

## **Winnipeg Free Press**

<https://www.winnipegfreepress.com/sports/2022/09/29/bowness-wants-more-offence-from-defence-pionk-happy-to-oblige>

### ***Bowness wants more offence from defence, Pionk happy to oblige***

By: Mike McIntyre

Winnipeg Jets head coach Rick Bowness has vowed the cavalry is coming this season, with a focus on having his defencemen join the rush and getting more involved in the offence.

All of which is music to the ears of a player such as Neal Pionk, who believes he has much more to offer from the back-end.

“Absolutely. It’s exciting. You can’t play run-and-gun and careless and reckless. But anytime we can help the offence, that’s a benefit for our team,” Pionk said following Thursday’s training camp session at Bell MTS Iceplex. “If we can transition the puck and have the puck more, that’s better. The best defence is when we have the puck. They can’t score. If we can shut down those plays with an aggressive style, so be it.”

Like so many of his teammates, Pionk is coming off a season he’d rather forget. His stats took a dip, with 34 points (three goals, 31 assists) in 74 games. And that production was hampered by a foot injury he suffered last February in Dallas while blocking a Jamie Benn shot that was otherwise headed into an empty-net.

“I guess the mentality I have is if I can skate, I’m going to play,” said Pionk. “Everyone’s playing through some kind of bump, bruise, injury. How you define that is up to the trainers. But there’s obviously a pain tolerance. The trainers gave me the choice. I could skate under the circumstances, so I played.”

Pionk ultimately remained in the lineup as the Jets were pushing for a potential playoff spot, but he wasn’t the same. There were other injuries as well which piled up.

“He played banged up all year. He kept that quiet. So you give him a lot of credit for that,” said Bowness. “He’s not having the year that maybe people expect, but internally everyone knows he’s playing hurt. He never once complained, never made an excuse. That tells you all you need to know about the kid’s character too.”

Bowness believes the new style of play he wants to see will suit someone like Pionk to a tee.

“I remember when he was with the Rangers, the first time we played against him, that’s what I remember. Just, ‘Wow, look at that kid go,’” said Bowness.

“He’s got a good shot. He’s a guy that’s going to benefit, (Josh Morrissey), all of them. Again, 24 goals from your defence (last season) isn’t close to good enough. We have to get it up in that 40 range. They have to get used to coming up. Even on defence when we’re defending the rush, but as soon as it goes the other way, go. Don’t watch, go. We’re going to activate them a lot more.”

After coming over in the Jacob Trouba trade, Pionk posted a career-high 45 points (six goals, 39 assists) in 71 games in the 2019-20 campaign. He parlayed that into a four-year, US \$23.5 million contract extension and is hoping to regain that kind of form this season. He's encouraged by what he's seen so far during the first week of camp as the defencemen work in tandem with the forwards to get the new systems down.

"It's just a constant read off each other. Whether we're going down and the forwards are covering for us, or vice-versa," he said. "I think they want us to get involved, too, because it gives them an extra option for a pass. So it'll be a work in progress, but we'll get it."

Pionk spent much of last year on a pairing with Brenden Dillon. He's also spent some time in training camp with fellow Minnesotan Dylan Samberg, who is pushing for full-time work this year.

"He's a physical freak," Pionk said of Samberg. "He's one of the better athletes I know. He comes into training camp in great shape every year. He's 6-4 and can skate, he can shoot and think the game. He's off to a good start."

With Pionk, Brenden Dillon, Josh Morrissey, Nate Schmidt and Dylan DeMelo all slotted in the top six — barring an injury or trade before the start of the regular-season on Oct. 14 — Samberg is in a fight for the other starting job along with the likes of Logan Stanley, Ville Heinola and Johnathan Kovacevic. Other young blue-liners such as Declan Chisholm and Leon Gawanke, and journeymen including Kyle Capobianco and Ashton Sautner, have given the coaching staff plenty of options to consider.

"Very competitive," is how Pionk describe the log jam. "I think we have a good blue line, too. We got a good mix, guys that are older with a lot of experience, guys like myself in the middle of the pack with a few hundred games experience, and then we've got young guys that are pushing for a spot. It's a good mix all around."

Bowness will no doubt be leaning heavily on Pionk, who also has a bit of a bulldog mentality on the ice and isn't afraid to take a healthy run at an opponent.

