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<https://www.nhl.com/jets/news/practice-notebook-october-7-2024>

Practice notebook: October 7, 2024

Kaapo Kahkonen will be one of three goalies on Jets roster to start season

WINNIPEG – When a two-time Vezina Trophy winner isn't on the ice when practice gets underway, people tend to notice.

The Winnipeg Jets had a long skate at hockey for all centre on Monday and Connor Hellebuyck was not anywhere to be seen. After practice, head coach Scott Arniel calmed the nerves of a lot of Jets fans.

"He's away with family, personal reasons. He might not be back for tomorrow's practice but we're expecting him to be on that plane when we head to Edmonton," said Arniel.

"So, he's got some family stuff that he's just looking after and has to take care of. We'll just give him his privacy and move forward."

Because of Hellebuyck's situation, the Jets decided that they will carry three goaltenders to start the season. Kaapo Kahkonen, Eric Comrie and Hellebuyck are part of the roster right now and Arniel added carrying three goaltenders to start the season was not part of the plan.

The Jets got their roster down to three goaltenders, seven defencemen and 13 forwards. Defenceman Elias Salomonsson, forwards Brad Lambert, Nikita Chibrikov and Jaret Anderson-Dolan were all assigned to the Manitoba Moose. The younger players in the organization having good camps can only impact the roster in a positive way.

"Well, I think that any player recognizes that unless you've been in the league a while, any time there's good young talent coming it forces guys to be on their toes and be sharp. The thing for me is when we talk about roles and guys taking on responsibility and guys stepping up," said Arniel.

"We've still got Dylan Samberg jumping into the No. 4 spot, we've got Cole Perfetti that we're expecting a lot from. We've had Ville Heinola, when he gets back here. Stan (Logan Stanley), who hasn't played obviously a whole lot the last couple of years. Barron. There's guys that's I'm hoping and expecting them to play bigger roles and also take on more responsibility and also mature one more year."

HEADING IN RIGHT DIRECTION

Friday was the Jets final game of the preseason which turned out to be a 3-2 win in Calgary. The game had a little bit of everything. Winnipeg was solid defensively jumping out to a 2-0 lead after 40 minutes. Then a push from the Flames as they outshot the Jets 21-4 in the third tying the game at two before Kyle Connor won it late. For the most part, Jets veteran defenceman Colin Miller liked what he saw.

"Yeah, I think so. I think we would all admit a little blip there to start the third period. But pretty solid game for us," said Miller.

“We definitely got some time to practice our penalty kill and our power play and stuff like that. But all those things will come in time. I thought that we did a good job that night, so look to continue to build.”

As the countdown to Wednesday continues, season predictions will start to trickle in from all around North America. As for the expectations in the room, Mason Appleton says the team will keep pushing for bigger things.

“When times get tough, you find yourself down in a series, that we can kind of be unflappable and push back with our team game,” said Appleton.

“It's that mindset to have that compete and stick to our structure and just wheel our way out of tough spots and be that consistent team for 82 games.”

Winnipeg Free Press

<https://www.winnipegfreepress.com/breakingnews/2024/10/07/jets-forced-to-shuffle-goaltender-deck>

Jets forced to shuffle goaltender deck All-world netminder Hellebuyck absent due to personal matter

By: Mike McIntyre

It wasn't exactly how they drew it up prior to training camp, but the Winnipeg Jets opening-night roster has been set.

The most curious development involves the inclusion of three goaltenders in the 23-man lineup. Connor Hellebuyck is the undisputed workhorse, and serving as his backup involves playing a lengthy waiting game between starts. So why would Winnipeg want two rarely-used understudies in Kaapo Kahkonen and Eric Comrie?

Turns out a personal family matter is the cause, with Hellebuyck away from the team on Monday dealing with it. No other details were provided. There's a chance he also misses Tuesday's skate, but the Jets are hopeful he'll be ready to go in time for Wednesday's season-opener in Edmonton.

Keeping Kahkonen and Comrie around allows the team to practice with a goalie in each net while also having some insurance should Hellebuyck's absence go longer than anticipated. Once the two-time Vezina winner is back, expect one of them to be put on waivers and sent to the Manitoba Moose to job-share with prospect Thomas Milic.

