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<https://www.nhl.com/jets/news/three-things-jets-win-streak-ends-at-16>

***Three things - Jets win streak ends at 16
Kyle Connor has a four point night but Jets lose 6-4 to Maple Leafs***

By Jamie Thomas

WINNIPEG – The Winnipeg Jets saw their perfect start to the season come to an end at the hands of the visiting Toronto Maple Leafs losing 6-4 on Monday night. The Jets saw their winning streak end at 16 games going back to last season and just missed out on tying Pittsburgh's record of 17. Winnipeg is now winless in its past six games against Toronto. Kyle Connor had a four-point night and sits one point away from 500. Mark Scheifele (1G, 1A and Josh Morrissey (3A) had multi-point nights as well and Connor Hellebuyck made 30 saves and lost for the first time this season. The Jets will travel to Detroit to start a two-game road trip on Wednesday.

SLOW START

For the fifth consecutive game, the Jets gave up the game's first goal. Toronto got an early power play and while they didn't score, it gave them a lot of momentum and they dominated the first period. The Leafs opened the scoring at 11:56 when Max Pacioretty slid a pass across the crease and John Tavares had a wide-open net to beat Connor Hellebuyck. The Leafs would add to their lead with 2:13 left in the first, William Nylander was wide open in the low slot, and he beat Hellebuyck high blocker side. Toronto outshot Winnipeg 19-6.

"It was tough game for us. Obviously got behind it, four nothing there with almost two periods to play, and felt like we did a good job of battling back," said Josh Morrissey.

"Make it 4-2, to sort of get our legs going, and then obviously, letting another one. And we never quit throughout the night and we're 8-1 for a reason."

CONNOR SHOW

Down 4-0 in the second period, the Jets stole back momentum with their lethal power play which came in ranked first in the NHL at 10-for-23 (43.5%). The power play struck at 6:19, Mark Scheifele sent a perfect seam pass across to Kyle Connor and the team's leading goal scorer beat Anthony Stolarz short side to get Winnipeg on the board. Then on the Jets third power play of the period, Connor scored for a second time at 11:22.5. The 27-year-old received another perfect pass, this time from Josh Morrissey and Connor's shot went under Stolarz to make it 4-2. Connor would add two assists to get to 499 for his career.

"I think there's been a real focus of just having attack mindsets, a lot of pucks to the net," said Kyle Connor about the power play.

"Don't overpass. And, you know, you got a lane change of sides. You got a little ice in front of, you know, get the pucks on net. I think we were very direct tonight."

TAVARES BIG NIGHT

John Tavares has had some big nights against the Jets in his career, but he really put on a show at Canada Life Centre. After scoring the first goal of the night, Tavares stopped the Jets momentum in the second period with Toronto leading 4-2 after a couple of Jets power play

goals, the former Leaf captain would fight off Neal Pionk and backhand the puck past Hellebuyck for the eventual game winning goal. Tavares would add an empty netter for his 13th career hat trick.

NHL.com

<https://www.nhl.com/news/toronto-maple-leafs-winnipeg-jets-game-recap-october-28>

Tavares gets hat trick, Maple Leafs end Jets' season-opening winning streak at 8 Nylander, Pacioretty each has 3 points; Connor gets 2 goals, 2 assists for Winnipeg

By Darrin Bauming

WINNIPEG -- John Tavares had a hat trick for the Toronto Maple Leafs, who ended the Winnipeg Jets' season-opening eight-game winning streak with a 6-4 win at Canada Life Centre on Monday.

"I just liked our pace with our feet, with the puck, without the puck and the way we moved the puck as well," Tavares said. "The way we were able to use the open parts of the ice, get into the interior and make it difficult on their goalie. We drew some penalties early, so I just really liked the energy and pace of our game today."

William Nylander had a goal and two assists, and Max Pacioretty had three assists for the Maple Leafs (5-4-1), who had lost three straight games (0-2-1). Anthony Stolarz made 19 saves.

"That's exactly what we needed, for sure, especially coming into this building," Toronto coach Craig Berube said. "It's a tough building and a very good team we're playing tonight. I liked our mindset right away in the game of playing fast and quick and north. Good forechecks. We got pucks to the net that we hounded after. We were just on top of things."

Kyle Connor had two goals and two assists, and Gabriel Vilardi and Mark Scheifele each had a goal and an assist for the Jets (8-1-0). Connor Hellebuyck made 30 saves, and Josh Morrissey had three assists.

"Toronto was a heck of a lot better than we were," Winnipeg coach Scott Arniel said. "They wanted it. They came in here and gave us a punch right in the nose in the first two periods. It was a little late when we responded, but it's not good enough. We didn't come out the way we wanted to come out."

Tavares gave the Maple Leafs a 1-0 lead at 11:56 of the first period, tapping in the puck after Pacioretty slid the puck across the crease with a one hand on his backhand.

"I think it's just the pace, just the way we were able to get on top of them and cause turnovers, and just being connected," Tavares said. "It's not just one guy, it's the second guy coming in after to stall the puck or to get a deflection on it. Just to create a battle and opportunity to win it back."

Nylander made it 2-0 at 17:47, scoring with a snap shot from the slot.

"We were able to capitalize on the chances we got," Nylander said. "Great play by [Pacioretty] on the first goal to get us going. Gave John [Tavares] a backdoor tap-in."

Matthew Knies pushed it to 3-0 just 56 seconds into the second period when he found the rebound of Auston Matthews's shot and put it into an open net.

"We knew they were a good team," Knies said. "We knew coming into it they were up a few, and obviously you're in an away barn. Obviously, you want to get the pressure on them early, kind of silence the crowd a little bit. But I think we did a really good job of that and I think that's what gave us an early jump in the game."

Morgan Rielly then made it 4-0 at 3:25 with a wrist shot from the slot off a no-look backhand pass from Nylander after Pacioretty pulled the puck out of the corner.

"[Pacioretty] did an amazing job working really hard, winning pucks back and making some really nice plays," Nylander said. "We just meshed together off the hop, so it was nice."

Connor scored two power-play goals in the second period to make it a two-goal game. He made it 4-1 with a snap shot from below the left face-off dot at 6:19, then cut it to 4-2 at 11:25 with a one-timer from the right circle.

