

**Winnipegjets.com**

<https://www.nhl.com/jets/news/three-things-perfect-road-trip>

***Three things - Perfect road trip  
Perfetti scores game winner on power play as Jets beat Flames 5-3***

By Jamie Thomas

The Winnipeg Jets closed out their three-game road trip with a 5-3 win over the Calgary Flames to go 3-0 on the road trip. For the sixth time in their first eight games, the Jets failed to score first but improved to 6-0 when giving up the game's first goal. The Jets have now won 16 consecutive regular season games, dating back to last season, which sits as the franchise record and one away from the NHL record. Nikolaj Ehlers, Kyle Connor, Dylan Samberg, Cole Perfetti and Mason Appleton scored for Winnipeg, Eric Comrie made 27 saves for his second win of the season. The line of Adam Lowry, Mason Appleton and Nino Niederreiter combined for six points. The Jets return home to face the Toronto Maple Leafs on Monday at Canada Life Centre.

***CONNOR ON A ROLL***

Kyle Connor has looked ready to go since the opening puck drop of the season. The Jets forward entered action tonight seven points away from 500 for his career and it didn't take long for him to extend his point streak to eight games. Connor assisted on Nikolaj Ehlers power play goal 1:51 into the first period to even the score at 1-1. The 27-year-old scored shorthanded with 2:23 left in the opening frame with his team leading sixth goal of the campaign.

***WEIRD GOALS***

It was a strange night for the two goaltenders at the Saddledome on Saturday night as Eric Comrie and Dustin Wolf had some bad bounces in the second and third period. The Flames opened the scoring when Mikael Backlund managed to get the puck off Comrie's mask 28 seconds into the contest. Comrie was victimized by a bad bounce when Rasmus Andersson picked up a loose puck and shot the puck off Comrie's mask and into the net to tie the game at two. 1:17 into the third, Dylan Samberg fired a one timer from the point that went off the glass behind the Flames net and then off Wolf's back and in to give Winnipeg a 3-2 lead.

"Some not hometown, balances for them, the off the end wall, off the back and and, you know, I think that's the game of hockey," said Adam Lowry.

"That's kind of what makes it so great, is the unpredictable. Unpredictability and things like that."

***SPECIAL TEAMS***

The Jets number one ranked power play lived up to the billing on Saturday night scoring twice on four power plays. The Jets had a chance to take the lead in the third period with a 5-on-3 opportunity, but Wolf made two highlight reel saves to keep the game tied at three. 42 seconds after Calgary escaped from their third shorthanded situation, Nazem Kadri took a slashing penalty on Neal Pionk. Cole Perfetti scored the eventual game winning goal taking a pass from Nino Niederreiter and beating Wolf to the far post blocker side.

"So he (Niederreiter) found me, and I knew that before I was getting I knew I was going to shoot, and the guy kind of came across as a screen, I think so kind of just tried to get on net," said Perfetti.

"And I think it went through like right in here and kind of just got lucky."

## **NHL.com**

<https://www.nhl.com/news/winnipeg-jets-calgary-flames-game-recap-october-26>

### ***Jets edge Flames, extend season-opening winning streak to 8 Perfetti breaks tie with 3:44 remaining, Connor has 2 points for Winnipeg***

By Aaron Vickers

CALGARY -- Cole Perfetti scored a power-play goal with 3:44 remaining, and the Winnipeg Jets extended their season-opening winning streak to eight games with a 5-3 victory against the Calgary Flames at Scotiabank Saddledome on Saturday.

Perfetti gave the Jets a 4-3 lead with a shot under Dustin Wolf's blocker from the right face-off circle. The goal came less than three minutes after Winnipeg failed to convert on a 5-on-3 power play that lasted for 1:30.

"Before I got it I knew I was going to shoot," Perfetti said. "Their guy kind of came across as the screen I think, so kind of just tried to get it on net. We were just joking, [Kyle Connor] was buttering [Wolf] up for me because he was hammering one-timers at him on the 5-on-3, and then all I had to do was throw an off-speed changeup on him and that was, I guess, what got him. A little lucky, but it was great."

