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<https://www.nhl.com/jets/news/three-things-hellebuyck-steals-the-show>

Three things - Jets impressive start continues Jets beat Stars 4-1, have won 14 of 15 to start season

By Jamie Thomas

WINNIPEG – The Winnipeg Jets closed out their four game homestand with a 4-1 victory over the Dallas Stars. The Jets are the first team in NHL history to start the season with 14 wins in their first 15 games. Alex Iafallo, Rasmus Kupari, Vladislav Namestnikov and Nikolaj Ehlers scored for the Jets and Connor Hellebuyck won for the 11th time in his 12 starts. The Jets will now head on the road for a three-game trip starting at Madison Square Garden on Tuesday against the Rangers.

BOUNCE BACK EFFORT

The Jets players and coaches were not happy with their effort against the Avalanche on Thursday. Right from the drop of the puck this afternoon you could tell this was a different team as Iafallo (on the power play) and Kupari (with his first goal since opening night) got the Jets out to a 2-0 lead scoring almost three minutes apart. Winnipeg outshot Dallas 12-4 in the opening 20 minutes. They continued their impressive play in the second period, Namestnikov and Ehlers (another power play goal) would make it 4-0 after 40 minutes. Head coach Scott Arniel loved that Iafallo and Kupari were rewarded for their efforts.

“That power play goal (Iafallo’s) was a thing of beauty just in the sense of Pionk passing through the guys legs. Vladdy being wide and Nino and Al winning the race to the net. We knew we had them outnumbered, we knew we had caught a couple of guys high and then it was a sprint to the net front, great goal,” said Arniel.

“And the other one same thing. They had the puck and Kup got after the guy, got after the defence and created the turnover and Kup continued on and got to the net.”

BATTLE OF US GOALTENDERS

With the 4 Nations Face-Off tournament roster announcement coming in less than a month, today’s game featured two goaltenders who should be on the American team with the Jets Connor Hellebuyck and the Stars Jake Oettinger. Oettinger was 5-1-1 in his career against Winnipeg with a 1.99 GAA, .924 save percentage and one shutout but was pulled after giving up four goals on 15 shots. Meanwhile, Hellebuyck had his shutout streak end 191:47 (which is a franchise record surpassing Ondrej Pavelec’s 187:05) after Roope Hintz scored with 1:22 left in the game, the shutout streak is a franchise record.

“Yeah, he was unbelievable all game and last game and the game before,” said Namestnikov.

“So, he’s a rock back there, and we would like to have that one back, but sometimes they go in, so we’ll take the win, we’ll take that game and move on.”

TIGHT CHECKING CENTRAL

The Stars were picked by many to defend their Central Division title from last season, but Winnipeg now has a 12-point lead on the Stars. Three of the past five games in Winnipeg between the Jets and Stars have been decided by one goal. Winnipeg is now 6-0 against their

division rivals and have outscored them 15-5. The Jets scored 10 straight goals for the fourth time in franchise history, last time was April 9-16, 2024 (12 in 4 GP).

Canadian Press

<https://www.sportsnet.ca/nhl/article/winnipeg-jets-become-first-team-to-win-14-of-first-15-games-to-open-regular-season/>

Winnipeg Jets become first team to win 14 of first 15 games to open regular season

By Canadian Press

The records just keep falling for the Jets under new head coach Scott Arniel.

Winnipeg defeated the Dallas Stars 4-1 at Canada Life Centre on Saturday to register an NHL record 14 wins in the first 15 games of a season.

"It's a good accomplishment," said Vladislav Namestnikov, who scored a goal and an assist. "But the work doesn't stop, and we just have to keep grinding."

Arniel was pleased with the mark.

"I'm pretty amazed a little bit," he said. "At the same time, obviously, these players, they do have to recognize that it's an amazing feat, what they've done so far. But we'd like to just keep this going a little bit longer. But at the end of the day, they've got to be awfully proud of what they've done."

Winning is fun, Alex Iafallo agreed.

"Winning in stretches like that is what you play for and we're having fun doing it," said Iafallo, who also scored a goal and added a helper. "Just joking around, but once it's game time, we're ready to rock. So, it's a lot of fun right now."

Jets goalie Connor Hellebuyck, who had just registered back-to-back shutouts, set the franchise record for the longest stretch of time without allowing a goal — 191 minutes and 47 seconds.

"It's awesome what he does every night," Arniel said. "You almost take it for granted at times. I know the crowd goes crazy, but we see that in practice every day, we see it in games often. He's elite."

Hellebuyck stopped 32 of 33 shots, allowing a goal by Stars Roope Hintz with 1:22 left in the game.

