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<https://www.nhl.com/jets/news/three-things-three-point-night-for-perfetti>

***Three things - Three point night for Perfetti
The Jets improved to 6-0 with a 3-2 win in St. Louis over the Blues.***

By Jamie Thomas

The Winnipeg Jets began their three-game road trip with 3-2 win over the St. Louis Blues to remain unbeaten at 6-0. The Jets have now won 14 consecutive regular season games, dating back to last season. Trailing 1-0 after one, the Jets got goals from Nino Niederreiter, Colin Miller and Kyle Connor. Connor has points in all six games (5G, 1A) this season and his goal was the game winner. The Jets have allowed three goals or less in all six games. Winnipeg will travel to Seattle and will play the Kraken on Thursday.

JETS OWN SECOND PERIOD

The Jets came into tonight with the league's top ranked power play and it helped them tie the game in the second period. With the St. Louis Blues up 1-0, the jets failed to score on their first man advantage. But during their second opportunity, Neal Pionk took a shot from the point and Nino Niederreiter redirected the puck past Jordan Binnington.

Winnipeg continued their impressive performance in the middle frame and took the lead thanks to a rocket of a shot off the stick of Colin Miller at 13:58 to make it 2-1. Just under four minutes later, Kyle Connor ripped a shot past Binnington for a 3-1 Jets lead after 40.

"Just kind of stuck with it. Same plan. Obviously frustrating not being able to capitalize on some of those chances with a lot of zone time. Stuck with it. Obviously Miller's goal was huge for us, kind of got us going," said Kyle Connor.

"Then just sticking with and not getting frustrated. A lot of these teams, it's easy to say what the heck and play into that game. I thought we did a good job and were a mature group to kind of stick to what we do best."

PERFETTI BIG NIGHT

All three goals in the second period were assisted by Cole Perfetti. The 21-year-old now has three career three assist games, the others came on Nov. 29, 2022 (vs. Colorado) and Jan. 13, 2023 (at Pittsburgh). The Ontario product has seven points in his last three games (2G, 5A). On top of his offence, Perfetti made a huge defensive play lifting the stick of Brandon Saad before the Blues forward had a chance to tie the game late in the third.

"It was one of those ones where you just kind of see the play develop and I thought the guy was probably going to pass it back to him because it looked like it was probably back door," said Perfetti of the stick lift.

"I just tried to get as much strength under it and lift his stick as hard as possible and luckily it worked out."

GAME SAVER

Connor Hellebuyck was his usual steady self, making 27 saves to improve to 5-0 to start the 23-24 campaign. His best save came with under 30 seconds remaining and the Jets holding onto a one goal lead, Brayden Schenn thought he had a wide-open net and the game tying goal but Hellebuyck lunged over and got his right toe on the puck to preserve the win.

NHL.com

<https://www.nhl.com/news/winnipeg-jets-st-louis-blues-game-recap-october-22>

Jets remain undefeated, edge Blues for 6th straight win Perfetti has 3 assists for Winnipeg; Saad scores twice for St. Louis

By Lou Korac

ST. LOUIS -- Kyle Connor scored for the fourth straight game, and the Winnipeg Jets extended their season-opening winning streak to six games, defeating the St. Louis Blues 3-2 at Enterprise Center on Tuesday.

Cole Perfetti had three assists for the Jets (6-0-0). Connor Hellebuyck made 27 saves.

"That was a great road win," Perfetti said. "A good way to start off the (three-game road) trip. There's times where they made good pushes and we responded well. That was a great second period and we got some timely goals. It was a great effort by our group."

Brandon Saad scored twice, Robert Thomas had two assists, and Jordan Binnington made 21 saves for the Blues (4-3-0), who ended a four-game homestand (2-2-0).

"We came out and had a good first," Blues defenseman Ryan Suter said. "The second, they're such an explosive team, you let off the gas a little bit and they take advantage of it, and that's what happened there in the second."

Saad gave the Blues a 1-0 lead at 10:11 of the first period, scoring on the rebound of Thomas' wrist shot. It was Saad's 500th NHL point.

Nino Niederreiter tied it 1-1 at 8:12, tipping in Neal Pionk's wrist shot from the right point on a power play.

"I thought we were really good in the second," Jets coach Scott Arniel said. "We got out of our zone a lot cleaner going fast. We won a bunch of battles and obviously scored. We got a power-play goal and another goal. And then we got rolling again. We got them back on their heels a bit."

Colin Miller gave Winnipeg a 2-1 lead at 13:58 with a one-timer from the right point off a pass from Perfetti, and Connor made it 3-1 at 17:40 with a snap shot from the left circle.

