

**Winnipegjets.com**

**[Three things - Perfetti has big night  
Perfetti matches career high with 3-point night, Connor has 3 assists](#)**

By Jamie Thomas

WINNIPEG – The Winnipeg Jets ended their six-game slide with a gritty performance on Monday night beating the Los Angeles Kings 4-3 at Canada Life Centre. Cole Perfetti scored twice (including the game winning goal), Sean Monahan and Josh Morrissey added singles for the Jets (45-23-6) who are now four points back of Colorado for second place in the Central Division. Laurent Brossoit made 25 saves and improved to 9-1-0 on home ice this season. The Jets will close out their five-game homestand on Thursday against the Calgary Flames.

***BIG NIGHT FOR PERFETTI***

Cole Perfetti took advantage of a huge opportunity that was presented to him with Tyler Toffoli being out of tonight's game with an illness. Perfetti skated on the right side of Sean Monahan and Kyle Connor on the Jets second line and matched his career high for goals (2) and points (3). The 22-year-old opened the scoring at the 11:14 mark of the first period, assisted on Josh Morrissey's goal that tied the game at three at 16:47 of the second and finally, scored the game winning goal with just under seven minutes in the third.

"I was just really happy that I could contribute and help get back into that," said Perfetti.

"I missed that for a little bit. It just feels really good to get back and help this team win."

***CONNOR HELPING OUT***

Rick Bowness moved around some pieces in his top six forward group and on the blueline as well leading into tonight's game. Mark Scheifele was with Gabriel Vilardi and Nikolaj Ehlers and Sean Monahan centred Perfetti and Kyle Connor. Connor looked right at home with Monahan and Perfetti and recorded his ninth career three assist game.

"That's him. Just the way he uses his skating ability and puck handling and his vision," said Rick Bowness.

"He's cutting back and he's tough to defend when he gets going like that."

***MORRISSEY MILESTONE***

The Jets top defenceman collected an assist on the Jets second goal of the night (from Sean Monahan) and that put him at 60 points this season. Morrissey set a career best and franchise record with 76 points (16G, 60A) in 2022-23 and tonight became the first defenceman in Jets/Thrashers history with consecutive 60-point campaigns.

**NHL.com**

**[Perfetti has 3 points, Jets edge Kings to end losing streak at 6  
Connor gets 3 assists for Winnipeg; Los Angeles drops 3rd in row](#)**

By Darrin Bauming

WINNIPEG -- Cole Perfetti had two goals and an assist for the Winnipeg Jets, who ended their six-game losing streak with a 4-3 win against the Los Angeles Kings at Canada Life Centre on Monday.

"We created lots as a line, scored lots as a line," Perfetti said. "So, that felt really good. I was just really happy that I could contribute and help get back into that. I missed that for a little bit. It just feels really good to get back and help this team win."

Perfetti gave the Jets a 4-3 lead at 13:05 of the third period with a wrist shot from the right face-off circle shortly after Kings forward Trevor Lewis was unable to score on a short-handed breakaway attempt.

"It's just heartbreaking when it happens that way," Los Angeles coach Jim Hiller said. "What was it, 10 seconds later they came down and score the other way. We've seen that in hockey before. But nothing to hang our heads about, we'll regroup, get a rest and we'll get ready for the next game."

Kyle Connor had three assists, and Josh Morrissey had a goal and an assist for the Jets (45-24-6), who were 0-5-1 in their previous six. Laurent Brossoit made 25 saves.

"Well, we get a much-needed win, so I'm very happy about that," Winnipeg coach Rick Bowness said. "Obviously, the [Sean] Monahan line (with Perfetti and Connor) had a big night for us. That made the difference in the game."

Anze Kopitar, Viktor Arvidsson and Kevin Fiala scored for the Kings (38-25-11), who have lost three straight. Vladislav Gavrikov had two assists, and Cam Talbot made 28 saves.

"They're a good team, they were desperate," Hiller said of the Jets. "I thought it was a good hockey game both ways. ... Overall, the effort is good. The result is bad."

Perfetti gave the Jets a 1-0 lead at 11:14 of the first period when he put in a loose puck at the right post.

"[Perfetti] has been working really hard," Bowness said. "The coaches have been spending a lot of time with him. I did tell him, 'Listen, when you get back in, we're going to give you more time with the top six.' That's more his game, so he took full advantage of it. Give him credit for that."

Arvidsson tied it 1-1 at 12:30, carrying the puck into the offensive zone and beating Brossoit with a slap shot from the top of the right circle.

"That game was back and forth for us," Gavrikov said. "Didn't get the result, obviously. That's exactly what we're looking for in the next games, and just got to move on. Every single game matters for us, every single point has got to matter."

Fiala put Los Angeles ahead 2-1 at 5:48 of the second period. He took a pass along the left-side boards, skated into the slot, spun around and scored with a snap shot.

"We thought we had probably a good 15 minutes of the second, then we turned the puck over a couple times, made a couple poor decisions, we wanted to clean those up," Hiller said. "I thought we did in the third. Just a good game. Could have gone either way, and they got it."

Monahan tied it 2-2 at 11:49, redirecting Morrissey's shot from the right circle past Talbot.

Kopitar made it 3-2 at 13:56 with a snap shot from the slot off a pass from Adrian Kempe from below the goal line.

"Some really good looks," Hillier said. "We had a couple others (that) just rattled around, hit some bodies in front. We had some good screens."

Morrissey tied it 3-3 at 16:47 of the second with a one-timer in the slot off a centering pass from Perfetti.

"Not every win is going to be perfect," Morrissey said. "They're a good hockey team. You have to give every team in this league their respect. For us to go down multiple times in the game and find a way to come back and stay resilient and find a way to break a tie game open in the third, it's great. It's huge. Hopefully we can get on a run now and feel good about ourselves in the next number of games before the [playoffs] start."