"Another hell of a game," Iafallo said. "He's making incredible saves and keeping our plays in it and making those defensive plays. It goes a long way and pushes us forward. I think he's having a hell of a start, so he's got to keep it going. It's pretty fun to watch."

Namestnikov concurred.

"Yeah, he was unbelievable all game and last game, and the game before," he said. "So, he's a rock back there, and we would like to have that one (goal) back, but sometimes they go in, so we'll take the win, we'll take that game and move on."

Stars coach Pete DeBoer said the loss was not due to one player.

"Well, he's (Hellebuyck) an excellent goalie but they're playing a great game," he said. "They've got four lines and six defencemen that are playing really well around them, and when you do crack the armour, he's there to make the save. And he's an exceptional goalie, but he wasn't the difference in the game tonight. They were better than us in a lot of areas."

The Jets also lead the NHL in several categories, including the best power play percentage and most total points by defencemen (46).

"It's real simple for me," Arniel said. "It is such a team effort. This isn't (Hellebuyck) winning every game. This isn't (Mark) Scheifele's line winning us every game. To me, this is 23 guys. This has been unbelievable in the sense of how everybody has contributed. Whether that's blocking shots or making little detailed plays, defending, but obviously scoring goals. Early in the year, we had to score late in games to send it to overtime and win it. Just different ways of finding ways to stay in games and then, getting the two points. The best answer I can give you is that this has really been a team run for us."

Rasmus Kupari and Nikolaj Ehlers also scored for Winnipeg.

NOTES: With assists on the fourth goal, both Mark Scheifele and Gabe Vilardi extended their point streaks to seven games. ... Going into the game, the Jets defencemen led the NHL with a total of 45 points, the most through the first 14 games and the most in franchise history. That includes 11 goals, the most in the NHL. ... The Jets also led in power play percentage, 42.1 per cent, the most in NHL history through the first 14 games. ... Stars captain Jamie Benn became just the sixth player to win 16-of-16 faceoffs in their 3-1 victory over the Chicago Blackhawks on Thursday since the league started keeping track in 1997. Although he's a winger, Benn takes a lot of faceoffs. ... The Jets paid tribute to Winnipeg Sun sports editor Ted Wyman, who lost his battle with cancer Saturday morning.

NHL.com

<https://www.nhl.com/news/dallas-stars-winnipeg-jets-game-recap-november-9>

***Jets defeat Stars to set NHL record with 14th win in 1st 15 games
Hellebuyck sets franchise record with shutout streak of 191:47; Dallas loses for 3rd time in 4 games***

By Darrin Bauming

WINNIPEG -- The Winnipeg Jets set an NHL record with their 14th win in their first 15 games to start a season with a 4-1 victory against the Dallas Stars at Canada Life Centre on Saturday.

"I'm pretty amazed, a little bit," Winnipeg coach Scott Arniel said. "At the same time, these players, they do have to recognize that it's an amazing feat what they've done so far. But we'd like to just keep this going a little bit longer. But at the end of the day, they've got to be awfully proud of what they've done."

"It's historic but I just can't stress enough ... it is about how we let last game go and move on to the next opponent. ... The players have done a fantastic job of putting things in perspective in each game, each situation, and moving on to the next. I'd be awfully proud of what they've done."

Alex Iafallo and Vladislav Namestnikov each had a goal and an assist for Winnipeg (14-1-0), which has won six in a row. Connor Hellebuyck made 32 saves and set a franchise record with a shutout streak of 191:47, which ended late in the third period.

"He's an excellent goalie but [Winnipeg is] playing a great game," Dallas coach Pete DeBoer said. "They've got four lines and six defensemen that are playing really well around them, and when you do crack the armor he's there to make the save. And he's an exceptional goalie, but he wasn't the difference in the game tonight. They were better than us in a lot of areas."

Roope Hintz scored for Dallas (8-5-0), which has lost three of four (1-3-0). Jake Oettinger allowed four goals on 15 shots before being pulled in the second period. Casey DeSmith made 10 saves in relief.

"It was a big challenge coming up against the team leading the league," Stars forward Wyatt Johnston said. "It was a big game for us, and we obviously didn't come out and play the way we wanted to. But you can definitely learn from experiences like this and just take things from it."

Iafallo gave the Jets a 1-0 lead with a power play goal at 7:28 of the first period, redirecting Namestnikov's centering pass over Oettinger.

"Winning in stretches like that is what you play for and we're having fun doing it," Iafallo said. "But once it's game time, we're ready to rock, so it's a lot of fun right now."

Following a turnover by Stars defenseman Mathew Dumba, Rasmus Kupari made it 2-0 at 10:21, tucking in a rebound at the side of the net.

