

Winnipegjets.com

<https://www.nhl.com/jets/news/coghlan-enjoying-opportunity-with-jets>

Coghlan enjoying opportunity with Jets

Coghlan: "The opportunity is definitely there for me."

By Jamie Thomas

WINNIPEG – It didn't take Dylan Coghlan long after being acquired by the Winnipeg Jets to make his way to the Manitoba capital. The BC product was acquired from the Carolina Hurricanes on July 5 and then just over a month later he made the trip to Winnipeg.

"I got here August 15th to kind of adjust, get comfortable, skated with (Neal) Pionk for a month by ourselves. He's been great to me, everyone's been great to me. All the older guys, everyone's been super welcoming and making it super easy to come here," said Coghlan after practicing this morning.

"The opportunity is definitely there for me (to make the team), it's whether or not I want to take it or not. So, I just have to go prove it. I feel like I've been doing a good job of that so far and just trying to pay attention to the little details and everyday practice routine."

Skating with Pionk was not planned, the veteran Jets defenceman and his wife Kiera had just had their daughter so they were in town already.

"Just kind of worked out that way, I don't know what I would have done if it was just me skating here. But I have some friends that I have played with in the past that live here like Brett Howden and Seth Jarvis," said Coghlan.

"I skated with them to and with P, so yeah, it was good to kind of get under his wing a little bit and have him introduce me to people and introduce me to people around the rink. So, it just made things easy."

Coghlan said that he and Pionk have a lot of similarities.

"We're not going to be the loudest guy in the room. Dry humour, just a calm attitude, very positive," said Coghlan.

"So, he was great, and I couldn't have asked for someone better to welcome me here."

Coghlan is now playing with his third NHL organization after starting with the Vegas Golden Knights and coming to Winnipeg via the trade from Carolina. The 26-year-old knows he is hitting a crucial time in his pro career.

"I know how everything works now. Maybe three or four years ago if you asked me how to play, it would be a little bit different now. I've learned a lot in the past couple of years," said Coghlan.

"Just a few switch ups with how I do things, how I approach the game. I always thought it was go out there and make a nice pass or a nice play in the o-zone but now I kind of have shifted my focus more towards the d-zone. Trying to make that first nice pass and try and get myself into the right areas and set myself up to get into the offensive zone."

The door is open right now on the Jets blueline for Coghlan with the injuries to Ville Heinola and Logan Stanley. That being said, he understands that he can't go out on the ice and try to do too much to impress the coaching staff.

"You want to try and stand out as much as you can but at the same time try not to put yourself in a position where you're trying to do too much like you said. For me, that was kind of my problem when I was younger. I thought I had to make these certain plays," said Coghlan.

"But now I feel like it's almost more rewarding for a coach to complement you on some of your d-zone plays. Like even Arnie (Scott Arniel) today complemented a couple of d-zone plays of mine, that felt way better than say if he complemented me on an o-zone play."

ICE CHIPS

There was a moment of concern about halfway through the skate this morning when Nikolaj Ehlers went down in the corner and stayed down for a bit. The Danish forward got up and rejoined his teammates for the second half of practice.

"I didn't even see it because I was talking to one of the guys about one of the plays (from) earlier. He seemed better," said Arniel.

"He just got a little bit spooked on (the play). He kind of hit skates with (Mark Scheifele) and kind of tweaked himself a bit. But I think he's fine."

Associated Press

<https://www.nhl.com/news/topic/season-previews/winnipeg-jets-2024-25-season-preview>

'Powerhouse' Central Division has 7 playoff contenders

By Stephen Whyno The Associated Press

Nino Niederreiter has taken a bit of a tour around the NHL's Central Division, from Minnesota to Nashville to Winnipeg, so few know better just how deep it is.

Dallas is coming off a trip to the Western Conference Final, Colorado could get captain Gabriel Landeskog back after a two-year absence, Nashville loaded up by signing Steven Stamkos and others, St. Louis is back in the mix and Utah should be much-improved after relocating from Arizona. Only a maximum of five can make the playoffs.

"I feel like it's back to a powerhouse," Niederreiter said of the Central. "You have four or five teams that are going to play for the playoff spots, and I think it's going to be very difficult."

The Stars go in as the slight favorite after reaching the third round and pushing eventual West champion Edmonton to six games. Outside of the Oilers in the Pacific, Dallas is among the likeliest teams to get out of the conference and reach the final next spring, especially after making a long run.

