

**Winnipegjets.com**

**[Jets Prospect Report - April](#)  
**[Updates on Bauer, Lambert, McGroarty and more](#)****

By Jamie Thomas

Tyrell Bauer is in his second pro season with the Manitoba Moose and night in and night out, the sixth-round pick of the Winnipeg Jets gives his all.

You will never question his effort, his physicality and the protection he provides his teammates. All part of the leadership qualities that seem to come naturally to the 22-year-old defenceman.

“Yeah, I just try to be I just try to be a good teammate is really what it comes down to. Like I said, making sure guys know I have their backs that's on the ice, that's off the ice. Showing up every day to work trying to do the little things the little things right,” said Bauer on the Ground Control podcast last week.

“And you know, some guys might look at it and you know, it's their take to it as they want to do with it. But you know, for me, it's just show up and be me every day and see where that goes.”

Bauer was the captain of the Seattle Thunderbirds of the Western Hockey League for two seasons. While he doesn't wear a letter right now for the Moose, that doesn't stop him from speaking up on and off the ice.

“I'm just showing up and being me. I'm gonna be me on the ice, work hard, try to push the guys off the ice. You know, just let it let everybody know that I'm there for them if they ever need anything and, you know, try to have an impact that way too,” said Bauer.

“So, you know, it's a time thing but as is a lot of a lot of stuff, but just go out there and work your hardest every day and try to be a good influence on the team.”

The Moose enter April coming off their best month of the 2023-24 campaign. Manitoba won 10 of their 14 games and with nine games remaining on their schedule, the Moose sit seven points up on Iowa for the final playoff spot in the Central. They are five back of Texas for fourth with a game in hand on the Stars.

“Yeah, we're rolling right now. We feel good. I don't know if I can pinpoint any one thing. It's just we're starting to come together. We're starting to learn we're starting to read off each other,” said Bauer.

“You know, we've been working really hard practices games to try to adjust little pieces of our game and figure out what it takes to play at this level. And I think we're doing that now. And it's showing on the ice.”

A big part of the Moose blueline is Ville Heinola. The Finnish defenceman looked to have a roster spot locked up with the Jets in September before a devastating ankle injury changed those plans in early October. Heinola worked hard to come back and has now played 32 games with Manitoba. Bauer knows a thing or two about coming back from a serious injury as he overcame a knee injury during his time with Seattle.

“Ville’s has been great. He came back from that injury stepped back in, he's trying to do what he has to do to you know, turn all the heads he has turn,” said Bauer.

“So, he's obviously great for us on the ice and he does a lot off the ice that is kind of noteworthy.”

While the Moose haven’t clinched a spot yet, Bauer is mentally locked in on getting primed up for the final games of the regular season and hopefully a long postseason run.

I mean, it's the best time of the year. It's what we do it for. You know, this stretch, kind of before the playoffs is crunch time. It feels like playoffs, playoff atmosphere on the ice in the dressing room, we feel it,” said Bauer.

“And you know as that time of year gets closer, you know it naturally gives the team more incentive to play and play hard because it is an exciting time of year. It is why we play this game. And it's building and it's fun to be around.”

#### *MOOSE UPDATE*

The Moose have eight games remaining (as of April 3) with four games against teams chasing them in the division (two at home vs. Chicago and two at home vs. Iowa) and two games against a team they are chasing (at Texas).

Brad Lambert won the AHL Rookie of the Month award for March, Lambert is the fifth player in Moose history to be named Rookie of the Month. He joins Cole Perfetti (April 2021), Brenden Kichton (Jan. 2014), Cory Schneider (March 2008) and Kevin Biekse (March 2005).

#### *OTHER PROSPECT NOTES*

F Rutger McGroarty (2022, 1st round), McGroarty and Michigan are heading back to the Frozen Four for the third straight season after beating rival Michigan State 5-2 in the Midwest Regional in St. Louis. Michigan will now travel to Saint Paul, MN for the 2024 Frozen Four on April 11 and will face number one ranked Boston College with a spot in the National Championship on the line.

G Dom DiVincentiis (2022, 7th round), DiVincentiis led North Bay to 1-0 series lead in their matchup with Kingston in the OHL Playoffs by being named the third star of the night. The Jets prospect was injured in the first period of Game 2, did not return and didn’t dress for the Battalion in Game 3. DiVincentiis is listed as day-to-day with a lower body injury ahead of Game 4 in Kingston which goes Wednesday night.

