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<https://www.nhl.com/jets/news/three-things-jets-blank-oilers-2-0>

***Three things - Jets blank Oilers 2-0
Jets wrap up 2024 Young Stars Classic with 2-0 win***

By Jamie Thomas

PENTICTON – The Winnipeg Jets closed out the 2024 Young Stars Classic with a 2-0 win over the Edmonton Oilers to finish the three-game tournament 2-1.

Daniel Torgersson and Henri Nikkanen scored for the Jets, Thomas Milic and Dom DiVincentiis combined to stop all 27 Oiler shots for the shutout.

1. MILIC SOLID TOURNAMENT

The Moose goaltender stopped 36 of the 39 shots he faced in the five periods that he played including a perfect 19-for-19 this afternoon. Milic was a big part of the Moose qualifying for the AHL playoffs last spring and wants to build off that performance in his second pro campaign.

“Felt super comfortable out there and the guys were willing to step into the lanes for me. Forechecking hard, keeping them on their heels,” said Milic.

“Made Dom and my job easy, obviously he took over in the towards the end there and kept it rolling.”

2. BIG DAY FOR TORGERSSON

The Jets came to this tournament with a more experienced roster led by three players who are in Penticton for a third time. Brad Lambert, Henri Nikkanen and Daniel Torgersson had some high expectations placed on them to play well. Torgersson, who the Jets drafted in the second round back in 2020 scored his first goal of the weekend and was driving play alongside Nikkanen and Mark Liwiski.

“Yeah, it felt like I had a great start was involved in pretty much everything when we were on the ice,” said Torgersson.

“Felt like let’s keep moving on that and I felt a little tired in the legs today and I was just trying to be involved around the puck as much as possible. I’m one of those guys that want to have the puck out there.”

3. YAGER FITTING IN

Fans wanted to see how one of the newest Jets prospects was going to fit in with this team and from the start of the weekend, Brayden Yager was impressive. The last two games he centred the second line with Colby Barlow and Nikita Chibrikov. But most importantly, he felt more comfortable every game that he played in.

“Obviously there is no better way to bond with the guys than on the ice, I thought that was really good. I think we grew as a group throughout the whole tournament,” said Yager.

“First couple of games were kind of tough. One or two practices and then right into a game and kind of you are kind of just playing off instincts. I thought as we got into today’s game it was a lot better, I thought we had a lot more sustained pressure in the offensive zone.”

<https://www.nhl.com/jets/news/klimchuk-ready-for-next-challenge>

Klimchuk ready for next challenge

Klimchuk: "It's interesting for sure to have kind of come full circle.

By Jamie Thomas

PENTICTON – If there is anyone who understands what the Jets prospects are going through this weekend at the Young Stars Classic, it’s Manitoba Moose assistant coach Morgan Klimchuk.

The product of Regina, SK won’t turn 30 until next March and has been in their shoes before. He was selected by the Calgary Flames in the first round of the 2013 National Hockey League Draft, and now finds himself behind the bench coaching players in the exact same spot he was in less than 10 years ago.

“It’s interesting for sure to have kind of come full circle, to be standing on the other side of the bench now,” said Klimchuk moments after the Winnipeg Jets prospects finished practice on Saturday.

“I was excited for the opportunity as a player and I’m equally if not more excited for the opportunity again to be on the other side of it coaching. I’m also excited to be working with such special young talent.”

Klimchuk wrapped up his playing career back in spring of 2020 with 26 points in 49 AHL games with the Belleville Senators. His pro career lasted five seasons with Stockton, Toronto, and Belleville, and while he can’t lock down the exact moment during his time playing where he knew he wanted to coach, he remembers what led him down the path.

“There was a couple of moments when I was younger. Whether I was working on something myself and kind of dragged some friends into it or went out of my way to show someone something and kind of had some success with it from a coaching standpoint,” said Klimchuk.

“I remember that I was enjoying it and good friends or teammates enjoying it and getting something out of it and improving. At that point in time, I was like ‘I’m obviously playing now but I seem to have a bit of a knack for this, I seem to enjoy it, so maybe down the road that could be a potential future for me.’”

It all began shortly after his playing career. Klimchuk started with private skill development in Calgary and the 29-year-old received some great feedback from the players that he was working with.