"He's a very competitive guy," said Bowness. "Not the biggest guy out there, but again, the first time I saw him play when he was with the Rangers. He stood out for me in those areas."

<https://www.winnipegfreepress.com/sports/2022/09/29/lambert-steals-the-show-in-jets-debut>

### ***Lambert steals the show in Jets debut Finnish teen impresses with speed, skill and poise***

By: Mike McIntyre

Brad Lambert sure has a sense of occasion.

The 18-year-old Winnipeg Jets prospect, making his NHL pre-season debut Thursday night in the same rink where he was drafted 30th-overall this past summer, had an goal and an assist as his club rallied for a 4-3 victory over the Montreal Canadiens at Bell Centre.

"It was a great feeling. Really lucky to get this opportunity to play," Lambert told reporters at the Bell Centre. "It's just an exhibition game but it's still the NHL. It's something you dream about, and the atmosphere out there was unbelievable."

Lambert tied it with just under four minutes to play, and veteran defenceman Nate Schmidt won it with 17 seconds left in the third period. Manitoba Moose forwards Evan Polei and Cole Maier, both in training camp on NHL tryouts, had the other goals.

David Rittich played the first 40 minutes in net, stopping nine of 10 shots he faced. Arvid Holm came on in the third period and was much busier, with 13 saves on 15 shots. Kaiden Guhle, Brenden Gallagher and Cole Caufield scored for the Habs.

Winnipeg is now 2-1-0 in exhibition action, with three more games to play. Here's a breakdown of what went down, including analysis and quotes, news and notes:

1) Lambert sure looks like he has a chance to be something special. The Finnish teen has been battling a minor injury during the first week of camp, but you'd never know by the way he played. Not only did he score the goal off a terrific steal and snipe to go with his earlier assist, but he was flying around the ice. One example was a second period play where he turned on the jets, no pun intended, to negate an icing. He also had a slick power play feed to Kevin Stenlund that nearly ended in a goal.

"I'm just trying to take advantage of every opportunity I get, go out there and play my game. Work my ass off," he said.

2) Sure sounds like coach Rick Bowness loved what he saw and is prepared to give Lambert some more pre-season games, at the very least.

"Now you see what we've missed," he told reporters in Montreal. "The kid looked really good. He's got lots of speed, lots of skill, but what also jumps out at you is his poise with the puck. He's an 18-year-old kid playing in his first game and he didn't throw it away once. He hung onto it, bought time, and made plays. The skills and the speed are very obvious, but what jumped out at me was his poise."

3) Schmidt joked earlier this week that he was relegated to the press box for the first two pre-season games because his fitness training test results were off the charts. In reality, the Jets already know what they have in the 30-year-old and wanted to see some younger players. No doubt the joy level was high on the plane ride home from Montreal Thursday night, with the always affable Schmidt leading the way given his game-winner.

"They fought pretty hard. I liked our effort tonight and I'm really happy with how we came back. Big, bad Brad gets his first. That was awesome," Schmidt told reporters in Montreal.

4) There's already an early candidate for save-of-the-year, with Holm absolutely robbing Caufield on the very first shot he faced early in the third period. With Mikhail Berdin's status currently up in the air — he's taken a personal leave from training camp — Holm is likely going to take on an even bigger role with the Moose this year, along with young Finnish free agent signing Oskari Salminen. Holm is an intriguing prospect, and he might just work himself into big-league consideration sooner than later.

5) Speaking of the Moose, no doubt coach Mark Morrison and his staff are loving what they're seeing so far in the pre-season. Daniel Torgersson scored twice and Mikey Eyssimont also lit the lamp in Tuesday's 5-3 win over Ottawa, and the young man will likely take on a big role with the farm team this season. Now Polei and Maier have joined him in lighting the lamp. That's some nice depth scoring for the organization.

6) It also should be putting some additional pressure on players like Jansen Harkins, who wasn't very noticeable for a second straight game on Thursday. He played on a line with David Gustafsson and Mason Appleton that had a pretty quiet night at the office. So, too, did the de facto No. 1 line of Pierre-Luc Dubois, Sam Gagner (making his pre-season debut) and Kristian Reichel.

