

Winnipeg Free Press

<https://www.winnipegfreepress.com/breakingnews/2022/10/01/ducky-unveiled>

Ducky unveiled

Friends, family, fans throng downtown to see statue of Jets great

By: Mike McIntyre

Dale Hawerchuk's legacy was celebrated Saturday in an emotional ceremony that brought hockey royalty and thousands of Winnipeg Jets fans together outside Canada Life Centre.

A statue in the Hall of Famer's honour was unveiled in the heart of True North Square, aimed directly at the downtown rink.

"He always felt like Winnipeg was his home," Hawerchuk's wife, Crystal, told the crowd. "Now, he is home again, in Winnipeg."

A statue in honour of former Winnipeg Jets player Dale Hawerchuk is unveiled at True North Square outside of the Canada Life Centre in Winnipeg, Saturday, October 1, 2022.

Hawerchuk died of stomach cancer in August 2020 at the age of 57. Dozens of family members flew in for the event, including his three children and his elderly parents.

"He inspired us all to be better people. Everybody loved to be around him. He was special," said Crystal. "He gave our family a beautiful life. He made a difference in the lives of many. This statue is a testament to the giving life he lived."

More than a dozen former teammates and Jets 1.0 alumni were present, including Serge Savard, Dave Ellett, Randy Carlyle, Dave Babych, Paul MacLean, Scott Arniel, Laurie Boschman, Lucien DeBlois, Ray Neufeld, Randy Gilhen, Jimmy Mann, Jim Kyte, Brian Mullen, Tim Watters and Jordy Douglas. Former Jets owner Barry Shenkarow attended as well.

"He loved this city. He loved this province," said Arniel, who first met Hawerchuk when they were teenage teammates in junior. They'd go on to win a pair of Memorial Cups together, then enter the NHL after both being drafted by Winnipeg.

"This is where Dale became the star that he was," said Arniel, who is now the associate coach of the current Jets team. "He grew here as a hockey player. He grew here as a husband and father. He loved Winnipeg, he loved playing here, and it meant so much to him."

Arniel shared a story about Hawerchuk, knowing he was near the end of his life, called to tell him that Jets co-owner Mark Chipman and assistant general manager Craig Heisinger had told him they were going to commission a statue of him. Arniel asked what kind of pose "Ducky" might want, whether it was celebrating a goal, taking a shot or making a slick pass.

"No, I'd like it to be of me backchecking," Hawerchuk joked. "But Zinger said they can't find any pictures or videos (of that ever happening)."

Current Jets centre Mark Scheifele was coached by Hawerchuk in Barrie of the Ontario Hockey League after a recruiting session that convinced him to not go play college hockey.

"Within five minutes (of meeting him) I knew he was the guy I wanted to play for," said Scheifele. "I could just tell the love, the passion. It was the best decision I ever made, to come play for Barrie and Dale. He was the best coach I ever had, But he was an even better human."

Scheifele said he drives down Hargrave Street on his way to the downtown rink every day, a trip which will now take on extra special meaning.

"Every day I now get to stop at the statue and remember all the lessons he taught me," he said.

Former Jets forward Kris King, who now works for the NHL's head office, said Hawerchuk was "universally admired by all in the game." He recalled getting a call from Hawerchuk in 2016, asking him to play in the Heritage Classic Alumni Game between Winnipeg and Edmonton,

"When I got here I couldn't understand why I was on a line with him and Teemu Selanne," said King to great laughter from the crowd. "He wasn't just your captain. He was one of you. He loved playing for the Winnipeg Jets. And he loved saying he was from Winnipeg."

"When I look at this statue, I'll remember a legend."

Paul Coffey, the Hall of Fame defenceman for the Edmonton Oilers dynasty, also spoke Saturday about the fierce rival with Hawerchuk's Jets.

"This guy takes a back seat to nobody," said Coffey. "You guys made us a better team. The only reason you probably didn't win the Stanley Cup is because you were playing the Oilers."

"He wasn't just your captain. He was one of you. He loved playing for the Winnipeg Jets. And he loved saying he was from Winnipeg," said Former Jets forward Kris King.

Chipman said Hawerchuk and his family "deserve the very best," noting how the sculptor responsible for the statue, Erik Blome, has also done works of Wayne Gretzky and Michael Jordan. Chipman made a visit to the man's home in Illinois last summer to see the work in progress.

"We will always be grateful for the way Dale embraced us," said Chipman. Hawerchuk's family ultimately decided on the pose that would be captured by the statue, one he says has elements of skill, grace, aspiration and "always reaching for more."

<https://www.winnipegfreepress.com/breakingnews/2022/10/01/perfetti-scores-twice-for-jets-in-shootout-loss>

Perfetti scores twice for Jets in shootout loss Goals come hours after club honours Hawerchuk

By: Mike McIntyre

Cole Perfetti will forever be linked to Dale Hawerchuk and his family. On the October 2020 night the Ontario teenager was drafted by the Winnipeg Jets — 10th overall, no less — it was Crystal Hawerchuk who announced the pick.

Given that history, it was rather serendipitous that Perfetti went out and had a big game just a few hours after an emotional public ceremony and statue unveiling that honoured “Ducky” outside Canada Life Centre. The now 20-year-old scored both goals as the Jets dropped a 3-2 shootout preseason decision to the Edmonton Oilers.

