

**Winnipegjets.com**

<https://www.nhl.com/jets/news/three-things-oilers-beat-jets-in-ot>

***Three things - Oilers beat Jets in OT  
David Gustafsson and Dominic Toninato scored for the Jets in the 3-2 loss***

By Jamie Thomas

The Winnipeg Jets saw their preseason record fall to 0-1-1 with a 3-2 overtime loss to the Edmonton Oilers Sunday night in Edmonton. Cam Dineen scored the winning goal 1:18 into overtime. David Gustafsson and Dominic Toninato scored for Winnipeg; the Jets got 25 saves from Eric Comrie. Axel Jonsson-Fjallby led the team with five shots on goal. Winnipeg went 0-for-1 on the power play while the Oilers went 1-for-2.

***1. ANOTHER YOUNG LINEUP***

For the second straight game, Scott Arniel dressed a younger roster with the likes of Daniel Torgersson, Kevin He, Danny Zhilkin, Markus Lojonen, Parker Ford, Kieron Walton, Ben King, Elias Salomonsson, Dylan Anhorn and Dawson Barteaux all getting a look in the Alberta capital. But it was all veterans combining on the opening goal of the hockey game when David Gustafsson tipped a Logan Stanley shot into the net 17 seconds in to make it 1-0.

***2. NOT SO NEW FACE IN GOAL***

It was great to see Eric Comrie get the start in Edmonton for the Jets, his return to the organization since he departed following the 2021-22 campaign. Comrie had his best season in the NHL that year with the Jets with a 10-5-1 record, career bests in GAA (2.58) and save percentage (.920). The 29-year-old signed a two-year deal with Winnipeg with an AAV of \$825,000. Comrie was solid tonight make 25 stops including three brilliant saves in the third period to make sure the game went to OT.

***3. TONINATO LINE CHEMISTRY***

Dominic Toninato, Parker Ford and Kevin He were one of the best lines for the Jets tonight. Ford had a great preseason a year ago and seemed to be building off that confidence this evening. Ford had 41 points (18G, 23A) in 72 games with the Moose last season. He had a nice showing in Penticton at the Young Stars Classic and grabbed an assist on Toninato's game tying goal in the second period, which came 10 seconds after the Oilers had made it 2-1.

<https://www.nhl.com/jets/news/niederreiter-hoping-to-build-off-last-season>

***Niederreiter hoping to build off last season  
Niederreiter: "Its being consistent each and every single night."***

By Jamie Thomas

WINNIPEG – From the top of Europe this summer to the Manitoba capital for the start of the training camp, you could say Jets forward Nino Niederreiter is coming off a real high as the 2024-25 season is closing in.

Last month, Niederreiter, New Jersey Devils defenceman Jonas Slegentahler and forward Nico Hischier took part of the world's highest hockey game in Switzerland. The game was played at Jungfrauoch, which is the highest accessible point in Europe at 3,454 meters high. The players

were taken up via helicopters to take part of a 3-on-3 game that included some top European players and some players from SC Bern.

“That was a, it was an unbelievable experience. I mean, they call it Top of Europe, which was amazing,” said Niederreiter.

“The way they set up everything up. It was remarkable, and it was hard to breathe I gotta say.”

Niederreiter wants that high to return as he begins his second full season with the Jets, who ended up fourth overall in 2023-24 only to see their season end in five games in the first round. New Jets head coach Scott Arniel said that he wants to see his group get to that next level that is required to have playoff success.

“First off, its being consistent each and every single night. I think that’s something which we have to do as a team. We have to make sure we compete and never get out competed by the opposing team,” said Niederreiter.

“Win your battles and I think it has a lot to do with work ethic. We have a deep team, and we proved last year how good we are defensively, we let it slip towards the end, and that’s something we know we got to be better.”

The Swiss forward just turned 32 years old and with Nate Schmidt (33) and Brenden Dillon (33) moving elsewhere, Niederreiter becomes the oldest player on the roster. He is 13 games away from 900 and 57 points short of 500 in his career. Naturally, Niederreiter believes his role is always evolving.