"We learned just how hard it is to win," young forward Wyatt Johnston said. "You always hear and everyone always talks about it. But you really learn once you get there how hard it is to win."

It's not easy to win even one playoff game, and you've got to win 16 of them to win the Stanley Cup."

The Avalanche won the Cup three years ago, and hoisting it was the last thing Landeskog did on the ice in the NHL. Add him back to a group led by reigning MVP Nathan MacKinnon and elite defenseman Cale Makar, and Colorado looks poised to be among the league's best once again.

Then there are the Predators, who added Stamkos, Jonathan Marchessault and Brady Skjei in free agency and signed goaltender Juuse Saros to a long-term extension. Saros and his teammates know it is time to make it count.

"You've got to work and be humble to get all the pieces working together because it is a hard league to win," Saros said. "But obviously the expectations are there, for sure."

On the rise

The Blues pulled off the biggest surprise of the summer, signing Dylan Holloway and Philip Broberg of the Oilers to offer sheets that Edmonton opted not to match. Five years since winning the first title in franchise history and after going through a bit of a reset on the fly, St. Louis is back as a clear contender.

"(General manager Doug Armstrong has) been pretty open and honest with everyone about our team the last couple years and being in a retool," forward Robert Thomas said. "We're in a time to push right now. The retool's over, we're ready to go and I'm excited to kind of show everyone what we've built in St. Louis."

The Utah Hockey Club also made some splashes, acquiring two-time Cup-winning defenseman Mikhail Sergachev from Tampa Bay at the draft among a series of moves by GM Bill Armstrong. There is also the excitement of the team formerly known as the Coyotes getting a fresh start in Salt Lake City, much like an expansion team but with tons of young talent already in place.

"It's a great experience to be part of something brand new, a new team, because that doesn't happen often," goaltender Karel Vejmelka said. "It's kind of unique, and I'm pretty excited about it."

On the decline

Someone has to miss the playoffs other than Connor Bedard and the Chicago Blackhawks, who are likely at least a couple of years away from making that leap.

Minnesota might be on the wrong end of that in the final year of salary cap calamity. Buyouts of the albatross contracts of Zach Parise and Ryan Suter in 2021 will help the Wild immensely down the road, but they combine to count almost \$15 million this season, which will hamstring GM Bill Guerin in what's expected to be the final season for well-respected veteran goalie Marc-Andre Fleury.

On the hot seat

If Utah does not make a marked improvement, Andre Tourigny could be among the first coaches fired. Tourigny was brought in a few years ago to teach a young team good habits, and he has done that well, but an experienced hand at the wheel might be needed to take the next step for a franchise eager for a good start for their new fans.

Predicted order of finish

Dallas, Colorado, Nashville, St. Louis, Winnipeg, Utah, Minnesota, Chicago.

Winnipeg Free Press

<https://www.winnipegfreepress.com/breakingnews/2024/10/01/as-roster-cuts-loom-boys-on-the-bubble-make-case-to-crack-jets-lineup>

As roster cuts loom, boys on the bubble make case to crack Jets lineup

By: Ken Wiebe

When you spend enough time on the edges of a roster, a certain mentality is required.

On one hand, you need to be confident in your abilities, even though there's always a handful of other players in the organization trying to take the job from you.

There's an awareness that comes with the territory, but you also can't waste much time concerning yourself about those who find themselves in a similar situation — especially when they might be your linemates on any certain day.

After the Winnipeg Jets cut down to 36 players on Sunday, the boys on the bubble recognize the opportunities to make their respective cases are dwindling, at least when it comes to the opening-day roster.

The latest chance comes on Wednesday as the Jets host the Calgary Flames in the fifth of six preseason games.

"I'm trying not to overthink all of the stuff happening every day," said Jets forward David Gustafsson. "There are going to be cuts, there are going to be times when you're not playing on the line that you thought you would be playing on. It's easier said than done, but it's a big thing that I'm working on right now."

The other advantage for players like Gustafsson is that they know what their strengths are and what they need to work on.

"I know exactly what my role will be if I get in the lineup and I know exactly what I've got to do to stay in the lineup," said Gustafsson, who played 39 games primarily as a fourth-line centre last season with the Jets. "It's a matter of being able to do it every single day."

After Jets general manager Kevin Cheveldayoff declared on July 1 that there would be more opportunity for younger players to win jobs, some observers wondered how much roster turnover could be on the horizon.

