

CBC Manitoba

[Winnipeg Jets co-owner Mark Chipman loves competing against big teams as a small market \(VIDEO\)](#)

Mark Chipman says his company, True North Sports and Entertainment, has never lost money given all its revenue streams, including ticket sales, merchandising, broadcast rights and revenue sharing within the league. He adds True North's profits have been reinvested into the Canada Life Centre.

Winnipegjets.com

[Practice report - Niederreiter lucky](#)

[Niederreiter: "I got extremely lucky. It nicked my Achilles a little bit. Glad I'm standing here right now."](#)

By Jamie Thomas

WINNIPEG – Nino Niederreiter is a lucky man.

The Winnipeg Jet forward continued skating with his teammates today and is inching closer to a return. But we might not be talking about this had it not been for cut resistant socks and some luck. Niederreiter received a cut close to his Achilles tendon on April 1 against the Los Angeles Kings.

"It was kind of a scary play. I felt something in my leg, but I didn't know exactly what it was. So, I reached down a couple times and felt some blood. It started getting warm," said Niederreiter after Monday's skate.

"That's when I knew I had to get off and see what's up. I got extremely lucky. It nicked my Achilles a little bit. Had to get a few stitches. Glad I'm standing here right now."

The Swiss forward said the cut required eight stitches to close and added that he has been wearing cut resistant socks for quite some time now. Jets head coach Rick Bowness said if Niederreiter feels good tomorrow like he did on Monday, there is a good chance he will play against Seattle.

David Gustafsson has to be given some credit for how he played in Niederreiter's absence playing on the third line with Adam Lowry and Mason Appleton against Dallas and Colorado. Gustafsson scored once and added a couple of assists and was a plus three.

"His mindset whenever he came in, he did his job very well," said Niederreiter of Gustafsson.

"He competes extremely hard in practice, works hard day in and day out. It's always great to see a player like him get rewarded."

The Jets have to be excited with how they are playing with two games left in the regular season. They have won six straight sweeping their four-game road trip against Central Division rivals including outscoring Dallas and Colorado 11-0 in the last two games.

"It's little mistakes like line changes and turnovers that make a big difference this time of year," said Connor Hellebuyck.

"And I think you see us managing the game very well in that aspect. So, our team game looks pretty similar, but our mistakes aren't nearly as costly."

That team game has Winnipeg up to 50 wins this season and all they need over these final two home games is one point to clinch second place in the division and home ice advantage in their first round series with the Avalanche. They face the Kraken Tuesday and the Canucks on Thursday.

"All our focus is on tomorrow night's game, that's all we're focusing on, taking care of business tomorrow night. That's why I told them this morning you know what you need to get ready for tomorrow," said Bowness.

"If you need to skate today and tomorrow, skate today and tomorrow, if you don't need to skate, don't skate. Whatever you do, put all our focus, all our energy, on that game tomorrow night and we'll go from there."

While home ice is important, the players and coaches have been firm on making sure their game is right especially before they left for Nashville last week. The six-game win streak has been nice but there has been some turbulence getting to where they are right now leading into the Stanley Cup Playoffs.

"Yeah, we're right there. I mean we didn't play well in Nashville. We had a bad game in Nashville. First period was okay, after that we didn't play well. We're close," said Bowness.

"We're right there and we just gotta make sure we keep it going. But our focus isn't on Colorado, (it) isn't on Dallas, it's on Seattle, getting ready for tomorrow night."

TSN.ca

[How playoff-ready are the Jets for the Avalanche?](#) (VIDEO)

The Jets were in some turbulent times not so long ago but they have turned things around at the right time, tallying six straight wins as the playoffs approach. How ready are they to face the Avalanche? How lucky did Nino Niederreiter get with his injury? TSN Jets reporter John Lu discusses.

[Who has the edge in the first round between the Jets and the Avalanche?](#) (VIDEO)

Dropping five of their last seven games, the Avalanche remain behind the Jets for home ice advantage in their first round playoff matchup. TSN's NHL analyst Martin Biron joins SportsCentre to discuss who has the edge in the Central Division matchup, and who is his favourite to win the Hart trophy with the race heating up.