Up front, the Jets are starting with 13 forwards. Young skaters Brad Lambert and Nikita Chibrikov were sent to the Manitoba Moose on Monday despite strong showings in camp, as was winger Jaret Anderson-Dolan who passed through waivers.

He joins other depth forwards in Axel Jonsson-Fjallby, Dominic Toninato and Mason Shaw who also weren't claimed.

“We've got depth now. We feel pretty comfortable now, that if something does happen, that we have people that can replace (them),” said coach Scott Arniel.

On the blue-line, Winnipeg begins with seven healthy skaters. Elias Salomonsson, who had a terrific preseason, was sent to the AHL as the final cut on Monday. Ville Heinola (ankle) and Logan Stanley (knee) will begin the year on injured reserve.

Arniel said he had good conversations with Lambert, Chibrikov and Salomonsson, who all figure to see action with the Jets at some point this season and are valuable future pieces.

“This league changes quickly, as we saw in training camp with our injuries to our D. It doesn’t mean anything is written in stone,” said Arniel.

“Go down and continue to be the best players. This could be a week, this could be a month, I didn’t make them any guarantees. They opened eyes for a lot of guys. They just have to go be the best version of themselves with the Moose.”

Once a goaltender is sent down, the Jets may opt to keep 22 skaters, which allows them to bank additional salary-cap space they could use later in the season. They’ll also eventually have to make room for Heinola and Stanley, who both underwent surgery just over two weeks ago. Their original recovery timelines were approximately a month.

“They’re both walking better. Stan is probably ahead of Ville, but we’ll see,” said Arniel.

“They both have to be re-examined here in a couple of weeks. At the end of the day, they’re moving closer and the good thing, like I said earlier on, is that it happened in training camp, so that means there’s still a bit of leeway up until the season starts. It’s given them some time to get better. We’re not expecting anybody in by the end of the month, but we’ll see.”

<https://www.winnipegfreepress.com/breakingnews/2024/10/07/ready-to-step-up>

Ready to step up

Jets eager to prove they are more than a regular-season wonder following playoff disappointment

By: Mike McIntyre and Ken Wiebe

You likely won’t find them anywhere near the top of lists predicting Stanley Cup favourites. In fact, plenty of pundits have them fighting just to squeak into the playoffs.

It’s a much different story in and around the Winnipeg Jets, where players, coaches and management believe they have what it takes to hang with hockey’s heavyweights as the 2024-25 season is set to begin.

This is a group, after all, that is returning most of the faces from the 2023-24 version which finished tied for fourth-overall in the NHL with 110 points (52-24-6) and won the Jennings Trophy as the stingiest defensive squad in the league.

So what’s with so many seemingly sleeping on the Jets? No question a second consecutive speedy exit from the post-season is the primary culprit, one that suggested they might have been more pretender than contender.

“When you lose in the first round and don’t play the way that you wanted to, you’re going to have hunger,” said Jets centre Mark Scheifele. “How we build this thing is from within. Everyone getting a little bit better and working on their game and giving a little extra. That’s how this team is going to succeed.”

The Jets will now try to channel obvious disappointment, along with what they hope are valuable lessons learned, to ensure recent history doesn’t repeat itself.

“We were at the top of the West for a good chunk of last season. As far as expectations, that’s our expectation,” forward Mason Appleton said Monday. “To keep pushing. It’s that mindset to have that compete and stick to our structure and just wheel our way out of tough spots and be that consistent team for 82 games.”

With training camp complete, the 23-man roster set and opening night Wednesday in Edmonton, we get you ready by looking at six keys to success.

IDENTITY IMPORTANCE:

Can the Jets commit once again to strong defensive-zone play?

There was a time not long ago when the Jets were a high-flying, run-and-gun team that could outscore its mistakes and wasn’t all that good when it came to playing without the puck.

That changed during the Rick Bowness era, as the Jets transformed into a hockey club that allowed the fewest goals in the NHL and captured the Jennings Trophy.

“When we have buy-in, the results go hand-in-hand,” said Jets captain Adam Lowry. “Our team’s identity is being a hard forechecking, tenacious team. When we’re playing our best, we’re tough to generate offence on and we’re a deep team that comes at you in waves.”

The blueprint is clear and the Jets know what they’re supposed to look like when they’re on top of their game. When the Jets are committed to defending as a five-man unit, they’ve shown that they’re a tough team to beat.