“I guess I’m the oldest guy on the team, which seems a little strange and weird,” said Niederreiter.

“What I’ve got to know over the years, helping out the younger guys, if I see a guy going through a slump, kind of pick him up and be the positive input in the locker room. I think that’s something I feel I should do this year.”

One of the Jets most consistent lines last year was Niederreiter alongside Adam Lowry and Mason Appleton. The trio combined for 105 points and were +45 going up against the other team’s best night in and night out. Niederreiter, Lowry and Appleton also managed to stay healthy missing all of six games.

“We’ve got to definitely be leaders in the team. We have to play the system to a “T” and make sure we bring it each and every night,” said Niederreiter.

“We’ve got to be the energy line, make sure we play simple. We’ve got to try and get the momentum on our side when we have to. Those are the things we have to do to be successful.”

Arniel said early in training camp that he has put a lot of the veterans together on the lines so that they can get their touches in. To no one’s surprise, the Jets checking line was back together and should be together in a game soon with four games remaining in the preseason. There is a lot to build off their first full season together.

“We did a lot of great things last year. We played very well without the puck and with the puck,” said Niederreiter.

“That’s something, for us as a line, we have to make sure we work just as hard without the puck as with the puck. Hopefully, the other lines follow.”

## **Canadian Press**

<https://www.sportsnet.ca/nhl/article/cam-dineen-scores-ot-winner-as-oilers-ground-jets-in-pre-season/>

### ***Cam Dineen scores OT winner as Oilers ground Jets in pre-season***

By Canadian Press

EDMONTON, Alta. — Edmonton Oilers head coach Kris Knoblauch was happy with his team’s start to exhibition play, especially considering not a single player in his lineup on Sunday played with the club during its lengthy recent playoff run.

Defenceman Cam Dineen scored the overtime winner and added an assist as the Oilers started NHL pre-season play with a 3-2 victory over the Winnipeg Jets.

Sam O’Reilly and Raphael Lavoie also scored for the Oilers (1-0) who are coming off their devastating loss in Game 7 of the Stanley Cup final against the Florida Panthers.

“A lot of guys played really well,” Knoblauch said. “The defensive corps, all six of them played really well, obviously highlighted by Dineen.

“I can go through the lineup and I thought a lot of guys played really well.”

Making a strong first impression with his first goal was O’Reilly, who the Oilers traded up to select 32nd overall in the 2024 NHL entry draft.

“I tried to come in with a good mindset, to stay positive and stick to myself and what I do, but obviously going out there and seeing all those people, you get a little nervous,” O’Reilly said. “But you have to shake it off and just play hockey.

“It gave me confidence getting that first goal pretty early. It feels good and I will try to keep building off of that.”

David Gustafsson and Dominic Toninato scored for the Jets, who dropped to 0-1-1 in exhibition action.

“Both teams dressed some younger lineups and it’s great for them, we got to see last night, I think we had six or seven that had never played in an NHL game and it’s great for them to do that,” said Jets head coach Scott Arniel.

“It was sloppy at times, some of the execution was off, but at the end of the day, it came down to an OT game for the fans and it was fun.”

Winnipeg scored on the game’s first shot just 17 seconds in, as Gustafsson tipped a Logan Stanley point shot past Oilers goaltender Olivier Rodrigue.

The Oilers responded with a goal on their first shot of the contest as well, as O'Reilly took a stretch pass from Dineen and split the defence up the middle before beating Jets starter Eric Comrie, the goal coming 3:23 into the first.

The shots were only 6-4 for Edmonton through the opening 20 minutes.

Collin Delia, who spent last season with the Jets' AHL affiliate the Manitoba Moose, came in to replace Rodrigue in the Edmonton net midway through the second.

There was no scoring in the second period, with Edmonton leading 19-9 on the shot clock heading into the third.

Edmonton finally broke the deadlock midway through the third on the power play as Lavoie sent a one-timer from the top of the left circle past Comrie.