Connor and Mason Appleton each had a goal and an assist, and Neal Pionk, Adam Lowry and Nino Niederreiter each had two assists for the Jets (8-0-0), who are the ninth team in NHL history, and the fourth Canadian team, to record a winning streak of at least eight games to begin a season. Eric Comrie made 26 saves.

"It feels pretty good," Lowry said. "I think we'll definitely take the the wins for sure. Looking back on the stretch, there are areas of our game we still want to improve and there's areas of our game we really like. I think it's important we find ways to win in different ways. It's nice to bank these points early and hopefully we can continue this roll."

Mikael Backlund, Rasmus Andersson and Nazem Kadri scored, and Wolf made 30 saves for the Flames (5-2-1), who have lost three of four.

"I think we were better or outplayed them in big moments 5-on-5," Andersson said. "It was just ... 5-on-5 I thought we were the better team, honestly, and it was just too many penalties. Yeah, frustrating. Frustrating for sure."

Backlund gave Calgary a 1-0 lead just 28 seconds into the first period when he roofed a sharp-angled shot over Comrie's right shoulder from below the left circle.

Nikolaj Ehlers tied it 1-1 at 1:51 with a power-play goal. His intended backdoor pass for Gabriel Vilardi from the right post deflected five-hole off the skate of Andersson.

Connor put Winnipeg ahead 2-1 at 17:37 with a short-handed goal. He fended off Blake Coleman's backcheck on a 2-on-1 rush, took a pass from Lowry, and shot high over a sprawling Wolf.

Connor has 10 points (six goals, four assists) during a season-opening eight-game point streak.

Andersson tied it 2-2 at 17:28 of the second period when he banked a shot in off the side of Comrie's mask from just above the goal line.

Dylan Samberg put Winnipeg back in front 3-2 at 1:01 of the third period. His one-timer from the right point hit off the end glass, bounced back over the net and deflected in off Wolf's back.

"I haven't had one like that," Wolf said. "The instant reaction is he shoots it wide and the puck is coming out on the other side. I'm not sure how it bounced off and came back. Unfortunate for sure. Hate to see them."

Kadri tied it 3-3 at 4:19 with a wrist shot blocker side from the high slot.

After Perfetti scored his power-play goal, Appleton shot into an empty net at 18:46 for the 5-3 final.

"It's pretty awesome," Perfetti said. "The guys are excited, guys are happy. To be able to come on the road and get all three games too, that's a great trip for us. We're just going to try to keep this going. We're feeling good, we're playing great and the mood is really good. There's nothing better than winning."

*NOTES:* Scott Arniel is the first coach in NHL history to win his first eight games with a team. ... The eight-game winning streak is tied for the longest in Jets history. ... Winnipeg has yet to allow more than three goals in a game and has scored at least four in five games. ... Pionk (one goal, eight assists) and Ehlers (four goals, four assists) each extended his point streak to five games. ... Andersson (four goals, six assists in eight games) is the first Flames defenseman since Mark Giordano in 2013-14 to get 10 points prior to his 10th game of a season. ... Calgary forward Yegor Sharangovich was minus-1 in 19:23 of ice time in his return after missing the first seven games of the season because of a lower-body injury.

### **Canadian Press**

<https://www.sportsnet.ca/nhl/article/panthers-captain-aleksander-barkov-could-return-monday-against-sabres/>

### ***Undefeated Jets douse Flames to extend win streak to eight***

By Canadian Press

Kyle Connor and Mason Appleton each had a goal and assist on Saturday as the Winnipeg Jets made it eight straight wins to begin the NHL season with a 5-3 victory over the Calgary Flames.

Nikolaj Ehlers, Dylan Samberg, and Cole Perfetti — with the game-winner — also scored for Winnipeg (8-0), which has won 16 consecutive regular-season games going back to the end of the 2023-24 season.

It's a feat that's only been accomplished three times in league history: 1992-93 Pittsburgh Penguins (17), 2023-24 Edmonton Oilers (16), and 2016-17 Columbus Blue Jackets (16).