“There’s a trust that the system can be successful,” said Lowry. “We’ve made steady improvements the last two years in a lot of areas, especially on the defensive side. It went from a glaring weakness of our team to one of our strengths, something that carried us through the (regular) season.”

-Wiebe

ARNIEL’S TOUCH:

Scott Arniel made a stellar substitute teacher last season, filling in for Bowness on two occasions and ensuring the Jets never missed a beat as the team went 10-5-2 in 17 games under his interim guidance.

With the classroom now his for the keeping, there’s no doubt the 62-year-old will be extremely motivated. Arniel went 45-60-18 in 123 games at the helm of the Columbus Blue Jackets in 2010-11 and 2011-12, and it was fair to wonder if he’d ever get a second chance as a head coach.

The summertime summit, which included a heavy focus on analytics was a good first step, but the real test starts this week. It will be fascinating to watch how the former Jets 1.0 player handles the pressure that comes with being in control of a club that is expected to contend.

Whether it's making adjustments on the fly or managing the ups-and-downs that come with the marathon of an 82-game season, Arniel's moves will be under a microscope.

-McIntyre

HELLEBUYCK'S WORKLOAD:

In an era when plenty of teams are opting for a job share approach, the Jets are one of the remaining teams with a clear delineation between the starter and the backup.

Two-time Vezina Trophy winner Connor Hellebuyck is a workhorse and that's going to continue. He's started 60 or more games five times in nine NHL seasons and hit 53 or more on two others. He also started 45 of 56 games during the pandemic season of 2020-21.

Hellebuyck turns 32 in May but has shown no signs of slowing down. After the Jets were eliminated in five games in each of the past two playoffs, some observers wonder if it's time to have Hellebuyck start closer to 55 games than 60.

Recent evidence suggests that's unlikely to happen. Even with Laurent Brossoit delivering some of the best results of any backup last season, he only made 23 appearances (including 22 starts). With the departure of Brossoit in free agency, the Jets are going to need Kaapo Kahkonen or Eric Comrie to start somewhere in the neighbourhood of 22-to-25 games to help keep Hellebuyck fresh for the stretch run and the post-season.

Hellebuyck is also a strong candidate to play for the United States in the 4 Nations Faceoff, so those best-on-best games need to be factored into the equation as well. It says here that Hellebuyck will finish with north of 56 NHL starts but fewer than 60.

-Wiebe

SPECIAL TEAMS:

The Jets had a stellar 2023-24 regular season in spite of some not-so-special teams. Winnipeg's power play clicked at just 18.8 per cent, which ranked 22nd in the league and worst among the 16 clubs that made the playoffs. The penalty kill wasn't much better, sitting 21st-overall at 77.1 per cent.

Fortunately, some stellar five-on-five play, elite goaltending and attention to defensive detail masked those deficiencies, but the Jets are playing with fire if they can't find a way to improve both.

They've been brought in two new assistant coaches — Davis Payne is running the power play, Dean Chynoweth the penalty kill — and tweaked the structure and the personnel. For example, Nikolaj Ehlers is on the top PP unit in a high-slot position, while Scheifele and Kyle Connor are now being deployed on the PK.

The returns during the preseason were encouraging. The PP has looked fast and crisp and creative, the PK much more aggressive. Time will tell if the Jets can now carry that over to the games that really count.

Ideally, your PP and PK percentage should exceed 100 when added together. For example, the Stanley Cup champion Florida Panthers were a combined 106, while the runner-up Edmonton Oilers were 105.8.

Winnipeg was just 95.9, which is perfectly fine for a bottom-feeder but not what is needed to truly be a contender.

-McIntyre

CONTRACT YEARS:

It has often been said motivation comes in many forms and there definitely should be a sense of urgency when it comes to this version of the Jets.

Even with new contracts kicking in this season for cornerstone pieces Hellebuyck and Scheifele and plenty of other core players under contract for multiple seasons, a good chunk of the supporting cast could look decidedly different next fall.

There are eight pending unrestricted free agents on the Jets' active roster, with Ehlers the highest profile among them. He hasn't been interested in discussing his future when the subject has been broached on multiple occasions, preferring to let his play do the talking. It's obvious he knows what is at stake and you can understand why he's likely going to wait before deciding if he wants to sign an extension or test the open market on July 1.