Winnipeg Free Press

[Niederreiter returns to Jets after scary injury](#)

By: Mike McIntyre

It was a case of blood, sweat and fears for Nino Niederreiter.

The veteran Winnipeg Jets winger had gone through similar plays countless times in his NHL career, yet on April 1 it had near-catastrophic results.

"I felt something in my leg but I didn't know exactly what it was. So, I reached down a couple times and felt some blood. It started getting warm," said Niederreiter, 31, following Monday's optional team practice.

"That's when I knew I had to get off and see what's up. I got extremely lucky. It nicked my Achilles a little bit... glad I'm standing here right now."

The incident happened in the third period when Adrian Kempe of the visiting Los Angeles Kings fell to the ice after coming in contact with Niederreiter's linemate, Mason Appleton, after a faceoff. The L.A. forward's skate kicked up, catching Niederreiter in the wrong place at the wrong time.

"Eight stitches. They told me I got very lucky. I did wear the cut-resistant socks. Obviously, they helped big-time at that point. (It) could have been a lot worse if I hadn't worn them," said Niederreiter.

"It was kind of a fluky play. I'm glad things like that don't happen more often."

Now, two weeks after going down, Niederreiter is ready to return to action. Just in time, too, with only two games left until the playoffs begin.

"Right now, it's up to the coaches if (they want) to put me in or not. But I'm ready to go and I'm looking forward to it," he said, after being a full participant in Monday's skate.

Jets coach Rick Bowness plans to have Niederreiter in the lineup Tuesday night as the Jets (50-24-6), winners of six consecutive games, host the Seattle Kraken, who are already into next-year territory. The Swiss skater is expected to take his normal spot beside Appleton and captain Adam Lowry, which has been a steady shut-down line all year.

Winnipeg can clinch home-ice advantage in the opening round playoff series against the Colorado Avalanche by securing at least one point against Seattle. With a loss in regulation, the Jets would need to get a point in Thursday's battle against the visiting Vancouver Canucks, or hope the Avalanche lose in any fashion later that night to the Edmonton Oilers.

"Everybody's super excited. Obviously, it's going to be a tough opponent with the Avalanche. Overall we know how important home ice will be here," said Niederreiter.

"That's why it's important we get a point in the next two games and we'll go from there. There's nothing better than playing playoff hockey in general, and, obviously, in Winnipeg with the Whiteout it's fantastic."

David Gustafsson has filled in admirably for Niederreiter, recording a goal and two assists over the past two games as the Jets outscored the Dallas Stars and Avalanche by a combined score of 10-0.

“In general they’ve been playing some great hockey. And for Gustafsson, he’s been great all year,” Niederreiter said. “His mindset whenever he came in, he did his job very well. He competes extremely hard in practice, works hard day in and day out. It’s always great to see a player like him get rewarded.”

With a healthy roster comes some tough conversation with players such as Gustafsson, who would come out of the lineup through no fault of his own.

The Jets also have forward Cole Perfetti, with his 36 points in 70 games, currently waiting on standby as insurance, along with forward Rasmus Kupari and defencemen Nate Schmidt and Colin Miller who have been the other healthy scratches of late.

“It speaks well of the depth of the organization and the fact that we can put guys in the right roles,” said Bowness.

“Gus likes more of a role that he played with Adam and Apple. It shows the commitment to the team as well. Gus hadn’t played much, but he really worked his butt off every day, as all the guys who are not playing are doing. They’re working very hard, the coaches are working them very hard and we’re all very confident that when we put them in, they’re ready to do what we need them to do. Gus is a perfect example.”

There’s no question Niederreiter’s return is welcome. Not only does he have 18 goals and 15 assists in 75 games this season, but he also brings plenty of intangibles along with 87 games of playoff experience on his resume.

“He’s a player that can do everything,” said goaltender Connor Hellebuyck, who will make his 60th start of the season against Seattle. “He’s a force around the net. Playoff time, you need that. You need those gritty goals... a rebound or a screen or a small tip. Not only that, but his defensive game is superb, so I’m glad to have him back in the lineup when we need him.”