Mikael Backlund, Rasmus Andersson, and Nazem Kadri scored for Calgary (5-2-1). The Flames have lost consecutive games after opening the season with a franchise-best 5-0-1 mark.

Eric Comrie made 27 stops to get the win and improve to 2-0. Dustin Wolf finished with 30 saves in losing for the first time in four starts.

#### *TAKEAWAYS*

**Jets:** With Connor Hellebuyck getting the night off, Comrie made his second start and while he got beat over his shoulder from sharp angles on the Backlund and Andersson goals, he was solid the rest of the night.

**Flames:** The season debut of left-winger Yegor Sharangovich, who missed the first seven games with an upper-body injury, did not help the Flames struggling power play, which went 0-for-4 while only generating one shot. They also gave up a short-handed goal.

#### *KEY MOMENT*

With the game tied 3-3 in the third and just over a minute after the Flames had just killed a 90-second, two-man advantage with Wolf making six saves when Kadri's slashing penalty in the offensive zone put the Jets back on the power play again and this time they took advantage with Perfetti putting a shot in off of Wolf's blocker.

#### *KEY STAT*

The Jets' power play continues to sizzle along. Ranked 22nd last season, they entered Saturday's games ranked No. 1 in the NHL and they went 2-for-4 against the Flames improving 10-for-23 on the season.

#### *UP NEXT*

**Jets:** Host the Toronto Maple Leafs on Monday.

**Flames:** Visit the Vegas Golden Knights on Monday.

#### **Sportsnet.ca**

<https://www.sportsnet.ca/nhl/video/winning-in-lots-of-different-ways-perfetti-on-jets-remaining-undefeated/>

#### ***'Winning in lots of different ways': Perfetti on Jets remaining undefeated (VIDEO)***

Winnipeg Jets' Cole Perfetti joins Shawn McKenzie after his team defeated the Flames to stay perfect on the season, to discuss how the team's finding different ways to win, before breaking down his game-winning goal.

## **Winnipeg Free Press**

<https://www.winnipegfreepress.com/breakingnews/2024/10/26/perfetti-pots-third-period-winner-as-jets-beat-flames-move-to-8-0-0>

### ***Perfetti pots third-period winner as Jets beat Flames, move to 8-0-0***

By: Ken Wiebe

CALGARY — Cole Perfetti wasn't afraid to pass out credit where credit was due.

Although he ended up scoring the game-winning goal on the power play with 3:44 to go in the third period, Perfetti tossed a bouquet to Kyle Connor during his post-game session with members of the media after the Winnipeg Jets earned a 5-3 NHL victory over the Calgary Flames on Saturday at Scotiabank Saddledome.

"We were just joking that KC was buttering him up for me because he was hammering one-timers at him on the 5-on-3," said Perfetti, who scored his third goal of the season to help the Jets improve to 8-0-0 after they swept this three-game road trip. "All I had to do was throw an off-speed change-up on him and I guess that's what got him. A little lucky but that was great."

Special teams were the order of the day in this one as the Jets scored twice with the man-advantage and added a short-handed goal to go with one even strength marker and another one into the empty net.

The Jets had a glorious opportunity to break a 3-3 tie several minutes earlier during a 5-on-3 situation that lasted a full 90 seconds.

But instead of getting frustrated by the inability to find the back of the net on the power play, they carried over the momentum and got the go-ahead marker and then secured another victory against a tough opponent.

"Yeah, there was a little bit of everything," said Jets head coach Scott Arniel. "A lot was happening. I was really proud of our penalty kill in the second period. We found a way. That was an entertaining game for the fans. I don't know about the coaches, but it was entertaining for the fans."

The Jets return home to face the Toronto Maple Leafs on Monday before heading back out on the road for a two-game swing against the Detroit Red Wings and Columbus Blue Jackets.

Let's take a closer look at how this game unfolded:

**THE START:** With the Jets playing in a third different time zone in the final game of this road trip, goalie coach Wade Flaherty tapped Eric Comrie to make his second start of the season.

It was a tough opening minute for Comrie. He allowed Flames captain Mikael Backlund to score from a sharp angle just 28 seconds into the contest.