"It was a tough game for us," Morrissey said. "Obviously, we got behind it 4-0 there with almost two periods to play. Felt like we did a good job of battling back there to make it 4-2, sort of got our legs going, then obviously let in another one. But we never quit throughout the night. We were 8-0 for a reason, we're 8-1 for a reason. But that compete to battle back and make it a game so that we can pull the goalie and see if we could try to tie it up, I think that's the character of our group. We'll look at what we need to get better at, get some rest and move on."

Tavares pushed it to 5-2 at 17:53 of the second, batting in the loose puck at the left post after Oliver Ekman-Larsson's shot came back off the end boards.

"I know for me I can be a little bit sharper," Tavares said. "Just some differences that I've got to be better with. ... I think, like the rest of our game, we just had more jump. The pace was a lot better and just the way we were moving and moving the puck."

Scheifele cut it to 5-3 at 7:36 of the third, scoring with a one-timer from the right circle off a cross-ice pass from Connor with Hellebuyck on the bench for an extra attacker during a delayed penalty.

"We just didn't have the jump we needed," Connor said. "I thought they were a lot quicker to pucks. We just looked slow."

Vilardi cut it to 5-4 at 16:13 when he tipped Connor's shot from the left circle, but Tavares completed the hat trick with an empty-net goal at 19:35 for the 6-4 final.

"We believe that we're a great hockey team," Morrissey said. "We believe in each other and our systems, and it's given us a chance to have a good start to the season. ... I was proud of the way we fought back. And you know, we're going to need that effort all year long."

NOTES: Connor has 14 points (eight goals, six assists) on a season-opening nine-game point streak. ... The Maple Leafs have won their past six games against the Jets dating to March 31, 2022.

Sportsnet.ca

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

Jets suffer first loss of season but line juggling nearly leads to comeback

By Jacob Stoller

WINNIPEG — The Winnipeg Jets were bound to lose a game eventually, although that didn't give them much solace after a dreadful first two periods proved too much to overcome in a 6-4 loss to the Toronto Maple Leafs on Monday.

The Jets didn't show up through the first 40 minutes, which were mired by poor puck management, defensive play and a lack of urgency from the home team. At five-on-five, Toronto outshot the Jets 26-8 and produced vastly more high-danger shot attempts — 12 to 3 — in those two lopsided opening periods.

"They came in here and gave us a punch right in the nose," Jets coach Scott Arniel said of the first two periods.

The Jets gave up five goals against — all at five-on-five — in a fashion that would make any coach squirm, given that they were a result of poor defensive coverage, missed assignments and defensive zone giveaways. In other words, self-inflicted wounds.

"We just didn't have the jump we needed. I thought they were a lot quicker to pucks," said Kyle Connor, who's two power-play goals helped stop the bleeding, making it a 5-2 game entering the second intermission. "We just looked slow."

So, Arniel brought out the 'ol line blender.

"We had two scoring chances at five-on-five. That's what we ended up with. Two scoring chances," Arniel said of the first two-thirds of the game. "I just wanted us to go out and have a third period where we go out and work. Where we go out and go after them. I changed the lines up because I had to try something."

Here are the lines the Jets rolled out in the third period:

Nikolaj Ehlers — Mark Scheifele — Gabriel Vilardi
Kyle Connor — Adam Lowry — Cole Perfetti
Nino Niederreiter — Vladislav Namestnikov — Mason Appleton
Morgan Barron — Rasmus Kupari — Alex Iafallo

Josh Morrissey — Neal Pionk
Dylan Samberg — Colin Miller
Logan Stanley — Dylan DeMelo

To Arniel's credit, the lineup reconfiguration jolted the Jets. Their two goals may have come during 6-on-5 play — Mark Scheifele scored on a delayed penalty, while Gabriel Vilardi capitalized when Connor Hellebuyck was pulled at the 3:47 mark — but the new lines helped tilt

momentum in their favour during five-on-five play, with Winnipeg posting a 72 per cent Corsi-For percentage in the final period.

Sure, it's just one game — or rather, one period — but one ought to wonder if Arniel considers keeping some of these lines when Winnipeg faces the Detroit Red Wings on Wednesday. It's not like Winnipeg's five-on-five offence had been a strength for them throughout their eight-game winning streak. As of right now, Winnipeg ranks 22nd in five-on-five goals per 60 (2.24) and 23rd in five-on-five expected goals for per 60 (2.24), according to NaturalStatTrick.com. And the root of that stems from the struggles of the Jets' top-six.

Other Thoughts

- Arniel defended his first line when asked post-game about what the Connor-Scheifele-Vilardi trio needs to do to not get scored on so frequently. They've been outscored 9-2 during five-on-five play.

"I'm not going to start explaining what line does what against the opposition because I can go back to the eight games before and I still think that there's been a lot of good hockey that was played by those three guys," Arniel said. "There wasn't anybody that was good tonight for two periods. Toronto came out and took the game from us. They came in here and they played a lot harder and won a lot more battles than we did."

- Samberg and Pionk were on the ice for every single five-on-five goal against in the game. That pairing has been rock solid all year long and we shouldn't worry too much about their struggles but we'd be remiss to not acknowledge how those two really seemed to struggle against a hard, fast forechecking team. Both players bobbed a lot of pucks when they were pressured.

- Logan Stanley had a night to forget, including two first-period penalties (one of which was an ill-advised closing hand on the puck call). Stanley has played in five straight since he recovered from knee surgery but it wouldn't be surprising to see Haydn Fleury draw in against Detroit. That is, if Arniel is still interested in running a rotation for that sixth defenceman spot.

- The NHL's best power play remains red-hot, with the Jets capitalizing on half of their four power plays. They've scored on 44.4 per cent of their man-advantages.

- Here's an interesting stat: The Jets have scored six of their 40 goals with an empty net.

"It seems like we found the seam on a couple of them," Connor said. "Maybe there's something to that there."

"It's almost a function of our power play in that sense. I think that type of mindset transfers over to six-on-five."

<https://www.sportsnet.ca/nhl/article/maple-leafs-takeaways-pacioretty-seizes-opportunity-in-streak-spoiling-win-over-jets/>

Maple Leafs Takeaways: Pacioretty seizes opportunity in streak-spoiling win over Jets

By Emily Sadler

The Toronto Maple Leafs hit the ice Monday night still very much searching for their identity under new head coach Craig Berube.