The Jets aren’t looking beyond the Kraken, but getting home-ice secured would allow them to consider resting some key players in Thursday’s finale. It would also provide an opportunity for players such as Gustafsson and Perfetti in one more game, and maybe even a call-up or two from the Manitoba Moose such as Brad Lambert and Ville Heinola.

Lowry, Sean Monahan, Vlad Namestnikov, Neal Pionk and backup goaltender Laurent Brossoit all missed Monday’s skate but are good to go, according to Bowness.

“The two points is important. But how we get those two points is playing good, tough, solid team (defence),” said Bowness.

“They’re a good team, Seattle. I know they’re out of the playoffs but they have speed and they beat us before in here. We have to focus on the process which we talk an awful lot about shift to shift, period to period. And if that doesn’t go our way, then we try to address it and fix it. But we want to win, we want to get home ice, we want that game (Tuesday) night.”

[**Big-league dreams on hold**](#)

[Jets' top-class prospect McGroarty sticking with school](#)

By: Mike McIntyre

Rutger McGroarty has opted to return to college for another season rather than sign a contract to immediately join the Winnipeg Jets.

That shouldn't be cause for concern for Jets fans, nor does it suggest there's any issues between the organization and its top forward prospect, who was selected 14th overall in the 2022 NHL Draft. Quite the contrary.

The decision Monday came after careful consideration and consultation between both sides.

The cold, hard reality is that there's very little room at the inn right now when it comes to the Jets' forward group. Just look at the current lineup, with Cole Perfetti, David Gustafsson and Rasmus Kupari all likely to begin the playoffs next week as healthy scratches.

Then there's Axel Jonsson-Fjallby, Dominic Toninato and rookies Brad Lambert and Nikita Chibrikov, among others, currently impressing with the Manitoba Moose of the American Hockey League and waiting in the wings.

Fact is, the Jets simply could not guarantee McGroarty a full-time NHL spot for next season. Only trade-deadline additions Sean Monahan and Tyler Toffoli are unrestricted free agents, so no mass exodus is expected this summer.

And so the 20-year-old will return to the University of Michigan for his third season and might just be named team captain next fall in a program that, as always, is expected to be rock solid.

"We always told Rutger when preparedness intersects with opportunity, it's time to go," his mother, Cindy McGroarty, told the Free Press last week..

"Winnipeg knows when opportunity is there, Rutger knows when he's prepared. He won't put himself in a bad situation, and it's not like he's in a horrible situation for development. So, if someone says, 'No, you have room to grow before you're ready,' that's OK, too. He's prepared for just about anything."

Signing now likely would have meant spending some time with the Moose rather than jumping right into a deep Jets lineup that is very much a contender rather than in the rebuilding stage. A great developmental path, for sure, but another year to help lead a perennial powerhouse like Michigan is beneficial, too.

McGroarty emerged as one of the top players in the NCAA this season with 52 points (16 goals, 36 assists) in 36 games. He also captained the U.S. to a gold medal at the world junior championship just six weeks after taking a hit and suffering a punctured lung and broken rib.

His Wolverines made it to the Frozen Four for a second consecutive year but lost 4-0 in the semi-final — again. Perhaps, third time will be the charm?

Speculation about McGroarty increased in recent days as a handful of his teammates signed pro contracts. His linemate and good friend, Frank Nazar, inked an entry-level deal with the

Chicago Blackhawks on Saturday, then scored in his NHL debut on Sunday. His other linemate, Gavin Brindley, signed an ELC on Monday with the Columbus Blue Jackets.

It's worth noting Chicago and Columbus are in very different places than Winnipeg in terms of their ability to throw a young player into the lineup.

The Jets still hold McGroarty's rights through to the summer of 2026. However, getting a deal next spring seems likely when there could be job openings with Nikolaj Ehlers, Alex Lafallo, Mason Appleton, Vlad Namestnikov, Fjallby and Toninato all set to be UFAs in the summer of 2025.

McGroarty, who raved about his relationship with the Jets last week, is likely to attend Winnipeg's development camp in early July, just as he did last summer. He will also continue to work on his skating, an area he admits needs the most work, with former Canadian Olympian Barb Underhill, who is his personal coach.