“Obviously it’s a very big deal, the legacy that Dale left here,” Perfetti said following the game. “I didn’t get the chance to meet him, but he left a big print here in Winnipeg, in the city and the organization. It was a big deal tonight, you saw the crowd. That shows you how much he meant to the city, to the team. Having a little bit of a connection there, Ms. Hawerchuk doing the selection a couple years ago, is pretty cool. A great night to honour him. It was special all around.”

Winnipeg is now 2-1-1 through four preseason games, with just a home-and-home against Calgary left before the puck drops for real on the regular-season beginning Oct. 14.

Both teams sat out several big stars in this one. Mark Scheifele, Nikolaj Ehlers, Kyle Connor and Josh Morrissey watched for Winnipeg, while Connor McDavid, Leon Draisaitl, Ryan Nugent-Hopkins and Darnell Nurse were among the spectators for Edmonton.

Perfetti was denied what would have been a highlight-reel assist in the third period, as a Pierre-Luc Dubois goal was wiped off the board by an offside challenge.

“I had no idea, and then I went to the bench and a couple guys were like ‘Yeah, that might come back,’” said Perfetti. “So that was frustrating, because that was a nice little play all around as a five-man unit.”

With time running out on training camp, there was a noticeable increase in intensity, especially from players still fighting for jobs.

On the Jets side, 18-year-old Brad Lambert had another impressive performance coming off his one goal, one assist debut on Thursday in Montreal, dazzling with his speed and skill. He would have also drawn a helper on the disallowed Dubois goal. Coach Rick Bowness is clearly intrigued by what he’s seen so far, as he gave Lambert three shifts during an exciting three-on-three overtime session. Lambert nearly won it right off the hop on a terrific solo effort.

“Speed. Skill. Poise with the puck. In open ice, he’s going to make something happen. I love the way that he gets the puck and just goes. For an 18 year old kid, he’s confident with the puck,” said Bowness, who was then asked if he’s potentially working his way into the roster equation.

“Well, we’ll see,” Bowness replied.

Perfetti, Lambert and Dubois were all stopped in the shootout by Stuart Skinner, who turned away 33 of 35 shots during regulation and overtime. Devin Shore was the only one to beat Connor Hellebuyck, who made 25 saves on 27 shots prior to the breakaway contest. Tyler Benson, off a Ville Heinola giveaway in the first period, and Jason Demers, on a third-period five-on-three advantage, had the Oilers tallies in regulation.

It was a parade to the penalty box at times. Winnipeg went 2-for-6, while Edmonton went 1-for-5. There was also bit of bite to the game. Adam Lowry took offence to Benson running Mason Appleton from behind and jumped him, leading to offsetting penalties. Later, Blake Wheeler

went after Edmonton rookie Luke Esposito, who had knocked the former Jets captain into his own net and on top of Nate Schmidt, who was shaken up and briefly went to the dressing room.

"I didn't really love the play," Wheeler said. "Going into our goalie and Schmidty there, too. I got a little fired up. I felt I went into Bucky and Schmidty. It was not a spot that needed that type of play."

Perfetti is a lock for Winnipeg's top six, and looks to start the year on a line with Dubois and Wheeler. Scheifele, Ehlers and Connor look to be the other big trio.

"It's been really good. Doobie and Wheels are both big such big guys, so smart and so offensively gifted. But they're also such strong powerful guys, they get on the forecheck and open some space," Perfetti said of the fit so far.

Winnipeg's bottom six is a bit more of a mystery. Lowry and Appleton likely start the year together, but who is on the other wing is up for debate. Jansen Harkins played a game in that spot earlier in the preseason, while 28-year-old Finnish forward Saku Maenalanen got a look in that spot Saturday. Harkins was instead on a line with Dominic Toninato and Kevin Stenlund, who are both fighting to earn spots on the opening-night roster. Same with David Gustafsson and Kristian Reichel, who skated with Lambert.

Those involved in the battle for blue-line spots were featured in this one, with Ville Heinola, Logan Stanley and Dylan Samberg all playing along with three fixtures in Brenden Dillon, Neal Pionk and Nate Schmidt. Heinola had a roller-coaster of a game. A first-period giveaway led to a goal, but he also made a great feed to set-up Perfetti's first tally.

Winnipeg Jets' Cole Perfetti (91) celebrates his goal against the Edmonton Oilers during the third period. (John Woods / The Canadian Press)

"Now we're kind of in the back half of camp, you know, tonight a little bit more pop, a little bit more urgency; you are starting to feel a little bit more of the timing down," said Wheeler. "You are starting to play with some guys you will eventually play with, so that's really what you're looking for. Obviously, the last week coming up here and that last game in Calgary will be close to their lineup, close to our lineup, so that's a game where you start to build off some things."

The roster situation got a bit more clarity earlier in the day Saturday when the Jets trimmed 16 players.

Forwards Mikey Eyssimont, Jeff Malott, Daniel Torgersson, Henri Nikannen, Chaz Lucius, Alex Limoges, Nick Jones, Cole Maier, Evan Polei and Wyatt Bongiovanni, defencemen Ashton Sautner, Leon Gawanke, Declan Chisholm, Simon Lundmark and Tyrel Bauer, and goaltender Oskari Salminen have all been assigned to the Manitoba Moose. Eyssimont, Malott, Sautner and Gawanke must first pass through waivers before they can join the AHL club.

Winnipeg now has 31 skaters left – four goaltenders, 17 forwards and 10 defencemen. They are likely to cut two more goalies (Arvid Holm and Mikhail Berdin), along with four forwards and two defencemen.

Winnipeg Sun

<https://winnipegssun.com/sports/hockey/nhl/winnipeg-jets/another-hawerchuk-in-the-jets-fold>

Another Hawerchuk in the Jets fold?