*NOTES:* Perfetti was a healthy scratch in Winnipeg's previous two games and in six of the previous nine. He was reinserted into the lineup because forward Tyler Toffoli missed the game with an illness. ... Kings forward Akil Thomas had three hits in 3:42 of ice time in his NHL debut. ... Jets forward Nino Niederreiter left the game midway through the third period to get stitches on his leg. Bowness said he is still being evaluated. ... Brossoit has six wins in his past seven starts.

## **Global Winnipeg**

### **[Perfetti shines as Jets snap six-game losing streak with 4-3 win over Kings](#)**

By Kevin Hirschfield & Russ Hobson

On a night where the Winnipeg Jets snapped out of a six-game losing streak, one of their young forwards busted out of a miserable slump at the same time.

Cole Perfetti scored two goals, including the game-winner with 6:55 left in the third period, and added an assist as the Jets picked up a 4-3 win over Los Angeles Monday night at Canada Life Centre.

Perfetti had just one goal over his previous 26 games and only dressed because Tyler Toffoli was feeling under the weather and was out with an illness.

"It was huge for my confidence," Perfetti said. "Just getting put in that chance, and then obviously going to the net and just banging one early in – that felt great."

Perfetti was playing on their second line with Kyle Connor and Sean Monahan. They were on the ice for all four Jets' goals to help end the skid. Connor also had a three-point night, recording three assists in the win.

"We created lots as a line, scored lots as a line," said Perfetti. "So, I think it just felt really good. Just really happy that I could contribute and help get back into that. I missed that for a little bit."

Jets head coach Rick Bowness switched up his top two forward lines, moving Nikolaj Ehlers to the top line, while sliding Connor down. And he also flip-flopped his defensive pairings.

“Obviously the Monahan line had a big night for us,” said Bowness. “That made the difference in the game. The D-pairings, yeah it worked out OK.”

“Obviously it’s great to get off the losing streak,” said Jets defenceman Josh Morrissey. “We played hard. Went through a little bit of adversity going down in the game and found a way to come back multiple times, I guess. And didn’t lose our confidence.”

After a great start to the season, Perfetti has had a miserable 2024 calendar year, and has ended up being a healthy scratch several times in the month of March.

“I’m not gonna lie, it wasn’t easy,” he said. “Like, it’s been tough the last little bit. But just trying to come to work every day with a positive mindset, be a good teammate, and if an opportunity presents itself, just be ready.”

“He’s been working really hard,” said Bowness. “The coaches have been spending a lot of time with him. I did tell him, when you get back in we’re gonna give you more time with the top-6 cause that’s more his game. So he took full advantage of it.”

In a back-and-forth affair, the Jets battled back from 2-1 and 3-2 deficits to find a way to win.

Monahan and Morrissey also scored for the Jets.

Viktor Arvidsson, Kevin Fiala, and Anze Kopitar replied for L.A. in the losing cause.

Laurent Brossoit made 25 saves in net for Winnipeg to pick up his 13th win of the season.

Dylan DeMelo had one assist to set a new career-best with 28 points. Nino Niederreiter left the game in the third period and according to Bowness required stitches on his leg.

The win was also Winnipeg’s 45th of the season, the fourth time they’ve hit that mark since returning to the city in 2011-12.

With the win, the Jets moved four points back of the Avalanche for second place in the Central Division.

After more than 1,400 career NHL games, linesman Ryan Galloway of Winnipeg worked his final game. The Jets honoured Galloway during a TV timeout and players on both teams shook his hand following the final buzzer.

The Jets are next in action on Thursday night, when they conclude their five-game homestand against the Calgary Flames. The pregame show will begin on 680 CJOB at 5 p.m. with the puck dropping shortly after 7 p.m.

## **Canadian Press**

### **[Perfetti Pots Three Points as Winnipeg Jets Edge L.A. Kings 4-3](#)**

By Judy Owen, The Canadian Press

WINNIPEG — Cole Perfetti stayed patient and it paid off.

With his Winnipeg Jets pushing for the playoffs, the 22-year-old forward was a healthy scratch for six of the team's last nine games. Then, on Monday, he replaced an ill Tyler Toffoli on the second line against the L.A. Kings.

The move paid off — Perfetti scored twice and contributed an assist as the Jets edged the Kings 4-3 to snap a six-game losing skid.

"I'm not going to lie, it wasn't easy. It has been tough the last little bit," Perfetti said of sitting out. "I just tried to come to work every day with a positive mindset and be a good teammate.

"If an opportunity presented itself, I just wanted to be ready. An opportunity came tonight, and I just tried whatever I could to seize the moment."

Josh Morrissey added a goal and an assist for the Jets (45-24-6), while Sean Monahan also scored. Kyle Connor registered three helpers.

Morrissey's ninth goal of the season came off a feed from Perfetti.

"It was a great dish," Morrissey said. "(Perfetti) played a great game. Nice to see him using his tools out there and playing with confidence. Great look, and a huge game for us."

Jets head coach Rick Bowness said Perfetti has been working hard with the coaches.

"I did tell him, 'Listen, when you get back in, we're going to give you more time with the top six,'" Bowness said. "That's more his game, so he took full advantage of it. Give him credit for that."

Laurent Brossoit made 25 saves for Winnipeg before a crowd of 13,334 at Canada Life Centre, halting a four-game sellout streak.

Viktor Arvidsson, Kevin Fiala and Anze Kopitar scored for the Kings (38-25-11). Defenceman Vladislav Gavrikov had two assists and Cam Talbot stopped 28 shot.

"We had a lot of guys who played really hard, I thought," Kings interim head coach Jim Hiller said. "(The Jets are) a good team, they were desperate.

"I thought it was a good hockey game both ways. We go down and have a breakaway, they come back and get one. It's that close."

The Jets went on the game's first power play midway through the third period with the score tied 3-3.

Kings forward Trevor Moore went on a short-handed breakaway, but fired wide of the net.

The Jets then went the other way and Perfetti fired a low shot past Talbot two seconds after the man advantage expired.

The goal, his 17th of the season, came at 13:05.

Both teams have struggled recently, with Winnipeg going 0-5-1 heading into the match. The Kings have now lost three straight.