Operating under the premise 11 of the maximum of 14 forward jobs available belonged to players who hit double digits for the Jets in goals last season — Mark Scheifele, Kyle Connor, Gabe Vilardi, Nikolaj Ehlers, Vladislav Namestnikov, Cole Perfetti, Nino Niederreiter, Adam Lowry, Mason Appleton, Alex Iafallo and Morgan Barron — that essentially leaves three spots up front.

Gustafsson and Rasmus Kupari both spent time on the Jets' fourth line last season and appear to be in the driver's seat to be on the team.

"We have a lot of good guys, good depth. Some guys are battling for the same spots, so that pushes us to perform better and give everything we have," said Kupari. "The most important thing is to be solid all over those small details. Be that guy that the coach can trust."

Then it's likely down to Brad Lambert and newcomer Jared Anderson-Dolan.

Of the remaining forwards in camp, Brad Lambert looks like the best bet to break camp, though he's still not a lock. On Tuesday, Lambert was skating on a line with Niederreiter and Lafallo, a group that could see action against the Flames.

As much as coach Scott Arniel emphasizes the importance of not reading too much into the daily training camp groupings, the second set of skaters on Tuesday included forwards Dominic Toninato, Axel Jonsson-Fjallby, Mason Shaw and Nikita Chibrikov and defencemen Simon Lundmark, Tyrel Bauer and Dmitry Kuzmin and goalie Thomas Milic.

Chibrikov has shown well, but is probably destined to open the season in the American Hockey League with the Manitoba Moose — though he's going to be in the mix as a call-up.

Lambert and Chibrikov are the only two forwards that don't require waivers, so that could be a consideration for the opening 23-man roster, which is due on Sunday.

Anderson-Dolan, who has 127 NHL games on his resume with the Los Angeles Kings and Nashville Predators, is expected to play with Adam Lowry and Gustafsson on Wednesday.

Anderson-Dolan has been singled out by Arniel during camp for his high compete level and would bring a bit more of a physical element to the fourth line if he sticks around.

"When you come to a new organization, you've got to show what your identity is," said Anderson-Dolan. "For me, that's a guy that works hard every day. Be hard on the forecheck, try to win puck battles, try to be physical and be on the body."

There was always going to be a little bit more turnover with the defence corps after the departures of Brenden Dillon and Nate Schmidt in free agency, but the picture got a bit more cloudy after the injuries to Ville Heinola and Logan Stanley.

That's opened the door a tad for Elias Salomonsson to contend for a job.

Salomonsson, the top defence prospect in the organization, was paired with Colin Miller on Tuesday and should skate alongside him against the Flames in what will be his fourth preseason game.

The expectation was that Salomonsson would require some seasoning with the Moose before he was ready to make the jump, but his combination of mobility, puck-moving and willingness to engage physically has kept him in the battle with Haydn Fleury and Dylan Coghlan for the sixth and seventh spots on the depth chart.

Asked for his message to the players on the periphery going into the final two preseason outings, Arniel made it clear a heartfelt speech wasn't going to be required.

“I have no message for them. They know. I talked to them at the very beginning of camp,” he said. “These guys, they know what jobs they’re fighting for and they know what they have to do to try and make our hockey team. They don’t need me coming to tell them anything more.”

<https://www.winnipegfreepress.com/sports/2024/10/01/scheifele-eager-to-play-on-penalty-kill>

***Scheifele eager to play on penalty kill
Experience on power play an advantage on PK, says Jets centre***

By: Ken Wiebe

Mark Scheifele doesn’t really remember the set of circumstances surrounding his removal from the penalty kill during the Paul Maurice era.

So when Winnipeg Jets head coach Scott Arniel brought up the possibility of returning to the ice while shorthanded during a conversation this offseason, Scheifele was more than happy to accept the challenge.

“I don’t even know when it actually happened,” said Scheifele, who has been added to the regular rotation with linemate Kyle Connor, with Nikolaj Ehlers an option to join them. “It’s a big opportunity and time to bail a guy out that got a penalty.”

Scheifele is quick to admit when you’re not among the penalty killers, it can be tough to stay in flow of the game when your team takes multiple minors during a period.

“If it’s a big penalty game, when (the team is) on a lot of kills, you can kind of get out of rhythm,” said Scheifele. “So I think by getting out there, penalty kill shifts aren’t typically super long unless you get hemmed in your own end, but it’s just a matter of staying in the rhythm of things. It keeps you wired in the right way, I think. So, I’m excited to kind of get that going.”