By Paul Friesen

The Winnipeg Jets may soon have another Hawerchuk in the organization.

At the unveiling of the statue for his late father, Dale, on Saturday, Eric Hawerchuk revealed his younger brother, Ben, just might be getting a tryout with the Jets AHL farm team, the Manitoba Moose.

"We'll see. I think the roster comes out tomorrow," Eric said.

Ben Hawerchuk, 24, is a 5-foot-11, 198-pound forward who played for his father with the Ontario Junior League's Barrie Colts through the 2018-19 season.

He last played for Merano in the Alps Hockey League in Europe, scoring a goal and four assists in five games this season.

He spent last year with Jacksonville in the East Coast League, scoring 18 times and adding 17 assists in 65 games.

Hawerchuk would join a bevy of Jets hopefuls assigned to the Moose on Saturday, as the NHL team made its first roster cuts.

Of the 16 players affected, four need to clear NHL waivers before being reassigned to the AHL: forwards Jeff Malott and Mikey Eyssimont, plus defencemen Leon Gawanke and Ashton Sautner.

A dozen players are headed to the Moose without having to clear waivers, including forward Daniel Torgersson, who scored two goals in a preseason game, and Chaz Lucius, the Jets' first-round draft pick last year.

The other forwards AHL-bound: Alex Limoges, Henri Nikkanen and Wyatt Bongiovanni, plus three who were on professional tryouts: Evan Polei, Cole Maier and Nick Jones.

Defencemen headed to the Moose include Declan Chisholm, Simon Lundmark and Tyrel Bauer.

Goalie Oskari Salminen was also sent down.

<https://winnipegsun.com/sports/hockey/nhl/winnipeg-jets/emotional-day-for-jets-family-as-ducky-returns-home>

Emotional day for Jets family as Ducky returns home

By Paul Friesen

Downtown Winnipeg has its first bronzed hockey hero.

More than a dozen former Winnipeg Jets helped unveil a statue of former teammate Dale Hawerchuk at True North Square on Saturday.

The event, more than two years in the making, was attended by the late star's wife, Crystal, his three kids, Eric, Ben and Alexis, his parents and dozens of other friends and family and a few thousand fans at the corner of Hargrave and Graham.

Family members fought back tears as the giant sculpture was revealed for the first time.

"It was very emotional," Eric Hawerchuk said. "I've kind of been preparing, but to see just the sheer size of it, the attention to detail, it's hard to put into words. But I'm so proud of him. And to see so many people out here today, it still shocks me every time I'm here."

Eric's mother, Dale's wife Crystal, was among those who spoke, telling the crowd how humbled and honoured her late husband had been when he discovered the Jets' plans for the statue, not long before he died of cancer in August of 2020.

"It was a very emotional day," she said. "He was special. He made a difference in the lives of many, and this is why we will not forget him. This statue is a testament to the giving life he lived."

Jets centre Mark Scheifele also spoke, recalling his first meeting with Hawerchuk, who convinced him to play for him in Barrie of the Ontario Junior League instead of going to a U.S. college.

"Within five minutes I knew he was the guy I wanted to play for," Scheifele said. "He was the best coach I ever had, but he was an even better human. He cared more than anyone could ever know. And I was lucky to be one of those guys he cared about."

Scheifele's years under Hawerchuk led to him being the first draft pick of the Jets 2.0, 30 years after Hawerchuk was the first player the Jets selected in 1981.

"I drive down Hargrave every day, so every day I get to stop at the stoplight and look at this statue... and think about him," Scheifele said. "And I get to go to the rink with that passion that he instilled in me... all I can say is thank-you Dale."

Current Jets associate coach Scott Arniel related the story of first meeting Hawerchuk in a swimming pool when both were juniors in Cornwall, Ont.

"We became friends there, and it lasted a lifetime," Arniel said, recalling how the Jets drafted him right after taking his good friend in '81.

"We got drafted here together. It's where Dale became the star that he was," Arniel said. "He grew here as a hockey player, as a husband and as a father. He wanted me to make sure for all you guys to be here today, to be part of this, was very special to him."

"He loved this city, this province. He made it home, and he was special to all of us."

Hawerchuk, known as "Ducky," played with the Jets for nine seasons, quickly becoming the captain and leading the team in scoring every season.

He scored 929 points in 713 games as a Jet, earning a spot in the Hockey Hall of Fame in 2001.

Twice he played for Canada at the Canada Cup, including the memorable 1987 series that produced one of his indelible career moments, as he helped produce Mario Lemieux's winning goal in the final.

"You do not appreciate how great a player and teammate he is unless you play with him," defenceman Paul Coffey, a member of that team, told the crowd at True North Square. "This guy takes a back seat to nobody."

Ex-Jets in attendance included Serge Savard, Randy Gilhen, Randy Carlyle, Dave Ellett, Ray Neufeld, Paul MacLean, Lucien Deblois, Dave Babych, Laurie Boschman, Jim Kyte, Jimmy Mann, Jordy Douglas, even former owner Barry Shenkarow.

Jets alumni Kris King, representing the NHL, said he was never a teammate of Hawerchuk's, but could tell how great a leader he was.

"Probably one of the best people I've ever met in the game," King said.

Last to speak on Saturday was True North chairman Mark Chipman.

"Wow," Chipman said, looking at the crowd. "This turnout is... I guess what we expected."

Chipman later told reporters he travelled down to Illinois to see the sculpture in progress, and even got a chance to help pour the material that formed the right-hand glove of the statue.