"We just kind of stuck with it," Connor said. "Same plan (as the first period). Obviously frustrating not being able to capitalize on some of those chances with a lot of zone time. Stuck with it. Obviously, Miller's goal was huge for us to kind of get us going. Not getting frustrated was the biggest thing. I think we did a mature job to what we do best."

Saad made it 3-2 at 5:15 of the third period on the rebound of Jordan Kyrou's shot.

Blues captain Brayden Schenn had a chance to tie it with 43 seconds remaining after a puck bounced near the goal crease, but he couldn't get a stick on it.

"It just rolled off his shoulder or blocker," Schenn said of Hellebuyck. "I had the open net and went to hit the rolling puck and it hit the top of my stick and didn't get all of it."

Thomas left the game at 8:14 of the third after blocking a shot earlier in the period from Pionk. Blues coach Drew Bannister said it was a lower-body injury and that Thomas would have X-rays done after the game.

NOTES: Connor has 31 points (14 goals, 17 assists) in 24 games against the Blues. ... Blues defenseman Philip Broberg's season-opening six-game point streak ended.

Associated Press

<https://www.sportsnet.ca/nhl/article/hellebuyck-stops-27-shots-lifts-undefeated-jets-to-win-over-blues/>

Hellebuyck stops 27 shots, lifts undefeated Jets to win over Blues

By Associated Press

ST. LOUIS — Goaltender Connor Hellebuyck, last season's Vezina Trophy winner, recorded 27 saves to spark the undefeated Winnipeg Jets to a 3-2 victory over the St. Louis Blues on Tuesday night.

Scoring for the Jets (6-0) were Nino Niederreiter, Colin Miller and Kyle Connor. All three goals came in the second period. Cole Perfetti assisted on all three goals.

Brandon Saad scored both goals for the Blues. Robert Thomas assisted on both goals.

Hellebuyck, who is 16-5-2 in his career against the Blues, improved to 5-0 this season.

Jordan Binnington made 21 saves for St. Louis, who closed out a four-game homestand.

Takeaways

Jets: Winnipeg has owned the Blues the past three seasons, winning 10 of the past 12 matchups.

Blues: Philip Broberg, who has six points in the first six games with one goal and five assists, was held scoreless.

Key moment

A three-goal outburst in the second period gave the Jets a 3-1 lead. Niederreiter started it at 8:12 with a power play goal. Miller scored his first goal with the Jets with 6:03 left. Connor scored on a wrist shot from the left faceoff circle with 2:20 remaining. It was his fifth goal of the season.

Key stat

Saad earned his 500th career point in the first period when he scored his first goal this season at 10:11, giving St. Louis a 1-0 lead. Saad has 254 goals and 246 assists in his 857-game career. The 31-year-old was drafted in the second round by the Chicago Blackhawks in 2011.

Up next

The Jets play the Seattle Kraken on Thursday. The Blues begin a four-game road trip against the Toronto Maple Leafs on Thursday.

Sportsnet.ca

<https://www.sportsnet.ca/nhl/article/jets-takeaways-perfetti-proving-his-worth-for-nhls-last-unbeaten-team/>

Jets Takeaways: Perfetti proving his worth for NHL's last unbeaten team

By Jacob Stoller

For those who think the Winnipeg Jets should've signed Cole Perfetti long-term this past summer, Tuesday night was an 'I-told-you-so' moment.

The 22-year-old was a difference-maker from the get-go of Winnipeg's 3-2 win over the St. Louis Blues. It started with him generating two five-on-five scoring chances in the first period. Then he registered three assists in the second period. And finally, Perfetti made a potentially game-saving defensive stick lift on Brandon Saad, who, if not dealt with, was in prime position to score.

His teammates are hardly surprised by that type of outing from Perfetti, who has seven points through his first six games of the season.

"We know what type of player he is," Kyle Connor told reporters post-game. "Really smart, really spacious and knows where everybody is on the ice. You can see it with a couple of the plays he made on the ice tonight."

Perfetti may not wow the untrained eye — he's not a quick skater and you shouldn't expect him to pull off a dazzling toe-drag or a 'Michigan' — but he's one of the NHL's most cerebral young talents.

Take the stick lift, for example.

"It was one of those ones where you see the play develop," Perfetti said. "I thought the guy was probably going to pass it back to him because it looked like he was almost backdoor and I just tried to get as much strength under it and lift his stick as hard as possible."

It was another example of Perfetti executing based on his instincts. The same can be said about each of his three assists.