Scheifele’s experience on the power play is something he can draw upon when trying to shut down the man-advantage.

“You definitely pick up some things,” said Scheifele. “As a power-play guy, you kind of know what the other team is trying to accomplish. So, you have kind of an idea of what their routes might be, what their options might be, and being able to jump on that opportunity. So it’s going to be a work in progress, but I’m just excited to get going.”

The scare

When Ehlers went down to the ice in the right-wing corner with what appeared to be a non-contact injury midway through Tuesday’s on-ice session, there was a hush in the air.

Ehlers had made a tight turn but there was no body contact on the play, which prompted some additional concern until he made his way to his feet and left the ice under his own power after a discussion with assistant athletic therapist Brad Shaw.

The Jets were simply changing rinks and Ehlers completed the session after having his skate blade looked at.

“I didn’t even see it because I was talking to one of the guys about one of the plays (from) earlier,” said Arniel. “He just got a little bit spooked on (the play). He kind of hit skates with (Scheifele) and kind of tweaked himself a bit. But I think he’s fine.”

There were times during the skate when Ehlers looked a tad uncomfortable and didn’t have his most explosive bursts, but the good news was the injury doesn’t appear to be something that’s going to sideline him.

The Jets have already lost a pair of defencemen, Ville Heinola (ankle) and Logan Stanley (knee) to injuries for at least a month and losing a top-six forward would have added to the early challenge.

Arniel was looking on the bright side Tuesday, noting the timing of the injuries to Heinola and Stanley means their recovery period was already starting before the regular season was underway.

Numbers game

Arniel was asked if the injuries to Stanley and Heinola might impact the Jets original plan to break camp with a 22-man roster instead of going with the maximum of 23.

That was something Arniel brought up after the first day of on-ice sessions, noting the economic benefits of accruing additional cap space over the course of the season by leaving one of the roster spots open.

With the Jets defensive depth already being tested, they might be reluctant to expose a forward to waivers before the opening-day roster is due on Sunday for fear of that player being claimed.

Despite that consideration, Arniel maintains the Jets aren’t abandoning the idea of a 22-man roster permanently.

“We’re going to have to see and play this out here. We’d like to get to that, whether that’s Game 1 or if that’s Game 10 or whatever we get to,” said Arniel. “We’ve got to see where all of our injured guys are, moving down the road here. Obviously, waivers and all of that will play into it.”

Temperatures rising

Arniel has challenged his players to raise their compete level since training camp began and they’ve responded accordingly.

On Tuesday, that meant Jets defenceman Josh Morrissey catching Cole Perfetti with a check in front of the net after he was on the receiving end of a slash earlier in the drill.

“I’m not big on fighting in practice or any of that stuff,” said Arniel. “My biggest thing is when you get one-on-one with someone that your will prevails over theirs and I’ve been preaching that from Day 1. Sometimes the temperatures go up a bit, like they did there. But they’re two guys walking down the hallway and hugging each other afterwards.”

Winnipeg Sun

<https://winnipeg.sun.com/sports/hockey/nhl/winnipeg-jets/could-a-philosophy-change-be-on-horizon-for-jets-offence>

Could a philosophy change be on horizon for Jets' offence?

By Scott Billeck

It may as well be Scott Arniel's slogan for training camp.

Don't read too much into it.

The head coach of the Winnipeg Jets is referring to his line combinations. He has done a lot of experimenting, and he should be.

He's already lost two defencemen to injury. His hand has been forced there. Injuries are a part of the game. You need to know if different looks can work when the time comes.

Arniel may be tinkering with a philosophy change up front and not just a contingency plan, however.

"There's different ways to go about it," he said. "There's lots of that where you have three lines of skill and one line that can go out and kill penalties and shut down the opposition and play a physical role."

Traditionally, the Jets have iced two scoring lines and two checking lines. Top-six and bottom-six roles have been defined.

Arniel's lines on Tuesday go against that — tired, some might argue—ideology.

The top two lines were as we expect them to open the season: Kyle Connor and Gabriel Vilardi flanking Mark Scheifele and Vladislav Namestnikov between Nikolaj Ehlers and Cole Perfetti.

Arniel's third and fourth lines stood out like a sore thumb, in a good way.

Brad Lambert was between Nino Niederreiter and Alex Iafallo, adding a scoring touch to what might be considered a 2B combo.