They may have found it in Winnipeg.

It was going to take something close to perfection to disrupt the Jets' perfect 8-0 season-opening winning spree, and while there will be plenty still to clean up after the Maple Leafs' 6-4 victory, Monday's effort shows a team that's on the right track. Toronto outshot Winnipeg by a wide margin (36-23) and applied pressure early and often right out of the gates with a two-goal first period followed by two more early in the second to take a 4-0 lead. While Winnipeg is used to giving up the first goal, the four-marker margin was ultimately too steep a hill to climb — despite the Jets' best efforts, including a remarkable three-goal, four-point night from Kyle Connor, Winnipeg couldn't quite fight all the way back.

The Maple Leafs won in just about every aspect of this matchup, throwing more hits (25 vs. 21), winning the face-off battle (38-19), and blocking 18 shots. (Anthony Stolarz had a decent showing, too, stopping 19 of the 23 that did reach him.) Special teams were still a struggle, however, revealing plenty more work to come, but Berube's adjustments to his top-six yielded some serious second-line success.

Here are our top takeaways from the Maple Leafs' side of this fast-paced all-Canadian matchup, including a handful of victories within the victory for the visitors:

PACIORETTY MAKES GOOD ON PROMOTION AS BERUBE SHAKES UP LINES

When your team loses three straight games, you know change is coming. Berube's been tweaking his lineup nearly every game in this young season, but on Monday night found a winning formula we'll most likely see plenty more of.

Following the familiar first line of Auston Matthews centring Matthew Knies and Mitch Marner, Berube plugged Max Pacioretty into the left side of the second trio with John Tavares and William Nylander. Pacioretty's place in this lineup has been a bit of a puzzle to start the season — up until Monday, the 35-year-old had suited up in the bottom six, and has been scratched on more than one occasion as well.

The spark was instant. Pacioretty assisted on both of Toronto's first two goals — one dish each to Tavares and Nylander, thanks to his prowess behind the net — and collaborated with Nylander on the Maple Leafs' fourth goal of the game early in the second period. (Nylander's behind-the-back pass may have been even prettier than Rielly's snipe of a shot to beat Connor Hellebuyck, but it wouldn't have been possible without Pacioretty first digging out the puck.)

KNIES STAYS HOT, TAVARES' HAT TRICK SEALS VICTORY

Through the ups and downs of Toronto's campaign so far, the play of Matthew Knies has been a steady bright spot — and Monday night was no different. Knies is thriving early this season, scoring in four of the team's last five games, honing his smart net-front game and seizing opportunities to feed his top-line teammates while also cashing in on his own chances. He put the Maple Leafs up 3-0 Monday night with his buried rebound early in the second period.

But this was Tavares' night, his leadership shining through in the win as the veteran forward scored in all three periods for his fourth hat trick as a Maple Leaf. His empty-netter with 25 ticks on the clock sealed the victory for Toronto, halting the Jets' rousing comeback attempt and securing the win, was a heads-up play that saw hats fly from the many Maple Leafs fans in the Winnipeg crowd. Fans from both sides of this matchup lost their caps, as Connor also had a hat trick of his own.

POWER-PLAY STRUGGLES CONTINUE, DESPITE CHANGES

Included in Pacioretty's second-line promotion was his insertion into the Maple Leafs' top power-play unit, taking the place of William Nylander with an eye to motivate No. 88 and try to jumpstart something — anything! — on a stagnant special-teams unit that's produced very little so far this season.

Unlike his top-six shakeup, though, Berube's power-play adjustments didn't yield any production on this night.

All six of Toronto's goals Monday night came at even strength — a positive, to be sure, if their special teams' struggles weren't so heavily in the spotlight these days. While Toronto's five-on-five play mirrored the kind of strong structure we've seen from the Jets early in this season, they might want to take a few notes from Winnipeg's special teams. Salt met wound when Winnipeg went on the power play, scoring on two of four opportunities and making it look easy. (Mark Scheifele's third-period goal to make it 5-3 came at 6-on-5 on a delayed penalty.) The Jets boast the league's top-rated power play, operating at 44 per cent (including Monday night's success). It was Winnipeg's prowess with the man advantage — and Toronto's frequent trips to the penalty box — that almost flipped the script in this one.

While the Maple Leafs' top unit saw ice time early, with Logan Stanley taking a pair of penalties in the first frame, the Maple Leafs went 0-for-2 opportunities Monday. Toronto now has just three power-play goals on 32 opportunities this year.

Canadian Press

<https://www.chrisd.ca/2024/10/29/winnipeg-jets-toronto-maple-leafs-win-streak-ends/>

Jets No Longer Perfect, But Still Tough to Beat Without a Fight

By Judy Owen, The Canadian Press

The Winnipeg Jets knew all good things must come to an end. Or at least paused temporarily.

John Tavares had a hat trick and Max Pacioretty chipped in three assists in a 6-4 Toronto Maple Leafs' victory Monday that ended the Jets' reign as the only unbeaten NHL team.

Winnipeg had opened the season with a franchise-record eight consecutive victories (8-1-0).

"We were hopeful to go 82-0, but that's never been done," Jets defenceman Josh Morrissey joked.

Despite being behind 4-0 early in the second period, the team didn't quit, he added.

"We were 8-0 for a reason — we're 8-1 for a reason — but that compete to battle back, and make it a game so that we can pull the goalie and see if we could try to tie it up, I think that's the character of our group," Morrissey said.

"We'll look at what we need to get better at, get some rest and move on."

The Maple Leafs (5-4-1) snapped a three-game winless skid (0-2-1) in front of Winnipeg's first sellout crowd of the season at Canada Life Centre. Many of the 15,325 fans cheered loudly while sporting Toronto jerseys.

"Move off it," Jets head coach Scott Arniel said of what the response to the loss should be. "We'll look at it as coaches. We'll talk about it, but you move on to your next game."

Kyle Connor had a pair of goals and added two assists for the Jets, extending his point streak to nine games (eight goals, six assists). That mark set a franchise-record for longest point streak to start a season, which had been held by former captain Blake Wheeler since 2015-16.