Other UFAs include forwards Appleton, Vladislav Namestnikov and Alex Iafallo, defencemen Neal Pionk, Haydn Fleury and Dylan Coghlan and Kahkonen. Pionk had one of his best seasons of his career prior to signing his four-year extension and the Jets are hopeful he can have a solid campaign on the second-pairing with Dylan Samberg.

If you dig a little deeper, you'll see that forward Gabe Vilardi is a pending restricted free agent. As long as Vilardi stays healthy, he's going to be highly productive and will be in line for a significant raise from the US\$3.438 million he's due this season. Other RFAs include Samberg and forwards Morgan Barron and Rasmus Kupari.

The Jets are trying to win, so don't expect the team to be dumping a bunch of those pending UFAs prior to the deadline, unless they're below the playoff line. That may not sit well with the asset management crowd, but it's the cost of doing business. The Jets are much more likely to be adding at the NHL trade deadline rather than subtracting in deals for future assets.

-Wiebe

BOX OFFICE:

Like it or not, the off-ice story surrounding the Jets continues to be a hot topic, one that took on greater urgency last year when NHL commissioner Gary Bettman flew into town to talk with local businesses, community leaders and media about season tickets which dropped from 13,000 to just 9,500 in recent years.

Co-owner Mark Chipman also sounded the alarm, saying such a number was not sustainable over the long-haul but re-iterating True North was committed to keeping the NHL in Winnipeg.

The organization launched an aggressive marketing campaign, introduced more flexible, fan-friendly ticket packages. invested in upgrades at Canada Life Centre including a new state-of-the-art sound system, have made strides to improve the game-day experience (musical acts performing in the rink during intermission, enhanced concessions).

Of course, winning hockey games doesn't hurt, either. The Jets saw their attendance really tick up after Christmas last year, with the team flying fairly high in the standings as well. Some strong on-ice play can certainly go a long way at the box office.

Winnipeg Sun

<https://winnipegsun.com/sports/jets-hellebuyck-away-from-team-due-to-family-reasons>

Jets' Hellebuyck away from team due to family reasons

By Scott Billeck

Connor Hellebuyck's absence from Monday's Winnipeg Jets practice session was due to a personal family matter.

Head coach Scott Arniel said the team was hopeful he'd be available for Winnipeg's season opener in Edmonton on Wednesday, quelling any fears that the reigning Vezina winner was injured.

"He's got some family stuff that he's just looking after and has to take care of," Arniel told reporters. "We'll just give him his privacy and move forward."

"He might not be back for (Tuesday's) practice, but we're expecting him to be on that plane when we head to Edmonton."

Arniel wouldn't say if Hellebuyck returned home to Michigan, only that the goalie could address the matter upon his return if he chooses.

The Jets will carry three goalies into the regular season after trimming their roster down to the 23-man limit on Monday afternoon.

Kaapo Kahkonen and Eric Comrie were on the ice with the club for Monday's session after the team took the weekend off, including a day of bonding away from the rink.

One of Comrie and Kahkonen will be put on waivers once Hellebuyck's family situation is resolved, with Arniel saying Monday there is no plan to carry three goalies all season.

The Jets sent prospect forwards Brad Lambert and Nikita Chibrikov to the Moose on Monday morning. Defenceman Elias Salomonsson followed later in the day.

Arniel said Monday that all three opened eyes during camp, and even during the team's rookie tournament in Penticton last month.

However, a balance had to be struck between rushing players in the NHL and putting them in positions where they may fail.

“ I don’t want this, they don’t want this, to force these guys into situations where they crash and burn, and we’ve got to start all over again,” Arniel said. “They’ve had great camps, they’ve done some great things. We wanted them to step forward and they did.”

“We’re doing this because we need these guys, they are a part of our future, and this is part of some of the building blocks with Elias and some of these other guys that we’re looking at. This league changes quickly, as we saw in training camp with our injuries to our D. It doesn’t mean anything is written in stone. I told them both, go down and continue to be the best players. This could be a week, this could be a month, I didn’t make them any guarantees.”

Defencemen Ville Heinola (ankle) and Logan Stanley (knee) will begin the season on injured reserve, with both not expected back until at least November.

Arniel said Monday that Stanley is probably ahead of Heinola on the return-to-play path.