That lead only lasted 10 seconds, however, as the Jets knotted the game when Kevin He sent the puck out in front to Toninato and he hammered it past Delia, eventually sending the game to extra time.

Edmonton scored the winner 1:17 into overtime after a big hit by Vasily Podkolzin created a two-on-one and Dineen lugged the puck down ice before cutting across and sending a snap shot past Comrie.

#### **NOTES**

Both teams dressed squads extremely light on NHL experience, most players having spent all or the majority of their time in the AHL last season ... A pair of veterans on the Oilers roster were both of their players on personal tryout offers, forward Mike Hoffman and defenceman Travis Dermott. ... The Jets were playing for the second night in a row, having lost 5-2 to the Minnesota Wild on Saturday in the Manitoba capital. Kaapo Kahkonen made 23 saves in the loss in his Jets debut. ... Comrie, an Edmonton native, made his first start in a Jets jersey since May 1, 2022, as he auditioned for a backup role with the team. "I just want to battle as hard as I can," Comrie said. "The special word here is compete and I want to make sure I compete as hard as I can and do what I can to make the decision (on backup) as hard as I can (for coaches)."

#### **UP NEXT**

Oilers: Play home-and-home split-squad games against the Calgary Flames on Monday.

Jets: Host the Edmonton Oilers on Wednesday.

#### **Winnipeg Free Press**

<https://www.winnipegfreepress.com/breakingnews/2024/09/22/armed-with-booming-shot-miller-quietly-bided-his-time>

***Armed with booming shot, Miller quietly bided his time  
Veteran defenceman eager for bigger role with Jets after limited ice time last season***

By: Ken Wiebe

Colin Miller didn't hesitate when the Winnipeg Jets came calling in free agency.

Although the veteran defenceman sometimes seemed like a forgotten man in the rotation after he was acquired from the New Jersey Devils last March, Miller has been around the game long enough to view the situation through a different lens.

Appearing in five regular season games and just one in the playoffs wasn't a deterrent for Miller, who had been on the Jets' radar on several previous instances before he finally became a member of the organization last season.

So, after watching Brenden Dillon sign with the New Jersey in free agency and Nate Schmidt having the final year of his contract bought out before joining the Florida Panthers, Miller embraced the opportunity to remain with the Jets on July 1, inking a two-year deal rather than seek a chance to go elsewhere.

"Knowing the group here helps a lot. You know what you're coming into," Miller said after Sunday's skate at Hockey For All Centre. "The team as a whole is so solid. Coming in, you're excited to help out wherever you can."

Miller, who was originally chosen in the fifth round by the Los Angeles Kings (151st overall) in the 2012 NHL Draft, had changed teams on multiple occasions before last season but there's always a transition period to go through in getting used to your new surroundings.

"It was different, for sure," he said. "I've been moved around a little bit – well, a lot – throughout my career, but the one at the deadline is different. You're coming into a time of year when you've got to be on. You've got to be moving and up to speed."

"You're learning a new system, how the team plays and all of those things. It was tough to pick up, but also in some sense, with this group – it's a mature group. Coming into this group, it was easy enough because guys are going to be where they're supposed to be. So, it was easier than some situations (might be)."

Miller was among the players who suited up in Saturday's preseason opener against the Minnesota Wild and he didn't ease into things, leading all Jets with 22:57 of ice time – including 5:52 on the power play and 25 seconds while shorthanded.

He brings a big shot from the point and that was on display on Saturday, as he ripped home a slapper from the right point late in the first period to get the Jets on the board.

Miller had the hardest recorded shot in the NHL last season (102.59 miles per hour in a game against the Dallas Stars, according to NHL Edge) and it's something that can be quite a weapon, especially if he's going to get some reps with the Jets second power play unit when the real games begin.

"He's been known for that," said Jets head coach Scott Arniel, referring to the heavy shot Miller possesses.

Miller skated on a pairing with Haydn Fleury this past weekend and they might remain together once the regular season gets rolling.

Fleury is familiar with Miller's ability to unload shots from the point dating back to their time as opponents in the American Hockey League.