L.A. holds the second wild-card spot in the Western Conference with a three-point cushion on the St. Louis Blues. Winnipeg is third in the Central Division, six points up on the Nashville Predators.

Monday's game was tied 1-1 after the first period and 3-3 heading into the third.

Perfetti flipped in a loose puck at the side of the crease to give the Jets a 1-0 lead 11:14 into the opening frame.

Arvidsson tied the score at 12:30 with a blast from high in the circle.

It was the second goal of the campaign for Arvidsson, who's played just 10 games in an injury-marred season punctuated by back surgery in October and a lower-body injury in late February.

Fiala got the puck rolling in a four-goal second period when he recorded his 25th goal after spinning quickly and firing the puck past a screened Brossoit at 5:48.

A five-minute span later in the period had fans cheering.

Monahan evened the score at 2-2 at the 11:49 mark when a pass from Morrissey went in off his skate.

The Kings broke the tie just over two minutes later with Kopitar's 26th goal of the season from the slot, but Morrissey made it 3-3 at 16:47.

"That game was back and forth for us," Gavrikov said. "Didn't get the result, obviously.

"That's exactly what we're looking for in the next games and just got to move on. Every single game matters for us, every single point has got to matter."

#### *OFFICIAL CHEERS*

Ryan Galloway was recognized for officiating in his final NHL game during a third-period stoppage in play.

Players from both teams tapped their sticks on the ice and fans gave the Winnipeg product a standing ovation as he patted his striped shirt above his heart.

Galloway, who had family and friends in the stands wearing striped shirts, has worked more than 1,400 games since entering the league in 2002.

#### *UP NEXT*

Kings: Host the Seattle Kraken on Wednesday.

Jets: End a five-game homestand Thursday against the Calgary Flames.

#### **Winnipeg Free Press**

[Wanna win? Put Perfetti in](#)

## [Often a healthy scratch, Jets centre sees ice and scores twice](#)

By: Mike McIntyre

Cole Perfetti woke up Monday morning not even sure he was going to be in the Winnipeg Jets lineup. He was, after all, a healthy scratch the last two games. Just as he's been on several other recent occasions.

Such is life for the struggling young skater, who had just one goal and one assist over his last 23 games while primarily playing a fourth-line role.

But when top winger Tyler Toffoli called in sick, a golden opportunity presented itself. Not only would Perfetti get to play, but it would be in Toffoli's spot on the second line beside Sean Monahan and Kyle Connor.

It's safe to say the 22-year-old took full advantage.

Perfetti scored twice, including the game-winner with just under seven minutes left in regulation, and added an assist as the Jets got a much-needed 4-3 victory over the Los Angeles Kings.

Have yourself a night, kid.

"I'm not going to lie, it wasn't easy. It has been tough the last little bit. I just tried to come to work every day with a positive mindset and be a good teammate," said Perfetti.

"If an opportunity presented itself, I just wanted to be ready. An opportunity came tonight, and I just tried whatever I could to seize the moment. The last 25 games has been a rollercoaster. But just being ready at all times and staying engaged and focused in practices and just trying to be the best I can be. Tonight felt really good."

Winnipeg snaps a season-high six game winless streak (0-5-1) and improves to 45-24-6. They remain in third place in the Central Division – seven points behind the first-place Dallas Stars and four behind the second-place Colorado Avalanche. All three teams have seven regular-season games remaining.

"Obviously it's great to get off the losing streak," said defenceman Josh Morrissey.

"We played hard. Went through a little bit of adversity going down in the game. Found a way to come back multiple times I guess. Didn't lose our confidence. I thought we did a good job. It's nice to get that one. Hopefully we can look forward now and continue to get our game right."

Los Angeles falls for a third straight outing, all in regulation, and are now 38-25-11. They occupy the final Western Conference wildcard playoff spot, but are just three points up on the streaking St. Louis Blues

Here's a detailed breakdown of the action:

1) *Cole comes through* — How excited was Perfetti to get out of his funk? Well, he accidentally dropped an F-bomb on live television, speaking with TSN during the first intermission.

Whoops.

With nothing really going his way lately, Perfetti opened the scoring at 11:14 of the first period, banging home a loose puck at the side of the Los Angeles net.

“It was huge for my confidence. Just getting put in there for that chance. And then obviously, going to the net and banging one in early. That felt great,” said Perfetti.

It was a sign of things to come.

With the Jets down 3-2 late in the second period, Perfetti made a terrific feed to Josh Morrissey in the slot, as the Jets defenceman wired home his ninth goal of the year.

“It was a great dish. He played a great game. Nice to see him using his tools out there and playing with confidence,” said Morrissey.

Just like that, Perfetti had matched his production over the past two-and-a-half months in 40 minutes of play.

He wasn't finished, however.

With the Jets on a power play and the clock ticking down in the third period, Trevor Moore had a shorthanded breakaway that ended with his shot going high.

Seconds later, Perfetti took a drop pass from Neal Pionk and beat Cam Talbot clean for his 17th of the season — and the biggest, for sure.

“I was a little nervous there, luckily they didn't score,” said Perfetti. “But it led right the other way for our goal. That was a big swing, obviously. Really big.”

In doing so, he made a compelling case to remain in the lineup going forward.

“He's been working really hard. The coaches have been spending a lot of time with him,” said coach Rick Bowness.

“I did tell him, ‘Listen, when you get back in, we're going to give you more time with the top six.’ That's more his game, so he took full advantage of it. Give him credit for that. Tyler goes down and he's ready to go. We put him in there and he did a great job tonight.”

*2) Fighting the puck* — Laurent Brossoit has been solid to stellar pretty much every time he's taken the net this season. But his 20th start didn't go quite as smoothly, as he seemed to be fighting the puck — and losing track of his positioning in the net — for much of the night.

The first example came just 76 seconds after Perfetti opened the scoring as Viktor Arvidsson, streaking down the left wing, scored on an unobstructed shot Brossoit would certainly want back.