“They both have to be reexamined here in a couple of weeks,” Arniel said. “At the end of the day, they’re moving closer and the good thing is that it happened in training camp, so that means there’s still a bit of leeway up until the season starts. It’s given them some time to get better.”

“We’re not expecting anybody in by the end of the month, but we’ll see. Hopefully, maybe they do recover quickly. But... that’s probably the timeline that we’re at right now.”

Jaret Anderson-Dolan, who the Jets put on waivers on Sunday, cleared Monday afternoon and was assigned to the Moose.

“We have these guys and we haven’t lost anybody,” Arniel said. “It’s a situation that this summer, in free agency, we wanted to sign guys and it didn’t work, but at the end of the day we wanted to improve our depth. Whether that’s a young guy, a guy that’s been in the league for a couple of years or a veteran guy, some of the guys that we here – like (Dominic) Toninato or Axel (Jonsson-Fjallby) – we’ve got depth now.”

“We feel pretty comfortable now, that if something does happen, that we have people that can replace (them).”

Global Winnipeg

<https://globalnews.ca/news/10797766/winnipeg-jets-analysis-season/>

ANALYSIS: Winnipeg Jets ‘walk it back’ so they can move forward

By Kelly Moore Global News

ANALYSIS: Winnipeg Jets ‘walk it back’ so they can move forward - imageView image in full screen

On Monday afternoon at 4 p.m., the Winnipeg Jets’ 23- or perhaps 22-player roster to start the 2024-25 season will be officially released by the NHL.

It will be interesting to see how many changes there might be by the time the trading deadline rolls around on March 7.

The Jets have decided to “walk it back.” It’s a phrase or narrative we’ll hear over the next few days, with very few — if any — fresh and new faces expected to be in the Winnipeg lineup when the puck drops for real Wednesday night in Edmonton.

Of course, the negative connotation of “walking it back” would apply to the still stinging five-game first-round playoff exit last spring versus Colorado. And there is plenty of meat on that bone to chew on.

But there should also be a positive version of that thought process, which would speak to 52 wins, 110 points, a sparkling 20-5-1 divisional record, and the NHL’s lowest goals-against total.

I would wonder why any team would want to mess with that level of success. Because that’s what will have to be achieved over the 82-game schedule first and foremost, before we even get into the debate of whether Winnipeg has the pieces to get over a massive hump that has seen them win just two of their last 16 postseason games.

The opportunity for young players that GM Kevin Cheveldayoff referenced all summer long and into training camp was given over these past two-and-a-half weeks.

And while Brad Lambert, Nikita Chibrikov, and Elias Salomonsson have all made impressive year-to-year strides, they could also have come up just short of grabbing hold of the proverbial brass ring. For now.

Because if the naysayers are correct about the Jets making a mistake in electing to maintain the status quo, “walking it back” will very likely be replaced at some point with “moving it forward.”

TSN.ca

<https://www.tsn.ca/nhl/video/nhl-season-preview-winnipeg-jets%7E3004865>

NHL Season Preview: Winnipeg Jets (VIDEO)

The Jets are coming off a 110-point regular season and a Vezina-winning effort from Connor Hellebuyck but the bitter taste of a resounding, early playoff exit overshadowed any success the team had in 2023-24. The TSN Hockey panel dissects the tone in Winnipeg as a new season awaits.

Sportsnet.ca

<https://www.sportsnet.ca/nhl/article/jets-notebook-opening-night-roster-maintains-the-status-quo/>

Jets Notebook: Opening Night roster maintains the status quo

By Jacob Stoller

WINNIPEG — Reading the Winnipeg Jets’ 2024-25 Opening Night roster feels like déjà vu.

While the line configurations are slightly different, the same 12 forwards that opened up the Jets’ 2023-24 season will make up the team’s four lines in Wednesday’s season-opener against the

Edmonton Oilers. The blue line hasn't changed much either, with their top-four being identical to what it was this time last year.

Aside from a different third pairing and a new backup goaltender, the Jets personnel remains the same as it was 364 days ago.

Last year's Jets were ultimately upgraded, though, with GM Kevin Cheveldayoff acquiring Sean Monahan, Tyler Toffoli and Colin Miller. Miller was the only one Cheveldayoff was able to re-sign in a summer where the Jets weren't able to retain Monahan, Toffoli or Brenden Dillon.