“He’s got a bomb,” said Fleury. “I was actually joking around with him, I’m pretty sure he won the AHL hardest shot competition like eight years ago, nine years ago. He bombed it like 105. I knew he could bring it, I knew that from playing against him.”

Asked about when the blistering shot began to turn heads, Miller points to his time playing in the Ontario Hockey League with his hometown team, the Soo Greyhounds.

“I shot a lot of pucks when I was younger. Me and my buddy would go to a tennis court, set the net up and we would shoot pucks – that’s how it started,” said Miller. “More in my junior years was when I started focusing on it. I don’t know if it came naturally, but it was one of those things. What’s the old cliché, the rule of 10,000?”

Miller is quick to point out he hasn’t spent 10,000 hours working on his slapshot, but he’s shot more than 10,000 pucks over the years and that certainly helped with the increase in velocity.

“(On Saturday), it was great that I got a couple of shots off, but I got quite a few blocked,” said Miller, who had four shots on goal and 10 shot attempts in the 5-2 loss to the Wild. “You’re still getting it narrowed in.”

Miller went on to provide a checklist of other things he’s trying to get accomplished during the exhibition portion of the schedule.

“Honestly, it’s just getting your brain back familiar with seeing things and reading plays and taking rushes,” said Miller, who has 512 NHL games on his resume to go along with 41 playoff contests. “We do it in practice, but it’s Day 3 (of training camp). This is the quickest I’ve ever had, with going right into game action. Your body is there, but it’s (about) catching your mind up (to game speed). For me, that’s always the thing that it takes a bit (of time) to get back.”

Miller brings more than a bomb from the point and is in position to play an important role for the Jets defence corps this season and his versatility should serve him well.

“For me, this is not meant to come off as brash or whatever, but I feel like I’ve been put in a lot of different situations up to this point,” said Miller, who turns 32 on Oct. 29. “Whether it’s penalty kill, power play or that type of thing. I just think that every year in this league, you learn something new and you grow. Being in those situations helps me now to hopefully have a more well-rounded game.

“The group that we have is very strong and I’m excited to see where we can take it.”

<https://www.winnipegfreepress.com/breakingnews/2024/09/22/comrie-kahkonen-saving-graces-despite-losses>

### ***Comrie, Kahkonen saving graces despite losses***

By: Ken Wiebe

Eric Comrie has a firm grasp of his situation.

The affable goalie is firmly entrenched in a battle for the backup job behind reigning Vezina Trophy winner Connor Hellebuyck.

His competition is Kaapo Kahkonen and Comrie recognizes that all he can focus on is to stop as many pucks as humanly possible, whether that's in preseason action or the numerous sessions during training camp.

Comrie is doing his part to stay in the race and that includes a 23-save performance in Sunday's 3-2 overtime loss to the Edmonton Oilers on Sunday at Rogers Place.

"I think my game is in a good place so I'm happy with where I am at," Comrie told reporters in Edmonton. "Just battle as hard as I can. The special word here is compete. I think I'm just going to make sure I compete as hard as I can and do everything I can to make the decision as hard as I can."

The Jets will take Monday off after four consecutive days on the ice and they'll return to game action on Wednesday at Canada Life Centre with a rematch against the Oilers.

Kahkonen also had 23 saves in Saturday's 5-2 loss to the Minnesota Wild, so the chase for the second spot on the depth chart should heat up during the final four preseason games.

Jets head coach Scott Arniel said early in training camp that Hellebuyck is scheduled to appear in two-and-a-half games, so there won't be much playing time available for Comrie and Kahkonen to make their final push.

"Coms was outstanding. We kind of left him (out to dry) a couple of times. He faced some real 10-bell opportunities," Arniel told reporters in Edmonton. "I thought he was really solid."

#### *He turning heads*

Jets forward prospect Kevin He continues to be noticeable in his first NHL training camp.

He, who was chosen in the fourth round (109th overall) of the 2024 NHL Draft, plays with considerable pace and has been a buzzsaw.