Mark Scheifele picked up a goal and assist, Gabe Vilardi scored and Morrissey contributed three assists. Connor Hellebuyck stopped 30 shots for Winnipeg.

"They came out hard and we didn't have good jump to start there," Connor said of the reason for their streak ending.

William Nylander had a goal and two assists and Matthew Knies and Morgan Rielly also scored for Toronto. Pacioretty's helpers came after he was moved from the fourth line to the second with Tavares and Nylander for the game.

"I just liked our pace with our feet, with the puck, without the puck, and the way we moved the puck as well tonight," said Tavares. "You know, getting on the forecheck, recovering pucks and the way we were able to use the open parts of the ice, get into the interior, make it difficult on their goalie."

"We drew some penalties early, so I just really liked the energy and pace of our game today."

Toronto head coach Craig Berube gave the results a thumbs up.

"They had a heck of a game," he said of the new trio. "They got it done offensively. They went up against Scheifele's line for most of the game and they were very good defensively."

Pacioretty also liked his new partners.

"As a line, for the first time playing together, we were reading each other really well," he said. "It starts with moving your feet. And that's a big reason why we had a nice night tonight."

Pacioretty said halting Winnipeg's run gives some extra satisfaction.

"It does a bit," he said. "When we focus on our five-on-five game, we definitely have the right mindset. And that's important."

"It's easy to come in here a little frustrated from the last couple games and try to play a little bit east-west, get a little bit cute. But we had the mindset that we would move our feet, keep things simple and play a playoff-like game. And I felt that on five-on-five we did that."

Toronto pumped in its most goals in a game this season, but all were at even strength. The Leafs' power play limped into the game at 10 per cent (3-for-30) and came up empty on two chances.

The Leafs outshot the Jets 19-6 in the first period with Tavares and Nylander scoring. Knies fired in a rebound to make it 3-0 just 56 seconds into the second frame.

Reilly added another goal at 3:25, followed by Connor's power-play markers to squeeze the score to 4-2. Tavares got his second goal at 17:53.

Scheifele and Vilardi made it 5-4 in the third, but Tavares scored into an empty net with 25 seconds remaining.

Notes: The loss also snapped Winnipeg's 16 regular-season game win streak, which dated back to last season. ... Toronto has won its last six games against Winnipeg.

Global Winnipeg

<https://globalnews.ca/news/10835576/winnipeg-jets-season-opening-win-streak-ends-with-6-4-loss-to-toronto/>

Winnipeg Jets' season-opening win streak ends with 6-4 loss to Toronto

By Christian Aumell & Russ Hobson Global News

There are no more undefeated teams in the National Hockey League.

The Winnipeg Jets found themselves in a big hole that they couldn't dig out of Monday night, falling 6-4 to the Toronto Maple Leafs as Winnipeg's eight-game win streak to open the season came to a screeching halt.

The Jets had several costly giveaways and the Leafs jumped out to a four-goal lead just 23 minutes into the hockey game. The Jets battled all the way back to make it a one-goal game in the final frame, but John Tavares scored his hat trick goal into an empty net to end their three-game losing skid, while handing the Jets their first loss of the season in front of their first sellout crowd.

"It just felt like everybody was off," said head coach Scott Arniel. "It was everybody. It was, like you said, there was momentum building and then all of a sudden, there was a mistake, or made a turnover, or bad coverage, whatever. And all of a sudden Toronto gets some great chances. It was just those first two periods that's a lot of what we did. It was just kinda shot ourselves in the foot.

"They wanted it and they came in here and gave us a punch right in the nose the first two periods."

The Leafs have now won six straight meetings against the Jets.

"We just didn't have the jump we needed," said Jets forward Kyle Connor. "I thought they were a lot quicker to pucks. We just looked slow."

Connor finished the night with two goals and two assists, but was originally credited with a hat trick until one of the goals was later given to Gabriel Vilardi.

Connor has still scored eight goals in the first nine games and has a point in every contest so far.

It was a tough night for the defensive pairing of Neal Pionk and Dylan Samberg. They were both on the ice for all of the first five goals against, and Samberg finished the night a minus-5.

Arniel felt his team had only two scoring chances at 5-on-5 in the first two periods.

“We were hopeful to go 82 and 0 but that’s never been done,” said defenceman Josh Morrissey. “It was a tough game for us. Obviously got behind it four-nothing there with almost two periods to play. And it felt like we did a good job of battling back.”

The Jets fell two wins short of the NHL record for most wins to start the season which is shared by the 1993 Maple Leafs and the 2006 Buffalo Sabres who both started at 10-0.

Not only did the season-opening win streak get snapped, but the loss ended a run of 16 consecutive regular season wins for Winnipeg, one shy of matching the NHL record held by the 1992-1993 Pittsburgh Penguins.

The Leafs came out of the gates firing, outshooting the Jets 11-2 in the first 11 minutes thanks in part to an early power play but Connor Hellebuyck held down the fort.

But the Toronto pressure paid off at the 11:56 mark of the first when the visitors opened the scoring. After the Jets failed on multiple chances to get the puck out of their end, the Leafs sent the puck down low where it eventually found its way in front to Tavares for a tap-in opener.

This marked the seventh time in nine games this season that Winnipeg had allowed the opening goal.

Toronto’s slumping power play got a second chance later in the period thanks to a second penalty on Logan Stanley, but once again Winnipeg killed it off, dropping Toronto’s power play to 9.4 per cent on the season at that point.

But the Leafs kept the pressure on and capitalized on a bad Jets turnover to make it 2-0. Pionk had the puck in his own corner and floated a backhand pass behind him that was snatched up by Max Pacioretty, who then fed William Nylander in the slot. He roofed it past Hellebuyck to make it 2-0, just the second time in nine games that Winnipeg trailed by more than a goal.

Toronto wound up outshooting the Jets 19-6 in the first and it didn’t take long for the Leafs to expand their lead in the second.

The play started harmlessly enough when Hellebuyck collected a dump-in behind his net. A short pass to Samberg led to a turnover from Samberg off the Toronto forecheck, resulting in a shot that Hellebuyck turned aside but as he tried to get in position to stop the rebound, Samberg got in his way, leaving a gaping net for Matthew Knies to score into just 56 seconds into the period.