Klimchuk began coaching with the Edge U15 Prep team in Calgary, then stepped behind the bench as an assistant with the Victoria Royals of the Western Hockey League during the 2021-22 season. His favourite moment of his coaching career came shortly after, when he served as head coach for the Royals when the team moved on from former bench boss, Dan Price, and before ultimately hiring James Patrick.

“I got to coach for a home game against Red Deer in Victoria and it was a good game,” said Klimchuk.

“After the game, kind of the reaction from the team and the excitement they had and obviously the support they gave me was a special moment for me and something I’ll never forget.”

When Moose assistant coach Nolan Baumgartner left to join the Ottawa Senators coaching staff this spring, Craig Heisinger hired Klimchuk in mid-June. Klimchuk is already looking forward to the different challenge of coaching AHL players after working in major junior.

“There is more maturity to the game (at the AHL level). Some of the things are similar because hockey is the same game at both levels, but little things like systems and structures have been played for a number of years. You are not installing it for the first time, there is familiarity with it,” said Klimchuk.

“Whether it’s systems or technical skill, they have done a lot of it before, and you can kind of fine tune things they already have repetition at. It makes it a little bit easier in that sense and changes the challenge in terms of actually helping them in both those areas.”

Klimchuk also has an advantage of reaching the Jets prospects considering it wasn’t that long ago that he was in their spot.

“It’s a unique perspective to provide,” said Klimchuk. “I think the players appreciate that and they seem to seek that advice out because you can relate and they understand.”

Winnipeg Free Press

<https://www.winnipegfreepress.com/breakingnews/2024/09/16/chibrikov-strikes-early-and-often>

***Chibrikov strikes early and often
Jets prospect mixes it up, notches pair of assists against Oilers young stars***

By: Mike McIntyre

It took Nikita Chibrikov all of 51 seconds on Monday to make some new friends.

That's how much time had come off the clock before the feisty forward found himself in the middle of a scrum, with plenty of pushing and shoving and stinky gloves to the face.

He'd have an impact with his hands later in the game, setting up what turned out to be the game-winning goal along with the insurance marker as the Winnipeg Jets downed the Edmonton Oilers 2-0 to finish off the annual Young Stars Classic in Penticton.

Chibrikov certainly left his mark in the three games, with goals in each of the first two along with plenty of tenacious play that should earn him a long look when Winnipeg's NHL training camp begins this week.

The 21-year-old Russian stands 5-9 and weighs about 160 pounds but plays much bigger. He is fearless on the ice and is often the aggressor in physical situations, which is why he frequently attracts a crowd the way he did on his first shift against the Oilers.

He can also be an offensive spark-plug, as proven by the 47 points (17 goals, 30 assists) he produced in 70 games as a rookie last season with the Manitoba Moose. Chibrikov, selected 50th-overall in the 2021 draft, likely would have gone even higher if not for concerns about his status, given that he was playing in the KHL at the time.

He came to North America as quickly as possible and now is one of Winnipeg's most intriguing prospects. Chibrikov made his big-league debut in Game 82 last season for the Jets, scoring a goal.

It wouldn't be surprising to see him get even more looks with the team this coming season, as his skills could translate to a bottom-six role should the need or desire from coaches and management arise.

Chibrikov ended up with Winnipeg's Young Stars scoring lead (two goals, two assists), putting him just ahead of Brad Lambert, who had a goal and two helpers in the first two games and then was given the day off on Monday. Lambert, with 21 goals and 34 assists with the Moose last year, also got the call-up to the Jets in the same game as Chibrikov and added an assist. They are the two most NHL-ready prospects in a fairly deep forward pool right now.

Winnipeg went 2-1-0 in the four-team event, beating the Calgary Flames 4-3 in overtime on Friday night and then falling 4-2 to the Vancouver Canucks on Sunday afternoon.

Here's a few other players who stood out in the finale:

-Maybe Henri Nikkanen and Daniel Torgersson caught wind of what Jets assistant GM Craig Heisinger said during the second intermission of Friday's game, in which he told Jets TV host Jamie Thomas the pair needed to step it up and start showing what they can do following tough seasons with the Moose. The pair, who along with Lambert were appearing in their third Young Stars event, each scored on Monday. Torgersson (2020 second-round) had just one goal in 52 AHL games last year, while Nikkanen (2019 fourth-round) had seven goals in 57 games.