"They're a great team. It starts from [Hellebuyck]," Johnston said. "You see he's been great, but they're playing well in front of him, defending well, not giving us a lot of opportunities, which obviously makes it easier on him. Overall, they're a great team. It's definitely a benchmark for us to remember this game and remember what level we need to get to."

Iafallo said of Hellebuyck, "Another [heck] of a game. He's making incredible saves and keeping our plays in it and making those defensive plays. It goes a long way and pushes us forward. I think he's having a [heck] of a start, so he's got to keep it going. It's pretty fun to watch."

Namestnikov pushed it to 3-0 at 3:34 of the second, jamming the puck in after his initial wraparound attempt was stopped.

"He was trying to cover it, but I saw it there and just poked at it," Namestnikov said. "Luckily, it went in."

Nikolaj Ehlers made it 4-0 at 7:14 with a one-timer on the power play.

Oettinger was pulled 2:07 later.

"I think when you look at [Winnipeg] and Florida, they've exposed us and we've got to be a lot better, DeBoer said of his team, which lost to the Panthers twice in the 2024 NHL Global Series Finland. "I think we've beaten the teams we should beat, but when we've had opportunities to play the top teams in the league, we haven't risen to the occasion. So that's on us."

Hintz scored to make it 4-1 at 18:38 of the third, ending Hellebuyck's shutout streak.

"[Hellebuyck] was unbelievable all game and last game and the game before," Namestnikov said. "He's a rock back there, and we would like to have that one back, but sometimes they go in, so we'll take the win. We'll take that game and move on."

Hellebuyck and the Jets had two straight shutouts entering Saturday.

"It's awesome what he does every night," Arniel said of Hellebuyck. "You almost take it for granted at times. I know the crowd goes crazy, but we see that in practice every day, we see it in games often. He's elite."

NOTES: Hellebuyck's shutout streak broke the team record previously held by Ondrej Pavelec (187:05 in 2014-15). ... Gabriel Vilardi had an assist and has nine points (five goals, four assists) during a career-high seven-game point streak. ... Winnipeg forward Mark Scheifele has an assist in seven-straight games, and nine points (two goals, seven assists) in that span. ... The Jets won a sixth-straight win for the second time this season. The only other team in NHL history to have multiple six-game win streaks through its first 15 games of a season is the Colorado Avalanche in 2013-14. ... Winnipeg's 67 goals (including shootout-deciding goals) is the most by a team through 15 games of a season since the 2006-07 Sabres (68).

<https://www.nhl.com/stars/news/heika-s-take-dallas-stars-endure-harsh-reality-check-in-loss-to-surging-winnipeg-jets-110924>

Heika's Take: Stars endure harsh reality check in loss to surging Jets

By Mike Heika

After a 4-1 loss at Canada Life Centre on Saturday, the Stars now trail the Winnipeg Jets by 12 points in the standings.

But the difference on the ice seemed even greater.

In a game billed as a "measuring stick" for both teams, Winnipeg looked complete from offense, to defense, to goaltending and special teams. Meanwhile, the Stars looked like they still have plenty of work to do.

"I think when you look at these guys and Florida, they've exposed us," Stars coach Pete DeBoer said. "We've got to be a lot better."

The Stars have done a great job of handling non-playoff teams this season, and that's one of the reasons they are in decent shape at 8-5-0. However, they lost two games in Finland to the defending Stanley Cup champion Florida Panthers, including getting behind 6-2 in the first meeting last Friday. So piling this performance on top of that sounds a couple of warning bells.

"It's a game that has us all looking in the mirror, trying to figure out where we want to go from here and who we want to be," said forward Tyler Seguin.

The Stars actually started the game well and looked ready to make a point. However, Dallas took two penalties in the first period and the hottest power play in the league went to work. Alex Lafallo converted seven minutes in, and then Rasmus Kupari converted a Matt Dumba giveaway into a goal and the Jets had a 2-0 lead after one period. Winnipeg had a 12-2 advantage in shots on goal at the time, and pretty much dictated play.

They got an even strength goal from former Star Vladislav Namestnikov and another power play tally from Nikolaj Ehlers eight minutes into the second period and had a 4-0 lead before the midway point in the game. The Jets went two-for-five with the man advantage and sit at 41.9 percent, best in the league.

The Stars, meanwhile went 0-for-4 on the power play and now rank 21st in the league.

"There are some things we could look at on our [power play]," Seguin said. "They're aggressive, they move the puck around well, and we've got to do that too."

In addition, the Stars' respected penalty kill has allowed goals against in five of the past six games and have slipped to 11th at 83.7 percent.