The first assist was made possible by a deceptive shoulder turn from Perfetti, who was retrieving a loose puck in the corner on the power play. He forced Ryan Suter to retreat, buying himself time and space before dishing it off to Neal Pionk, whose subsequent point shot was tipped home by Nino Niederreiter for the Jets' first goal of the game.

The second assist was a perfectly placed pass to Colin Miller, the trailer in the transition chance. His slapper gave the Jets a 2-1 lead.

Perfetti's final assist saw him retrieve the puck in the corner and dish the puck off to Dylan Samberg, who promptly teed up Connor for Winnipeg's third goal

Samberg, Perfetti's former roommate, admires the five-foot-11 forward's ability to slow the game down.

"He takes that extra half a second to make a play, whereas other guys, if they don't have a play right there, will either panic or just chip it in," Samberg told Sportsnet after a practice earlier this month. "He's got this calm confidence to him where he can wait that extra half a second and make a little head fake and buy him enough time."

Winnipeg atop NHL standings

The Jets remain undefeated with a 6-0-0 record. They've been dominant in virtually every area of the ice.

Big game for Big Stan

Logan Stanley appears to have the inside track on the Jets' sixth defenceman spot.

Jets coach Scott Arniel played Stanley for a second straight game — his first two games of the season after missing Winnipeg's first four games due to a knee injury — over Haydn Fleury. Winnipeg's belief in Stanley, its 2016 first-round pick, is well documented. And fans may cringe to read this ... but he actually had a pretty strong outing.

The six-foot-seven defencemen generated several clean zone exits, made a couple smart defensive plays and spent considerable time on the penalty kill.

For now, Stanley likely stays in the lineup over Fleury. But what happens once Ville Heinola is healthy?

Vilardi Drought

Gabriel Vilardi is snake bitten.

Vilardi is one of just four Jets forwards — alongside Alex Iafallo, Morgan Baron and David Gustafsson — without a goal this season. He came incredibly close on a few occasions against the Blues but even with the poor luck, Vilardi hasn't been shooting as much as he was last year.

After recording 2.48 shots per game and 0.83 power-play shots per game last year, Vilardi's averaging just 0.83 shots per game and 0.16 power-play shots per game through his first six games.

One thing that's interesting to note, too, is that Vilardi is averaging just 0.66 power-play shot attempts per game — a noticeable drop-off from last year (1.23).

TSN.ca

<https://www.tsn.ca/nhl/video/right-now-they-look-like-they-can-run-over-anybody%7E3015222>

'Right now they look like they can run over anybody...' (VIDEO)

In a new Ray & Dregs podcast, Ray Ferraro, Ryan Rishaug and Darren Dreger discuss how the Winnipeg Jets may have been underestimated and why they won't fade away in the playoffs like they did last season.

<https://www.tsn.ca/nhl/video/what-has-been-the-secret-to-winnipeg-s-perfect-start%7E3011096>

What has been the secret to Winnipeg's perfect start? (VIDEO)

The Jets are the only undefeated team still standing in the NHL with a sparkling 6-0-0 record. What has been Winnipeg's secret to success? TSN Director of Scouting Craig Button shares his thoughts on that, the strong play of Cole Perfetti and more.

<https://www.tsn.ca/nhl/video/is-perfetti-about-to-breakout-for-the-jets%7E3015757>

Is Perfetti about to breakout for the Jets? (VIDEO)

With his three points against the Blues, Cole Perfetti has seven points over his last three games. How has the young forward been able to flourish so far under new head coach Scott Arniell? TSN Director of Scouting Craig Button joins Jay Onrait to discuss.

Winnipeg Free Press

<https://www.winnipegfreepress.com/breakingnews/2024/10/22/perfetti-makes-sure-jets-remain-perfect-with-three-assists>

Perfetti makes sure Jets remain perfect with three assists

By: Ken Wiebe

ST. LOUIS – Another day, another way.

The Winnipeg Jets once again overcame a deficit, though this one didn't require any late-game heroics, but rather a three-goal outburst in the second period that tilted the game.

By holding off a late charge, the Jets earned a 3-2 victory over the St. Louis Blues on Tuesday to improve to 6-0-0 on the season.

"We need everybody to be contributing, and we are," said Jets left-winger Kyle Connor, whose goal proved to be the game-winner. "You never know who it's going to be on any single night and that's what's great about this team, it's so tough to cover our depth."

The Jets continue a three-game road trip on Thursday against the Seattle Kraken.

HEATING UP – By scoring his fifth goal of the season late in the second period, Connor extended his point streak to six games.