-The future of Winnipeg's crease looks to be in good hands. 2023 WHL goaltender of the year Thomas Milic and OHL goaltender of the year Domenic DiVincentiis split duties and shared the 27-save shutout against the Oilers and were rock-solid all weekend. Milic will be looking to build off his tremendous rookie year with the Moose, while DiVincentiis is expected to follow his path from last year by likely starting his pro career in the ECHL, with the hope of a callup later in the year.

-Brayden Yager had his best game of the three Monday, creating all kinds of scoring opportunities using his skill and speed. He could have had two or three goals with a bit of puck luck. The trade return for Rutger McGroarty will now try to take that momentum into his first Jets camp.

-One player who always seems to stand out is Kevin He. The 18-year-old from China, selected in the fourth round this past summer, has a motor that never seems to stop. He is coming off a great sophomore season with the Niagara IceDogs of the OHL (31 goals, 22 assists in 64 games) and will try to take another big step once he is eventually sent back to junior at some point during his first NHL training camp.

-There were plenty of big hits in this game, with Mark Liwiski and Dylan Anhorn throwing their weight around and levelling Oilers players. The pair, who are signed to AHL deals with the Moose, eventually dropped the gloves in response. Danny Zhilkin also got into a scrap later in the game off a faceoff play in which he took a cross-check to the face, while Colby Barlow also got into a bit of a melee.

-Winnipeg had a surplus of players in B.C., so they ended up with a bit of a rotation on who plays. Lambert and defenceman Elias Salomonsson were the notable scratches on Monday — both played the first two games — and they were joined in the press box by forwards Markus Loponen, Kieran Walton and Luke Mistelbacher.

<https://www.winnipegfreepress.com/breakingnews/2024/09/16/jets-tee-it-up-for-charity>

Jets tee it up for charity

By: Mike McIntyre

Rick Bowness may have hung up his whistle and retired. The former Winnipeg Jets head coach left a parting gift for the organization that came to fruition on Monday.

The first Winnipeg Jets Golf Classic — at least of the 2.0 version — was held at St. Charles Country Club. The sold-out event had all proceeds going directly to the True North Youth Foundation.

“We used to do it in the Jets 1.0 era. It was actually coach Rick Bowness last year that kind of asked the question ‘Why don’t we do it anymore, let’s get it going again’,” Annie Chipman, the organization’s vice-president of marketing, told reporters.

That put the wheels in motion for planning over the winter. With all players now in town ahead of the official start of training camp on Wednesday, the timing was perfect to get full participation.

“I believe every other Canadian team hosts a tournament. Our guys love to golf, so they were excited to come out here and support the foundation,” said Chipman.

“We ended up having more players participate than we had slotted spots for. They were eager to get involved.”

Prior to hitting the links for the shotgun start, players took part in a skills competition which included longest drive and accuracy. There was also a Sunday draft for participating teams to select which Jets skater they wanted to round out their team.

Mark Scheifele went first-overall, while defenceman Dylan Samberg — fresh off a strong showing at the Manitoba Open in which he opened with a two-over par 74 — was an early choice as well.

The Jets are looking to re-connect with the community after season ticket sales took a nose-dive in recent years, so having the chance for companies and individuals to get up close on the golf course with players would seem to be a sound business decision.

The idea is to expand, with St. Charles being home to 27 holes.

“We’re always looking for opportunities for revenue for the foundation, so we’re really happy we were able to get this tournament going this year. We were able to sell out our spots almost immediately. We have great support from all of our partners,” said Chipman.

“We typically have a number of tournaments that we’ve been beneficiaries of in the past, but now having the opportunity to have this on our own playing field and having another boost for the foundation with 18 holes this year and in the future more is really fantastic.”

Winnipeg Sun

<https://winnipeg.sun.com/sports/hockey/nhl/winnipeg-jets/jets-rookies-show-promising-future-in-penticton>

Jets' rookies show promising future in Penticton

By Scott Billeck

There isn't a prospect in the Winnipeg Jets organization with more hype behind them heading into training camp later this week than Brad Lambert.