"They're a great power play, but we're also a great penalty kill," said forward Wyatt Johnston. "We need to make the plays that need to be done on the kill."

And that goes for the entire lineup.

"It was a big challenge coming against the team leading the league," Johnston said. "We obviously didn't come out and play the way we wanted, but you can definitely learn from experiences like this."

Winnipeg is now 14-1-0, the best record in the league. The Jets are getting good play from pretty much everyone and are led by goalie Connor Hellebuyck, who came really close to posting a third consecutive shutout. Roope Hintz was able to tally in the 58th minute of the game, and that provided the tiniest consolation, but Hellebuyck is now 11-1-0 with a 1.83 GAA and .935 save percentage. He has a clear path to be Team USA's No. 1 goalie for the 4 Nations Face-off in February. Stars goalie Jake Oettinger was hoping to make his case for the same spot, but fell short. While Oettinger received praise from his teammates, he allowed four goals on 15 shots and was pulled in the second period.

DeBoer said he was trying to light a fire under his team, and backup Casey DeSmith did a solid job the rest of the way.

"You're looking for a spark," DeBoer said. "That game wasn't on Jake."

While Seguin added, "Our goalie did nothing wrong. It's unfortunate that we hung him out to dry a bit. We did it against Florida in Finland and again tonight."

And that is something the team will take away from this stretch. Yes, Dallas is beating non-playoff teams, but it has yet to register a signpost win against a top contender.

“We’ve beaten the teams we should beat, but when we’ve had opportunities to play the top teams in the league, we haven’t risen to the occasion.”

Dallas follows this up with a game against the 6-8-2 Penguins in Pittsburgh on Monday, and it’s still very early in the season. This is definitely a rougher start than the Stars had in the last two seasons, and that is concerning for a squad many experts picked to contend for the Stanley Cup.

“I’m glad it’s happening now,” Seguin said. “Good things to learn from. We have a lot of time to get a lot better.”

Winnipeg Free Press

<https://www.winnipegfreepress.com/breakingnews/2024/11/09/sizzling-jets-beat-stars-earn-place-in-nhl-record-book>

Sizzling Jets beat Stars, earn place in NHL record book

By: Mike McIntyre

This team is something else. And now the scorching-hot Winnipeg Jets have skated their way into the NHL history books.

A dominating 4-1 victory over the Dallas Stars Saturday afternoon at a sold-out Canada Life Centre means they are the first team to ever start a season with 14 wins in 15 games.

“I’m pretty amazed a little bit,” admitted head coach Scott Arniel, who couldn’t have scripted a better start to his second shot behind a big-league bench.

“These players, they do have to recognize that it’s an amazing feat, what they’ve done so far. But we’d like to just keep this going a little bit longer.”

That shouldn’t be an issue if they play the way they did against a Stars team that is viewed as one of the best in the league but had no answers for a Jets squad that is firing on all cylinders. To be blunt, the final score seriously flattered the visitors.

“We’ve had some really good games this year but that might have been the most complete game,” said Arniel.

“It was against an extremely good opponent, tough opponent, divisional opponent. Just the way we, especially structurally-wise, were for 60 minutes, that was rock-solid.”

Jets players weren’t happy with how they played in a 1-0 victory on Thursday over the Colorado Avalanche and spoke about needing a stronger showing in this one.

Mission accomplished.

“We fixed what needed to be better,” said forward Vlad Namestnikov. “We met as a group and talked and (Saturday) was just all about us and our work ethic, doing the little things right and not turning over pucks in the neutral zone.”

HELLEBUYCK RAISES THE BAR: It all starts in net with these Jets, who are led by reigning Vezina Trophy winner Connor Hellebuyck. He came within 82 seconds of recording a third consecutive shutout but still set a new franchise mark for longest streak without surrendering a goal.

The old mark of 187 minutes and five seconds was held by Ondrej Pavelec from the 2014-15 season, but Hellebuyck now sits at No. 1 with 191 minutes and 47 seconds between red lights going off behind him.

A Logan Stanley cross-checking penalty late in the third period had Dallas pressing, including a wild goal-mouth scramble in which Hellebuyck lost his stick. Just two seconds after Stanley stepped out of the sin bin, Roope Hintz fired a shot that trickled through Hellebuyck's five-hole.

"Obviously it's tough to see that one go in," said Arniel. "It's awesome what he does every night. You almost take it for granted at times. I know the crowd goes crazy, but we see that in practice every day, we see it in games often. He's elite."

Hellebuyck's personal numbers are absurd. He's 11-1-0 in 12 starts with a 1.83 goals-against-average and .935 save-percentage.

