout-1.6596086>

Treaty 6 First Nations woman 1st to join NHL's Winnipeg Jets as collegiate scout

By Laura Sciarpetti · CBC News ·

The Winnipeg Jets have hired its first First Nations woman from Treaty 6 territory in Saskatchewan.

Sydney Daniels, 27, is joining the National Hockey League team as a college scout, but the woman from the Mistawasis Nehiyawak First Nation has already enjoyed a long hockey career.

Daniels grew up in the United States for most of her life and attended Harvard University, where she was captain of the Harvard Crimson hockey team. When her playing career in the National Collegiate Athletic Association ended, she became an assistant coach with the team.

Now, she's thrilled to be closer to her First Nation as she settles in with the Jets.

"I'm still pinching myself every morning that I wake up," Daniels said during a press event Monday morning. "It has been kind of a whirlwind from the moment my last position ended to kind of being here in Winnipeg.

"There are these moments I think where I'll just kind of sit back and take a deep breath and kind of be present and be like, 'Whoa, I am working for a professional NHL hockey team and I'm trusted by the staff. I'm treated like one of them!'"

Sask. senior hockey team says it plans to remove Confederate flag from its logo
Daniels is one of three scouts the Jets hired on Wednesday.

"It's a wild shift going from, you know, my comfortable position at Harvard [to] making this change to be in the NHL surrounded by the best of the best. What has helped me through this whole process has been my family," Daniels said.

Daniels will do the bulk of the NCAA recruiting for the Jets, meaning she will continue to be primarily based in Boston "just because that's kind of where one of the biggest hubs is for college hockey. I already have recruiting trips planned out to Minnesota and Wisconsin and Columbus [Ohio] ... just to make sure I'm doing the best I can in having a pulse on it."

Saskatoon Tribal Council Chief Mark Arcand says because Daniels is a woman in a male-dominated organization, the tribal council is thrilled with her upward trajectory.

"We support and are extremely proud of Sydney as a proud member of Mistawasis and most importantly a First Nations woman," Arcand said. "She is truly a role model for our youth. Not just her skill and dedication to the sport, but her academic accomplishments have helped make her the person she is today."

Inspiring First Nations women

Daniels admits she knows she's a trailblazer of sorts, specifically as a woman in a high-level job in the world of hockey. She pointed to an NHL game she recently attended.

"If any little girl was there last night in Calgary, she was able to see me in the press box with all of these males ... completely surrounded by males," Daniels said.

"I hope that she could just see me and say, 'Cool, I want to be that one day.' And so if I could make just one impact on one Indigenous youth, that would be absolutely incredible for me."

Daniels acknowledges how important her heritage is to her, especially now that she's in the new NHL role. Her father, Scott Daniels, played six seasons in the NHL with Hartford, Philadelphia and New Jersey.

"I love hockey. I'm so passionate about hockey and the game and I've learned it from my father who learned it from my grandfather who was in residential school. So hockey and my Indigenous culture are so interwoven, so strongly braided within ... that it's hard to separate those two things," Daniels said.

"So just as much as I am passionate about hockey, I am also passionate about helping and empowering and providing opportunities for our Indigenous youth to grow and succeed."

CKOM Saskatchewan

<https://www.ckom.com/2022/09/26/mistawasis-woman-hired-as-scout-for-winnipeg-jets/>

Mistawasis woman hired as scout for Winnipeg Jets

By CKOM News

Sydney Daniels, now with the Winnipeg Jets scouting staff. (Sydney Daniels/gocrimson.com)

One of three scouts hired by the Winnipeg Jets on Wednesday is from Treaty Six Territory.

Sydney Daniels, 27, has been hired by the NHL club as a college scout. In a news release provided by the team, Daniels described her conversation with assistant general manager Larry Simmons as something she'll never forget.

"That 90 minutes might have made him late, but it definitely changed my life, whether I ended up in this position or not," she said. "I left thinking this is something I really want to pursue.

"Not only was it Larry himself, but it was also listening to him talk about the values of this organization and the values of what he wants the culture here to be. That was resonating to me."

Daniels has wasted no time getting to work, having recently travelled to Buffalo.

"It's very dialled in on players we're looking for and things we're looking for," said Daniels. "I'm just excited to work and figure out those demands and try to fill those as best I can, in the vision of what we're trying to build here in Winnipeg."