Kevin Fiala gave the visitors a 2-1 lead early in the second period as he spun, shot and scored from the slot. Brossoit had some traffic in front of him, but he never could get a clear view of the play.



After Monahan tied it up for Winnipeg at 11:49 of the middle frame, with a Morrissey pass attempt deflecting off his skate and in, Anze Kopitar gave the Kings the lead back at 13:56. Once again, it was the type of shot you'd expect Brossoit would get a piece of more times than not.

Fortunately for Brossoit and the Jets, he managed to settle down a bit in the third, stopping all 11 shots he faced to improve his personal record to 13-5-2. He finished with 25 stops on 28 shots.

3) *Blue-line makeover* — With the Jets mired in a funk, coach Rick Bowness got out the blender on his blue-line and changed up all three pairs.

He put Pionk and Morrissey together, had Dylan Samberg and Dylan DeMelo on the second pairing, and Nate Schmidt and Brenden Dillon on the third.

Bowness also reunited the top line of Mark Scheifele, Nikolaj Ehlers and Gabe Vilardi, which had great success earlier in the year but had been broken up recently (Vilardi just missed 15 games with an enlarged spleen).

"You've got to try different things. We can't keep running back the same pairs, we can't keep running back the same lines. That's enough," Bowness said following the morning skate. "Six games in a row. It's nice to say we hung in there and we had a chance, but there's no moral victories. We have to find a way to get the two points."

For one night at least, it worked.

"I thought it was a hard-fought game. That's an excellent team over there. They're battling for their playoff positioning as well, so that was a hard-fought game," said Bowness.

"They were on top of us at times, we were on top of them at times. It was a pretty even game. But yeah, it was good to see us... I know we had to keep tying it up but there was a lot of fight in our group tonight, for sure."

4) *Man in stripes* – It was an emotional night for Winnipegger Ryan Galloway. The NHL linesman wrapped up his 22-year career in his own backyard, with a few hundred family member and friends looking on from the stands. Many of them were decked out in referee garb with his number on the back.

Galloway, 52, began officiating minor hockey league games in St. James at the age of 12, worked his first professional game in 1996 here in Winnipeg when the Manitoba Moose of the now-defunct IHL began play, then got hired by the NHL in 2002.

He picked the final crew he got to work with, consisting of fellow linesman Trent Knorr and referees Trevor Hanson and Dan O'Rourke.

Galloway was given a video tribute during a TV timeout, which had fans on their feet applauding. Following the game, members of the Jets and Kings lined up to shake his hand and wish him well with a few — including Jets captain Adam Lowry and Kings captain Kopitar — giving him their jerseys.

Galloway took a final lap on the ice, holding his hand to his heart, as he was cheered off the ice.

“Obviously he’s one of the great ones, so our game’s going to miss him,” said Morrissey.

“As a defenceman, probably your most interaction with the linesman is picking up pucks on icings and giving it to them. So many times throughout the years, the game happens fast and he always read the play so well. I don’t think there was once I ever felt he was in the way out there. Just had a great feel for the game, a great sense of humour and energy. Always said ‘Hi’ every game and had a big smile on his face. A special moment for him, being from Winnipeg. I think that the fans embracing him, both teams, was pretty special for me to watch. The game’s definitely going to miss him. Congratulations to him on an amazing career.”

5) *Extra, extra* – The Jets went 0-for-1 on the power play, as Perfetti’s game-winner came two seconds after Los Angeles’ only penalty had expired. Winnipeg didn’t commit any hockey sins on the night.

A crowd of 13,334 took in the game, which began at 8 p.m. due to Sportsnet owning an exclusive window for their Monday Night Hockey broadcast of Toronto vs Florida that prevents other Canadian games from starting within two hours.

Nino Niederreiter didn’t finish the game for the Jets after suffering an injury early in the third period. Bowness said he suffered a skate cut to his leg that required stitches, and a further update on his status would come on Wednesday when the team returns for practice.

Forwards Rasmus Kupari and David Gustafsson and defencemen Logan Stanley and Colin Miller were the healthy scratches for Winnipeg.

The Jets will wrap up their five-game homestand on Thursday night against the Calgary Flames.

6) *The kids are alright* — The future continues to look bright for the Jets — especially with regards to a pair of 2022 first-round draft picks.

Forward Rutger McGroarty is headed to the NCAA ‘s “Frozen Four” after his Michigan Wolverines won a pair of elimination games this past weekend. His team will now face Boston College on Apr. 11 in St. Paul. The winner of that game advances to the final on Apr. 13 against the winner of Denver vs Boston University. It’s not clear if McGroarty, selected 14th overall, will turn pro at the end of his season and join the Jets organization, or head back to college for one more season.

And how about forward Brad Lambert, who was named the AHL’s rookie of the month on Monday after putting up 18 points (four goals, 14 assists) in 13 games with the Moose. The 30th-overall pick leads Manitoba in scoring with 49 points (19G, 30A) which ranks second among all first-year AHL skaters.

[\*\*PLD back to ABC’s\*\*](#)  
[\*\*Dubois struggling to find form in L.A.\*\*](#)

By: Ken Wiebe

Never mind what the numbers might suggest. Pierre-Luc Dubois is not suffering from a crisis of confidence.

The former Winnipeg Jets centre certainly recognizes his level of play hasn't been where he expected it to be after he joined the Los Angeles Kings in a blockbuster deal last summer.

But Dubois is encouraged by a recent stretch of play and credits dealing with a similar situation during his first season with the Jets (2020-21) as something that has helped him deal with the challenges.

"If I hadn't dealt with it my first year here, it would be a lot harder," Dubois said Monday morning. "Whenever you get to a new team sometimes, it can go one of two ways. When I first got to Winnipeg, my first season wasn't great. And that's probably sugar-coating it. It wasn't good at all. It was frustrating and that's the first time in my life that happened. So, it was tough. Then I show up (in L.A.) and obviously you want to start off good, but there's a possibility that it's rough.