The Finnish-Canadian forward, who lit up the American Hockey League as a rookie last season, has a big chance to crack Winnipeg's opening night lineup.

And after another solid rookie tournament in Penticton, Lambert appears primed to take his opportunity by the horns.

The 20-year-old scored a beauty during Sunday's 4-2 loss to the Vancouver Canucks, and played his part on Nikita Chibrikov's second of the tournament with a sublime backhand, cross-ice pass to set up the Russian for Winnipeg's other goal.

Lambert also pitched in with another slick assist during Friday's 4-3 overtime win over the Calgary Flames and was given the day off Monday as the Jets concluded the annual trip to B.C. with a 2-0 win over the Edmonton Oilers.

"I thought he was excellent, I really did," Manitoba Moose head coach Mark Morrison told reporters on Sunday.

Morrison wouldn't have been surprised, having helped Lambert develop into a top rookie in the AHL last season.

And we already know how he feels about where Lambert should be playing this coming season.

"I've got my opinion on it, but I don't want to throw it out there," Morrison said last week when asked if Lambert is ready to jump to the NHL. "I think that will happen with (Jets coach Scott Arniel) and (GM Kevin Cheveldayoff) and the group there. But Brad's come a long ways."

That's the hope of the organization.

Let's put a bow on this year's rookie tourney.

Chibrikov shines

If Chibrikov wasn't scoring, he was shooting. And if he wasn't shooting, he was pestering his opponents, unafraid to mix it up with whoever was nearest to him.

The Jets could use some of that spice in their lineup this season. He's always in the middle of something.

Thursday will unveil much about how Arniel sees his lineup shaping up when camp opens. I wonder if Chibrikov gets some looks on Winnipeg's third line with Adam Lowry and Nino Niederreiter.

Chibrikov plays pretty sound defensive hockey, an element of Lowry's line that never changes, and could offer the scoring touch the line doesn't have.

At worst, Chibrikov should be in the mix for a fourth-line role to start the season.

Chibrikov scored a goal in each of the first two games and assisted on Daniel Torgersson's goal on Monday.

Salomonsson chance?

In something that won't shock anyone, Elias Salomonsson had another solid rookie tournament.

It's just a given these days.

He was also good last year, had a couple of great showings at Winnipeg's past two development camps, and took a step up this past season in Sweden.

Now, the right-shot rearguard will be plying his trade in North America.

We know Arniel is a fan, and Cheveldayoff's message to his prospects was there'd be opportunity. That message reached Salomonsson in Sweden.

I don't see this team pivoting too much from their M.O. regarding development, meaning Salomonsson is likely AHL-bound. But a strong camp for Salomonsson could change some minds.

Winnipeg signed several bubble defencemen this offseason, adding competition to the mix.

Dylan DeMelo and Neal Pionk are locked in on the right side of Winnipeg's defence, but there's no clear-cut third guy there.

Salomonsson opened last year's training camp on a pairing with Josh Morrissey. It was a look to the future.

Perhaps that future is now.

Other thoughts

- Brayden Yager played all three games, and in all three, he impressed. He made a great forecheck and steal in Friday's win, leading to Chibrikov's goal, and made a solid defensive play later in the game that stopped a Grade-A chance. He was quite good in the faceoff circle on Monday.
- Kevin He shows real promise. He was played primarily with other skilled prospects and looked at home in that role. His work on the forecheck, especially, was solid throughout the tournament. The kid's got a motor on him, with good vision and playmaking abilities.
- Thomas Milic had a hell of an ascension last year, starting the year in the ECHL and ending it as the starter with the AHL's Manitoba Moose, where he helped the Moose into the playoffs. If Milic has another strong year, he could work himself into a role as Connor Hellebuyck's backup for the 2025-26 year. A move like that would get Domenic DiVincentiis into the fold for the Moose. DiVincentiis is expected to play with the Norfolk Admirals of the ECHL this coming season.
- Torgersson had a strong tournament. And after a tough sophomore season in the AHL last year, he'll hope that's a precursor to a bounce back. The Swede scored just once in 52 games after scoring 11 in 69 in his rookie campaign. The 2020 second-rounder is 22 and was expected to perform at the Penticton tournament.