The work of art depicts Hawerchuk reaching for the puck, as if tipping in a goal, or perhaps redirecting it to a teammate.

Chipman described the guiding principles as "dynamic, skillful, graceful and aspirational. Always reaching for more."

During the process, Chipman asked sculptor Erik Blome how he was going to get the massive piece to Winnipeg.

"He said, 'I'm going to drive it up on the back of my truck.' You've gotta be kidding me," Chipman said. "I would have loved to have been at the border when that came across. 'What have you got in the back?'"

Chipman says he got emotional addressing the crowd and seeing Hawerchuk's wife, family and ex-teammates there.

"I wish he had been able to be here and see all the love that this community has for him," he said.

Crystal Hawerchuk may have said it best in her final words to the crowd.

"Now he is home again here in Winnipeg."

<https://winnipegssun.com/sports/hockey/nhl/winnipeg-jets/perfetti-pots-pair-jets-lose-shootout-to-oilers>

Perfetti pots pair; Jets lose shootout to Oilers

By Paul Friesen

On a day when the Winnipeg Jets honoured their past with a bronze statue, a key part of their future shone like a diamond.

Cole Perfetti, the 20-year-old, first-round draft pick from two years ago, scored both goals as the Jets dropped a 3-2, shootout decision to the Edmonton Oilers.

Hours earlier, the Jets unveiled a statue of franchise great Dale Hawerchuk in True North Square, honouring the man who made No. 10 famous in Winnipeg and put Jets 1.0 on the map back in 1981.

On hand for the unveiling and for the game was Hawerchuk's wife, Crystal, who two years ago announced the selection of Perfetti, 10th overall, in the NHL's virtual 2020 draft.

"It was a big deal tonight, you saw the crowd," Perfetti said. "That shows you how much he meant to the city, to the team. Having a little bit of a connection there, Ms. Hawerchuk doing the selection a couple years ago, is pretty cool. A great night to honour him. It was special all around."

Perhaps a close loss to their 1980s nemesis was fitting, too.

On a night that featured special teams – the Jets had six power plays, Edmonton five – Perfetti showed the special talent that's seen him quickly go from blue-chip prospect to somebody expected to play a significant role this season.

Left alone in front and set up by linemate Pierre-Luc Dubois, he gave his team a 2-1 lead 8:50 into the third period.

The Jets got into penalty trouble, though, playing two men short and paying the price, Jason Demers finishing a pretty passing play and beating Connor Hellebuyck.

Perfetti's nicest play on the night, a one-timer pass setting up Dubois for an easy third-period goal, was negated when the Oilers challenged, successfully, that it was offside.

"Great hockey sense. He's a real smart player and can make plays and can go to the right spots," linemate Blake Wheeler said of Perfetti. "He thinks the game at an NHL level. He's going to be a guy that's going to be a lot of fun to watch here for a long time."

In overtime, Perfetti had a chance at the hat trick but was stopped by Oilers goalie Stuart Skinner.

Rookie Brad Lambert also had a dazzling rush in overtime, but couldn't beat Skinner.

In the shootout, Perfetti was stopped again, Lambert hit the goal post and Dubois missed the net.

Devin Shore scored for Edmonton.

Hellebuyck went the distance for the Jets, allowing two goals on 27 shots. The Jets put 35 on the Oilers' net.

There were some fireworks in the third period, too, as Wheeler dropped his gloves and went after Luke Esposito after Esposito belted him into the Jets goal.

Defenceman Nate Schmidt got caught in the pileup and was hurt on the play.

"I didn't really love the play," Wheeler said. "Going into our goalie and Schmidty there, too. I got a little fired up. I felt I went into Bucky and Schmidty. It was not a spot that needed that type of play."

A Ville Heinola giveaway led to the first goal by the Oilers' Tyler Benson late in the first.

Less than two minutes later, Perfetti got that one back on a two-man Jets advantage, Heinola drawing an assist.

The Jets out-shot Edmonton, 15-4, in that opening 20 minutes, thanks in part to three power plays.

Heinola took a minor as the clock wound down, concluding an eventful period for the young defenceman.

Tempers flared midway through the second when Benson boarded Jets forward Mason Appleton, head-first, into the side boards.

Adam Lowry came to his teammates' defence, earning a roughing minor to even things out.

Shots favoured the Jets, 23-12, through two, as they enjoyed their fifth power play of the night going into the third.

Once again, Heinola was on the point, getting a chance to show his puck-moving ability.

"We wanted to put those guys in the best situations possible, so they could show us their talent, show us what they do best, and that's what we keep telling them," associate coach Scott Arniel, who handles the defence, said going into the game. "You give them the opportunities and it's their job to go and work for it."

The Jets went 2-for-6 with the extra man, the Oilers 1-for-5.

Next up, two preseason games against Calgary, here next Wednesday, in Calgary next Friday, to conclude the exhibition.

Canadian Press

<https://www.chrisd.ca/2022/10/01/dale-hawerchuk-statue-winnipeg-jets-tribute/>

Jets Honour Hawerchuk Greatness, Memory with Special Statue

By Jim Bender, The Canadian Press

Crystal Hawerchuk told a crowd of hundreds of people how much her late husband, Dale, loved the city and the province before the official unveiling of the statue of the greatest Winnipeg Jet of all time just outside of the Canada Life Centre on Saturday afternoon.

"Now, he is home again," Crystal said.

Then, 16 former Jets teammates unfurled the cover over the statue to much whooping and applause.