Global Winnipeg

[ANALYSIS: Jets' season could set new franchise standard](#)

By Kelly Moore Global News

The Winnipeg Jets have an opportunity this week to tick off a few remaining boxes that could establish 2023-24 as a new standard for the 2.0 version of the franchise.

And the Jets certainly earned the right to be in that position based on what they accomplished last week on the road.

Last Monday, we stood before the court to make the case that a second-place finish in the Central Division was still in the cards for Winnipeg — despite some pretty imposing odds to the contrary.

Winnipeg's breaking news sent to your email as it happens.

As the record now shows, the Jets provided some pretty compelling evidence to slam the scales in their favour.

And not to throw shade on Saturday's 7-0 beatdown in Denver, but the 3-0 win in Dallas 44 hours earlier, I would argue, rates as Winnipeg's finest 60 minutes of the season to date.

Consider what they were up against, facing an opponent at a venue where they'd not won outright in nine straight visits dating back more than six years. And consider how they played, in about as close to a playoff style as you will get, even this late in the schedule.

There are now just two home games to go, one Tuesday and the other Thursday.

Because of Colorado's meltdown in Vegas on Sunday, the Jets are now just a single point away from clinching home ice advantage in round one of the playoffs.

By winning both remaining games, Winnipeg would go into the postseason with the best record among the seven Canadian teams.

The Jets are a lock to set a 2.0 franchise record for fewest goals against in an 82-game season. They've allowed just 193 to date, well below the previous mark of 210 set in the 2014-15 season.

If Winnipeg can maintain their stingy team defence versus the Kraken and Canucks, Connor Hellebuyck can pretty much add a Jennings Trophy to his sparkling resume.

The only disappointment is that Laurent Brossoit didn't play the required 25 games to have his name also on that hardware.

And there is also matching the 2017-18 franchise high of 52 victories.

Two weeks ago, prior to a 4-3 win over the LA Kings that ended a six-game slide and launched this current six-game streak the other way, who would have thought any of this seemed remotely possible? Except, of course, the people inside the Winnipeg dressing room.

The Athletic

[Winnipeg Jets top prospect Rutger McGroarty returning to Michigan: Why he made this decision](#)

By Murat Ates

Instead of following University of Michigan teammates like Gavin Brindley, Frank Nazar and Dylan Duke to the NHL, top Winnipeg Jets prospect Rutger McGroarty has announced he'll return to Michigan for the 2024-25 NCAA season.

McGroarty, taken 14th by the Jets in the 2022 NHL Draft, finished his season with a semifinal loss to Boston College on April 11 at the Frozen Four in St. Paul, Minn. His advisers had met with Michigan as well as the Jets in the days since that time, discussing plans for next season, with the 20-year-old power forward ultimately choosing to go back to Michigan.

It's a decision that will leave some Jets fans concerned, given the number of Wolverines stars who have already signed in the NHL. Jets fans will also remember former Winnipeg prospect Nathan Smith; the Jets' third-round pick in 2018 was traded to Arizona in 2022 after it became clear that he didn't want to sign in Winnipeg.

A league source tells The Athletic that this is not the expectation for McGroarty: McGroarty's decision was made with his NHL development and an eventual Jets roster spot in mind.

The opportunity to increase his role as a third-year player in Michigan is clear; with fellow stars like Brindley, Duke and Nazar signing in the NHL, McGroarty will be counted on to drive results. There's also the potential of being named captain as Jacob Truscott just completed his fourth year.

Meanwhile, Winnipeg is a deep team, particularly up front and on the wings. Sean Monahan and Tyler Toffoli are the only 2024 UFAs on the roster, which already leaves Cole Perfetti, the No. 10 pick in 2020, on the outside looking in. With fellow 2022 first-round pick Brad Lambert and 2021 second-round pick Nikita Chibrikov making big strides with Manitoba in the AHL this season, it's difficult to look at the Jets roster and see immediate NHL playing time. Whereas

Nazar has already played (and scored) in the NHL for Chicago and Brindley will make an immediate debut for Columbus, McGroarty doesn't have that same runway in Winnipeg.