F Colby Barlow (2023, 1st round), Barlow and his Owen Sound Attack face elimination Wednesday night as they trail Saginaw 3-0 in their best-of-seven series. Barlow has two points (1G, 1A) and ten shots on goal in the series.

F Jacob Julien (2023, 5th round), Julien and the London Knights lead the Flint Firebirds. Julien has three assists in the first three games and the Knights hold a 3-0 series lead.

F Connor Levis (2023, 7th round), Levis (2A) and the Vancouver Giants are tied 1-1 with Everett with Game 3 scheduled for Wednesday night.

#### **Winnipeg Free Press**

## [Perfetti's perseverance pays off with huge night against Kings](#) [Forward the difference in slump-busting victory](#)

By: Mike McIntyre

It's one thing to portray patience and positivity, as Cole Perfetti did while the healthy scratches — something he'd never previously experienced in his hockey career — began to pile up.

When opportunity knocks, be ready. Boy, was he ever.

A terrific two-goal, one-assist performance Monday night by the 22-year-old forward — in a game he wasn't even supposed to suit up for — has raised an interesting question for the Winnipeg Jets.

How in the world does team brass park him back in the press box now?

"We will see what the lineup looks like on Thursday. You know I'm not going to answer that," coach Rick Bowness said in the aftermath of a 4-3 victory over the Los Angeles Kings.

It snapped the Central Division squad's season-high six-game winless streak.

When top winger Tyler Toffoli called in sick, the door opened for Perfetti to move from what was expected to be a third consecutive scratch (and seventh this season) to a prime spot on the second line with centre Sean Monahan and Kyle Connor.

In 60 magical minutes, Perfetti had equalled his point production over the previous 26 games dating back to Jan. 9 when he also had two goals and an assist against the visiting Columbus Blue Jackets.

"I'm not going to lie, it wasn't easy. It has been tough the last little bit," Perfetti said, during a post-game scrum.

"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 (Monday) and I just tried whatever I could to seize the moment. The last 25 games have been a roller-coaster. But just being ready at all times and staying engaged and focused in practices and just trying to be the best I can be. (Monday) felt really good."

Assuming Toffoli has shaken the bug by the time the Jets host the Calgary Flames on Thursday night, what might that mean for Perfetti?

One option is leaving him exactly where he is and finding another spot for Toffoli on another line. In a results-oriented business, shouldn't Perfetti be given another look almost immediately?

"He played a great game. Nice to see him using his tools out there and playing with confidence," said defenceman Josh Morrissey, who scored his ninth goal of the season off a beautiful dish from Perfetti.

Not only did the 2020 first-round draft pick have a three-point night, but Connor racked up three assists while Monahan scored his 24th of the year.

“Obviously, the Monahan line had a big night for us. That made the difference in the game,” said Bowness.

Does that sound like a trio to immediately disassemble?

“(Perfetti) has been working really hard. The coaches have been spending a lot of time with him,” Bowness continued. “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.”

As for Toffoli, it makes sense to keep the reunited top line of Mark Scheifele, Nikolaj Ehlers and Gabe Vilardi together. While they didn’t have a big night on the stats sheet against Los Angeles, they did control possession and zone time in impressive fashion and also have a proven track record from the recent past.

How about putting Toffoli beside Adam Lowry on the third line? He could either take the spot of right-winger Mason Appleton, giving that shutdown line a little more offensive pop, or that of left-winger Nino Niederreiter, whose status is uncertain after suffering a skate cut to his leg in the third period against the Kings.

After back-to-back two goal outings, Toffoli has now gone seven straight games without a goal and has just one assist in that span. If Bowness is reluctant to break up the most consistent line he’s had all year in Niederreiter-Lowry-Appleton, you could always work Toffoli in on the fourth line with one of Vlad Namestnikov, Alex Lafallo or Morgan Barron taking a seat in a bit of a rotation to keep everyone fresh.

File this one under good problems to have.

The Jets cancelled Tuesday’s scheduled practice and took the day off, but we should get some clarity on the situation when they hit the ice on Wednesday.

“It was huge for my confidence. Just getting put in there for that chance,” Perfetti said. “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.”

**STINGIEST SQUAD** — Don’t look now, but the Jets are back in a tie for top spot in the race for the William M. Jennings Trophy, which is awarded to the NHL team that gives up the fewest goals in the regular season.

Winnipeg and the Florida Panthers have each surrendered 186, with seven games each left to play. Los Angeles is third at 192 while the Carolina Hurricanes (194) and Vancouver Canucks (195) rounded out the top five heading into action Tuesday night.