"Dale was notified of this honour shortly before he died and he was humbled by it," said Crystal, who is a Winnipeg native. "He led with a purpose. He inspired us all to be better people, he supported many charities, and he gave our family a beautiful life.

"Thank you to everyone for making this statue a reality."

Hawerchuk, who lost a battle to stomach cancer in 2020 when he was only 57, was inducted into the Hockey Hall of Fame in 2001, had his No. 10 retired by the franchise in 2007, and was inducted into the Winnipeg Jets Hall of Fame in 2017.

Hawerchuk, who won the Calder Memorial Trophy as top rookie in 1981-82, posted five straight 100-point seasons over his nine years with the Jets and was the third-youngest player to score 50 goals in a season. He also played for Buffalo, St. Louis and Philadelphia. He scored a total of 518 goals and 1,409 career points in 1,188 career NHL games.

"This was so incredible," said Dale's son, Eric Hawerchuk. "First of all, my mom's speech was pretty unbelievable. She recited it to me a couple times. I know she was pretty nervous. But she got up there, she's a natural, right?"

"It was very emotional. I kind of prepared for it, but just to see the sheer size of it and the attention to details is kinda hard to put it into words. But, I'm so proud of him and to see this here and to see all of the people here is just so amazing. It's still shocks me every time I see it."

Jets associate coach Scott Arniel started his NHL career in Winnipeg with Hawerchuk after the two played junior hockey together.

"We were friends for a lifetime," said Arniel, who fought back tears. "I was talking to him near the end. I told them they were going to make a statue of him and he said, 'I can't believe it.'

"He grew up here as a hockey player, as a husband and a father. He loved Winnipeg. He meant an awful lot to all of us. ... This statue will remind everyone of the memories he left."

Jets executive chairman Mark Chipman said the original plan was to have Dale attend the unveiling.

"We didn't fully appreciate how his health had deteriorated," Chipman said. "We had made the decision to do this quite some time before that, and Dale had recovered.

"It was our hope that he'd be here today when we did this. His health declined very rapidly, and we were advised of that. We thought the least we could do is tell him."

Hawerchuk coached current Jets centre Mark Scheifele, who spoke at the ceremony.

"I see the statue over there and all of a sudden you're fighting back tears, you're fighting back the nerves and fighting back just all the feeling that kind of come onto you," said Scheifele.

"But what a tremendous honour to speak at his statue unveiling. He meant so much to me. It's one of those things I'll remember for the rest of my life."

The statue was sculpted by Erik Blome, who also sculpted statues of Wayne Gretzky and Michael Jordan.

Edmonton Sun

<https://edmontonsun.com/sports/hockey/nhl/edmonton-oilers/skinner-helps-upset-minded-edmonton-oilers-take-down-the-jets>

Skinner helps upset-minded Edmonton Oilers take down the Jets

By Robert Tychkowski

Five down, three to go.

But who's counting?

The predictable grind that is the Edmonton Oilers pre-season rolled into Winnipeg Saturday where, as is almost always the case, the home team's veterans were heavily favoured over the visiting team's rookies, AHLers and depth players.

Only this time, an Edmonton team that had Devin Shore, Derek Ryan and Mattias Janmark as its first line and just one defenceman with more than 25 games of NHL experience decided to flip the script, posting a 3-2 victory in the shootout.

Tyler Benson and Jason Demers scored in regulation and Devin Shore scored the shootout winner while Stuart Skinner's stellar work in net made the upset possible.

"In the pre-season you're trying to establish your identity, both as an individual and as a team," said Shore. "You look up at the shot clock and it might not look great, but for the guys who were here today we had a job to do — we wanted to keep battling and grease one out. It was nice to get the win."

Skinner had a busy start to this one, keeping it 1-1 through 30 minutes while the Oilers were being outshot 20-4.

"The guys in front of him competed our butts off but he stole us the win," said Shore. "He was our best player."

The 23-year-old goaltender also stopped five shots in the three-on-three overtime and blanked Cole Perfetti, Brad Lambert and Pierre-Luc Dubois in the shootout for the win.

"Being on the road in this barn it's tough to get a win, but I thought our guys battled hard, made some huge blocked shots," said Skinner, whose final line was two goals on 35 shots, both of them coming on the power play. "It feels good."

To out-duel Connor Hellebuyck, one of the best goalies in hockey, is pretty cool, too.

"You always know who's playing on the other side and it's always fun watching Hellebuyck play. He's an unbelievable goalie and somebody I've looked up to for years."

There was plenty to digest in this one as the Oilers fought hard and had big nights on many fronts. At this point, as the evidence begins to mount, it's hard to tell if the picture is getting clearer or foggier for head coach Jay Woodcroft.

Benson, who split the last two seasons between Edmonton and Bakersfield, opened the scoring for the Oilers in his attempt to push through and become a full-time NHLer. He whipped a wrist shot into the far top corner behind Jets goalie Connor Hellebuyck.

He also drew a crowd in the second period after taking two minutes for boarding Winnipeg's Mason Appleton and sent Xavier Bourgault in for a breakaway with beautiful third-period touch pass.

"I'm happy with how camp has gone, I've felt good out there on the ice," he said. "I feel I've made some big strides over the summer and I've played well."

"I feel like the things I've worked on in the off-season, I've been able to apply. They've been showing in the games. I just want to keep continuing to build on my game through camp."

Holloway, who wasn't happy with his game in the road loss in Calgary, responded with a beauty in Winnipeg.