Consider Colby Barlow, Winnipeg's 2023 first-round pick, who was assigned to Manitoba in April after his junior season ended. Barlow is being eased into the AHL as the Moose prepare for their playoff run. The Jets organization isn't handing out minutes at any level.

McGroarty is likely capable of AHL success here and now, although his skating needs work before he steps into the NHL. He's slated to play an enormous role on Michigan's 2024-25 team. One could easily imagine him surpassing his 16-goal, 36-assist numbers while continuing to develop his all-around game with a full season of good health.

With that kind of success, it's easier to imagine McGroarty signing with the Jets at this time next year and making a more immediate impact on his way into the 2025-26 season. He remains Winnipeg's No. 1 prospect and, given the way he recovered from his rib and lung injuries to captain Team USA to a gold medal before returning to Michigan for the stretch run, he's a difficult player to bet against in the long run.

Recent Jets draft picks to sign after their third college season include defensemen Dylan Samberg and Tucker Poolman. Expect this situation to follow that same trajectory; McGroarty is all-in on his development and his ultimate goal is a roster spot on the Jets.

Winnipeg Sun

[Jets Niederreiter ready to roll after suffering scary slice](#)

By GRAHAM SCEVIOUR-FRAEHLICH, For the Winnipeg Sun, Winnipeg Sun

Things could've been much worse for Winnipeg Jets forward Nino Niederreiter when he suffered a cut to the back of his leg earlier this month.

"It was kind of a scary play," the Swiss winger said Monday after practice at Canada Life Centre.

"I felt something in my leg, but I didn't know exactly what it was."

It turned out to be a two-millimetre slice into his Achilles tendon, requiring eight stitches, and costing him appearances in the next five games.

"Obviously it could have been a lot worse," said Niederreiter, who is likely to return to the line-up on Tuesday when the Jets host the Seattle Kraken.

"I'm very fortunate and lucky to be standing here right now."

Niederreiter left Winnipeg's April 1 game against the Los Angeles Kings after his Jets teammate Mason Appleton bumped L.A. winger Adrian Kempe, knocking him to the ice with his skate blade digging down the back of Niederreiter's boot in the process.

Luckily, Niederreiter was wearing cut-resistant socks. The 31-year-old, in his second season with the Jets, said he's been wearing the socks under his skates for many years, as many NHL players have over the past couple decades.

"I do think whenever I have a chance to protect certain areas when you know you're not as protected, (I do it)," he said.

"But at the same time, I can't really talk about protection when my visor is up quite high," he joked.

The Achilles has been the spot of some of hockey's most gruesome injuries over the years. Long-time Winnipeg fans may remember Jets 1.0 legend Teemu Selanne missing the final months of the 1993-94 season after skate blade severed the tendon.

More recently, the lockout-abbreviated 2013 season saw the grim play where then-Senators defenseman Erik Karlsson received a Matt Cooke skate blade down the back of his leg, causing a season-ending injury.

Niederreiter, who's registered 18 goals and 15 assists over 75 games this season, credited his Jets teammates, who've won all five games in his absence and haven't allowed a goal in over 140 minutes of hockey against the Dallas Stars and Colorado Avalanche.

"They played some terrific hockey," he said. "Obviously when you have the opportunity to have two shutouts in a row it's great."

Niederreiter, who's been getting some strides in with his team on the road over the past week, said he's had his stitches removed and is set to play. He's looking forward to getting into the lineup to get up to speed before Whiteout season.

"That's what I'm hoping for," Niederreiter said. "To get in tomorrow and the next couple games to get ready for playoff time."

Rick Bowness, Winnipeg's head coach, said Niederreiter will likely get his wish.

"If he feels like he did today when we get out there tomorrow, yeah, there's a good chance he'll play," said the coach. "We're hoping he can play."

Winnipeg takes on the Kraken Tuesday night at Canada Life Centre, their second-last matchup before the razors go in the drawer.

[JETS SNAPSHOTS: Vilardi's been working on 'magic hands' since he was a kid ... McGroarty going back to Michigan ... Jets focused on clinching second place against Kraken](#)

By Ted Wyman

As a kid who was growing up with aspirations of becoming a pro hockey player, Winnipeg Jets winger Gabe Vilardi didn't much care for things like going to the gym, working out and crushing weights.