Comrie went down early, giving Backlund just enough room to sneak his shot in off the mask.

“Not much you can do there. He settled in, played great,” said Perfetti. “That didn’t rattle him. Just an unfortunate bounce on the first shift. He made some timely saves when we needed him.”

Comrie steadied himself after allowing the early goal, then gave up another unlucky one with 2:32 to go in the second period.

Once again, Comrie went down in the reverse VH stance before Flames defenceman Rasmus Andersson fired a high shot off his mask and in.

Comrie finished with 27 saves as he improved to 2-0.

In order to ensure Connor Hellebuyck isn’t overworked, Comrie is going to need to start somewhere in the neighbourhood of 19-to-24 games.

Hellebuyck, who has started six of eight games, has been outstanding so far and figures to get the next two starts before Comrie would get another his third of the season against the Columbus Blue Jackets on Friday.

*THE STREAK:* Connor scored his first short-handed marker of the season on a special effort late in the first period.

He did an excellent job of driving to the far post and even though Flames winger Blake Coleman caught him on the back check, Connor fought through the check, accepted a pass from captain Adam Lowry and then roofed his shot for his sixth goal of the season.

“There’s not many guys that can score that goal like he did,” said Perfetti. “Late in a shift, finds an energy burst to beat the guy up the ice, gets a bit of a hold against him and battles through.

“He gets that pass and it’s on and off of his stick and in, upstairs within a millisecond.”

The goal was another example of why Connor has returned to the penalty-killing rotation.

“We’ve used him this year because he is a threat when the puck happens to go the other way,” said Arniel. “He pushes people back and that’s what you like to see.”

With the marker, Connor extended his point streak to eight games — matching the mark for the longest streak to start a season established by former captain Blake Wheeler during the 2015-16 season.

*THE BOUNCES:* Two goals go in off the mask of Comrie, another off a skate and then Jets defenceman Dylan Samberg takes a shot that goes off the end boards, up in the air and bounces in off the back of Calgary goaltender Dustin Wolf. That was the kind of night it was for both teams.

“Some not hometown bounces for them, off the end wall, off the back and in,” said Lowry. “That’s the game of hockey. That’s kind of what makes it so great, is the unpredictability and things like that. But put pucks on net and good things will happen. So we’re not going to apologize for that unfortunate bounce.”

*EHLERS STAYS HOT:* The decision to promote Nikolaj Ehlers to the top power-play unit in what Davis Payne likes to call the pop position continues to pay dividends for the Jets.

Ehlers scored his second power-play marker of the season to tie the game at 1:51 of the first period when he banked his pass attempt in off the left skate of Andersson.

That Ehlers went an entire season without scoring on the man-advantage was one of the most baffling stats of 2023-24 — even with his limited power-play time on the second unit.

Given his creativity and willingness to adapt to the new spot in the formation, it's clear that Ehlers has been a threat so far.

Just think about how dangerous he might be once he feels a bit more comfortable in his new role.

*EXTRA, EXTRA:* The Jets healthy scratches were forward David Gustafsson and defencemen Haydn Fleury and Dylan Coghlan. Forward Yegor Sharangovich made his season debut and jumped right onto the top line with Nazem Kadri and Andrei Kuzmenko...

The Manitoba Moose slipped to 2-3 on the AHL season after falling 5-3 to the Rockford IceHogs on Saturday afternoon. Centre Brad Lambert chipped in a pair of assists, while CJ Suess, Mason Shaw and Nikita Chibrikov scored the goals for the Moose, who got 22 saves from Thomas Milic. Lambert (five assists) and Chibrikov (two goals, five points) lead Manitoba in points, while top defence prospect Elias Salomonsson is third with four helpers in five games...

Goaltender Kaapo Kahkonen, who was claimed off waivers from the Jets by the Colorado Avalanche earlier this month, made his first start of the season for the AHL's Colorado Eagles Friday night. Kahkonen, who was assigned to the Eagles on a conditioning assignment, started against the Calgary Wranglers and finished with 30 saves in a 3-2 loss. Kahkonen is expected to start against the Wranglers on Sunday.