Connor showcased his extraordinary ability to fire the puck with a quick release that went off the crossbar and in on the blocker side of Jordan Binnington.

"Great play coming off a change. I had a lot of daylight coming down," said Connor. "Saw a little opening there and went for it."

The only game that Connor hasn't scored in was the second, when he assisted on the overtime winner by linemate Mark Scheifele, who is also riding a six-game point streak and continues to lead the Jets in scoring.

Speaking of hot streaks, Cole Perfetti has put a quiet start to the season behind him by producing seven points during the past three outings.

"It's good for the confidence of the line. We're feeling it the last couple of games here," said Perfetti. "A lot of it is coming from our good D-zone. We're taking care of things in our end of the ice and really trying to dial that in."

Perfetti assisted on each of the Jets goals in the second period, but he made a critical play that won't end up on the scoresheet, lifting the stick of Blues forward Brandon Saad before he could potentially tie the game with 5:30 to go in the third period.

“It was one of those ones where you see the play develop,” said Perfetti. “I thought the guy was probably going to pass it back to him. I just tried to get as much under him and lift his stick as hard as possible. Luckily, it worked out. I would have liked to have got the puck out before that and then that wouldn’t have happened. But it was a pretty good defensive game all around and from our line, so we’re going to build on that.”

THE PERFECT TIP – After being limited to only six shots on goal in the first period, the Jets leaned on their power play to get them going.

With former Brandon Wheat Kings captain Brayden Schenn serving a holding minor, Nino Niederreiter got to the front of the net and his body position allowed him to redirect a shot by Neal Pionk to tie the score 1-1.

Getting both units going early in the season has been and will continue to be important.

“That group’s been great all year. You can see, sometimes they don’t have a lot of time to work with, but they make the most of it,” said Connor. “They play quick, you can see their pace is really good. Obviously just more of a direct mindset getting shots to the net.

Niederreiter has goals in consecutive games after scoring an empty-netter on Sunday in the 6-3 win over the Pittsburgh Penguins.

Niederreiter had a glorious chance to make it 4-1 early in the first period, but he was unable to convert a backdoor pass through traffic.

The Blues made it a one-goal game a few minutes later, setting the stage for an exciting finish.

MILLER SHAKES OFF TUMBLE – Jets defenceman Colin Miller left the ice favouring his leg after getting tangled up in front of the net with Blues forward Jake Neighbours during the second period.

Miller was able to shake off the apparent leg injury to score his first goal of the season on a rocket of a shot from the point.

Perfetti put the puck on a tee for him and Miller unloaded.

THE SAVE – It was a strong effort by both netminders in this one, but an athletic kick save by Blues goalie Jordan Binnington was as timely as they come.

With the Jets leading by a goal, Scheifele found himself alone in front of Binnington after corralling the puck and as he extended on the backhand, Binnington kicked out his right pad to make an outstanding save.

EXTRA, EXTRA – Choosing the three stars is something that can create discussion and engagement, so let’s give it a go. The third star is Pionk, who seemed to be all over the ice in this one, chipping in an assist and five blocked shots. The second star belongs to Blues winger Brandon Saad, who managed to score twice on rebounds in front of Jets goalie Connor

Hellebuyck. The first star, is Perfetti for helping to get the Jets offence unlocked in the second period with three helpers.

Hellebuyck made his fifth start in six games and finished with 26 saves.

Neighbours was in the news earlier in the day when he inked a two-year extension that carries an AAV of US\$3.75 million that kicks in next season.

The Blues announced their 2025 Hall of Fame class will include Winnipegger Wayne Babych, goalie Curtis Joseph and defenceman Jim Roberts. Babych, who was chosen third overall by the Blues in the 1978 NHL Draft, spent the first six seasons of his NHL career with the Blues. He racked up 54 goals and 96 points in 78 games during the 1980-81 season, which was the most productive of his career. Babych also played for the Pittsburgh Penguins, Quebec Nordiques and Hartford Whalers.

<https://www.winnipegfreepress.com/breakingnews/2024/10/22/jets-defence-a-work-in-progress>

***Jets defence a work in progress
Steen off to a smooth start in Blues' manager training program***

By: Ken Wiebe

ST. LOUIS – If Scott Arniel has a firmer idea for how he's going to handle the rotation on defence, he's not ready to reveal it just yet.

When asked about what could be in store for the defence corps moving forward, the head coach of the Winnipeg Jets made it clear it's a work in progress.

"I don't have a plan, I go game to game," Arniel said before the Jets faced the St. Louis Blues.

Arniel decided to make one lineup change on Tuesday night, inserting Rasmus Kupari back in at centre on the fourth line for David Gustafsson.