So now, we're back to square one. Will Winnipeg need to make mid-year upgrades once again? That remains to be seen. But here's a look at the Jets depth chart.

Forwards

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

- Unsurprisingly, Scheifele and Connor remain intact on the top line. The duo has undeniable chemistry — they both like to slow the game down and move east-west, rather than north-south in the defensive and neutral zone — but they posted poor on-ice results last year. Winnipeg was significantly outshot and out-chanced when those two were on the ice, compared to when they weren't. Vilardi — a dual-threat who makes the net-front his kitchen — compliments the two well in the offensive zone, although he doesn't solve the issues the two have in the defensive and neutral zone.

- Jets coach Scott Arniel made it clear early into camp that he wanted to see Ehlers, Namestnikov and Perfetti together. The trio spent extended time last year together before Cheveldayoff acquired Monahan and Toffoli to bolster the top six. Perfetti seems poised to become a surefire top-six forward this year, but what about Namestnikov as the '2C'? It's not ideal. While he adds some 'bite' to a line that's driven by two undersized wingers, Namestnikov — who scored 37 points last year — is better suited in a fourth-line role. Yet again, the Jets appear to be in the market for a second-line centre.

- The Niederreiter — Lowry — Appleton line is staying intact and for good reason. They were Rick Bowness' most trusted line last year and one of the NHL's best shutdown lines, posting an incredible 58.8 per cent expected goals-for percentage during 682 minutes together. According to MoneyPuck.com, that figure ranked sixth league-wide among the 41 lines that played over 300 minutes together. If it ain't broke, don't fix it.

- Alex Iafallo and Morgan Barron are solid bottom-six players and high-end fourth-liners at that. The real mystery with that line is Rasmus Kupari. Acquired in the Pierre-Luc Dubois blockbuster, Kupari is one of the NHL's fastest players but he's only recorded nine goals and 30 points in 158 NHL games. Injuries hampered the 2018 first-round pick's ability to make an impact last year, so it's not shocking that Winnipeg is giving him some runway. However, he'll need to be a lot better at faceoffs than he was in the pre-season, where he won just 38 per cent of his draws. David Gustafsson, who posted a 54.6 faceoff percentage last year, might not be the team's 13th forward for long.

Defencemen

Josh Morrissey — Dylan DeMelo

Dylan Samberg — Neal Pionk

Haydn Fleury — Colin Miller

Dylan Coghlan

- Together, Morrissey and DeMelo are like peanut butter and jelly, with the latter establishing himself as a dependable defensive counterpart to one of the NHL's elite offensive defensemen. DeMelo may not be a textbook first-pairing guy but he's the clear best choice to play with Morrissey.
- The Samberg and Pionk pairing is arguably the biggest X-factor to Winnipeg's success. Neither looked overly comfortable whenever they were deployed in a top-pairing role last year.
- Fleury and Miller could see sheltered deployment. The latter entered camp as the Jets' eighth defencemen but after Ville Heinola and Logan Stanley got hurt, Fleury won the sixth spot by default.

Goaltenders

Connor Hellebuyck

Kaapo Kahkonen

Eric Comrie

- Connor Hellebuyck missed Monday's practice due to a personal family matter. The Jets wouldn't disclose much information, although they said that Hellebuyck is expected to be on their plane to Edmonton.
- Odds are Comrie is the one re-assigned to the AHL once Hellebuyck returns. Since posting a .920 save percentage in 19 games with the Jets during the 2021-22 season, Comrie combined for a .882 save percentage in 29 games over the last two seasons with the Buffalo Sabres.

Other Notes

- During his Monday media availability, Arniel said that while Brad Lambert and Nikita Chibrikov took a step forward at training camp, he didn't want to see them crash and burn by throwing them into the fire of NHL games.

"I told them both, go down and continue to be the best players. This could be a week, this could be a month, I didn't make them any guarantees," Arniel told reporters.

- Jaret Anderson-Dolan, one of the team's final roster cuts, cleared through waivers on Monday. Anderson-Dolan fared well during camp and if there's an injury to the bottom six, he could fill in seamlessly. In addition to Lambert and Chibrikov, they've also got Mason Shaw, Dominic Toninato and Axel Johnsson-Fjällby — three players with loads of NHL experience — waiting in the wings.