Shortly after the Jets surrendered the lead in the second period on a power-play marker from Raphael Lavoie, He won a puck battle down low in the offensive zone and made a beautiful pass in front to Dominic Toninato, who knotted the game 2-2.

"He has looked great. He's got a great shot, moves really well, smart player, works really hard," said Comrie. "Just a competitive kid, and compete is one of the main words this year at camp. I think he embodies that."

He finished with two shot attempts and two hits in 16:36 of ice time.

"He can move. He's got a quickness to him," said Arniel. "He stays hard on the puck. For most young guys, they're usually good with the puck and can make plays. The big thing is what they do without (the puck). Through the first couple of days of training camp, with all of that teaching and defending, whether it's neutral it's neutral zone or D-zone, I thought he's done a great job of catching on and evolving every day."

#### *Double duty*

The only player to participate in game action on consecutive days for the Jets was top defence prospect Elias Salomonsson.

Salomonsson, who is preparing for his first season of pro hockey in North America, skated alongside Dylan Samberg in Saturday's 5-2 loss to the Wild and had just over 17 minutes of ice time.

On Sunday, his partner was Ashton Sautner, who is set to play a mentorship role with the Manitoba Moose of the AHL once again.

Salomonsson, who had 20:24 of ice time on Sunday, seems to be getting more comfortable as the days move along here.

"He was actually excited to come back in again. I guess it's better than practising," said Arniel. "These games, being able to play at that kind of speed, is really good for him. Every game, every day being around veteran guys is an experience that he's going to grow with."

#### *D-man battle*

There's been ample discussion about what the Jets' third – and potentially fourth – pairing is going to look like during training camp and this was the first chance for Dylan Coghlan and Logan Stanley to get into game action.

Coghlan made a strong impression and led all Jets with 29 shifts for 25:21, which led all players in ice time.

There were some strong zone exits produced by Coghlan, who added one shot on goal, three shot attempts and a blocked shot.

Stanley, finished with 28 shifts for 24:35 and had two shot attempts, did a good job of getting his shot through from the point and chipped in an assist on David Gustafsson's redirection goal just 17 seconds into the contest.

#### *Time for veterans to shine*

The Jets have a number of veterans that have yet to appear in game action, but that will change shortly.

"We have some young draft picks that I had never seen before, some guys that I knew from the last two years and you kind of always want to see what their progress is," said Arniel.

"That's been the best part, seeing how they evolved. And then really getting a feel for the brand new guys. We have some free agents that we signed. We got them in the lineup (Saturday) night and (Sunday) night and you can sort of see how they tick and what makes them go.

"That's all you're trying to do early on. We've got four left and we have a whole bunch of veterans that haven't played, much like the Oilers. We'll get these guys going but we just wanted to get everybody an opportunity to get into these games here and now we'll probably look heavily towards our roster moving forward."

#### *Extra, extra*

As for Toninato, he's not about to change his approach in his own training camp battle for one of the depth forward spots. "Same as always. Give all I can and see what happens," Toninato told reporters in Edmonton.



Axel Jonsson-Fjallby led all players with five shots on goal in just under 15 minutes of action. He also chipped in an assist on the goal from Gustafsson. Jonsson-Fjallby had to be looked at after being on the receiving end of a check, but he returned to finish the contest.

Former Moose netminder Collin Delia came on for the second half of the game and turned aside 11 of 12 shots on goal that he faced.

Former Winnipeg Ice sniper Matthew Savoie suited up in his first preseason game since the summer trade that brought him to the Oilers from the Buffalo Sabres for Ryan McLeod. Savoie chipped in the primary assist as Cam Dineen scored 77 seconds into overtime. Vasily Podkolzin started the play by separating Parker Ford from the puck with the Jets in the offensive zone.

### **Sportsnet.ca**

<https://www.sportsnet.ca/nhl/article/oilers-takeaways-star-less-lineup-opens-pre-season-with-win/>

### ***Oilers Takeaways: Star-less lineup opens pre-season with a win***

By Mark Spector

EDMONTON — It's amazing when you think back to the last time we gathered at Rogers Place to watch the Edmonton Oilers play three months ago. That Game 6 was a hair-on-fire, everything-on-the-line 5-1 victory that forced a Game 7 in the Stanley Cup Final against Florida.