7) I guess it's worth remembering it's pre-season for the referees, too. How else to explain a series of bizarre calls both ways in this one. Somehow Logan Stanley and Kirby Dach got offsetting roughing minors, even though Stanley was the clear aggressor and got multiple shots in. Even more puzzling was a double minor for high-sticking to Winnipeg's Kyle Capobianco, which shouldn't have even been a penalty. He clearly got interfered with by a Montreal skater, causing his stick to fly up and clip Christian Dvorak, who was then allowed to remain on the ice for the ensuing power play despite leaking blood. To add insult to injury, Montreal scored twice to turn a 2-1 deficit into a 3-2 lead. Later in the final frame, Dubois somehow drew an interference penalty on Guhle despite looking like he was the one to commit the infraction. Overall, Montreal went 2-for-8 on the power play, while Winnipeg was 0-for-3.

8) Dubois was used in a penalty killing role Thursday, and looked quite comfortable doing so. Mark Scheifele was also given shorthanded ice time on Tuesday. It will be interesting to see if coach Bowness considers carrying that over to the regular-season.

9) The Jets left most of their most experienced players back at home for this one, with Dubois, Harkins, Appleton, Schmidt and Stanley the only regulars from last season in the lineup.

"Loved the first two periods. We were skating, we were playing fast, we were getting on top of them, we weren't giving up any chances, any odd mans — the things we wanted to clean up," said Bowness. "Unfortunately the penalties just took us right out of the flow of the game and gave them a lot of momentum. But give our guys credit. Things don't always go your way out there. You find a way to fight through it, stay in the fight. Give them credit because we did, we stayed in the fight, and found a way to win the game."

10) Expect a round of cuts to come as early as Friday, which the Jets are taking off. They currently have 47 players in camp, but have to get down to a maximum of 23 prior to the Oct. 14 season-opener against the New York Rangers. Winnipeg will play its fourth pre-season game on Saturday against Edmonton at Canada Life Centre, then wrap up next week with a home-and-home against Calgary.

### **Winnipeg Sun**

<https://winnipeg.sun.com/sports/hockey/nhl/winnipeg-jets/young-jets-pull-one-out-of-the-fire>

### ***Young Jets pull one out of the fire***

By Paul Friesen

MONTREAL – The Montreal crowd was rocking, the home side carrying all the momentum.

But a rookie and an old vet brought the Winnipeg Jets back from a third-period deficit to win a second straight preseason game here, Thursday night.

Brad Lambert, the Jets most recent first-round draft pick playing his first NHL preseason game, tied it with just over three minutes to go and defenceman Nate Schmidt won it with a blast from the point with 18 seconds left, as the Jets left the Canadiens on the business end of a 4-3 score.

It was less than three months ago Lambert, an 18-year-old Finn, heard the Jets call his name in this same building at the NHL Draft.

He heard it called again with 3:30 to play in the third, after he took advantage of a Montreal whiff to go in alone and tie the game, unassisted, on a Winnipeg power play.

“It was a great feeling, obviously a great atmosphere,” Lambert said. “Really lucky to get this opportunity to play. It’s just an exhibition game but it’s still the NHL. It’s something you dream about, and the atmosphere out there was unbelievable... it actually hurt my ears at times.”

Lambert had suffered an injury early in training camp, delaying his first taste of exhibition action.

When it finally came, he had his pinch-me moment long before he celebrated his goal.

“Coming on the ice at the start of the game, seeing the whole crowd, you could see how big the rink was,” he said. “It was pretty sick.”

He quieted the throng when he stole a loose puck and beat Montreal goalie Cayden Primeau.

“Someone mishandled the puck there a little bit and it popped out in front,” he said. “I took a couple steps and tried to get it on net quick. It went through his armpit or something. It was a pretty good feeling.

“I’m just trying to take advantage of every opportunity I get, go out there and play my game. Work my ass off. I thought I played pretty well. Our line generated some chances. Obviously had a few tough shifts there, too. But I thought we got some O-zone time, got in pretty good on the forecheck.”

Lambert skated alongside Evan Polei and Kevin Stenlund, assisting on Polie’s early goal.

“Now you see what we’ve missed,” head coach Rick Bowness said. “The kid looked really good. He’s got lots of speed, lots of skill, but what also jumps out at you is his poise with the puck. He’s an 18-year-old kid playing in his first game and he didn’t throw it away once. He hung onto it, bought time, and made plays.”