Whether they ultimately win it or not, the Jets are focused on making defensive dominance a priority once again after their play had slipped in recent games.

“I think we did a lot of good things,” Morrissey said, of the latest effort against the Kings.

“I thought we did a good job of limiting their looks. Obviously, they’ve got some good players. Every team is going to make plays. I thought our commitment to getting in the shooting lane was better. Just the little extra effort plays that it takes to knock a puck down or be in the right spot. Everyone says it’s a game of inches, right. Just a little extra effort sometimes can be the difference between getting a stick on a pass or a shot and getting in a lane and getting the puck out. I thought the urgency was a lot better for our group (Monday).”

In order to get your name on the trophy, a goaltender must make at least 25 appearances in the season. Jets backup Laurent Brossoit made his 20th start, and 21st appearance, against Los Angeles and stopped 25 of 28 shots he faced. Is there a scenario where he can get in four more games over the remaining seven?

No.1 netminder Connor Hellebuyck, the front-runner for the Vezina Trophy, is probably making five more starts, so the Jets would have to find a way to game the system a bit by sneaking Brossoit in for even a minute or two during a couple more games down the stretch. (Appearances, not starts, is the criteria).

Whether that ultimately occurs might depend on how meaningful the final games are and whether they are still fighting for positioning or locked into a certain spot. The Jets, who are currently in third place in the Central Division, can officially clinch a playoff spot Thursday with either a win against the Flames or a St. Louis Blues loss in regulation to the Nashville Predators.

## **Winnipeg Sun**

### **[FRIESEN: Fate hands Jets a kernel of hope](#)**

By Paul Friesen

A simple twist of fate. Don’t underestimate its power.

And it may have changed the course of a floundering team’s season.

The twist of fate, in this case, was a bug.

What if Winnipeg Jets forward Tyler Toffoli hadn’t caught that bug and had been able to play against the LA Kings on Monday?

We know one thing: Cole Perfetti wouldn’t have played.

Head coach Rick Bowness told us that on Monday morning.

The rest, we’ll never know for sure.

But the odds are, when you consider Perfetti scored twice, the Jets would have lost their seventh straight game, continuing a tailspin that was eating away at their psyches and turning them into likely fodder for another first-round playoff implosion.

Instead, Perfetti found himself doing the right thing in the right place at the right time to open the scoring in the first period, just his second goal since the first week of January, an agonizing stretch of 27 games where he was in and out of the lineup.

You could almost see the weight fall off those slender shoulders.

And when Perfetti fired a laser shot for the game-winner in the third – from virtually the same spot he'd been wiring shot after shot off the bar and into an empty net during the morning skate – you could almost see the young man grow.

"I'm not going to lie, it wasn't easy," Perfetti said of the last few months. "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, and I just tried whatever I could to seize the moment."

He had wondered, though, if that moment would ever come.

For half of his team's previous 16 games and six of the last nine, Perfetti had been scratched from the lineup in favour of someone else.

When he was playing, he was often getting fourth-line minutes, not exactly where someone picked 10th overall in the NHL draft should be.

Known for a smile that's hard to come by, Perfetti had no reason to.

That Mr. Serious look is a reflection of how hard the Whitby, Ont., product is on himself.

"The last 25 games has been a roller-coaster," he acknowledged.

The look on his face may lean to a sulk, but his actions in practice, in meetings, around the dressing room, said something else entirely.

"He'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."

When Perfetti found out he'd be in for the ailing Toffoli, though, he told his new linemates he was going to play a little like a fourth-liner.

He was going to keep it simple, he said to Sean Monahan and Kyle Connor before the game.

"I am not going to try to overdo things," is how he put it. "Just go to the net, while trying to open some ice for you and letting you make some plays. It worked and we created lots and scored a lot."

They were on the ice for all four Winnipeg goals, Monahan getting one, too, Perfetti setting up Josh Morrissey for the other.

Of course, focusing on the goals would feed into the very problem that's been plaguing this team: thinking offence, first.

And that's where Perfetti still forces his coach to think twice about his status.

His line was on the ice for the second and third Los Angeles goals, with Perfetti in position, on both, to have potentially prevented them with some more effective checking.

"I would have liked a couple of those back," he said. "If I can clean that up then those goals don't go in. We have lots to build off there. We haven't played together as a line, so that was a good start."

While the jolt of confidence should last a while for Perfetti, it'll likely take a little more to get his team fully believing again.