On defence, Logan Stanley stayed in for a second game on the third pairing with Colin Miller.

Stanley was limited to one preseason game and missed most of training camp after suffering a knee injury that required surgery to his meniscus, but made his season debut Sunday against the Pittsburgh Penguins.

Arniel wanted to ensure Stanley came out of the game without any issues with the knee before committing to going back with him against the St. Louis Blues.

"Once you get into a rhythm again and recognize how to play with your partner and see how they can read off of each other," said Arniel. "When you get to go right back at it quickly, you can continue to build on what you've done."

The Jets are back in action on Thursday against the Seattle Kraken and that could provide a clue about whether Haydn Fleury could draw back in against one of his former teams or if Stanley will be given some additional runway to try and create some separation in this competition for playing time.

Steen in training

Winnipegger Alex Steen was revealed as the general-manager-in-waiting of the St. Louis Blues back in June, though it was announced at the same time that Doug Armstrong would be staying on in the role for two more seasons before the transition was complete.

This isn't as simple as a handoff either, since Armstrong is staying with the organization as president and is under contract through the 2028-29 season.

Since the announcement was made, Steen has been keeping a low profile, immersed in the work that includes some important mentorship from a number of experienced members of the management team, including Armstrong — who built the roster that helped the Blues capture the Stanley Cup in 2019.

"It's gone very well from my perspective," Armstrong said Tuesday. "He's a joy to be around. He's learning a lot from the management staff that he works with every day. He's starting to separate from that player mentality in dealing with the guys. They have a ton of respect for him, but there's an understanding that he's in management — and he has to see things from many different layers than he had to as a player.

"It's been a real smooth start."

Seeing Steen move into a management role isn't a surprise to his former Blues teammates.

"He was a huge part of our team when we won the Stanley Cup," said Blues defenceman Colton Parayko. "If you talk to a lot of hockey guys, culture is a big thing and he did a lot of things for the team dynamic behind the scenes that were just huge for the team.

"I'm glad I got to play with him. He's going to do a great job."

During the course of his career, Steen had plenty of experience moving up and down the lineup, while contributing to the power play and penalty kill at various stages.

He played a skilled game, but wasn't afraid to get his nose dirty or go to the hard areas.

He understood the subtleties of the game and the value of each and every player on the roster.

That's something that should translate well when it comes to team building and evaluating talent.

"When you get a chance to play on all four lines, you see what each one is all about," said Parayko. "Having a long career, a successful career is also another where you understand the

locker room and you understand the dynamics of the season and the grind and all of the little things that go into it.

“He has a good head on his shoulders. He sees it all and takes a lot into account. Right now, he’s doing a lot of learning from a great GM.”

Hofer advancing

Winnipegger Joel Hofer was back in a support role on Tuesday, but he’s been splitting starts with Blues goalie Jordan Binnington this season and has shown he’s ready for the enhanced role.

Hofer is off to a 3-0 start with a 2.32 goals-against average and .932 save percentage after appearing in 30 games with the Blues last season.

He recently accomplished the rare feat of posting a shutout and recording an assist on the overtime winner in a 1-0 triumph over the New York Islanders.

“For a young goalie, he’s continuing to mature and building off what he did last year and previous years,” said Blues head coach Drew Bannister, who was an associate coach when Hofer broke into the pro ranks with the Utica Comets in the American Hockey League during the 2021-22 season and his head coach for two seasons with the Springfield Thunderbirds. “With his puckhandling ability, there’s maturity there. He’s just taking another step in the right direction for us and he’s been outstanding so far this year. He’ll continue to build on that. He’s got a great guy to lean on with (Binnington).”

Winnipeg Sun

<https://winnipeg.sun.com/sports/hockey/nhl/winnipeg-jets/jets-arniel-keeps-focus-one-game-at-a-time>

Jets' Arniel keeps focus one game at a time

By Scott Billeck

Scott Arniel isn’t one for five-game or 10-game segments.

The head coach of the Winnipeg Jets, who have started their season a perfect 5-0-0, would rather stick to the old sports adage of one game at a time.

“Because if one, you do great, it’s good,” he said. “But if you don’t, you’re kind of, what are you selling next?”

“So I’m more about the next game, the next opponent, and put the critique on what you’ve done in the last game or a couple, and then use it to get better in practice, and then through practice and video, and then move on to the next game.”

The thing about an 82-game schedule is that you often play a different team the next time you hit the ice.

As Arniel said, it provides different looks regularly.

Teams get better. They evolve throughout the season.