"I learned a lot from my first year here. I learned that it doesn't always happen overnight. I'm not panicking. My first year in Winnipeg compared to my last year in Winnipeg was two wildly different things. On the ice and off the ice and mentally, it felt so different. I'm not panicking and I'm not nervous. I haven't lost my game. I haven't lost who I am. I just needed to get back to that. Sometimes, it's a little more complicated."

Prior to Monday's contest, Dubois was heating up offensively, producing seven points in his last eight games to move him to 15 goals and 35 points in 73 games.

On a Kings' roster that includes Anze Kopitar and Phillip Danault down the middle, Dubois has seen his ice time reduced more than three minutes compared to a career high of 18:55 during the '21-22 campaign in Winnipeg.

"I don't think I've changed too much in the past couple of games. You start enjoying it more, thinking less and you just start going out there and playing," said Dubois. "Once you find lines that you've played with for a while, you develop that chemistry. You can go out there and think less. With my instinct, just know where guys are.

"Sometimes it will take a week, sometimes it will take a month. Sometimes it takes a year, like my first year here. But the most important part is to not panic and to not start doubting who you are or who I am as a player. I know what I can do. That's just part of the ups-and-downs of the NHL."

This was the third meeting of the season — and second in Winnipeg — between the clubs.

Dubois was happy to report his mother was going to attend this one after skipping the October meeting at Canada Life Centre.

"The first time is always the most special. The second time, you kind of get used to it and everything," said Dubois. "It's always fun to see guys that you've played against, especially so recently. It will be fun, it will be exciting. My mom is coming to the game. She didn't come the first time because she didn't want to hear the boos. I told her that this time, 'You're probably still going to hear them.' But it will be fun to play in front of her. It's always special playing in front of your family."

It's natural to wonder if signing a big-ticket contract (eight years, US\$64 million) before the sign-and-trade deal was completed played a role in the slow start for Dubois, though he was quick to pour cold water on the theory.

"To me, to be honest, from the outside, everybody has a different perspective of how you would feel. Yeah, it is frustrating, but it isn't more frustrating because I make more money than last year," said Dubois. "It's frustrating because I'm a competitor. It's frustrating because I know what I can do.

"But on the inside, I'm a competitor and I'm not motivated by money. I'm not motivated by stuff like that. I'm just motivated by how I know I can play. It's not more pressure. I don't see it. To me, it's just to play like I can to help this team win."

Kings interim head coach Jim Hiller believes the turnaround in Dubois' game is partly related to him imposing his will physically more of late.

"I'm not sure that there's one thing," said Hiller. "For him, I would say that he's probably been a bit more physical than he was earlier in the season and the only reason I mention that is that to be physical, you've got to move your feet. When he's moving his feet, he's dangerous in the neutral zone, so I would say there's a bit of a correlation there. But I don't know that there's a specific thing."

The Kings made a coaching change on Feb. 2, as Todd McLellan was replaced by Hiller, who was on the staff as an assistant before his promotion.

"Yeah, you never want to see that happen. Especially with my dad (Manitoba Moose assistant-coach Eric Dubois) working in that business, you never want to see (that). It's a person behind that too, so that was unfortunate," said Dubois. "But I mean, when a new coach comes in, me and Jimmy had a relationship before and the relationship continued to develop as he's been the head coach. We've had good conversations about what he wants to see (from me) and it's my job to go out there and do what I'm told."

Hiller was asked what his primary objective was in trying to get the best out of Dubois after taking over as the bench boss.

"I just think it was a bit of a reset for PL, more than anything," said Hiller. "I don't think he liked the way that the first half went, so it was a chance to clear his head, get a break over the All-Star break, come back and make a push. That's what he's done."

## **Winnipeg Sun**

### **[Perfetti pots pair to help Jets end six-game slide](#)**

By Scott Billeck

Cole Perfetti woke up on Monday morning not expecting to suit up against the Los Angeles Kings.

There's a good chance he won't have to worry about that anymore.

With Tyler Toffoli under the weather, Perfetti put in one of the best performances of his career, scoring twice and adding a helper to lead the Jets out of their six-game losing slump in a 4-3 win over the Los Angeles Kings at Canada Life Centre.

“Going home from morning skate I had a pretty good idea,” Perfetti said, with Toffoli labelled as a game-time decision. “I didn’t know 100%, but prepared as if I was and came to the rink and when I got here, he wasn’t here.

“I just went about it as if it was a normal game day. Luckily enough I was in, so it was good.”

Winnipeg improved to 45-24-6, moving four points back of the Colorado Avalanche for second place after the Avs lost in Columbus earlier in the night. Dallas is seven points up the road in first place, with all three of the top teams in the Central Division having seven games remaining.

Perfetti broke a 3-3 deadlock with 6:55 left in the third, ripping his 17th from the right face-off dot past Cam Talbot moments after Kings forward Trevor Moore skied a breakaway attempt shorthanded 200 feet the other way.

“I was a little nervous there, luckily they didn’t score,” Perfetti said. “But it led right the other way for our goal. That was a big swing, obviously. Really big.”

The 2020 first-round pick had been a healthy scratch in six of Winnipeg’s past nine games, including the previous two before getting back into the lineup.

“It was huge for my confidence,” Perfetti said. “Just getting put in there for that chance. And then obviously, going to the net and banging one in early. That felt great. We created lots as a line, scored lots as a line. So that felt really good.

“I was just really happy that I could contribute and help get back into that. I missed that for a little bit. It just feels really good to get back and help this team win.”

The 22-year-old opened the scoring 11:14 into the first, jamming home his 16th at the side of the net. Dylan DeMelo set a career-high with his 28th point after assisting on Peretti’s goal.

“(Perfetti’s) been working really hard,” head coach Rick Bowness said. “The coaches have been spending a lot of time with him. I did tell him, ‘Listen, when you get back in, we’re going to give you more time with the top six.’ That’s more his game, so he took full advantage of it. Give him credit for that. Tyler goes down and he’s ready to go. We put him in there and he did a great job tonight.”

From Perfetti’s opener on, the game was a series of back-and-forth punches, starting with Viktor Arvidsson tying the game up 1:16 after Perfetti’s opener.