Daniels is no stranger to the college system. She is the former captain of the NCAA's Harvard Crimson and, when her playing career ended, she joined her college team as an assistant coach.

She also played one year of pro hockey, for the National Women's Hockey League's Boston Pride, in 2017-18, before returning to Harvard to coach to start the 2018-19 campaign.

As a dual citizen, Daniels won gold with the U.S.A.'s under-18 team in 2011. That same year, she earned a gold medal at the National Aboriginal Youth Championships.

Daniels is the first First Nations woman from Treaty 6 territory to be added to the Jets' hockey operations.

"We support and are extremely proud of Sydney as a proud member of Mistawasis and mostly importantly a First Nations woman," Tribal Chief Mark Arcand said in a statement. "She is truly a role model for our youth. Not just her skill and dedication to the sport but her academic accomplishments have helped make her the person she is today."

The passion for hockey runs deep in the Daniels' family. Sydney's father Scott played 149 games in the NHL with Hartford, Philadelphia, and New Jersey.

Saskatoon Star-Phoenix

<https://thestarphoenix.com/news/local-news/sydney-daniels-opening-up-the-doors-for-indigenous-women-in-hockey>

***Sydney Daniels 'opening up the doors' for Indigenous women in hockey
"The most important thing I look for ... is the skill of hard work," said Daniels.
"That kind of overshadows everything."***

By Julia Peterson

For Sydney Daniels, the last week has been a "whirlwind" and a dream come true.

On Wednesday, the 27-year-old joined the Winnipeg Jets as a college scout — making her the first First Nations woman from Treaty 6 territory to be added to the Jets' operations team.

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"It's been a dream," she said. "I feel like I've been dreaming for the last week. And it's a dream I hopefully won't wake up from — and I imagine I won't, because I'm so grateful to be here and be surrounded by such incredible people each and every day."

Before joining the Jets, Daniels played, captained and coached hockey at Harvard University, and also played one season in the Premier Hockey Federation.

Although she has spent most of her life and career in Massachusetts, some of her best on-ice memories have been made in Saskatchewan, she said.

"The 'Chief Thunderstick' Fred Sasakamoose tournament was one of the greatest experiences I've had in hockey thus far," said Daniels, a member of Mistawasis Nêhiyawak. "I've been fortunate to do a lot of cool things in my career, and go to a lot of cool places. But to have hockey interwoven with my pride for being Indigenous, those are the most profound kinds of experiences for me."

The tournament, a showcase for Indigenous hockey talent, was also a chance for Daniels to share the ice with her friend and mentor, Brigitte Lacquette. In 2018, Lacquette became the first First Nations woman to play for the Canadian women's Olympic hockey team.

"She has been nothing but supportive and encouraging to me," Daniels said of Lacquette. "There's no doubt in my mind that having her as a friend and resource and support system has encouraged me to feel comfortable enough to make this leap into this position."

In her new role, Daniels hopes to inspire more Indigenous youth — young girls, in particular — to see a future for themselves in the hockey world. She hopes stories like hers and Lacquette's will be much more common someday, she added.

"I want to be a support system and be able to offer guidance to any Indigenous youth who might have questions. I don't want to just be a face. I want to be someone they can talk to and reach out to."

For Daniels, hockey isn't just a passion — it's a legacy. She learned the game from her father, former NHLer Scott Daniels, and her family has cheered her on at every stage of her career.

When the Winnipeg Jets played the Edmonton Oilers on Sunday night — their first game since Daniels was hired — she had her own fans in the stands.

"I had eight family members that drove from Saskatchewan ... just to be there for me in the building, watching the game," she said.

On Monday, Saskatoon Tribal Council Chief Mark Arcand also offered Daniels his best wishes.

"Congratulations on your new role, representing First Nations women and all women in general," he said. "It's a male-dominated sport, and to have one of our own people at the top is really opening up the doors for all of our younger people in the next generation to come."

As she starts scouting and recruiting, Daniels said she already knows what kinds of players she hopes to bring into the NHL.

"The most important thing I look for ... is the skill of hard work," she said. "That kind of overshadows everything. How are you inspiring your teammates with your play? Are you doing what is asked? Is your work ethic unwavering?"