He hit the post on a shorthanded breakaway late in the second period, hit another post in the third, drew a penalty with 10 minutes left in regulation when he broke in alone and then set up Jason Demers for the tying goal on the ensuing five-on-three power play.

THAT AND THIS

Edmonton's string of penalty killing perfection (16-for-16), came to an end in the first period when the Jets scored on a long 5-on-3 power play... Defenceman Philip Broberg looked pretty good working the power play in Winnipeg. It's not a spot he'll get in Edmonton with Tyson Barrie and Evan Bouchard ahead of him, but he can deal the puck offensively ... Woodcroft won his first challenge of the year, taking Winnipeg's 2-1 goal off the board midway through the third period because of an offside review ... the Jets sat out some of their top guys — Kyle Connor, Nik Ehlers, Josh Morrissey and Mark Scheifele — but still dressed an NHL-heavy lineup.

ESPO TURNING HEADS

Winger Luke Esposito, who happens to be Mark Messier's nephew, dressed for his fourth game of the pre-season, which is highly unusual for a player on an AHL contract but he keeps giving the coaches a reason to get him more games.

He set up Edmonton's winning goal Friday against Calgary and turned in another high-energy game that included a scrap with Winnipeg's Blake Wheeler on Saturday.

"He's ultra competitive," said Woodcroft. "I've had the good fortune of coaching him for the last three and a half years in Bakersfield. So, I feel good when he's on the ice, even against NHL competition, because he's so darn competitive."

LEGEND HONOURED

The Jets honoured the late great Dale Hawerchuk before the game and unveiled a Hawerchuk statue outside the building earlier in the day. Hawerchuk's Canada Cup teammate Paul Coffey was among those on hand to pay tribute.

CBC Manitoba

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/manitoba/dale-hawerchuk-statue-unveiled-1.6603022>

'He is home again': Dale Hawerchuk statue unveiled at Winnipeg's True North Square

By CBC News

Friends, fans and family of the late Dale Hawerchuk gathered at True North Square on Saturday for the unveiling of a bronze statue of the former Winnipeg Jet and Hockey Hall of Famer, who died at age 57 in 2020 after a cancer diagnosis.

"As you remember Dale today, our family will always remember you [the fans], and now he is home again in Winnipeg," his wife, Crystal Hawerchuk, told the crowd.

Saturday's unveiling took place on the corner of Honourary Dale Hawerchuk Way and Hargrave Street before the Winnipeg Jets' pre-season game against the Edmonton Oilers. Fans attending the game also received a commemorative coin of the beloved hockey player.

"It has been one of the great honours of my life to be a part of the process that led to the creation of the magnificent statue that we're going to unveil momentarily," True North CEO Mark Chipman said.

Hawerchuk was told about the statue project before his passing.

After nine seasons with the Jets, Hawerchuk played five more with the Buffalo Sabres, before ending his 16-year NHL career with stints in St. Louis and Philadelphia. He was the youngest player in NHL history to score 100 points — a record later broken by Sidney Crosby in 2006.

The unveiling ceremony included remarks from Mark Scheifele, who was Hawerchuk's first draft pick for the Winnipeg Jets, and former teammates Kris King and Paul Coffey.

The Winnipeg Jets commissioned Erik Blome of Figurative Art Studio in California to sculpt the statue of Hawerchuk. Besides other sports figures, Blome's work includes sculptures of Martin Luther King, Rosa Parks and several 9/11 tributes that dot cities across North America.

"It is kind of a hard thing to do, making a bronze sculpture of someone — especially of someone deceased — because you're recreating them in a larger form," Blome told guest host Faith Fundal during a Thursday interview with CBC's Information Radio.

The statue can be found on the corner of Honourary Dale Hawerchuk Way and Hargrave Street in Winnipeg. (CBC)

During the statue's conception, Blome and the Jets both searched through images of Hawerchuk to find the right pose. In the end, Blome says they chose the same image.

"And so we thought, well if we both picked that, then that's what I oughta base this on."

It took a year for Blome to sculpt the statue, and the process included interviews with Hawerchuk's friends and family, he says. Blome also did video research into how Hawerchuk held himself on the ice, hiring a hockey player to model the statue's pose.

Crafting a statue of someone whose identity is tied to their physicality is different than sculpting non-athletes, said Blome, but "to not have Dale Hawerchuk playing hockey, skating through the middle of Winnipeg probably wouldn't be right though."

Global Winnipeg

<https://globalnews.ca/news/9169783/statue-of-dale-hawerchuk-unveiled-before-jets-preseason-game-saturday/>

Statue of Dale Hawerchuk unveiled before Jets preseason game Saturday

By Amy-Ellen Prentice Global News

The Winnipeg Jets are honouring local hockey legend, Dale Hawerchuk with the unveiling of a new statue on Saturday.

It was unveiled at True North Square at 5:15 p.m., prior to the Jets' preseason game against the Edmonton Oilers.

Hawerchuk, a Hockey Hall of Fame player, and the Jets' first-overall selection in the 1981 NHL Entry Draft, died of stomach cancer in August 2020 at 57 years old.

He was one of the most iconic players to ever don a Winnipeg Jets jersey, according to event host Sara Orlesky.

"Over his nine seasons here, he led the team in scoring each season — amassing an impressive 929 total points over 713 games," she said.

Hawerchuk was more than his many accomplishments on the ice, he was also known for the type of person he was off the ice.

"A humble, kind, and approachable superstar," said Orlesky "who in more recent years proved to be the perfect person to help bridge the gap between Winnipeg Jets past and present."

He was a well-loved Jets alumni and he continues to mean a lot to those he crossed paths with.