Kevin Fiala’s 25th gave L.A. their first lead of the game, answered by Sean Monahan at 11:49.

Anze Kopitar would restore the lead at 13:56 before Josh Morrissey tied the game 3-3 from a slick feed by Perfetti at 16:47.

“It was a great dish,” Morrissey said. “He played a great game. Nice to see him using his tools out there and playing with confidence. Great look, and a huge game for us.”

Kyle Connor finished the game with a trio of helpers.

Laurent Brossoit made 25 saves for his 13th win in his 21st game played.

The Jets' backup needs four more appearances to satisfy the 25-game threshold to have his name etched on the William Jennings Trophy, should he and Connor Hellebuyck allow the fewest goals against at the end of the regular season.

Winnipeg's goaltending tandem currently paces the NHL, with 187 goals allowed, one fewer than Paul Maurice's Florida Panthers.

Jets head coach Rick Bowness said Nino Niederreiter needed a few stitches to repair a cut to his leg after he exited the game midway through the third.

Meanwhile, Winnipegger and longtime NHL linesman Ryan Galloway officiated his final NHL game on Monday, getting a standing ovation from the 13,334 in attendance, including around 400 friends and family members in the stands.

After the game, Galloway, who suited up in over 1,400 games during his career, shared a moment and a hug with Jets captain Adam Lowry and Kings captain Anze Kopitar, both presenting him with respective team jerseys and game sticks.

### **[BILLECK: Jets rolled with punches, landed knockout blow](#)**

By Scott Billeck

Monday night in downtown Winnipeg seemed to be charting a familiar course.

The Winnipeg Jets found the game's opening goal against the visiting Los Angeles Kings, only to cough up the next one shortly after that.

Soon, the team trailed and a question was once again being asked of the local hockey club.

Would they find the fight within, or would they find another way to lose?

If the Jets are to realize any success later this month when the playoffs commence, they'll need to follow the blueprint they wrote in their 4-3 win at Canada Life Centre on Monday.

It will come from the ability to rebound from the valleys they find themselves in throughout a 60-minute hockey game.

It will be the ability to counter the jabs and hit with the final overhand right, as they did against the Kings.

"We played hard," Josh Morrissey said, fresh off his one-and-one performance that helped his team steady the ship in the second period. "Went through a little bit of adversity going down in the game. Found a way to come back multiple times. Didn't lose our confidence. I thought we did a good job. It's nice to get that one. Hopefully, we can look forward now and continue to get our game right."

Morrissey's team didn't take too many steps forward during their six-game slide leading into Monday's test. And the times they managed to put one foot in front of the other were often trampled over as they stumbled backward.

Their win over the Kings ended on the right foot after beginning on the wrong one.

Winnipeg was a little too loose early, and Laurent Brossoit was fighting the puck for much of the night.

One would suspect he'd play Viktor Arvidsson's clapper a little differently next time. The goal that answered Cole Perfetti's opener caught a lot of people off guard, not just Winnipeg's backup goalie.

Few pull up halfway into the zone, on their off-wing, and launch a missile off the bar and down.

The Kings' third goal came courtesy of a poor clearing attempt that ended on a shot that two Kings and one Jet screened.

It wasn't the goals that made Brossoit look shaky, it was the in-between moments. A rare off night from a guy who has given Winnipeg his best all season long.

The team's structure tightened up as the game progressed, with fewer chances coming from the more dangerous areas of the ice.

And they benefitted from a little luck.

Trevor Moore was gifted a shorthanded breakaway just before Perfetti ripped home his second of the night, the game-winner, just as the only power play in the game ended.

"I was a little nervous there, luckily they didn't score," Perfetti said after one of his best games as a pro. "But it led right the other way for our goal. That was a big swing, obviously. Really big."

Big enough to end the skid, a stretch where the Jets were made to pay often for similar transgressions.

"They were on top of us at times, we were on top of them at times," head coach Rick Bowness said. "It was a pretty even game. But yeah, it was good to see us... I know we had to keep tying it up but there was a lot of fight in our group."

Bowness's latest shuffle of the deck produced varying results.

His top line continued its struggles, outshot 11-1 during the game even with Nikolaj Ehlers in Kyle Connor's normal spot.

The second line was better, getting the better of the shots 11-8 and scoring chances 9-7, including a 5-2 edge on Grade-A looks.

Bowness has tinkered all season with his lines, so it will be interesting to see if he allows a little leash to figure something out with Mark Scheifele's unit, in particular.

Perfetti shouldn't be seeing the press box any time soon. He, Connor and Sean Monahan accounted for three of the team's four goals, while being on the ice for two of the three against.

Still, Perfetti looked just fine, even after being scratched in six of his past nine. He was back in the top six, where he looked comfortable.

He's not a fourth-liner. Go figure.

Tyler Toffoli, who opened the door for Perfetti's return after waking up sick on Monday, could see himself on the third line against Calgary on Thursday.

Nino Niederreiter was cut on the leg midway through the third, a wound that required a few stitches to repair. His availability against the Flames won't be known until Wednesday when the team returns to practice.

For now, the Jets can rest easy knowing they played a much better game than they had over the past couple of weeks.

They just can't rest on their laurels with seven games left before the season is truly on the line.

- A real show of class by both teams on Monday toward Winnipegger and longtime NHL linesman Ryan Galloway, who ended his 22-year career on home ice. Both captains — Winnipeg's Adam Lowry and Los Angeles' Anze Kopitar — gave their game sticks and personalized team jerseys to Galloway, who appeared in more than 1,400 games. Both teams lined up to shake his hand after the game, and he was greeted by Bowness and Jets co-owner Mark Chipman before he left the ice surface for the final time.

- Here's Morrissey on Galloway: 'He's just always a smiling face out there. Obviously, he's one of the great ones, so our game's going to miss him. As a defenceman, probably your most interaction with the linesman is picking up pucks on icings and giving it to them. So many times throughout the years, the game happens fast and he always read the play so well. I don't think there was once I ever felt he was in the way out there. Just had a great feel for the game, a great sense of humour and energy. Always said hi every game and had a big smile on his face. A special moment for him, being from Winnipeg. I think that the fans embracing him, both teams, was pretty special for me to watch. The game's definitely going to miss him. Congratulations to him on an amazing career.'