Schmidt was thrilled to see the kid get rewarded.

“Our forwards they revelled in the game... especially with a lot of guys their first games. It was fun,” Schmidt said.

"I liked our effort and I'm really happy with how we came back. Big, bad Brad gets his first. That was awesome.

"I don't think you have the deer-in-the-headlights feeling for some of these guys. They're just out there playing at that point."

They seemed to be reeling earlier in the third, when the Canadiens got goals from Brendan Gallagher and Cole Caufield 1:40 apart, both on the power play, to take a 3-2 lead.

"We were hanging on there," Bowness said. "But we took ourselves right out of the flow of the game with the penalties. They took advantage of it. The crowd got behind them. The disappointing thing is we lost momentum because we took ourselves out of the flow of the game with the penalties.

"But give our guys credit. Things don't always go your way out there. You find a way to fight through it, stay in the fight."

The game was dotted with penalties, the Habs going 2-for-8 with the extra man, including a 4-on-3 in the third, the Jets 0-for-3.

Shots ended up 25 each, but the Habs had just 10 through 40 minutes.

"Loved the first two periods," Bowness said. "We were skating, we were playing fast, we were getting on top of them, we weren't giving up any chances, any odd mans, the things we wanted to clean up."

The final 20 minutes was a roller-coaster of goals, penalties and swings of emotion, even for a preseason game.

"It was a long period, that's for sure," defenceman Dylan Samberg said. "A lot of penalties, both ways. It was one of those games where you've got to keep your emotions in check and play until the final whistle because you never really know what's going to happen."

Cole Maier had Winnipeg's other goal, on a wrap-around in the second period.

David Rittich played the first two periods in goal, stopping nine of 10 shots.

Arvid Holm survived the wild third, making 13 saves on 15 shots.

With three of six preseason games in the books, expect Bowness to begin to hone in on his projected opening-day lineup over the last three games, starting with a Saturday home date with Edmonton.

**Sportsnet.ca**

<https://www.sportsnet.ca/nhl/article/jets-brad-lambert-making-most-opportunity-despite-injury-early-in-camp/>

***Jets' Brad Lambert making most of opportunity despite injury early in camp***

By Ken Wiebe

WINNIPEG — Brad Lambert understands that he can't make up for the time he lost nursing a nagging injury early in his first NHL training camp.

What he can do is try to make the most of the time he has left — and he took an important step forward with an eye-popping performance in his first pre-season action for the Winnipeg Jets against the Montreal Canadiens on Thursday night at the Bell Centre.

When you're a skilled player like Lambert, who slipped to the Jets at 30th overall in the 2022 NHL Draft, getting onto the scoresheet in your first action is always welcome.

But what's intriguing about Lambert has little to do with the wrist shot from distance that beat Cayden Primeau to equalize what turned out to be a 4-3 victory for the Jets thanks to Nate Schmidt's winner with 17.5 seconds left in regulation.

And it wasn't the primary assist from a point shot by Kyle Capobianco that caromed off his foot before Evan Polei tipped it home that would have had the Jets coaching staff and management team buzzing on Thursday night.

Make no mistake, for a team that's looking for some secondary scoring, producing points is always welcome and a multi-point effort from Lambert is sure to catch the attention of those who just tuned in for the highlights.

But that's not what Jets head coach Rick Bowness was focusing on.

"Now you see what we've missed the last couple of weeks. The kid looked really good," Bowness told reporters in Montreal. "He's got lots of speed, lots of skill, but what also jumps out at you is his poise with the puck. He's an 18-year-old kid playing in his first game and he didn't throw it away once. He hung onto it, bought time, and made plays. The skills and the speed are very obvious, but what jumped out at me was his poise."

The Jets improved to 2-1 in pre-season and are back in action on Saturday night at Canada Life Centre against the Edmonton Oilers.

Lambert provided a glimpse of why he was one of the most intriguing players to watch when training camp opened, but an undisclosed upper-body issue grounded him on Day 2 of camp and he just recently got back into action as a full participant.

That's one of the reasons Lambert didn't see any time on the Jets' first power play unit on Thursday against the Canadiens, though he did end up seeing just over two minutes of action with the man-advantage in this penalty-filled affair that included 28 minutes handed out by the men in stripes.