On Sunday, the Oilers regrouped for their pre-season opener, with a new GM (Stan Bowman) looking down from the press box and the same coaching staff behind the bench from the Cup run.

On the ice, however, it was the Manitoba Moose versus the Bakersfield Condors, with neither the Oilers nor the Winnipeg Jets icing more than three players each who will make their respective Opening Night rosters. And all of those were nearer the bottom of the lineup than the top, with names like Vasily Podkolzin, Josh Brown, Logan Stanley and Rasmus Kupari dotting two decidedly pre-season lineups.

Ty Emberson skated for the Oilers, looking just fine after an early giveaway. Defenceman Cam Dineen had an assist and scored the OT winner for the Oilers, and Raphael Lavoie ripped a power-play one-timer home in the third period — a skill that he truly has, but one that this Oilers team really does not necessarily require.

Big Noah Philp caught our eye numerous times, a right-shot depth centreman who could have a future in Edmonton, though not before he seasons a bit more in Bakersfield. And Vasily Podkolzin started the OT goal in the defensive zone with a solid body check that erased the Winnipeg puck carrier and gave the Oilers possession.

Here's a spin through what we saw Sunday, as the Oilers opened their pre-season with a 3-2 win over the Jets.

### ***Noah's Arc***

Philp, a former University of Alberta Golden Bear, looks like a guy who may help down the road, a six-foot-three right-shot centreman with nice hands who won nine of his 12 faceoffs on

Sunday. He played one year with Bakersfield, took last season away from the game, and returns as someone who could be the future 4C in Edmonton.

“What we want from him is kind of what he provided today. Faceoffs are a huge part of it, especially being a right-handed centerman,” said head coach Kris Knoblauch. “He’s big, and for his pedigree and what I was expecting, he’s a much better skater (than Knoblauch thought).

“A lot of respect for him,” Knoblauch continued. “For a guy that has not played a game in 16 or 17, months to come into an NHL exhibition game and play as well as he did tonight, that’s a good first step.”

“I thought it was good,” the 26-year-old said. “I thought as it went on, I got more comfortable just working some kinks out, not playing for so long. But I thought it progressed as it went on in a positive way.”

### *Bison King*

How smooth does Jesse Puljujarvi look with Pittsburgh right now, scoring on all three shots on goal he took in a 7-3 pre-season win over Buffalo?

The word from Pittsburgh is he’s put on some size and is the strongest he’s ever been, after a healthy summer unaffected by hip surgery or any of other injuries that have dogged him through his career.

Here’s a look at his hatty.

### *Sam I Am*

Sam O’Reilly, whom the Oilers made a trade to secure with the 32nd pick in the June draft, looks like a solid two-way centreman. He showed a nice burst and some finish, scoring on the Oilers’ first shot of the game on Jets goalie Eric Comrie.

It’s always a big deal for an 18-year-old to play his first NHL pre-season game.

“Just going out there, seeing all those people, you get a little nervous. But you have to shake it off and just play hockey,” he said.

Let the record show, O’Reilly scored on his first NHL shot as an Oiler, something you can never take away from him. It slowed the game down for him.

“Yeah, it did. A little confidence,” the London Knights centreman said. “Obviously, getting that first one pretty early in the game feels good.”

Who else did Knoblauch like on Sunday?

“The defence corps, I liked all six of them, played really well, highlighted by Dineen,” Knoblauch began. “He made some nice plays in the first period, especially highlighted with overtime goal.

“Up front, Podkolzin, I thought he had a good game. Starts that overtime goal (with a) defensive play, then he drives the net. I thought he got a stick on a lot of pucks, breaking up plays. Wasn’t shy in using his body, something that’s going to be important for us.

“(Matt) Savoie, I thought he played really well tonight. He was part of the overtime goal, but I thought he made some nice plays too.”