<https://winnipeg.sun.com/sports/hockey/nhl/winnipeg-jets/ehlers-not-worried-about-lame-duck-status>

Winnipeg Jets' Nikolaj Ehlers not worried about lame-duck status

By Scott Billeck

Nikolaj Ehlers had nothing new to report on Monday.

So unless he and Winnipeg Jets general manager Kevin Cheveldayoff pull off another Thanksgiving stunner (matching seven-year extensions for Mark Scheifele and Connor Hellebuyck last year), the 28-year-old speedster will enter the 2024-25 season as a pending unrestricted free agent.

"I'm at the same point that I was at the exit meetings," Ehlers told reporters at the team's charity golf tournament. "I have nothing new to tell.

"There's obviously a reason I've been here for nine years, but, again, there's nothing new to tell."

When further asked about his lame-duck status and what he'd like to see happen in the future, Ehlers deferred.

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"It's always a good question that I'm also going to wait with answering," he said. "It's not just for me. This is for the organization as well."

Ehlers revealed that both sides had conversations over the summer and reiterated that there wasn't anything beyond that.

Earlier this summer, it was reported that Ehlers wasn't interested in signing another extension with the club.

Ehlers' representation said little during the off-season, only suggesting that talks were ongoing with Cheveldayoff.

Ehlers' name has been the topic of much trade speculation in recent years, including around the NHL Draft in June.

He's also been among the trade chatter when it was believed the Jets were looking for a top-four defenceman to replace Brenden Dillon, who left as a free agent in July.

With Scott Arniel now the team's head coach, Ehlers and the bench boss spoke over the summer. Arniel has expressed his desire to have Ehlers in his lineup.

As with Arniel's off-season chats with Cole Perfetti, there was likely some mending of fences with Ehlers.

Both players butted heads with former head coach Rick Bowness, with usage being an issue in both instances.

Arniel said he "needed" Ehlers, with his patented speed and scoring, after his hiring was announced this past spring.

"That's what you want to hear," Ehlers said. "You want to play for a team that wants you. I've been here for nine years. I've loved it.

"In this league, you want to be a difference-maker in any way you can. I've been trying to do that and trying to work on my game as much as possible."

Meanwhile, Ehlers said nothing changes for him regarding how he approaches the coming year, even if his future is uncertain.

"I'm going to go out and play the same way that I always do," he said. "I've got teammates that I love playing with, loving hanging out with. It doesn't change anything for me."

'I love that guy'

It was the original Jets bromance.

Ehlers and former Jets forward Patrik Laine were the best of friends. That hasn't changed, even after Laine was traded to the Columbus Blue Jackets in 2021.

"I'm proud of him," Ehlers said, referring to Laine opening up about his mental health struggles that led to a stint in the NHL/NHLPA's Player Assistance Program.

"Everyone knows it's not easy to go through some things. And the things that he's been going through, it would hit anyone. I love that guy. Still talk to him. To see him now play in Montreal is going to be pretty cool for him. It's a city that loves hockey. He loves hockey. I think he's going to be doing pretty well there."

A healthy Laine could result in a lot of bad nights for his opponents, Ehlers warned.

"We've seen it in Winnipeg," Ehlers said. "When this guy is feeling good, when he is out there just playing hockey, it sucks it's going to be on the other side now, when you're on the other end of it."

TSN.ca

<https://www.tsn.ca/nhl/video/jets-ice-chips-ehlers-and-perfetti-contract-talks-still-up-in-th~2994888>

Jets Ice Chips: Ehlers and Perfetti contract talks still up in the air as camp looms (VIDEO)

There have been hopes amongst Jets fans that speedy forward Nikolaj Ehlers would emulate Connor Hellebuyck and Mark Scheifele from a year ago by inking a new contract extension before the season. When speaking at the team's golf tournament, Ehlers revealed some talks have occurred, but no progress has been made. TSN's John Lu has more on Ehlers' status, and where the Cole Perfetti negotiations are.

<https://www.tsn.ca/nhl/video/jets-ready-to-adapt-heading-into-new-season~2994871>

Jets ready to 'adapt' heading into new season (VIDEO)

Happy that many of the core guys are returning, the Jets are excited to see where things go with a new coach, and are ready to adapt to the upcoming changes from within the team, and what the opposition presents.