"We as alumni, the guys that are here today, truly loved Dale and we know that he was very important to all of us." said former Jet and current league executive Kris King.

A player's impact on a community is really remembered by how he's received by his team and the people where he plays, according to King.

"Dale was adored by the Jet's staff and it's because of the way he treated them – He treated them all like family," he said.

Hawerchuk also had a big impact on fans and proudly called Winnipeg home, "I know to you he wasn't just your captain, he was one of you, he loved playing for the Jets and he loved saying he was from Winnipeg" said King.

His presence wasn't just felt in the NHL but also on the international stage as well. he proudly represented Canada numerous times including twice at the Canada Cup.

"In 1987 was the scene of one of the greatest highlights of his career as he played a key role in one of the most iconic goals in Canadian Hockey history," said Orlesky.

Many Jets alumni showed up to honour Hawerchuk as well as his former teammate and fellow hall of famer, Paul Coffey – He shared many fond memories of him throughout the years.

"You do not appreciate how great a player and how great a player and how great a teammate he is unless you get a chance to play with him," he said.

Hawerchuk became the star that he was in Winnipeg. "He grew here as a hockey player, he grew here as a husband and a father. He loved Winnipeg, he loved playing here and it meant so much to him." said Scott Arniel, Jets alumni (now an assistant coach with the team).

Before being drafted by the Jets in 2011, Mark Scheifele was coached by Hawerchuk as a member of the OHL's Barrie Colts.

"He was the best coach I've ever had but he was an even better human," said Scheifele.

Scheifele will remember all the lessons Hawerchuk taught him and all the fun stories of winning games and losing games "Now I get to look at this statue and think about him and think about that he's up in heaven looking down on me."

"I get to go to the rink and go with that love and passion that he instilled in me when I was seventeen years old, what an amazing honour, and all I can say is, thank you Dale."

Hawerchuk was notified of this great honour shortly before he passed "he was extremely humbled and honoured, it was an emotional day" said his wife Crystal.

"He inspired us all to be better people, everyone loved to be around him, he was special, the talent that we saw on the ice also shon through his heart,"

Fans at the preseason game received a commemorative Hawerchuk coin and True North Square now serves as the site of a celebration of Hawerchuk's legacy.

www.winnipegjets.com

<https://www.nhl.com/jets/news/perfetti-scores-twice-but-jets-fall-in-shootout-to-oilers/c-335983018>

***Perfetti scores twice, but Jets fall in shootout to Oilers
"He's a real smart player and can make plays and can go to the right spots" -
Wheeler***

by Mitchell Clinton @MitchellClinton / WinnipegJets.com

WINNIPEG - On a night that the Winnipeg Jets honoured the legendary number 10, Dale Hawerchuk, the 10th overall selection in the 2020 NHL Draft - a pick announced by Hawerchuk's wife, Crystal - nearly propelled the team to victory.

Cole Perfetti scored two power play goals on Saturday night, and had a chance in overtime, but ultimately the Jets fell by a 3-2 score to the Edmonton Oilers in preseason action.

"It was a big deal tonight, you saw the crowd. That shows you how much he meant to the city, to the team," said Perfetti. "Having a little bit of a connection there, Ms. Hawerchuk doing the selection a couple years ago, is pretty cool. A great night to honour him. It was special all around."

The Jets outshot Edmonton 35-27 in the contest, and with Perfetti's two goals went 2-for-6 on the power play, but it was Devin Shore's quick shot in the shootout that beat Connor Hellebuyck and stood up as the eventual game-winner.

Perfetti, Brad Lambert, and Pierre-Luc Dubois were all stopped by Oilers goaltender Stuart Skinner in the shootout.

Lambert's speed was also on display in the three-on-three overtime as he nearly ended it in the opening minute of the extra frame. Making use of all that open ice, he cut to the middle, beating an Oilers defenceman with a quick fake before his wrist shot was turned away by skinner.

"In open ice, he's going to make something happen," said head coach Rick Bowness. "I love the way that he gets the puck and just goes. For an 18 year old kid, he's confident with the puck."

After Tyler Benson opened the scoring with a wrist shot from the left wing with 5:06 remaining in the opening period, Perfetti responded just 1:49 later. Dubois played the puck toward the net and Perfetti was parked to Skinner's left, and pounded away at the rebound until it trickled over the line.

Blake Wheeler was on that power play unit, and spent the night on a line with Perfetti and Dubois - a trio that has been steady through training camp.

"He's a real smart player and can make plays and can go to the right spots," Wheeler said of Perfetti. "He thinks the game at an NHL level. He's going to be a guy that's going to be a lot of fun to watch here for a long time."

The score stayed locked at one until the third, when Dubois got body position on Derek Ryan near the bottom of the right circle, and quickly slid a cross-ice feed to Perfetti who made no mistake from just outside the crease.

The goal came less than a minute after an offside challenge took away a brilliant three-way passing play between Lambert, Perfetti, and Dubois.

"I went to the bench and a couple guys were like 'Yeah, that might come back,'" Perfetti said. "that was frustrating, because that was a nice little play all around as a five-man unit. Lucky enough we were able, 30 seconds later to score another one. It worked out."

The Jets got into penalty trouble and weren't able to kill off their second five-on-three of the night. Jason Demers was the recipient of a cross seam pass from Dylan Holloway, and then made no mistake snapping into the net past a sprawling Hellebuyck.

"The penalties are an issue," said Bowness, although he's not looking too far into things until the team gets their penalty killing units set.