Lots of vets skating tonight as the Oilers and Flames play split squad games in each city. Both clubs will likely save their top players from travelling, with Connor McDavid expected to suit up in Edmonton with linemates Ryan Nugent-Hopkins and Zach Hyman.

### *Kane Update*

The Oilers will likely issue a news release Monday following Evander Kane’s surgery to repair what Kane listed as a pair of adductor tears, two abdominal tears and two hernias.

Elliott Friedman reported that Kane’s surgery Friday in New York went well, and he’s on the shelf until at least “January or February.” Oilers GM Stan Bowman hadn’t had in-depth conversations with his medical team on Sunday, but he thought a four- to six-month time frame was probably fair.

Five months takes us to late February, six months to late March, and then there’s the unknown surrounding Kane’s fitness after core surgery of this magnitude. It’s sounding more and more realistic that he could possibly miss the entire season, but be ready for the start of Round 1 in mid-April.

The NHL Trade Deadline is March 7.

### **Winnipeg Sun**

<https://winnipeg.sun.com/sports/jets-fleury-wasnt-missing-saturdays-game-and-with-good-reason>

#### ***Jets drop sluggish preseason tilt to Oilers in overtime***

By Scott Billeck

If there’s one word you never want to hear in preseason hockey, it’s overtime.

Neither the Winnipeg Jets nor the host Edmonton Oilers got that memo on Sunday. Mercifully, it only lasted 77 seconds longer.

Oilers hopeful Cam Dineen ended it with a tight-angled wrist shot with 1:17 gone in the extra frame, giving Edmonton a 3-2 win at Rogers Place.

“Sloppy at times,” head coach Scott Arniel said. “Some of the execution was off but at the end of the day, for the fans, it was an OT game. It’s fun. Guys got to get experience. Veteran guys got to get their feet wet, kind of get themselves up to speed getting away from summer hockey. You just take what it is.”

Winnipeg now holds a 0-2 record in preseason action, which means absolutely nothing.

The game seemed destined to last forever after both teams traded early goals.

David Gustafsson tipped home a Logan Stanley point shot 17 seconds into the game before Sam O’Reilly tied it just over three minutes later.

The early excitement slowed to an elongated crawl.

Raphael Lavoie broke the deadlock on the power play at 9:07 of the third period to give Edmonton its first lead of the night.

It lasted just 10 seconds, with Dominic Toninato tying the game 2-2 from the slot after a pass from below the goal line from Kevin He.

Dineen's winner came after the Jets controlled the first minute of overtime. Jets prospect Parker Ford tried to take the puck down low but was met with a crunching hit along the end boards, sending the Oilers down the ice on a 2-on-1.

Dineen cut across the width of the ice before tucking one past Eric Comrie.

Comrie finished with 25 saves, and made a couple of beauties during regulation in his first preseason action.

Winnipeg went 0-for-1 on the power play.

Blue-line hopefuls Stanley and Dylan Coghlan reached played north of 24 minutes while paired together for the game.

Elias Salomonsson, playing his second game in as many nights, played 20:24.

*Some thoughts after Sunday's game:*

- Salomonsson will benefit considerably from a year in the American Hockey League this season. He's a top prospect, likely Josh Morrissey's future partner on Winnipeg's top pairing. But you can see the rawness in his game. There are flashes, as you'd expect from a skilled defenceman. The farm team will help him develop better positioning and tighten up his gap. It is important to remember that this will be Salomonsson's first season playing on North American ice. The timing is different, as is the pace of play. It did well for Brad Lambert, who learned what he needed to improve on playing against AHLers. The hope is he'd adapt as quickly as Lambert did. "We obviously had some injuries, a couple of injuries on defence, but you know what? Sals was actually excited to come back in again," Arniel said, adding they didn't want to play the Swede on back-to-back nights. "I guess it's better than practicing. He's a good young kid. He's a prospect. He's coming over from Sweden. He's going to turn pro and stay over here. These games, being able to play in that type of speed, it's really good for him. Every game, every day, being around the veteran guys is experience he's going to grow with."