- Bowness, too, had some kind words: "I was telling him, 'I don't know if I was there for your very first game.' But I'm very happy to be there for his last one. I was here for his whole career. I think that anytime a referee leaves and he has the full respect of the players and the full respect of the coaches around the league, you know he's had a great career, so I'm very happy for him."

## **Los Angeles Times**

### **[Kings can't hold lead against Jets and suffer their third straight loss](#)**

By ASSOCIATED PRESS

WINNIPEG, Canada — Cole Perfetti scored twice and Kyle Connor contributed a trio of assists as the Winnipeg Jets ended a six-game losing skid with a 4-3 victory over the Kings on Monday.



The Jets went on the game's first power play midway through the third period with the score tied 3-3. Perfetti, a healthy scratch for the last two games, fired a low shot past Kings goalie Cam Talbot two seconds after the man advantage expired.

"I'm not going to lie, it wasn't easy. It has been tough the last little bit," Perfetti said of sitting out. "I just tried to come to work every day with a positive mindset and be a good teammate.

"If an opportunity presented itself, I just wanted to be ready. An opportunity came tonight, and I just tried whatever I could to seize the moment."

Josh Morrissey had a goal and an assist and Sean Monahan also scored for the Jets. Perfetti registered a helper on Morrissey's second-period goal. Laurent Brossoit made 25 saves for Winnipeg.

"It was a great dish," Morrissey said. "[Perfetti] played a great game. Nice to see him using his tools out there and playing with confidence. Great look, and a huge game for us."

Jets coach Rick Bowness said Perfetti has been working hard with the coaches.

"I did tell him, 'Listen, when you get back in, we're going to give you more time with the top six,'" Bowness said. "That's more his game, so he took full advantage of it. Give him credit for that."

Viktor Arvidsson, Kevin Fiala and Anze Kopitar scored for the Kings. Defenseman Vladislav Gavrikov had two assists and Talbot stopped 28 shots.

"We had a lot of guys who played really hard, I thought," Kings interim coach Jim Hiller said. "[The Jets are] a good team, they were desperate.

"I thought it was a good hockey game both ways. We go down and have a breakaway, they come back and get one. It's that close."

Both sides have struggled recently, with Winnipeg going 0-5-1 heading into the game. The Kings have lost three straight.

Monday's game was tied 1-1 after the first period and 3-3 heading into the third.

Perfetti flipped in a loose puck at the side of the crease to give the Jets a 1-0 lead 11:14 into the opening frame.

Arvidsson tied the score at 12:30 with a blast from high in the circle.

Fiala got the puck rolling in a four-goal second period when he recorded his 25th goal after spinning quickly and firing the puck past a screened Brossoit at 5:48.

Monahan evened the score at 2-2 at the 11:49 mark when a pass from Morrissey went in off his skate.

The Kings broke the tie just over two minutes later with Kopitar's 26th goal of the season from the slot, but Morrissey made it 3-3 at 16:47.

Arvidsson was called for holding the stick at 11:03 of the third.

Kings forward Trevor Moore went on a short-handed breakaway but fired wide of the net.

The Jets then went the other way and Perfetti scored his 17th at 13:05.

Up next for the Kings: host Seattle on Wednesday night.

## **The Athletic**

### **[How Winnipeg Jets' Cole Perfetti stepped up after string of healthy scratches: 'It's not been easy'](#)**

By Murat Ates

It's rare to see an NHL player as visibly frustrated after a win as Cole Perfetti was on March 15.

Perfetti walked in the bowels of Canada Life Centre beside fellow healthy scratch, Dylan Samberg, looking downtrodden. Despite the Winnipeg Jets' 6-0 demolition of the Anaheim Ducks, Perfetti's face conveyed disappointment and perhaps even a bit of anger.

Perfetti, scratched for the third time in two weeks, hadn't been a part of the on-ice celebrations. It's hard enough for veterans to feel like a big piece of a win when they're watching from the sidelines; it's harder still for 22-year-old first-round picks with just over 100 games of NHL experience. Perfetti had spent two months watching his name slide down the Jets' lineup card, from carefully measured top-six minutes to fourth-line duties and then, after 15 games without a point, the first healthy scratches of his career.

Yet there he was on Tuesday in Winnipeg, jumping into a lane at the tail end of Winnipeg's desperate, late-game power play, taking Neal Pionk's pass and positively wiring it past Cam Talbot. Perfetti's 4-3 third-period snipe was his second goal and third point of the night, matching his point production in 26 games since his cold snap began on Jan. 11. His line with Kyle Connor and Sean Monahan had driven the Jets' success and now, with 6:55 left on the clock against Los Angeles, Perfetti had scored the goal that ended Winnipeg's six-game losing streak.

How did he get from the lowest point of his young career to a two-goal, one-assist, game-winning performance?

The answer is a lot of work, on and off the ice.

"It's not been easy. There's been some darker days," Perfetti told The Athletic in March. "You feel like you gave it your all, you played really well and produced for 35, 40 games, whatever it was, I don't remember exactly but you feel like for a long chunk of the season you helped and produced. But it's not always going to go your way in hockey. There's going to be some bad luck."

Perfetti was an OHL star from the time he was 16. He was selected by the Jets at No. 10 in 2020 and produced 26 points in 32 games for the Manitoba Moose when he was 19. It's the pedigree of a top-six forward who gets first-unit power-play time. Instead, back-to-back upper-body injuries cut his first two NHL seasons short.

His 2023-24 season began with a series of heavy hits — a training camp head shot from Calgary's Martin Pospisil, which earned Pospisil a game misconduct, and a hit from behind by the Kings' Andreas Englund in October. The familiar, lifelong criticisms — too small — became a frequent topic of Perfetti discourse. He didn't miss time for either hit, instead producing 19 points in his first 25 games of the season.