So, Winnipeg cannot rest on its laurels, especially as the team embarks on a three-game road trip that will see it face teams that have all had better starts than the five teams it played previously.

“You take the Edmonton, Minny, Pittsburgh games—veteran groups,” Arniel said. “Teams that are battle-weary or battle-heavy. We’ve got Chicago, San Jose, two younger teams trying to find their way. Now we’ve got teams that are back to being off to good starts, being grind teams that play heavy, that play hard at home.

“It’s one of those things where we have to be good at what we do and be consistent at what we do. We’ve done that here in the last five, and now we’ve got to go out on the road and do the same thing.”

What Arniel has liked about his team’s start is their ability to find different ways to win.

They blew out the Oilers in the season opener and then ground out consecutive 2-1 overtime wins before scoring 14 times over their last two outings heading into Tuesday’s matchup with St. Louis.

“I think our specialty teams have helped us,” Arniel said. “It might have been the Lowry line, scoring three goals or the first game in Edmonton. (Mark Scheifele’s) line in a couple of the other ones. (Vladislav Namestnikov’s) line a couple of (games) ago. In our forward group, we’re getting contributions from everybody.

“The D have been good not to spend too much time in our own end. I’ve just liked our consistency throughout our lineup. It’s helped us look the same on every shift, going out and having that same mindset.”

Arniel has also let his lines breathe, which has allowed chemistry to build—something that’s helped the Namestnikov line shake off the rust and find its groove.

“That’s probably one of those things that I’ve learned over the years: let guys grow their chemistry.” Arniel said. “If you keep changing it too much, it gets hard. Sometimes you have to after a certain time period, you just have to, but at the end of the day, most of the guys that are in this league, and they’re in this league for a reason, they’ll find a way to work things out and they’ll find a way to work things out, and they’ll find a way to get their game going first and then get their partner or their linemates up and running with them.

“That’s kind of what we’ve seen a little bit with all our group.”

Schedule changes

The Jets announced two changes to their regular-season schedule on Tuesday.

Their Saturday, Nov. 9 game at home to the Dallas Stars, originally slated for a 6 p.m. start at Canada Life Centre, has been pushed back to 2 p.m.

Meanwhile, their 2 p.m. start against the Detroit Red Wings at home on Saturday, Jan. 4, is now scheduled for 6 p.m.

The Nov. 9 game was changed in case the Winnipeg Blue Bombers host the West Final at Princess Auto Stadium.

<https://winnipegson.com/sports/billeck-jets-cole-perfetti-silencing-doubters>

BILLECK: Jets' Cole Perfetti silencing doubters

By Scott Billeck

So you doubted Cole Perfetti? How's that working out these days?

The Whitby Kid has two goals and seven points in his past three games, including a three-assist effort in Winnipeg's 3-2 win over the St. Louis Blues on Tuesday.

This is why it's unwise to cast aspersions a few games into the season. Sometimes, young players take a bit of time to get going.

Perfetti's engine cranked a few times before it turned over to start the year, but now he's playing at a better-than-point-per-game level.

On Tuesday, every one of Winnipeg's second-period goals was assisted by Perfetti, and all three were great plays to help inflict the damage the team needed to improve to 6-0-0.

But what really stood out had nothing to do with Winnipeg's goals at all.

It was the play he made with about 5:30 remaining in the third, lifting the stick of Brandon Saad in the slot just as the latter was about to tee up a bomb.

The Jets were protecting a one-goal lead at the time, and Perfetti had just fallen but had the wherewithal to get right back up and find the strength to get that stick lifted to prevent any chance from happening.

"It was one of those ones where you see the play develop," Perfetti told reporters in St. Louis. "I thought the guy was probably going to pass it back to him because it looked like he was almost backdoor and I just tried to get as much strength under it and lift his stick as hard as possible. Luckily, it worked out."

“Would’ve liked to have gotten the puck out before that, and that wouldn’t have happened, but it was a pretty good defensive game all around and from our line, so I think we’re going to build on that.”

His excellent play is happening at both ends of the rink, and it’s being noticed.

“We know what type of player he is,” Kyle Connor said. “Really smart, really spacious and knows where everybody is on the ice. You can see it with a couple of the plays he made on the ice tonight. So it’s awesome. We need everybody to be contributing, and we are. You never know who it’s going to be on any single night and that’s what’s great about this team, it’s so tough to cover our depth.”