That left Adam Lowry working with Jaret Anderson-Dolan and David Gustafsson, while Rasmus Kupari, Mason Appleton and Morgan Barron worked as the team's fifth line.

Those last two lines weren't as important. Part of the don't read too much into it that is accurate.

Until further notice, Lowry will play with Appleton and one of Niederreiter or Barron.

It's Lambert's role that caught people's attention.

If they don't view him as the team's option at the second-line centre spot just yet, can they still find room for him to be effective at what he does well?

Having Niederreiter and Iafallo on either side gives that line two guys who will battle and win pucks, and a playmaker and excellent shooting threat in Lambert.

"I want to see what they look like. I want to see how it goes," is all Arniel would say.

Lambert hasn't been as flashy as he was last year. He's traded some of that pizzazz for a better all-around game.

He dazzled at times a year ago, but his defensive warts soon took over. That hasn't been the case in this camp. He ironed those out in the AHL last season.

Indeed, that's given Arniel the option of considering Lambert in a role that could shift Winnipeg's offence into a higher gear.

He'd still retain a dominant checking line of Barron-Lowry-Appleton in that case.

Those three also posted 11, 12 and 14 goals, respectively, last season.

That's four lines that can score if you're keeping count.

And Barron feels like a shoo-in to play in Niederreiter's spot. They play a similar game.

It's about options, and late into training camp, Arniel continues to find the right mix.

<https://winnipeg.sun.com/sports/jets-elias-salomonsson-set-for-next-test-vs-flames>

Jets' Elias Salomonsson set for next test vs. Flames

By Scott Billeck

Elias Salomonsson may be in with a chance.

But how realistic is it for a 20-year-old who has never played meaningful hockey in North America to make an NHL squad?

Only the Winnipeg Jets have that answer, and head coach Scott Arniel wasn't budging on Tuesday.

"I'm not making that decision until we have to," Arniel said.

He's got until Sunday afternoon, giving Salomonsson more time.

Salomonsson will get a look on the left side of the blue line opposite Colin Miller against Calgary at Canada Life Centre on Wednesday.

Miller's all but locked up a starting job with the Jets. With Hadyn Fleury and Dylan Coghlan also in the mix, who will be his partner is still being determined.

The right-shot Salomonsson hasn't played much hockey on the left, but Arniel wants to assess his abilities.

The team is already down two players on that side, with Ville Heinola (ankle) and Logan Stanley (knee) having surgeries in the past week or so.

“That will be another test for (Salomonsson),” Arniel said. “Liked a lot of how he has grown through this camp. Saw him last year, but this year there’s a different player there. More experienced player.”

The Swede looked nervous in his first game, trying to find his bearings. But Arniel liked his game in an 8-5 defeat to the Minnesota Wild last Friday.

“There’s a lot of really good things that he’s done,” Arniel said. “I don’t just evaluate those games. These drills we’re doing in practice, especially when we get head-to-head on five-on-five stuff, I get a chance to feel his body positioning, his stick detail, his physicality, how he reads plays, how he reads rushes.

“He’s been good. He’s gotten better, is probably the quickest answer. He’s gotten better as the week has gone on.”

The 2022 second-round pick is taking it all in stride.

Of course, he prefers the right side, but he’ll do anything to earn a spot in the NHL.

“It’s an opportunity for me now,” Salomonsson said. “I’m just going to keep working hard and do the best that I can.”

Neal Pionk has taken notice.

“I like how smooth he is,” the veteran blue-liner said. “I noticed that right away, even last year. He’s smooth. He’s natural. He’s athletic. And then he gets into the games and it’s translating into the games, too.”

Pionk once had to prove his worth, just like Salomonsson is attempting at the moment.

His advice?

“Play your game,” he said. “You’re here for a reason. You were drafted for a reason. Whether you shoot, skate, pass, you’re physical, you’re smooth, make breakout passes... whatever it is, play your game.”

It still feels like a long shot.

There aren’t many defencemen who come from European ice and make an instant impact in tighter NHL confines at Salomonsson’s age, save for some of the game’s best, such as Dallas’s Miro Heiskanen, a top-three draft pick.

Edmonton’s Evan Bouchard played nearly an entire AHL season before he became an everyday NHLer. The Oilers may have rushed Philip Broberg a little too soon, going back and forth between Edmonton and Bakersfield. Broberg only found his stride in the playoffs last year.

It often takes time, and there’s a balance to be struck.