Lambert's fluid and explosive skating stride is his calling card and that was definitely on full display.

So was his vision and passing ability, leading to some nice zone entries and set-ups, which included a few nifty backhand saucer passes.

Despite seeing only 13 minutes and change of ice time, Lambert found a way to make an impact, something that's even more impressive when you consider the three minor penalties

taken by the Jets in the first period would have interrupted any flow for any of the forwards not tasked with killing penalties.

Lambert forced Dadonov into a turnover before scoring on his long wrister, which allowed the Jets to regain momentum after giving up a pair of power-play goals during a double-minor for high-sticking to Capobianco (who had eight penalty minutes, all on stick infractions).

"We want to pressure the puck. That's exactly how we want to play," said Bowness. "They get the puck, we want to be right there in their face. That's a good example of it, then it's obviously a pretty good shot by the kid."

Following the morning skate, Bowness let it be known that Lambert's play would determine how many more looks he gets during the final three pre-season games. It's safe to say he'll be given another opportunity to show what he can do after the next cuts occur on Friday.

That's when the competition will rise, and that's when players like Lambert are going to need to show they can do some of the same things against lineups that include more established NHL players throughout them, not just sprinkled in to meet the pre-season requirements.

"It was a little frustrating injury there, but really lucky to get back and happy to get in the lineup," Lambert told reporters. "The atmosphere in this rink was unbelievable, it actually hurt my ears at times. The crowd got going pretty good there, and it felt pretty good."

"I'm just trying to take advantage of every opportunity I get, go out there and play my game. Work my ass off. That's just what I'm trying to do. Our line (with Kevin Stenlund and Polei) generated some chances. Obviously had a few tough shifts there, too. But I thought we got some O-zone time, got in pretty good on the forecheck. Two big guys who do a really good job on the forecheck, so it was really good playing with them."

You don't win a job on the opening-day roster in Game 3 of the pre-season, but you can continue the process of laying the important groundwork required to make the decision to send a player to the minors much more difficult.

Now it's up to Lambert to establish some consistency in his game and to show that his offensive instincts are enough to overcome any potential shortcomings on the defensive side of the puck.

That's not a knock on Lambert, almost all young players have a steep learning curve in that department.

The benefit for Lambert is that he's been playing professional hockey in Finland since he was 16 years old, so suiting up with the Manitoba Moose in the American Hockey League is an option for him.

It's not a scenario most 18-year-olds face, where it's a matter of sticking with the big club or returning to the junior ranks.

That means it's not an all-or-nothing proposition either, and Lambert could be a candidate for a recall at any point during the season, depending on his development curve.

However, the Jets don't need to decide what to do with Lambert today and if he's able to remain in the discussion for another week or so, that will mean he's found a way to elevate his game.



Even if the future isn't necessarily right now, Lambert's performance is sure to have folks talking about his long-term potential and making predictions about when he might be ready to force his way into the top six. Or perhaps convince Bowness to spread the offensive wealth among three lines.

### **Canadian Press**

<https://www.sportsnet.ca/nhl/article/schmidt-scores-late-winner-to-lead-jets-past-canadiens-in-pre-season-action/>

### ***Schmidt scores late winner to lead Jets past Canadiens in pre-season action***

By Canadian Press

Brad Lambert missed the first week of the Winnipeg Jets' training camp due to injury but came back to impress in his debut.

The 30th overall pick in the 2022 draft picked up two points including his first goal in a Jets uniform. Down 3-2 to the Montreal Canadiens in the third period, Lambert grabbed the puck after a defensive mishap by Evgenii Dadonov and freed himself from two Habs players to score the equalizer in the building he was drafted in just a few months ago.

Nate Schmidt later scored the game-winning goal with just 18 seconds remaining to lift Winnipeg to a 4-3 victory on Thursday at Bell Centre.

"It was a great feeling, obviously. A great atmosphere. I'm just really lucky to get this opportunity to play," Lambert said. "It's just an exhibition game but, you know, it's still the NHL. It's something you dream about and the atmosphere was unbelievable."

The Jets were up 2-1 in the third period before conceding the two consecutive power-play goals after a Kyle Capobianco four-minute high sticking penalty.