- Kevin He is exciting to watch. Has a great burst, good top-end. He moves well with the puck and plays responsible defensively. He's going to be a fun one to watch develop. He'll be back in the OHL this season, and his training camp experience should give him some confidence heading into his third season with the Niagara IceDogs. I'd put money on a strong statistical season after scoring 31 goals in his draft year. "He can move. He's got quickness to him," Arniel said. "He stays hard on the puck. Most young guys, they're all good with the puck. They can make plays, they can skate, and the big thing is what they do without it. Through the first couple of days of training camp, all of that teaching, the defending, whether it's neutral zone or d-zone, he's done a great job of catching on and evolving every day."

- I'm still of the opinion that Kaapo Kahkonen is the frontrunner for the role of Connor Hellebuyck's understudy, even after eating all five goals Minnesota scored in a 5-2 win back at Canada Life Centre on Saturday. Neither goalie had their best in their respective starts. Comrie offers a lot to a guy like Thomas Milic in a mentoring role, and if Milic is seen as Hellebuyck's backup as soon as 2025-26, it probably makes the most sense if Comrie can't put some distance between himself and Kahkonen. Kahkonen's numbers as a backup are pretty good, especially when you subtract his time on a floundering San Jose Sharks team (and even then, his analytics were fairly good). "Coms was outstanding tonight," Arniel said. "We kind of left him a couple of times and he had to face some real 10-bell opportunities and I thought he was real solid."

- Stanley did well. He was expected to. He was a man among boys in that game. He did well in getting pucks on net, including his first shot of the game, which Gustafsson tipped for the opening goal. Stanley's inability to get a puck cleared late in the third nearly led to a go-ahead goal with a couple of seconds left. It's hard to say who is ahead of who when it comes to Stanley and summer signing Haydn Fleury. Both are first-round draft picks who haven't yet lived up to that designation. Fleury and Colin Miller, who laid claim to the right side job on the third pairing on Saturday, played remarkably well together against Minnesota.

- With Ville Heinola out indefinitely with an ankle infection, both Stanley and Fleury are likely to see time this season, with Arniel suggesting that he'd like to carry seven defencemen and rotate the seventh guy in. We'll see where that leaves Dylan Coghlan, who had a good but not remarkable outing on Sunday.

## **Global Winnipeg**

<https://globalnews.ca/news/10769490/winnipeg-jets-mason-shaw-haydn-fleury/>

### ***ANALYSIS: New Jets Shaw, Fleury set to strengthen Winnipeg's depth***

By Kelly Moore CJOB

The first weekend of the pre-season is now in the rearview mirror for the Winnipeg Jets, and as much as surprises have been minimal to this point, a few things were learned about a couple of new faces in the mix.

Hands up, Jets Nation, if before training camp began last Thursday, you could have held your own in a trivia contest on the pro careers of forward Mason Shaw and defenceman Haydn Fleury.

Take Shaw, for example. The 25-year-old from Wainwright, Alta., endured four major knee surgeries during his six years with the Minnesota Wild. If Ville Heinola is in need of a "big brother" who has been there, done that when it comes to battling through the latest setback for the young Finnish defenceman, there's no doubt Shaw can be that guy.

And while Shaw committed the turnover that led to Minnesota's fifth goal on Saturday night, he also blocked a shot on the PK, won some key defensive zone faceoffs, and even dropped the mitts.

As head coach Scott Arniel said afterwards, the versatile forward "played to his identity."

And then there was Fleury. The Saskatchewan-born, Edmonton area-raised rearguard was not only playing his first game in more than five-and-a-half months on Saturday night after getting injured in an accidental collision with referee Steve Kozari in early April, but he was also suiting up just after the birth of his second son earlier that same day.

The veteran blue liner was given the option of taking the weekend off — but was having none of it. And following the latest misfortune for Heinola, the 28-year-old former No. 7 overall pick by Carolina is now very much in the conversation for a starting job in the D rotation.

While neither of these Prairie boys figures to make or break the fortunes of the Winnipeg Jets this season, both should be more than capable of making contributions that strengthen the depth, the character, and the culture of the organization.