Then came the minute management. Head coach Rick Bowness routinely sat Perfetti with the Jets up by a goal. His offence continued to hum — pro-rated for ice time, Perfetti has scored the fifth-most goals and third-most primary assists among Jets — but his ice time lagged behind. He went on a two-week tear after a controversial high-stick from Minnesota Wild forward Ryan Hartman and then, suddenly, the bounces dried up.

"I've got to take some of the blame on myself," Perfetti told *The Athletic*. "I could have played better in some of those games and I know that. I'm aware of that. But that's the way it goes. Sometimes you get into a funk. Sometimes you get into a drought. At my age and my stage in my career, if you go dry for 10 games when you're on a good team, it's probably not looking good for you. That's just the way it is and it's a learning curve for me. These last two months have not been easy."

One of Perfetti's biggest challenges is that he's not carving out a career for himself in a vacuum. The team he plays for is heavily invested in a playoff run, starting the season with seven-year contract extensions for Connor Hellebuyck and Mark Scheifele, Perfetti's close friend. It went on to re-sign Nino Niederreiter and acquire top-six veterans like Monahan and Tyler Toffoli without trading away a single player on the roster. Bowness made it to the Stanley Cup Final in 2020 running a top six, a checking line and a fourth line of grinding players and he's following the same format in Winnipeg. When Monahan, Toffoli and Gabriel Vilardi were all in the lineup, Bowness struggled to find playing time for the next generation of Jets stars.

Perfetti got into Tuesday's game because Toffoli was ill. He understood at morning skate that Toffoli was sick and carried himself throughout the day as though he was going to play. He says the biggest thing he's working on off the ice is letting go of the things he can't control. Ice time, opportunity and puck luck aren't within his purview, so he's focusing on his attitude instead.

Perfetti, who says it's his nature to overthink things, is willing to walk the harder, more rewarding path.

In one version of the story of Perfetti's career, this season's healthy scratches become the precursor for further disappointment. If he pouts or blames other people for his lack of minutes, he'll end up buried beyond this one year. People will talk about how he was too small or too slow or how he never learned to produce in the NHL, despite scoring (slightly) more points per game than Quinton Byfield, Anton Lundell and Alexis Lafrenière.

In another, more satisfying version of his story, Perfetti takes control of the things he can control, brings a positive attitude to the rink and makes good on the opportunities that a player with his skill set will eventually, inevitably receive — whether that's Thursday night against Calgary, in the playoffs or even next season.

"I'm working on it. It's hard," Perfetti said. "Mentally, I'm hard on myself. I don't let stuff go very easily," Perfetti said. "I worry. I think about the future, I think about the past, all that kind of stuff. But all that I can control is to go play my game and play the best that I can."

Perfetti's industry is one in which results dictate opportunity, opportunity dictates results, and results dictate compensation. He produced like a top-six forward when he played in the top six, partially because of his hockey sense, hands and playmaking ability, and in part because he played important minutes alongside Nikolaj Ehlers and Vladislav Namestnikov. The line outscored its opposition 10-5 at even strength, mostly before Connor's injury and Ehlers' promotion to the top line, and Perfetti arrived at that point of the season with 19 points in 25 games.

Consider the difference in salary available to a player who finished the season with 58 points, as Perfetti was on pace to do as of the season's midway point, and 32 points, which is where he stands today. It's the difference between getting a little bit less than Troy Terry money (\$7 million AAV over seven years after consecutive 60-point seasons) and a much, much cheaper bridge deal — not to mention the \$850,000 in performance bonuses that are slipping away this season.

Perfetti is a pending RFA. We didn't talk about his upcoming contract last week. We did discuss his long offensive slump, the pressure to produce and what it's been like to go through the healthy scratch process at this stage of his career.

What has he learned?

"All that I can control is to go play my game and play the best that I can," he said. "If they don't like it, that's out of my control. If a puck goes in or not, that's out of my control. All I can do is give my honest effort every single time.

"Something I'm working on is trying to leave the past and future alone and just stay in the present and not worry. It just adds an extra level of stress and doesn't help you. So yes, it's been hard for me, but I'm working on it."

Looking at Winnipeg's most likely playoff lineup, it's hard to imagine ice time opening up for him anytime soon. Niederreiter was cut on Tuesday, requiring stitches, but he's expected back before the playoffs and plays a different role than Perfetti.

Bowness says he's being as transparent as he can be with Perfetti, communicating with him regularly in an effort to make the tough times less difficult, but he knows how much it stings.

"We're very honest and upfront with Cole," Bowness said last week. "He's handling it well. That doesn't mean he's accepting it, he's not. I get that and I love that. You've got to fight back a little bit."

So Perfetti bided his time, advocating for himself with Bowness where possible. He says it hasn't been easy but that he's trying to help in any way he can when he does get the opportunity to play. His goal is to build trust, step by step. He sees himself as an impact player in the NHL — he says he knows he can be one but needs to work as hard as he can with the opportunities he receives to get to that level.

For now? A moment of relief, excitement, brightness — and most importantly for Winnipeg, its first win since March 19.

There is also a rare and most precious intangible that comes with scoring a game-winning goal with a scorching wrist shot like Perfetti did on Tuesday.

“It was huge for my confidence. Just getting put in there for that chance. And then obviously, going to the net and banging one in early. That felt great. We created lots as a line, scored lots as a line. So that felt really good. I was just really happy that I could contribute and help get back into that,” Perfetti said Tuesday night. “I missed that for a little bit. It just feels really good to get back and help this team win.”

He’s young, he’s still growing and his biggest impact in Winnipeg’s top six is yet to come. But Perfetti has achieved some key items on his quest to establish himself exactly right.

**TSN.ca**

**[How were Jets able to put an end to longest losing streak of season against Kings? \(VIDEO\)](#)**

TSN Director of Scouting Craig Button joins SportsCentre to discuss how the Jets were able to end their longest losing streak of the season against the Kings and if they still have a chance to win the Central Division.