Head coach Rick Bowness said that Lambert's willingness to apply pressure in the offensive zone created the needed momentum and was a testament to how he wants his team to operate going forward.

"We want to pressure the puck, that's exactly how we want to play," Bowness said. "Until they get the puck, (we) want to be right there in their faces and that's a good example of it. Then, obviously, it's a pretty good shot by the kid."

"I'm just trying to take advantage of every opportunity I get to go out there and play my game," Lambert humbly added. "I work my (butt) off, that's just all I'm trying to do."

Evan Polei and Cole Maier also scored for the Jets in the victory.

Brendan Gallagher and Cole Caufield both picked up one goal and one assist in the loss. Kaiden Guhle scored Montreal's opening marker while Christian Dvorak added two assists.

Jake Allen allowed one goal and made 10 saves in 30 minutes of play. Cayden Primeau made 10 saves and allowed two goals after entering the game in place of Allen.

Jets netminder David Rittich stopped nine of ten shots in two periods of play. Arvid Holm was between the pipes in the third period, surrendering two goals and making 13 saves.

Guhle continued to impress in pre-season action, this time alongside David Savard on the Canadiens' first defensive pairing.

"He has a very good progression," said Montreal head coach Martin St. Louis. "He's an engaged player every time he's on the ice, whether it's in practice or during a game. He scored a nice goal tonight."

The 20-year-old broke the ice in the first period after Kirby Dach left him the puck to beat Rittich with a swift wrist shot from the right faceoff circle. St. Louis thought that Guhle adapted very well thus far to the jump from the OHL to an NHL training camp.

"I find that the game isn't fast for him, in his head," St. Louis said. "I remember when I was young and I was playing my first NHL camps I found that it was going so fast in my head that it took a bit of time for the game to slow down for me to really show my attributes."

"I find that the way he reads the game at the moment, and I know it will be different when the regular season starts, but sometimes players need to slowly get used to the speed. They need to see the fastball a few times before hitting it but you can see that he's adapting pretty quickly."

The Jets responded a few minutes later when Polei tipped Capobianco's low shot from the point to even the score.

Maier took it upon himself to give Winnipeg its first lead of the night in the second period. The centre rounded the net and lodged the puck under Primeau's skate and into the back of the net.

The Canadiens were 0-for-5 on the power play until Capobianco's costly high sticking penalty. On a four-on-three advantage, Gallagher struck the puck in mid-air to beat Holm and tie the game at 2-2 in the third.

Montreal regained its lead on the very same power play when Caufield sent a wrister past Holm.

Winnipeg equalized with an individual effort from Lambert. The centre took advantage of a Evgenii Dadonov defensive mishap and despite being defended by two Canadiens players, managed to take a shot that stunned Primeau and tied the game at 3-3.

Just over three minutes later, Schmidt left no opportunity for the game to go to overtime when he wound up a slap shot from the point to send his team home with the win.

*NOTE:* The Canadiens cut Riley Kidney and Joshua Roy from pre-season camp following the game and loaned them back to their junior clubs.

### **Montreal Gazette**

<https://montrealgazette.com/sports/hockey/nhl/hockey-inside-out/kaiden-guhle-looks-ready-for-nhl-as-canadiens-lose-to-jets>

***Kaiden Guhle looks ready for NHL as Canadiens lose 4-3 to Jets  
Talented 20-year-old defenceman opened the scoring with an impressive  
individual effort and finished game with four shots and seven hits.***

By Stu Cowan • Montreal Gazette

It will be a big surprise if Kaiden Guhle isn't in the Canadiens' lineup when they open the NHL regular season on Oct. 12 at the Bell Centre against the Toronto Maple Leafs.

The 20-year-old defenceman came close to making the team last year after being selected in the first round (16th overall) of the 2020 NHL Draft. Guhle was among the final cuts when the Canadiens had to get down to their 23-man roster to start last season.

"We liked Guhle's camp," former Canadiens head coach Dominique Ducharme said after cutting him. "He has shown great skills as a defender who will have a long career (in the NHL) and the personality of a leader in the making. Everything is positive in his case."

It got more positive after Guhle was returned to junior. He was named captain of Team Canada for the world junior championship — which ended up getting shut down because of COVID-19 — and led the Edmonton Oil Kings to the WHL championship, earning the playoff MVP award after posting 8-8-16 totals in 19 postseason games.