Here are a few more thoughts from Tuesday’s win:

- Gabriel Vilardi is snakebitten at the moment. To borrow terminology from motorsport, it feels like he’s just off the pace by a couple of tenths of a second. There’s not a lot of puck luck going his way. That will sort itself out over time. I wouldn’t count Vilardi out from hitting 40 just yet. The dam will burst soon enough. He’s getting his chances. A lot of them.
- Logan Stanley looked more confident, and a lot of his passes were quick and accurate outlets on Tuesday. The thing head coach Scott Arniel will have to see is more physicality. Arniel’s said as much. Stanley is also coming off an injury where he couldn’t skate for a while. He missed most of training camp because of it. It takes some time to work into game shape, and it comes with playing in games.
- Jordan Binnington took the loss for the Blues, but it wasn’t because he played poorly. Both Connor’s and Colin Miller’s strikes were of the unstoppable variety. Binnington’s kick save on Mark Scheifele was the finest save at either end on the night. Why are we focusing on Binnington, you ask? He’s auditioning to be Canada’s starter for the 4 Nations Face-Off in February.
- Rasmus Kupari was tasked with some important faceoffs late in the third period. That’s an interesting development, especially during a game where Lowry was over 80 per cent, and Scheifele was nearly 60.
- Winnipeg’s penalty kill was solid, especially on that third-period delay-of-game call against Dylan Samberg.
- Neal Pionk had five blocked shots. He’s probably having the best under-the-radar start to the year of anyone on the team. Really good.

<https://winnipeg.sun.com/sports/connors-fifth-perfetti-three-assists-help-jets-remain-perfect>

Connor's fifth, Perfetti's three assists help Jets remain perfect

By Scott Billeck

Make it six wins on the trot for the Winnipeg Jets.

Kyle Connor scored his fifth of the season, and Cole Perfetti added three helpers as the Jets improved their perfect start to 6-0-0 with a 3-2 win at the St. Louis Blues on Tuesday.

Nino Niederreiter kept Winnipeg's white-hot power play rolling, and Colin Miller scored his first of the season for Winnipeg, who scored three times in the middle frame.

"It was a great road win, good way to start out the trip," Perfetti told reporters in St. Louis. "There was times that they made good pushes and we responded well. That was a great second period. We got some timely goals. It was a good effort by our group."

Connor Hellebuyck's unblemished record reached five wins after stopping 27 shots.

Winnipeg has now won 14 straight games dating back to last season, three games shy of the NHL record helped by the 1992-93 Pittsburgh Penguins, who won 17 in a row.

Brandon Saad scored both St. Louis goals, and Robert Thomas notched a pair of assists for the Blues, who fell to 4-3-0.

Jordan Binnington made 21 saves in a losing effort but had a few highlight-reel stops as he continued his bid for Canada's crease at the 4 Nations Face-Off in February.

Saad had the first period's only goal, scoring his first of the year at 10:11 to give the Blues a 1-0 lead through 20 minutes.

After a so-so start, the Jets came guns a-blazin' in the second, scoring three unanswered, beginning with Niederreiter's power-play tally at 8:12.

Colin Miller unleashed a bomb from the point for his first of the year at 13:58 to take the lead, 2-1, at 13:58, and Connor's fifth came on a rocket at 17:40 to put Winnipeg ahead by two.

"Just kind of stuck with it," Connor said. "Same plan. Obviously frustrating not being able to capitalize on some of those chances with a lot of zone time. Stuck with it. Miller's goal was huge for us, kind of got us going.

Perfetti assisted on all three goals and has seven points in his past three games. He made an incredible second effort late in the third period to lift Saad's stick, preventing what would have been a one-timer from the slot.

“A lot of these teams, it’s easy to say what the heck and play into that game,” Connor said. “I thought we did a good job and were a mature group to kind of stick to what we do best.”

Saad’s second of the game pulled the Blues to 3-2 with 5:15 gone in the third.

Winnipeg’s penalty kill went 2-for-2, including a crucial kill late in the third period after Dylan Samberg took a delay of game penalty for putting the puck over the glass.

Hellebuyck made a pair of huge saves with seconds left in regulation and the extra attacker on for the Blues to keep the lead intact.

The Jets head to Seattle to resume their three-game road trip with the date with the Kraken on Thursday.

Global Winnipeg

<https://globalnews.ca/news/10825576/perfettis-three-assists-help-winnipeg-jets-beat-blues-for-6th-straight-win/>

Perfetti’s three assists help Winnipeg Jets beat Blues for 6th straight win

By Russ Hobson & Christian Aumell Global News

The Winnipeg Jets’ torrid start to the season continued Tuesday night, downing the St. Louis Blues 3-2 to start a three-game road trip.