The Toronto onslaught continued just a few minutes later. With most of the players on the ice fighting for the puck in the corner to Hellebuyck’s left, Nylander made a sweet pass to a wide-open Morgan Rielly who ripped it off the post and in to make it 4-0 at the 3:25 mark of the second.

With nothing going right for Winnipeg, Toronto's Pontus Holmberg took a penalty to send Winnipeg's lethal power play to work. Connor roofed one past Anthony Stolarz late in the man advantage to get the Jets on the board at the 6:19 mark.

Less than a minute later, the Jets were back on the power play thanks to an Oliver Ekman-Larsson boarding penalty. Winnipeg had a couple close calls but couldn't convert on the chance.

The Jets got a third power play in the period just past the midway point when Rielly sent the puck out of play in his own end and once again Connor made Toronto pay when he one-timed a pass from Josh Morrissey past Stolarz to make it 4-2 with 8:35 to go in the second.

Any momentum the Jets had generated disappeared when Toronto restored their three-goal lead. A point shot from Ekman-Larsson missed the net wide but bounced off the end-boards and trickled in front. As Hellebuyck scrambled in his crease, unsure of where the puck was, Tavares whacked it toward the net and it eluded Hellebuyck to make it 5-2 after 40 minutes.

Toronto had a 12-9 edge in shots in the second and for the first 40 minutes totalled 31 shots to Winnipeg's 15.

Arniel switched up the defensive pairings and most of the forward combinations in the third period, searching for a spark.

With another penalty coming to Toronto, the Jets cut the score to 5-3 as Mark Scheifele one-timed a cross-ice feed from Connor at the 7:36 mark.

With 9:05 to go, Toronto's Simon Benoit was sent to the box for tripping Nikolaj Ehlers, giving the Jets a great opportunity to cut into the Leafs' lead but they barely got set up as Toronto got the kill.

With just over four minutes remaining, the Jets pulled Hellebuyck for an extra attacker and it paid off immediately as Connor fired one from the slot that was tipped in front by Vilardi, making things very interesting for the final 3:47.

But the Jets couldn't get Hellebuyck back to the bench before the final 30 seconds of the game, at which point Tavares sent the puck down the ice into the empty net for the hat trick, giving the several-thousand Leafs fans in attendance one last thing to cheer about.

<https://globalnews.ca/news/10835335/winnipeg-jets-fans-reaction-strong-start-season/>

Jets fans thrilled with strong start to the season

By Teagan Rasche Global News

It's the kind of start to the season every sports fan dreams of.

"They're just playing so well together. They're firing on all cylinders and we are getting amazing goaltending from both goaltenders," Winnipeg Jets fan Patricia Chaychuk said.

The Jets have won their first eight games of the season ahead of a Monday night matchup against Toronto.

This strong start to the season is one that 680 CJOB sports director Kelly Moore calls unbelievable but not unexpected.

“Consistency right across the board. They’ve been able to score at almost the highest rate in the NHL and they’ve been able to keep the puck out of their own net almost at the highest rate in the NHL,” Moore said.

Watch the video above for the full story.

Winnipeg Free Press

<https://www.winnipegfreepress.com/breakingnews/2024/10/28/slow-start-dooms-jets>

Slow start dooms Jets

Leafs take advantage of sluggish hosts to hand Winnipeg first loss of season

By: Mike McIntyre

The Winnipeg Jets were like that shiny new sports car just waiting for its first scratch. Glorious to look at, for sure, but you’re bracing for a blemish, knowing one is coming.

That finally happened Monday night at Canada Life Centre, where the visiting Toronto Maple Leafs took a lead pipe to the pristine windshield and punctured a few tires as they tried to run the hosts off the road, then ultimately hung on for a 6-4 victory.

“Whether it was our ready to go, ready to compete, ready to get into it, I don’t have an answer for you,” said a frustrated coach Scott Arniel.

“Toronto was a heck of a lot better than we were. They wanted it. They came in here and gave us a punch right in the nose in the first two periods. It was a little late when we responded, but it’s not good enough.”

It’s the first loss of the year for the Jets, who were flirting with NHL history by winning eight games in a row to start the 2024-25 season (tied for the fifth-best ever) and 16 regular season contests overall dating back to last year (tied for second-best ever).

Trot out all the cliches you want, from “nobody’s perfect” to “all good things must come to an end.” This one still stung for Winnipeg, which was playing in front of its first sold-out crowd of the season and no doubt wanted to silent the few thousand fans who dusted off their Maple Leafs jerseys for the annual visit.

“We were hopeful to go 82-0 but that’s never been done,” said defenceman Josh Morrissey, tongue firmly planted in cheek. “It was a tough one for us.”

Let’s take a further look under the (slightly damaged) hood:

1) *Vroom, vroom*: The Jets were far from their best from opening puck drop, with no shortage of uncharacteristic defensive miscues and poor puck management creeping into their game. That

was bad timing against a talented and ornery Toronto team that came into the game winless in the last three outings.

“They came out hard and we didn’t have good jump to start there,” said forward Kyle Connor, who led the way offensively with two goals and two assists. “I thought they were a lot quicker to pucks. We just looked slow.”

John Tavares opened the scoring just past the midway mark of the opening frame thanks to some lost coverage in front of the Jets net, ultimately poking home a loose puck. Then a Neal Pionk turnover in his own zone led to a William Nylander tally later in the frame. Matthew Knies made it 3-0 just 56 seconds into the middle frame, again after some ugly defensive zone awareness, and then Morgan Rielly was able to walk in and rip a shot past Connor Hellebuyck at 3:25 of the second.

“All the things that happen when you have a slow start. Don’t move the puck well. Not executing our game plan, with and without the puck,” Morrissey said of being asleep at the wheel.

“They’re a fast team. Trying to get there, find their footing and obviously they got some very elite players. They came out ready to go and we weren’t there.”

This had the makings of a rout. The defence pairing of Pionk and Dylan Samberg, which had been rock-solid all season, were on the ice for all four goals against.

2) *Power up*: One thing that didn’t change on this night was Winnipeg’s red-hot power play, which came into the game No. 1 in the league and quickly showed why by converting on two opportunities in the second period.