Now Guhle is back with the Canadiens and showed early in Thursday night's 4-3 loss to the Winnipeg Jets at the Bell Centre why he looks ready to make the jump to the NHL.

Five minutes into the first period, Guhle picked up the puck just inside the offensive blue line on the right side, skated into the top of the faceoff circle and snapped a quick shot past Jets goalie David Rittich high to the stick side.

It was also a good night for the Canadiens' Brendan Gallagher.

Gallagher scored from in front of the net — where else? — batting in a bouncing puck from his knees on the power play to tie the score 2-2 at 10:08 of the third period. Gallagher then assisted on Cole Caufield's goal — also on the power play — less than two minutes later with the Jets' Kyle Capobianco still serving a double-minor for high-sticking Christian Dvorak.

But the Canadiens couldn't hold the 3-2 lead.

Evan Polei, Cole Maier, Brad Lambert and Nate Schmidt (with 17.5 seconds left on the clock) scored for the Jets as the Canadiens saw their preseason record fall to 0-3. The Canadiens will play their third preseason game in four nights Saturday when they visit the Ottawa Senators (7 p.m., TSN5, RDS, TSN 690 Radio, 98.5 FM).

Before Canadiens fans start to panic too much, there are still five preseason games left and cuts are coming as head coach Martin St. Louis tries to figure out his opening-night roster. Riley Kidney and Joshua Roy were returned to their junior teams after the game.

Canadiens goalie Jake Allen stopped 10 of the 11 shots he faced in the 30:24 he played before being replaced by Cayden Primeau. Allen has now allowed only one goal on 29 shots he has

faced in his first two preseason starts while playing just under 60 minutes. Primeau allowed three goals on the 14 shots he faced.

At 6-foot-2 and 203 pounds, Guhle can play a strong defensive game, but he also has offensive skills.

Former assistant GM Trevor Timmins was surprised Guhle was still available when the Canadiens took him with the 16th overall draft pick two years ago. Guhle was ranked eighth among North American skaters by NHL Central Scouting heading into the draft.

Guhle was paired with veteran David Savard for most of training camp last year and they were together again Thursday night against the Jets. Savard, a stay-at-home defenceman, seems like a great partner for Guhle to get his feet wet in the NHL, giving him the freedom to contribute offensively when the opportunity presents itself.

"He was decisive," Savard said about the play Guhle made to score against the Jets. "He just went with the puck and it was a great shot ... a hard shot. We skated the last few weeks together and I saw that shot a couple of times, so it was nice to see it in a game.

"I'm just telling him to play his game," Savard added. "He's just got to go out there, play with confidence and do his thing. I'll do my best to always be there and I just want him to just play his game, don't think too much. Just go out there and do your thing and I think if he does that you see what he can do. He plays with confidence and he's going on offence when he sees a chance and he was really good defensively, played physical, his gap was good. So it's fun to see.

"I think he looks like an NHL player. He looks like he's confident and he's physical and he blocks shots. He skates well. He's got every tool in the box that he needs to be an NHL player. It's on him now to show what he can do and I think he did really well tonight."

Guhle finished the game with 16:30 of ice time, four shots and seven hits to go along with his goal.

Rob Ramage was the No. 1 overall pick at the 1979 NHL draft by the Colorado Rockies and played 15 seasons in the league as a defenceman. He is now the Canadiens' director of player development.

"As a former defenceman, I love watching him," Ramage said about Guhle at the start of training camp this season. "He's a leader. He was a pro before he was a pro when he was in junior. He's a foundational guy. He goes about his business, he's all business. He's a competitor."

He now looks ready to play in the NHL.

**TSN.ca**

<https://www.tsn.ca/NHL/video/guhle-impresses-with-confident-play-for-habs~2532297>

***Guhle impresses with confident play for Habs (VIDEO)***

TSN Hockey analyst Cheryl Pounder credited the Jets for sticking with it in the third period and capitalizing on a big mistake and some good fortune to beat the Habs, and explained why she was very impressed with young Montreal d-man Kaiden Guhle in the game.