However, penalty kill and power play will play a role in who makes the team on the blue line.

"It will come down to that, the role we're looking for from the third pairing D. It'll come down to that," said Bowness. "Do we need a power play guy, do we need a penalty killing guy, do we need a physical guy. It's really going to come down to the needs of the team at the time."

With the game tied at two at the end of regulation, the Jets did everything they could to end it and send the fans home happy. Lambert had his chance, Nate Schmidt broke in on a partial break, Perfetti had a rebound chance, and Dominic Toninato nearly converted a perfect set-up pass from Wheeler on a short two-on-one.

Alas, none of those chances got by Skinner, and with only Shore scoring in the shootout, the final decision went to Edmonton.

The Jets are now 2-1-1 in the preseason and have a few days of practice before hosting the Calgary Flames on Wednesday at Canada Life Centre.

<https://www.nhl.com/jets/news/honouring-a-legend-the-unveiling-of-dale-hawerchuks-statue/c-335974856>

Honouring a Legend: The Unveiling of Dale Hawerchuk's Statue "The thought that just kept coming back is 'I wish he was here.'"

by Mitchell Clinton @MitchellClinton / WinnipegJets.com

It could be said that 18 months of work came down to just a few seconds, as on Saturday, Dale Hawerchuk's family and former teammates pulled the cover off the incredible statue honouring the hockey hall-of-famer, and former Winnipeg Jets captain.

But Mark Scheifele doesn't see it that way.

"I get to drive by this statue every day," said Scheifele, who Hawerchuk coached during the Jets forward's three seasons with the Barrie Colts.

"We all know he's watching over us right now and that's a pretty peaceful thing to think about."

A sentiment like that is fitting. All one had to do was look around the corner of Hargrave and Honourary Dale Hawerchuk Way to feel just a piece of the impact the two-time Canada Cup champion had on the city and community.

Hawerchuk jerseys filled the streets over an hour before the ceremony began. Teammates, family, and friends flew in from far and wide. Fans even packed into the skywalk above the ceremony's location to get a glimpse.

It was standing room only in downtown Winnipeg.

"When you're preparing these things, the thought that just kept coming back is 'I wish he was here.' That's the difficult part of this," said Mark Chipman, the Executive Chairman and Governor of the Jets. "I wish he had been able to be here and see all of the love that this community has for him."

Of course, Hawerchuk knew about the statue. The original hope was that the 1981 first overall pick would be in attendance for this special occasion. But when his health deteriorated, Chipman and Craig Heisinger - the current assistant general manager of the Jets, and the equipment manager for the club when Hawerchuk wore Jets colours - knew what to do.

They called up their friend to let him know.

"Zinger, in his unique way, made some comment about how difficult it would be to find an image of him back-checking or in the defensive zone, which kind of broke the challenge of that conversation," Chipman said. "I remember the emotion from Dale and how thankful he was."

His family members feel that emotion as well.

Dale's wife, Crystal, spoke about how her husband referred to Winnipeg as his home - even if he was born in Ontario.

"I know to you he wasn't just your captain," she said. "He was one of you, he loved playing for the Jets and he loved saying he was from Winnipeg."

And his son Eric was nearly speechless when he saw the final product.

"This was so incredible," he said. "It was very emotional. I kind of prepared for it but just to see the sheer size of it and the attention to details is kind of hard to put it into words, but I'm so proud of him and to see this here and to see all of the people here is just so amazing."

The statue was built by Erik Blome from Woodstock, Illinois. His resume includes statues of Wayne Gretzky and Michael Jordan, and the detail of Blome's work floored Ben Hawerchuk.

"When you look at it, it's so spot on, it's beautiful," he said.

"I took a lap around it and when you stand on the side of it, the lining on his face, it's so spot on. It's mind blowing actually."

Chipman echoed that sentiment. He had the opportunity to see it in progress back in the summer. The technique used to build the statue requires the making of a clay mould, and while that's still early in the process, the detail could already be seen.

"The amount of detail was really remarkable. We just went down to see it and it was like 'wow.' I had no idea what goes into creating something like this," said Chipman, who ended up arriving in Illinois at the perfect time.

"When we were down there, they were actually starting to pour. It's all assembled and built in individual pieces," said Chipman. "That right-hand glove, they had just done the mould and they heated up the material that day, so I got a chance to actually help pour it in."

Piece by piece, the statue was built and arrived in Winnipeg in late September, thanks to some late-night driving by Blome, his wife, and his assistant - Grant. Josh Dudych, part of the working group that helped conceptualize the statue and True North Sports + Entertainment's Director of Creative, helped guide the vehicle into Winnipeg's downtown at 3:30 am CT on arrival day.

After all the speeches from Scheifele, Paul Coffey (Hawerchuk's teammate during the memorable 1987 Canada Cup), Scott Arniel (Jets associate coach and Hawerchuk's longtime friend and teammate), and Crystal Hawerchuk, came the moment Chipman - and everyone watching - had been waiting for.

With music playing in the background, mixed with goal calls of Hawerchuk's remarkable career, Hawerchuk's family and former teammates peeled the black cover off the large bronze statue.

There were cheers, there were tears, but there was also gratitude.

It was also the only word Chipman could think of to encapsulate such a special moment.

A moment that for him, goes all the way back to when Hawerchuk signed his contract with the Jets on August 13, 1981.

"That pride welled up in me in 1981. I'll never forget it," Chipman said. "I've never lost that sense of pride for our community and what this team means to it. No one epitomized that, or created that sense of pride, in my lifetime more than Dale."