Connor got his team — and the crowd — back into it when he found a tiny seam past Anthony Stolarz at 6:19 of the deficit to 4-1. And then Connor struck again at 11:25 with his team on a man advantage — Rielly had accidentally flipped the puck into the crowd — and the Jets had some life.

Tavares struck again later in the period, with Samberg and Pionk victimized once again, but the Jets continued to plug away while enjoying a man advantage.

Mark Scheifele made it 5-3 when he scored on a 6-on-5 that came during a delayed Toronto penalty at 7:36 of the third, and then Gabriel Vilardi tipped Connor’s shot at 16:13 to play and Hellebuyck on the bench for an extra attacker.

Just when it looked like an incredible comeback might be in the cards, Tavares completed the hat trick with 25 seconds left in the game by scoring into an empty net.

“We never quit throughout the night,” said Morrissey, who had three assists.

“We were 8-0 for a reason — we’re 8-1 for a reason — but that compete to battle back, and make it a game so that we can pull the goalie and see if we could try to tie it up. I think that’s the character of our group. We’ll look at what we need to get better at, get some rest and move on.”

3) *Blender on max*: Arniel hasn’t had to shuffle his roster much this year, with all the early success. But he plugged in the line blender and put it on max setting on multiple occasions once his team fell into a big hole.

Among the notables: Nikolaj Ehlers was moved to a line with Scheifele and Vilardi in the third, recreating a trio that was very effective at times last year. Connor moved down to play with Adam Lowry and Cole Perfetti, while Nino Niederreiter, Vlad Namestnikov and Mason Appleton were put together. Only the fourth line (Alex Iafallo, Rasmus Kupari and Morgan Barron) remained intact.

“There wasn’t anybody that was good tonight for two periods,” Arniel said of the decision.

Samberg and Pionk were also split up. Pionk joined Morrissey, Samberg was put with Colin Miller and Logan Stanley — who took two silly penalties in the first period which certainly helped Toronto build some early momentum — was paired with Dylan DeMelo.

4) *Bulletin board material?*: You may recall a certain Winnipeg vs. Toronto game back in December 2021 in which Scheifele, following a 6-3 win, said “Is there anything better than beating the Leafs?” The video of his comments, which happened in the dressing room, were posted on the Jets social media feeds.

So what’s happened since then? Six games, six Toronto victories. Ouch.

5) *Extra, extra*:

-Here are our three stars of the game:

1. Toronto C John Tavares: 3 goals.
2. Winnipeg LW Kyle Connor: 2 goals, 2 assists
3. Toronto LW Max Pacioretty: 3 assists

-The Jets wore their road white jerseys on Monday, with Toronto wearing their dark blue alternates. No official explanation was provided for the switch-up, but it was likely a Maple Leafs request.

-Hellebuyck stopped 30 of 35 shots he faced, while Stolartz made 19 saves on 23 shots.

-Winnipeg finished the night 2-for-4 on the power play and 2-for-2 on the penalty kill.

-The Jets will now hit the road for two more games, facing Andrew Copp and the Detroit Red Wings on Wednesday and Sean Monahan and the Columbus Blue Jackets on Friday.

<https://www.winnipegfreepress.com/sports/2024/10/28/nhl-embraces-streaming>

***NHL embraces streaming
Jets-Leafs tilt broadcast exclusively on Amazon***

By: Ken Wiebe

Winnipeg Jets fans got to peer into the future on Monday night.

No, this isn’t referring to a sign of things to come after a 6-4 loss to the Toronto Maple Leafs, the game was shown exclusively on Amazon Prime, which is only available to fans who have a subscription to the service.

Knowing that there could be some challenges with a game that was not shown on traditional cable, the Jets sent out a tutorial to help give fans a better idea of what was required to tune in.

Amazon purchased the exclusive rights to select Monday night games from Rogers Sportsnet for the next two seasons and the Jets will be shown on four separate occasions in 2024-25.

The original Canadian national rights deal with Rogers, a 12-year contract worth \$1.2 billion, is up at the end of the 2025-26 season and there's been plenty of speculation over what the next one might look like — and who might actually be involved with the bidding process.

TSN and Rogers remain heavily invested in Canadian regional rights and with the decision by Rogers to purchase a larger stake in the Maple Leafs, it's hard to imagine they won't be heavily involved.

With the NFL joining the fray on Amazon several years ago and some Friday night MLB games being shown exclusively on Apple TV, it's not a surprise to see Amazon dipping its collective toe into the NHL waters this season.

There's a good chance Amazon works at expanding its footprint on the sports streaming side of things as well.

Earlier this month in Montreal, NHL commissioner Gary Bettman talked about the wide distribution of Amazon Prime compared to cable and talked about how viewing habits are changing for many sports leagues.

"Most people have Prime. And as the media landscape continues to evolve with technology there are going to be changes in distribution," Bettman said. "The world's moving away from cable TV," Bettman said. "Cord-cutting, cord-nevers continues and the reach of cable and satellite is not what it was and the world — putting us aside — is moving towards other forms of distribution."

Amazon Prime will air 26 regular season games and they've been already been drawing rave reviews for their six-episode docuseries titled: FACEOFF: Inside the NHL — which has been providing behind-the-scenes access to players and teams in an effort to showcase some of the personalities.

There was some Manitoba content in the broadcast booth on Monday as former NHLer Jody Shelley served as a colour commentator with Thomas Hickey, while John Forslund handled play-by-play duties.

Amazon Prime also had an on-site panel that featured analyst Blake Bolden working with host Adnan Virk, with Andi Petrillo handling rinkside reporter duties.

Jets general manager Kevin Cheveldayoff joined the broadcast during the second intermission and shared some thoughts on forward prospect Brayden Yager.

Cheveldayoff was in Kelowna last Friday to see Yager and the Moose Jaw Warriors take on the Kelowna Rockets in Western Hockey League action.

The next Jets game on Amazon Prime is set for Dec. 30, when they host the Nashville Predators.

The two others feature a home game against the San Jose Sharks on Feb. 24 and another home game against the St. Louis Blues on April 7.

Winnipeg Sun

<https://winnipeg.sun.com/sports/jets-unbeaten-run-ends-at-hands-of-maple-leafs>

Jets unbeaten run ends at hands of Maple Leafs

By Scott Billeck

The Winnipeg Jets had a lot of fight when they had an extra man on the ice on Monday night in downtown Winnipeg.