[www.winnipegjets.com](http://www.winnipegjets.com)

<https://www.nhl.com/jets/news/lambert-schmidt-help-jets-to-comeback-win-in-montreal/c-335923676>

***Lambert, Schmidt help Jets to comeback win in Montreal  
"I liked our effort tonight and I'm really happy with how we came back."***

by Mitchell Clinton @MitchellClinton / WinnipegJets.com

Nate Schmidt might have just made Brad Lambert's nickname public:

Big Bad Brad.

The two of them were a big part of the Winnipeg Jets' 4-3 preseason win over the Montreal Canadiens on Thursday night, as Lambert - playing in his first career preseason game - scored the equalizer with 3:30 to go in regulation.

For Lambert, being able to play after missing the first week of training camp, and scoring in the building he was drafted in, was incredible.

"It's just an exhibition game but it's still the NHL," said Lambert. "It's something you dream about, and the atmosphere out there was unbelievable."

That set the stage for Schmidt, whose one-timer went off a Canadiens stick and into the back of the net with 17.5 seconds left to give the Jets the win.

"It's good to be back playing hockey again," said Schmidt, who was playing his first preseason game of the fall. "I liked our effort tonight and I'm really happy with how we came back."

So was Rick Bowness, who saw his team make strides in a number of areas from the last couple of games.

"We were skating, we were playing fast, we were getting on top of them, we weren't giving up any chances, any odd mans - the things we wanted to clean up," said Bowness. "We stayed in the fight, and found a way to win the game."

The other Jets goals came from Evan Polei and Cole Maier in the first and second periods respectively. David Rittich and Arvid Holm teamed up for the win between the pipes.

The Canadiens opened the scoring just as a power play expired, as Kaiden Guhle took advantage of Dylan Samberg losing his stick earlier in the shift. Guhle made a move around Samberg - who then went to retrieve his stick - then snapped a shot past Rittich with 5:15 off the clock in the first.

That was the only goal Rittich gave up in his second start of the preseason. He made nine saves on 10 shots in 40 minutes of work at the Bell Centre.

Winnipeg took just under six minutes to respond. Kyle Capobianco's shot from the point went off Kevin Stenlund, then the skate of Brad Lambert in front of Montreal's net, and right to the tape of Poirier at the top of the crease. The forward tapped the puck behind Jake Allen to even things up at one midway through the opening period.

The Jets took their first lead in the second, when some great work below the goal line by Maier gave him a chance for a backhand wrap around. His first stab at it didn't go, but he stuck with it, and shoved it past Cayden Primeau on the short side with 5:34 remaining in the middle frame.

"You can take a lot of game film from this and look at it and teach some things and show some things that we did well," said Dylan Samberg. "It's always a positive to win, no matter what time of the year."

Holm came on for Rittich in the third, and was immediately tested with a Cole Caufield one-timer as his first shot. The 23-year-old Holm, who played his first AHL season last year, couldn't stop them all though - despite playing a strong period.

A double-minor for high-sticking to Capobianco (along with off-setting minor penalties to Logan Stanley and Kirby Dach) put the Canadiens on a 4-on-3 power play. First Brendan Gallagher whacked a loose puck out of mid-air just in front of Holm and tied the game for the Canadiens with 9:52 remaining.

Just 1:40 later - and still on the power play - Caufield took a pass from Gallagher on the rush and beat Holm low on the blocker side to put the Canadiens back in front, 3-2.

"When we were rolling four lines there we were going good. All of a sudden, the penalty killers are out there all the time and you have too many guys sitting on the bench," said Bowness. "They have a pretty good power play where they were moving it around pretty good."

Holm's 20 minutes of action saw more shots than Rittich's, but the Swedish netminder turned away 13 of 15 shots.

But with under four minutes to go, Lambert took advantage of some open ice at 4-on-4, and a turnover high in the Montreal zone by Evgenii Dadonov. Stripping the Montreal forward of the puck, Lambert snapped a wrist shot from the slot that beat Primeau under the arm.

"I took a couple steps and tried to get it on net quick," said Lambert. "I'm just trying to take advantage of every opportunity I get, go out there and play my game. Work my ass off. That's just what I'm trying to do."

Dadonov's bad luck didn't stop there. With 17.5 seconds left, a one-timer from Nate Schmidt went off Dadonov's stick and past Primeau to put Winnipeg ahead for good.

Next up, the Jets face Edmonton on Saturday at Canada Life Centre.