## **Winnipeg Sun**

<https://winnipeg.sun.com/sports/hockey/nhl/winnipeg-jets/perfetti-scores-game-winner-as-special-teams-keep-jets-perfect>

### ***Perfetti scores game-winner as special teams keep Jets perfect***

By Scott Billeck

The value of solid special teams on both sides of the ledger was no more apparent to the Winnipeg Jets than on Saturday night in Calgary.

Without it, their perfect start to the 2024-25 season may have finally fallen.

Instead, a pair of power-play goals, including Cole Perfetti's third of the season to break a third-period deadlock, helped lift Winnipeg to a 5-3 win over the Flames at the Saddledome.

The Jets improved to 8-0-0 to start the year and continued their reign as the only undefeated team in the NHL. They've won 16 straight dating back to last season, the second-longest streak in NHL history behind the 17 won by the 1992-93 Pittsburgh Penguins.

Winnipeg's penalty kill was just as vital in the game. It went 4-for-4 and produced a shorthanded goal to give the Jets a 2-1 lead after the opening frame.

For the sixth time in eight games, the Jets surrendered first, with Mikael Backlund threading a puck over Eric Comrie's shoulder on the short side just 28 seconds into the game.

Comrie stopped 27 shots for his second win of the year after Connor Hellebuyck was given the night off.

The lead was shortlived, with Nikolaj Ehlers putting his fourth of the season off of the skate on Rasmus Andersson in front on the power play just 1:23 later.

Connor gave Winnipeg a 2-1 lead on his team's second shorthanded odd-man rush, converting from Adam Lowry's feed to extend his point streak to eight games (six goals, four assists) at 17:37. The point streak matched Blake Wheeler's franchise high set in 2015-16.

Andersson put one in the right net to tie the game 2-2 at 17:28 of the second, the only goal of the middle frame.

Winnipeg took a 3-2 lead when Dylan Samberg's point shot rebounded off the endboard glass, then Dustin Wolf's back in the crease 61 seconds into the third.

Nazem Kadri brought the game level again at 4:19 before Calgary found themselves in penalty trouble.

The Jets had a full 90 seconds of 5-on-3 time but couldn't convert on any of their seven shots as Wolf was up to the task.

Perfetti's game-winner came with Kadri in the box for slashing, finally solving Wolf with a high shot far side at 16:16.

Mason Appleton slid his third of the year into the empty net at 18:46.

Winnipeg went 3-0 on their three-game road trip and is back in action Monday night at Canada Life Centre, hosting the Toronto Maple Leafs.

### **TSN.ca**

<https://www.tsn.ca/nhl/video/are-the-jets-legit-cup-contenders-after-hot-start-to-season%7E3018858>

### ***Are the Jets legit Cup contenders after hot start to season? (VIDEO)***

Are the Jets a legitimate Stanley Cup favourite or is this just a hot start? Riding an eight-game point streak, Is Kyle Connor the most underrated forward in the NHL? TSN Hockey analyst Bruce Boudreau joins SportsCentre to share his thoughts.



## **Calgary Herald**

<https://calgaryherald.com/sports/hockey/nhl/calgary-flames/three-takeaways-as-flames-lose-to-jets-after-controversial-call>

### ***Three takeaways as Flames lose to Jets after controversial call***

By Wes Gilbertson

The Calgary Flames were threatening to knock the NHL's only undefeated team from that lofty perch.

Ultimately, they couldn't pull it off. Some will blame the referees for that.

The Winnipeg Jets capitalized Saturday on a late power-play, with Cole Perfetti potting the go-ahead goal with less than four minutes remaining in regulation as the visitors escaped the Saddledome with a 5-3 victory.

Flames centre Nazem Kadri was seething as he left the penalty box, giving Cody Beach an earful for a slashing call that he didn't believe was justified, especially in the late stages of a tied tilt. Beach figured that Kadri deserved to sit two minutes for a chop to Neal Pionk's hands as he carried the puck around his own net.

"We had a great game on our hands," said Kadri, who was tossed with a 10-minute misconduct as he continued to voice his frustrations after Mason Appleton's empty-netter. "It's very unfortunate that's what it had to come down to. I feel like you've gotta have some feel for the game. And especially when they're coming off a five-on-three, to have that one called is upsetting.