The Jets remain the last undefeated team in the NHL as they moved to 6-0 to improve on their best start in franchise history.

The Jets fell behind for the second straight game, but they responded with three straight goals in the second period to take the lead and Connor Hellebuyck made a game-saving stop in the dying seconds to secure another victory.

“I thought our first eight minutes, we were a little bit slow out of the gate,” said Jets head coach Scott Arniel. “I thought we weren’t real crisp on what we were trying to do and St. Louis, I thought were better for the first eight. Then we got going.

“I think two teams kinda feeling each other out a little bit. I thought we were really good in the second though.”

Story continues below advertisement

Nino Niederreiter, Kyle Connor, and Colin Miller scored goals for the Jets.

“Just kinda stuck with it,” said Connor. “Obviously, frustrating not being able to capitalize on some of those chances with a lot of zone time. But stuck with it. Obviously, Miller’s goal was huge for us, kinda got us going.

“Not getting frustrated was the biggest thing. A lot of these teams, it’s easy to just say what the heck and play into that game. And I think we did a good job, with a mature group to kinda stick to what we do best.”

Connor’s second period goal extended his point streak to six games and he’s scored a goal in five out of six contests this year.

Cole Perfetti registered three assists and now has seven points over his last three games.

“It definitely feels good,” Perfetti said. “It’s good for the confidence of the line and I think we’re feeling it the last couple games here. A lot of it is coming from our good D-zone. I think we’re taking care of things in our end of the ice and really trying to dial that in.”

The Jets have now won 10 of their last 11 meetings against the Blues and are 3-0 against Central Division opponents this season.

The Jets, with the NHL’s top ranked power play, scored once on two chances with the man advantage with Winnipeg’s second power play unit connecting.

“We’re not relying on just our top unit,” Arniel said.

The Blues opened the scoring just past the midway point of the first when Brandon Saad banged home a rebound past Hellebuyck, giving St. Louis a 1-0 lead that they would carry into the second period.

Just over eight minutes into the middle frame, Winnipeg’s red-hot power play struck again as Niederreiter tipped home a Neal Pionk point shot to level the score.

The Jets took the lead less than six minutes later. Perfetti laid a perfect pass to the point where Miller stepped into a howitzer that blew past Jordan Binnington at the 13:58 mark.

Connor made it 3-1 at the 17:40 mark, jumping off the bench and taking a pass from Dylan Samberg before wiring it high past Binnington.

Winnipeg carried the two-goal lead into the third but 5:15 into the period, Saad scored his second of the game off a rebound to cut the lead to one.

Both goalies made several good saves to keep the score the way it was, with Hellebuyck making a toe save in the final minute with Binnington pulled to secure the victory, Winnipeg’s fourth in a row against the Blues and 12th in their last 14 meetings.

Hellebuyck stopped 26 shots in earning the win.

The Jets now head to Seattle where they will look for a seventh straight win to start the season on Thursday. Puck drop is just after 9 p.m.

<https://globalnews.ca/news/10825916/winnipeg-jets-perfect-season-analysis/>

ANALYSIS: At some point, Jets will have to lose, despite incredible start

By Paul Edmonds CJOB

At some point, the Winnipeg Jets are going to lose a hockey game. It might even happen Thursday in Seattle or Saturday in Calgary, or maybe not until next week, but until then, they have earned the early spoils of a perfect start to date.

Simply put, Winnipeg has found ways to win, challenged by teams trying to find something in the pre-scout video to exploit. Through six games, however, nothing has stuck.

Now, the Jets' record and their maximum 12 points available doesn't qualify them for anything — especially in October — and history tells us that no NHL team has ever run the table on the 82-game season.

But what the Jets have done to begin their 14th campaign in Winnipeg is nothing short of incredible — a full-team attack that is structured, deep and most importantly, committed.

And that responsibility comes from several important sources throughout the lineup, not the least of which is veteran centre Mark Scheifele, whose about-face in his engagement to playing a 200-foot game is overtly noticeable in the last two years.

Often recognized for his offensive prowess and criticized for his defensive flaws, that gap has narrowed conspicuously and his play is more consistent and balanced and in lockstep — and so is the team's.

With his buying in at another level this season, it ultimately forces others to do the same and while there are going to be nights when it doesn't all work congruently, Scheifele's five goals and eight points in six games have been a catalyst to the Jets' impressive start.

How he plays the rest of the season will no doubt have a direct impact on how the Jets fare as well. And while he won't be perfect every night, neither will the Jets.

Because at some point Winnipeg is going to lose a hockey game, maybe Thursday, Saturday in Calgary, or perhaps next week.