Instead, he spent his time working on his stickwork, developing the kinds of hands that can make quick, eye-popping plays in small spaces.

“Eventually I had to start going to the gym,” he said with a laugh Monday, after the Jets practised at Canada Life Centre.

“But growing up I never wanted to work out or work on strength training. I just wanted to do hands and play hockey.

“I really focused on stickhandling, having weights on your stick, and working on having quick hands in front of the net. That was always my thing. I would rather do that than go in the gym and pump weights.”

Now in his fifth year as an NHL player, all that stickwork as a kid seems to be paying off.

Vilardi has been showing off his magic hands with the Jets this season, scoring 21 goals in 45 games (a pace for 38 goals in a full season).

While almost all of those goals have come from within a foot or two of the opposing goalie’s crease, his quickness around the net has been on full display.

None of his goals were prettier than the between-the-legs, far-post maneuver he pulled off last week in Nashville to beat Predators goalie Juuse Saros.

“I’ve tried it a few times on the power play,” Vilardi said. “It’s a good move for me, as a righty, just because of the way our power play is set up. A lot of time I have my back to the net and I do a lot of pre-scanning. And it’s an easy way for me to change the angle quickly and make it tougher for the goalies to read what’s coming.

“It’s a play I’ve worked on a lot and if I feel like the situation calls for it and it’s available, I’ll try it. I’ve tried a few times and I hadn’t scored but obviously that one worked out well.”

Vilardi has played an integral role for the Jets on the power play, especially since coming back from his second injury of the season on March 30. He has five goals, including three on the power play, in the seven games since returning from an enlarged spleen.

The Jets power play, running at a pedestrian 19% for the season, has clicked on 30% of the man advantages since Vilardi’s return.

A lot of that has to do with Vilardi setting up in a down-low spot near the goaltender and using his quick hands to either dish to Kyle Connor or Sean Monahan, or make a slick turnaround move to get a shot on net.

“Since last year, at least since I turned to wing, that’s been my area of scoring goals,” said Vilardi, who came over to the Jets from the Los Angeles Kings last summer in the Pierre-Luc Dubois deal.

“Obviously, I’d like to score by taking shots and getting opportunities off the rush, but that’s how it is. I think I’m good with my hands, in front, and with tips and that’s just what I have to do in order to score goals. I know where to play to have success, and that’s down low, below the tops of the circles.”

McGROARTY STAYING PUT

It appears top prospect Rutger McGroarty will not be signing a pro contract and joining the Jets organization this year.

The Jets' first-rounder, taken 14th overall in the 2022 NHL Draft, is returning to the University of Michigan, where he helped the Wolverines reach the Frozen Four this year, for another season.

The 20-year-old right-winger from Lincoln, Neb., could have ended his college career and signed with the Jets, as several of his teammates did recently with their pro teams.

McGroarty scored 16 goals and had 36 points in 36 games with Michigan this year and also captained Team USA to a gold medal at the world junior hockey championship.

The University of Michigan announced McGroarty's return on Monday.

ALL FOCUS ON KRAKEN

The Jets need just one point in their remaining two games to lock up home-ice advantage for a first-round playoff series against the Colorado Avalanche.

They'd like nothing more than to get that out of the way Tuesday night when the Seattle Kraken come to town. They also face the Vancouver Canucks on Thursday night at Canada Life Centre, but they'd surely like to rest some players and play some black aces in that one.

"All our focus is on (Tuesday) night's game," Jets coach Rick Bowness said Monday.

"That's why I told them this morning 'You know what you need to get ready for tomorrow. If you need to skate today and tomorrow, skate today and tomorrow, if you don't need to skate, don't skate. Whatever you do, put all our focus, all our energy, on that game (Tuesday) night and we'll go from there.'"

The Jets could also wrap up second place if the Avalanche lose in any fashion against the Edmonton Oilers on Thursday.

Nothing is set in stone yet, but it looks like the playoff series could begin Monday night.