But when the game was played at even strength, they simply couldn't match the Toronto Maple Leafs in a 6-4 loss at Canada Life Centre, ending their season-opening win streak at eight.

John Tavares scored a hat trick, while William Nylander, Matthew Knies and Morgan Rielly also scored for the visiting Leafs.

Kyle Connor scored twice on the power play and added assists on Winnipeg's other two goals from Mark Scheifele and Gabriel Vilardi for a four-point night. Josh Morrissey pitched in with three assists.

Connor Hellebuyck allowed five on 35 shots as his run of six straight wins ended.

Toronto built up a 2-0 lead in the first, outshooting Winnipeg 19-6 in the period. It was 4-0 before Connor clawed two back just over five minutes apart in the second as the Leafs ran into penalty trouble.

Tavares' second of the game gave Toronto a 5-2 lead heading into the third.

Jets head coach Scott Arniel went to the line blender late in the middle frame and shuffled the deck, including his defensive pairs, to start the third period.

Dylan Samberg and Neal Pionk were on the ice for all of Toronto's five-on-five markers, going minus-5 and minus-4, respectively.

Scheifele's sixth on a delayed penalty made it 5-3 at 7:36 of the third, and Vilardi pushed it to 5-4 with 3:37 remaining in regulation while Hellebuyck was on the bench for the extra attacker.

The comeback bid and a chance to match the Pittsburgh Penguins for the longest regular-season winning streak in NHL history — 17 games dating back to last season — vanished when Tavares slid his fifth of the year into an empty cage from centre ice.

Anthony Stolarz picked up the win for the Leafs, stopping 19 shots.

After a brief stop at home, the Jets head back on the road for stops in Detroit on Wednesday and Columbus on Friday.

<https://winnipeg.sun.com/sports/jets-havent-done-crap-says-veteran-blue-liner-demelo>

Jets 'haven't done crap' says veteran blue-liner DeMelo

By Scott Billeck

Dylan DeMelo knows the score.

"It's great that we've got a great start but we really haven't done crap, to be honest with you," the veteran defenceman said on Monday morning as his Winnipeg Jets were preparing to face the Toronto Maple Leafs.

Candid. And truthful, just eight games into a new season.

So you knew his answer to a follow-up question about what areas need improvement wasn't just a hockey cliché.

"Everything," he said.

DeMelo's Jets entered Monday as the only unbeaten team in the NHL with a flawless 8-0-0 record.

They've scored the third most goals, given up the fewest, have the best power play, and have the sixth-ranked penalty kill.

Great statistics, but they could be better, DeMelo said.

"Our power play's doing great? Yeah, let's score some more goals," DeMelo said. "PK's doing great? Yeah, let's keep denying them. Just keep pushing in all aspects. Any time you settle or get complacent, that's when things start to unravel so, internally, we're trying to push each other to be better and, as a group, push each other to be better."

It's the attitude you'd want to see from a team that's already amassed 16 points with roughly 10 per cent of the season in the books.

Regular-season success is vital. You need it to qualify for the playoffs.

But that's half the battle, something the Jets have learned the hard way with back-to-back first-round exits in as many years.

Maximum points will serve this team well going forward, but the room for error is slim.

As of Monday morning, the Jets' hold on first place in the Central Division is just two points. The Dallas Stars, a very good team prowling just behind them, are waiting for a slip-up.

The Minnesota Wild are just four points adrift, and Colorado and St. Louis both have 10 points. The Avs have now won five straight.

Winnipeg may be the early pacesetters this season, but they, too, need to keep the pace if they're going to stay ahead.

Head coach Scott Arniel wasn't happy with his team's play last Thursday in Seattle, and his Jets have had to come from behind in six of their eight games to start the season.

"I'm more worried about what's happened at the end of the game," Arniel said. "Don't like to get down, but the opposition has a lot to say about that sometimes.

"I just like the way we stay in games, we compete and come back. Hopefully that stat will flip and go the other way – just us scoring first. It just shows our willingness to stay in games and do whatever it takes."

Added DeMelo: "To be able to keep our composure and play our style no matter if things kind of waver or if the game is on the line, I think that's been a really good testament and those are the top teams—teams that play their style and impose their will throughout the 60 minutes, even if things aren't going their way. They don't get away from it and that's something we've really improved on in the last couple of years."

The work continues to clean up parts of their game they're not fond of.

Little details, as Alex Lafallo explained.

"Execution is a big part of it, defensively, just getting the puck out, moving it, moving it cleanly, and just having a five-man unit," he said. "Moving up the ice and getting the pucks deep, turnovers, that kind of stuff. So that's kind of what we're striving for. The little things that go a long way."

For Arniel and his coaching staff, it's about zeroing in on the right details to work on at the appropriate time.

"Can't stab everything," Arniel said. "You've got to find some areas that are relevant to the next game you're playing. I thought on that road trip our breakouts were going to be a big part of where our success was going to come."

"We have things within our game that we always look at. Early on in the year, there were some things through the neutral zone and through our forecheck that got away from us. We worked on it. On the road, we talked about it, we faced some teams that have a heavy forecheck. We talked more about our breakouts, we've been working on some of those areas. Being smooth, fast, cleaner. Same thing with our transition through the neutral zone."

Toronto Sun

<https://torontosun.com/sports/hockey/nhl/toronto-maple-leafs/pacioretty-tavares-lead-retooled-maple-leafs-to-big-win-over-jets>

Max Pacioretty, John Tavares lead retooled Maple Leafs to big win over Jets

By Lance Hornby

Craig Berube rewired his offence on Monday night in Winnipeg and jolted a few Maple Leafs to life, namely Max Pacioretty.

Trying to rediscover his place and purpose in the NHL after a torn Achilles tendon threatened his career, the 35-year-old wasn't lost in the shuffle as Toronto ended a three-game losing streak in what turned out to be a tight, but nonetheless huge, 6-4 win over the previously undefeated Jets.

Pacioretty was promoted to a top-six role and a place on the first power play, producing three assists and, along with linemates William Nylander and John Tavares, was a plus-3 as the new troika combined for nine points.