In the same way his self-esteem grew with each goal, the Jets' confidence will balloon with each win.

One is not enough. Neither is one line.

But it's a start.

If it becomes two at home against Calgary on Thursday, three in Minnesota on Saturday, then the Jets will start to believe in what they're doing again.

"Some of the things we did better defensively," Bowness said of Monday's performance. "But we'll keep working at it because we're not quite where we need to be."

If they get where they need to be, it'll look a lot like the team we saw in the first half of the season.

Of course, that takes a different level of commitment at this time of year.

"Hopefully we can get on a run now," Morrissey said. "And feel good about ourselves in the next number of games before the dance starts."

We'll see.

If they do, we'll look back at April Fool's Day, of all things, as the turning point.

The day the Jets began to look like themselves again.

Thanks, in part, to an invisible bug.

## **CTV Winnipeg**

### **['This is where my journey began': Winnipeg NHL linesman retires after 22 years](#)**

By Kimberly Rio Wertman

Winnipeg-born linesman, Ryan Galloway, has officially put on his stripes for the last time.

In a full-circle moment, the St. James native worked his last professional game on Monday night at the Canada Life Centre, when the Winnipeg Jets skated to a 4-3 victory over the Los Angeles Kings.

"It was a special night of emotions of happiness, sadness, of the end of 40 years of doing something I've absolutely loved, but I'm excited for the next chapter and where it's going to take my wife Rhonda and I," said Galloway.

Around 200 friends and family were in attendance to celebrate Galloway's momentous 1,406th game, where he was honoured by both teams for his storied 22-years in the league.

"Both the Kings and the Jets presented me with a signed jersey from the entire team," said Galloway, "Two of the classiest men that we have in hockey, Anze Kopitar and the captain of the LA Kings, and Adam Lowry, the captain of the Winnipeg Jets both presented me with one of their signed sticks. The Winnipeg Jets organization gave me a nice framed game puck and game sheet from last night. Just wonderful items that I'm going to treasure for a very long time,"

After the excitement of the game, Galloway's nearest and dearest continued the celebration with a reception which was attended by nearly 300 people.

"All these people that have been along on the journey with me," he said, "I've been on their shoulders, they've, carried me, and it was just incredible, the support that both my wife and I have been given."

Despite his deep affinity for the game, about 5 years ago, Galloway said he signed a succession planning agreement with the League, something he said has enabled him to go out on positive note.

"My heart and head still, you know, loves the game and still feel I could do it. But my body's starting to tell me otherwise. These players still stay the same age and we keep getting older so it's tougher and tougher to keep up with the game. It was just time."

Galloway said he first fell in love with officiating at the age of 12, and started off his career working "five, six, and seven-year-old hockey."

"I used to get paid with a hot dog and hot chocolate at the outdoor rink after the games and just progressed up through the ranks," said Galloway, adding he then worked every level of hockey in the province including the Western Hockey League.

His first NHL game was an exhibition one here at home, between the Vancouver Canucks and Edmonton Oilers in 2002.

"I always count that first game in Winnipeg as (being) my first game in the NHL, and I was incredibly fortunate to be able to celebrate my 1000th game in Winnipeg... and I was able to be here for that first game, when Jets 2.0 came back. It was very exciting."

### *MANY CHANGES THROUGH THE DECADES*

After more than 20 years in the sport's top league Galloway's witnessed lots of changes within it.



“The focus on fitness, the focus on athleticism, on skating, that's been a huge change as far as the expectations and what is required to do this job,” he said, “Technology obviously, has been a huge, huge change...When I first started, we used to get a VHS tape brought down to the dressing room after the game. And that's when we would watch the game and review our work, and our calls. And now we've got HD cameras that are on the blue line that are picking up every play,”

As for what this next chapter holds for him, Galloway says he'd like to get more involved with Hockey Manitoba and the Junior Hockey League, and provide some coaching and guidance to the next generation.

In true Manitoba fashion, he's also looking forward to spending some quality time with his wife at their Betula Lake cottage.

“It's going to be really nice just to be able to get to the cottage and not have a schedule of when we need to leave,” he said saying it will be nice to exercise without having to work out professionally.

When it comes to reflecting on the end of his professional career in the NHL, the fact that he got to celebrate the momentous occasion in his hometown of all places, was not lost on him.

“It was as incredibly special night being able to celebrate here in Winnipeg at home. This is where my journey began. And it was it was fitting to be able to have it wrap up and end in Winnipeg,” said Galloway.

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**[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.