[Awards would be nice, but Hellebuyck just happy Jets playing best hockey at right time](#)

By Ted Wyman

Connor Hellebuyck is already the front-runner for the Vezina Trophy as the NHL's best goaltender this season and if his Winnipeg Jets can keep up the stifling hockey this week against the Seattle Kraken and Vancouver Canucks, he could well get his name on another league award.

Hellebuyck and the Jets have allowed the fewest goals (193) in the NHL this season, three less than the Florida Panthers (196).

The Panthers have just one game remaining — Tuesday night against NHL goal-scoring leader Auston Matthews and the Toronto Maple Leafs — and the Jets have two, so this race for the William Jennings Trophy (fewest goals allowed by a team) could come right down to the wire.

The Jets are clearly not focused on the award — their attention is squarely on earning at least one point against Seattle on Tuesday night and locking up home-ice advantage for the first round of the playoffs — but Hellebuyck would love to see his team get rewarded for sticking to defensive structure throughout the season.

“I’ve always viewed that as kind of a team award,” Hellebuyck said after the Jets held an optional practice at Canada Life Centre Monday.

“The guys worked hard for that. It would be awesome for them to be part of that. And I think (Laurent Brossoit) is part of it just as much as I am. I don’t know if we were to win if he would get his name on it. I don’t think he would, but he definitely deserves to be on there.”

A goalie has to play at least 25 games in order to get his name on the trophy and Brossoit, who has had a terrific season as Hellebuyck’s backup, will fall short.

Though he has sparkling numbers — 14-5-2 record, 2.00 GAA, .928 save percentage, three shutouts — Brossoit has played just 22 games.

He’s been just as good as Hellebuyck, and sometimes better, and stellar goaltending is the No. 1 reason why the Jets have a 50-24-6 record and 106 points with two games left in the season.

Never has it looked better than the last two games, when the Jets outscored the Dallas Stars and Colorado Avalanche by a combined score of 10-0, each goaltender earning a shutout along the way.

“I think that just speaks to our games and our team game,” Hellebuyck said.

“The guys in front of us played phenomenal in those games and our details were so good. And (Brossoit) and I have very similar style and when we’re bouncing ideas off each other it just feels like we’re the same out there. So, to do it in back-to-back fashion like that is a good testament to both of us.”

Many people have pegged Hellebuyck as the front-runner for the Vezina Trophy. The NHL’s 32 general managers will vote on that award, which Hellebuyck won previously in 2020.

This season he has a 36-19-4 record, a 2.38 GAA and a .922 save percentage to go along with five shutouts. His save percentage is the best among all NHL starting goalies and his GAA is third best.

While he certainly has benefited from the Jets playing a much better overall defensive game than they have in past years, he’s still second in the league in saves (1,636), has stolen some games, and has rarely had an off night.

Like everyone else on the team, he slipped a bit while the Jets were going through a six-game losing streak late last month, but in his last five games he’s allowed only 10 goals and his save percentage is .942.

“During that stretch, (when) we weren’t winning a whole lot of games, we were all searching in our own games like ‘what could I be doing differently?’ Hellebuyck said.

“And then we had a really good video session at the very end of that, and instead of guys being mad at themselves or mad at each other, it was more of a monkey off our back. ‘Oh, that’s what we’re doing wrong. And that’s what we need to be doing differently.’

“At least for me, that’s what it felt like and ever since that moment, it was all smooth sailing from there.”

The Jets are 6-0 since that streak ended and they’re on the verge of locking up second place in the Central Division, which would allow them to start the first-round best-of-seven against Colorado at home, possibly next Monday.

In hindsight, it’s probably good that the Jets went through some adversity when they did and are now back to playing some of their best hockey just as the playoffs are about to get under way.

“I don’t think you can look at a single team in this league and say they had a perfect season,” Hellebuyck said. “You have ups and downs all the time. Playoffs is one of those things where you want to be hot at the right time. I’ve been in the league long enough to know it and feel it.

“We walked into St. Louis (in 2019) and we had a really good team and they got hot at the right time. Look at what they did. Our main focus is on ourselves right now. Feel right and don’t lose it.”