Could Salomonsson tread water in the NHL? Probably.

Would he benefit from top pairing minutes in all situations with Manitoba? Probably.

Jets general manager Kevin Cheveldayoff isn't a fan of developing a prospect in the NHL. Salomonsson needs to do more than stay afloat.

He's been a quick study. And Arniel really likes him.

Winnipeg's last two pre-season games will be the stiffest tests yet against NHL-heavy rosters, giving Salomonsson a couple more chances to give Arniel and Cheveldayoff a headache.

The Hockey News

<https://ca.sports.yahoo.com/news/josh-morrissey-remains-cornerstone-jets-130000717.html>

Josh Morrissey Remains Cornerstone of Jets Blueline: What to Expect from Winnipeg Jets' Star Defenceman

By Jake Tye

One Winnipeg Jets blueliner that has worked his way up from the AHL to becoming a superstar stud for Winnipeg's defence corps is Josh Morrissey. He has broken out in a big way with Winnipeg in the last few years and has inserted himself regularly into the Norris Trophy conversation.

This could be a big year for the 29-year-old, as many are expecting a bit of regression. Bet365 has him listed at +110 to finish with 70 or more points this season despite finishing top-4 in points for blueliners (145) over the past two seasons.

Yahoo Sports has Morrissey projected to finish with the fifth-most assists this season at 61 alongside 11 goals for a total of 72 points, which would be four points away from his career-high. ESPN also has the Calgary native projected for a 70-point campaign with 14 goals and 56 assists.

It should be doable as he will be reunited with his longtime blueline partner Dylan DeMelo, who re-signed with the Jets on a four-year extension in the offseason. The duo have been one of the best pairings in the league, as last season they finished with 62 goals, which was third-most of any defensive pairing. They have impeccable chemistry, as last season as they played a shocking 1,207 minutes together.

Morrissey should be a reliable 70-point producer once again barring no injuries, but it would be interesting to see him tap into his scoring ability a bit more and produce goal numbers like that of Rasmus Dahlin or Evan Bouchard and find himself more towards the 20-goal mark.

The Jets will certainly need it as they lost key offensive pieces in Tyler Toffoli and Sean Monahan to free agency and will be heavily reliant on younger core of forwards like Gabriel Vilardi and Cole Perfetti. This may push the team and Morrissey to turn him loose and hopefully help him reach numbers closer to his 28-goal campaign in 2014 with the Prince Albert Raiders of the WHL.

If he can produce a surprising 20-goal season in his bigger role with the team this season, we shouldn't be surprised if he finds himself back near the top of the Norris Trophy conversation.

Global Winnipeg

<https://globalnews.ca/news/10789973/jets-brad-lambert-training-camp/>

ANALYSIS: Lambert impressive, but no room on Jets roster

By Paul Edmonds CJOB

At some point, Brad Lambert is going to be a full-time NHLer. It might even be this season, but it likely won't be out of training camp to start the Jets' regular season next week in Edmonton. And the reason for that is simple: there just isn't any room for him on the roster.

For most of this pre-season Lambert has been impressive, displaying a growth in his game that has been overt from his beginnings with the organization three seasons ago. His speed and skating are an NHL asset and at 20 years old, he's destined for a lengthy and prolific career.

But if we concede that Lambert is projected as a top-six player with an offensive flair, then who is he better than right now at centre or right wing? Who would he usurp? Scheifele? Vilardi? Ehlers? No chance!

Anyone who feels he's capable of winning the second-line centre job over Vladislav Namestnikov at this point in training camp probably wasn't watching Friday's pre-season game in Minnesota, where Lambert was pitted against veteran centres Ryan Hartman and Joel Eriksson Ek for the entire game. Let's just say politely that Lambert's inexperience was exposed.

For the betterment of the player, unless Lambert is playing in a top-six role for the Jets out of the gate, it makes little sense for him to begin the season with the big club, because, frankly, he's never going to be a checking-line forward. Playing only eight or nine minutes a night doesn't serve his development, and hanging around as the 13th forward would be even more preposterous.

What's probably best for Lambert right now is to start the season with the Moose once again and then wait for his chance to make the move full-time to the NHL, while at the same time working on areas of his game that will make that final ascension a permanent one — similar to the way Logan Stankoven's season played out for Dallas last year.

So again, at some point, Brad Lambert will be a full-time NHLer, but that arrival likely won't coincide with the Jets' season starting a week from Wednesday in Edmonton.