"I think both teams were playing great. It was tremendous hockey out there. It was just a tremendous battle. And someone had a little too much decision on the game."

The Jets departed Calgary with a still-perfect record, at 8-0-0.

The Flames, after a scorching start of their own, have now suffered back-to-back losses to fall to 5-2-1.

Kadri, Mikael Backlund and Rasmus Andersson each scored against the Jets, while Andrei Kuzmenko had a pair of assists and Dustin Wolf contributed 30 saves.

Here are three takeaways from Saturday's showdown ...

#### ***POWER-PLAY LACKS POP***

Go ahead and blame the officials.

We certainly understand the frustration.

But be sure to point a finger at the Flames' power-play, too.

The Jets were 2-for-4 on their man-advantage opportunities, with Nikolaj Ehlers getting lucky on a first-period pass attempt that banked off Andersson's skate and Perfetti burying that blocker-side shot with 3:44 to go.

The hosts were 0-for-4 when they were up a man. Worse yet, they allowed a shortie.

You're not going to beat the NHL's top troupe when you finish minus-3 in the special-teams tug-o-war.

After a strong start, the Flames have gone three consecutive games without cashing on the power-play. After Saturday's setback, head coach Ryan Huska noted that the return of Yegor Sharangovich likely created "a bit of disconnect" on the top unit. (It's nonetheless great news for the Flames that 'Sharky' is now back in the lineup after missing the first seven games due to a lower-body injury.)

"I do feel like, at times, there's a little bit of trying to do too much on your own," Huska said, assessing the Flames' recent funk on the power-play, which leaves them with a season-long success rate of 18.5%. "And then it does have a look almost of the play needs to be prettier or nicer than it needs to be. Just make a simple, quick and direct play, and I think we'll have a more success."

#### *WOLF'S WIN STREAK SNAPPED*

Wolf will be looking to start a new streak in his next start.

After notching seven straight victories, a string that dated back to the end of last season, the rising-star netminder was saddled Saturday with his first loss since April 4.

Nonetheless, this was another solid performance from the 23-year-old. What was particularly impressive was the way he shrugged off one of the weirder goals you'll ever see. Dylan Samberg fired wide, but the puck took a wacky bounce off the back-boards and hit Wolf right on the numbers as he tried to locate that ricocheted rebound.

"I thought, after that, he just got better," Huska said, stressing that Dan Vladar has been just as impressive when he's been between the pipes. "I feel both our goaltenders have been that way — they have been resilient this year and they've been two of our better players."

Wolf was at his best as the Flames survived a 90-second stretch with two players in the sin-bin in the third. During that sequence, he stoned Kyle Connor three times.

"That's a momentum swinger," Wolf said. "And if that penalty doesn't get called (on Kadri) shortly after, I think we're in good hands with momentum. It's on our side. It's unfortunate they get another power-play and they ended up scoring late in the game. That's hockey for you."

#### *STARING IS CARING*

If you're sitting in a front-row seat and wearing enemy colours, be warned that you could wind up on Andersson's highlight reel.

His stare-down celebration, it seems, is here to stay.

In Saturday's second period, Andersson squeezed a sharp-angle shot past Eric Comrie for his fourth goal of the season. He was cruising past when he spotted a fan in a Jets jersey, slamming on the brakes to greet that woman with an intense glare. She was a good sport about it, responding with a good chuckle.

Andersson has also mean-mugged fans in both Vancouver and Edmonton and found a dude in a Pittsburgh Penguins sweater after his other home-ice tally.

What's really encouraging is Andersson's current scoring clip. The 27-year-old tone-setter is tied for the team lead with four snipes in eight outings so far.

Throughout his career, this workhorse defenceman has averaged a goal every dozens games or so. His single-season high is 11, his total in 2022-23, but he's currently tracking to shatter that.

Andersson is also the first Flames' blue-liner in a decade to hit double digits in points prior to Game 10 on the calendar. Last to achieve that feat was Mark Giordano in 2013-14.