"Things change throughout the year. I can't get too high or low about the position I'm in," Pacioretty told the media in Winnipeg before the game. "There are different ways I can contribute."

Midway through the first period, Pacioretty's long reach helped swat a one-handed pass across the crease to Tavares for the opening goal. It was NHL point No. 1,047 for Tavares, passing Henri Richard for 79th in NHL history.

Less than six minutes later, Pacioretty hopped on a Neal Pionk giveaway for a quick feed to an untouched Nylander, who scored to record his first point in four games and give the Leafs a 2-0 lead.

"They've been successful in the past," Berube noted Monday morning of reuniting Tavares and Nylander. "With Pacioretty there, a big winger that could score, we are just trying to find a little bit more scoring in some other lines."

Berube, however, couldn't have liked what transpired after that as a 4-0 lead almost dried up.—the Leafs getting into penalty trouble, giving up two on the power play, another on a delayed call in the third period and one more with Connor Hellebuyck on the bench still with a few minutes left in regulation.

It took a Tavares empty-netter, for his hat trick, to secure the win and improve to 5-4-1.

As for the power play, Berube had obviously grown tired of trotting out the 10%-effective status-quo and not seeing his faith rewarded. The Leafs' new-look first-unit power play featured the overdue appearance of Matthew Knies, plus Pacioretty and the return of Morgan Rielly, but went 0-for-2 on a couple of early chances and sits at an abysmal 3-for-32 this season.

The coach's juggling act also saw him drop centre Max Domi and Bobby McMann to the third line with Pontus Holmberg, though they had a quiet game offensively.

While the Jets had come back from various deficits in six of their eight wins, Knies scored in the opening minute of the middle period, his fourth in the past five games. It followed a familiar script at the Canada Life Centre — the Leafs dumping, chasing and retrieving the puck. A few minutes later, Rielly sailed in from the point to take a Nylander pass for goals in consecutive games.

Connor, with two goals and two assists, kept the game close, but it was Pacioretty driving the net to help with Tavares' second of the night to restore a three-goal lead late in the second.

Berube didn't hesitate coming back with Anthony Stolarz in net after the most recent loss, Saturday's overtime setback in Boston. It was confirmation that Stolarz has the net in big games for now, while Joseph Woll feels his way back from a lower-body injury.

Berube ended his first 10 games with a record of 5-4-1, tying Pat Quinn and Pat Burns for the most victories in that span the past 30 years from the start of the season. The Leafs also ended the Jets' attempt to tie a record with 10 wins to open a season, which Burns' '93-94 teams jointly share with the 2006-07 Buffalo Sabres.

Toronto Star

https://www.thestar.com/sports/leafs/how-john-tavares-and-the-maple-leafs-knocked-out-the-nhls-last-unbeaten-team/article_f2f0e96e-948e-11ef-aa02-f7910fd86bbd.html

How John Tavares and the Maple Leafs knocked out the NHL's last unbeaten team

By Ilyas Hussein Staff Reporter

The mood in Leafland was trending down heading into Monday night. Not any more.

Coming off three straight losses in which they were outscored 15-6, the Maple Leafs went into Winnipeg's Canada Life Centre and handed the Jets their first loss of the season, 6-4.

"I just really liked the pace of our game. We just went at them," Leafs centre John Tavares — who led the offence with a hat trick — said on the broadcast following the win. "It was a really good recipe for us tonight."

Leafs head coach Craig Berube put his lines in a blender, hoping the team would snap out of a rut. They answered the call and looked like the team that had been in a groove just a week ago.

One of the changes reunited Tavares and William Nylander, which paid off. Although they began the season on the same unit, they had spent some time apart.

"We weren't getting clear looks in the past couple games, so sometimes the switch-up is good," Nylander told reporters in Winnipeg.

Max Pacioretty rounded out the line for his first look in the top six this season, in just his second game back from a lower-body injury.

The trio clicked throughout the night, combining for nine points.

“(Pacioretty) has been a really good player for a long time ... and I’ve been playing with Willy for years,” Tavares said. “It’s great for us to help the team like we did tonight.”

Tavares got on the board first in the opening period, sliding a loose puck past Jets goaltender Connor Hellebuyck. Less than six minutes later, Nylander roofed a shot to make it 2-0.

After Matthew Knies extended the lead to three, the Tavares line worked the puck off the boards and found Morgan Rielly, who put the puck off the post and in.

Tavares added his second of the night in the middle period, just as the Jets were gaining momentum.

“You understand that when you haven’t had a little bit of success, you can go one of two ways: try and force plays or play the right way. Right now, we’re playing the right way, and it’s been nice to see everyone step up,” Pacioretty, who finished with three assists, said in a TV interview during the second intermission. “We know the magnitude of this game.”

Power-play puzzler

Berube also spread the wealth on the struggling power play for the first time, with Auston Matthews and Mitch Marner on one unit while Tavares and Nylander led the other. The Leafs had scored only three times in 30 attempts with the man advantage before Monday, fourth worst in the league, and went 0 for 2 in Winnipeg but showed some signs of life. They moved the puck quickly and generated plenty of chances. The finishing touch, though, was still missing.

“It’s all about results for the most part, and we’re not getting them,” Berube told reporters before the game. “We’ve got to try something different and a little bit more direct ... It’s about getting action at the net more ... strong guys at the net that can win puck battles.”

The Leafs went 2-2-0 in the four games since our last power rankings.

Jets streak ends

The Jets came from behind six times in their eight wins to start the schedule and were chasing history. The record at the start of a season is 10.

And they gave the Leafs a scare after trailing 4-0. Kyle Connor scored twice, both on a power play rated the best in the league heading into the night, and the Jets trailed 5-4 in the final minute before Tavares completed a three-goal performance into an empty net.

TSN.ca

<https://www.tsn.ca/video/what-changed-with-the-leafs-to-hand-the-jets-their-first-loss%7E3018409>

What changed with the Leafs to hand the Jets their first loss? (VIDEO)

John Tavares scored three goals, Max Pacioretty had three assists and the Maple Leafs ended their three-game slide Monday night to hand the Jets their first loss of the season. TSN's Director of Scouting Craig Button joins Jay Onrait to discuss what changes Toronto made to help them win the game, and why Winnipeg was unable to handle them.