"Another hell of a game," said forward Alex Iafallo. "He's making incredible saves and keeping our plays in it and making those defensive plays. It goes a long way and pushes us forward. I think he's having a hell of a start, so he's got to keep it going. It's pretty fun to watch."

POWER PLAY KEEPS PRODUCING: It's one thing to have the best goaltender in the league. But throw in a potent power play and now you really have the recipe for something special.

Iafallo opened the scoring at 7:28 of the first period when he one-timed a beautiful pass from Namestnikov for his second of the year with Dallas forward Sam Steel in the box for tripping.

It came after some dominating offensive zone play by Winnipeg, where it seemed like just a matter of time before they found the back of the net.

Nikolaj Ehlers hammered home his ninth of the season — tying Kyle Connor for the team lead — near the midway mark of the middle frame with the Jets again on the man advantage. This time, the Jets took advantage of a foolish roughing penalty by Stars captain Jamie Benn, who was running around all game trying to inflict punishment.

Winnipeg has now scored a league-leading 18 power-play goals this year — 10 by the No. 1 unit, eight by the second unit — along with an NHL-best 41.9 per cent efficiency rate.

The penalty kill has been above-average too, going 4-for-4 against Dallas to sit 13th overall at 82.4 per cent.

Benn would take another selfish minor later in the game, cross-checking Cole Perfetti, which prompted Jets captain Adam Lowry to come to his teammates defence as drop the gloves in a short but spirited tilt.

"He's a hell of a captain," said Iafallo.

“To stick up for teammates like that, pretty much everyone would do it, but he’s awesome for doing that. He’s done it his whole career, obviously. I’m just glad he’s on our team.”

DEPTH COMES THROUGH AGAIN: Rasmus Kupari has been buzzing lately but hadn’t scored a goal since opening night in Edmonton.

But the young fourth-line centre finally got rewarded for his strong work midway through the first period, finishing off a great feed from Lafallo for his second of the season.

Namestnikov, who is currently the second-line centre but can play up and down the lineup, had Winnipeg’s other tally early in the second when he followed up his own wraparound attempt and poked home a loose puck for his fourth.

“It’s real simple for me. It’s such a team effort,” said Arniel.

“This isn’t Helle winning every game. This isn’t Scheifele’s line winning us every game. To me, this is 23 guys. This has been unbelievable in the sense of how everybody has contributed. Whether that’s blocking shots or making little detailed plays, defending, but obviously scoring goals.”

CROWD WAS ON FIRE: The downtown barn was rocking right from opening puck drop, with the NHL’s No. 1 team giving the 15,225 fans plenty to cheer about.

The fact the second sellout of the year happened 3 1/2 hours before the Winnipeg Blue Bombers hosted the Saskatchewan Roughriders at a sold-out Princess Auto Stadium is truly impressive.

Winnipeg is notorious for some of its creative chants over the years, and they came up with a beauty in this one.

Stars goaltender Jake Oettinger was repeatedly serenaded with “U.S. Backup, U.S. Backup” — a cheeky nod to the fact he’s likely going to be playing second fiddle (at least) to Hellebuyck when it comes to the American squad at both the 4 Nations Face-Off and 2026 Winter Olympics.

Oettinger, by the way, was given the hook shortly after Namestnikov made it 4-0, stopping just 11 of 15 shots he faced.

Casey DeSmith came on in relief and stopped all 10 shots he faced, including several of the highlight-reel variety which kept the game from becoming a rout.

The Jets are now 6-0-0 against the Central Division this year, with 20 more games to go including three more meetings with the Stars, who fell to 8-5-0.

“Dallas, we’re a lot alike. We look a lot alike, we play a lot alike,” said Arniel. “They’re a really good hockey team. They’ve been one of the best teams in the West. I think they’re at the top of the pile. For us to go head-to-head like we did, and we won most of those battles, obviously it showed on the scoreboard.”

KEY PLAY: Vlad Namestnikov’s terrific second-effort early in the second period made it a 3-0 game and had the Jets in cruise control.

THREE STARS: 1. Winnipeg goaltender Connor Hellebuyck: 32 saves; 2. Winnipeg centre Vlad Namestnikov: one goal, one assist; 3. Winnipeg right-winger Alex Iafallo: one goal, one assist

EXTRA, EXTRA: The Jets paid tribute to long-time Winnipeg Sun sports reporter/editor Ted Wyman, who passed away early Saturday at the age of 58 due to cancer. A bouquet of flowers and a framed picture sat in his former press box seat at the rink, and a video message was played during the first television timeout...

Winnipeg will now enjoy two days away from the rink following a stretch in which they played 12 games in the past 23 days. They'll fly on Monday to the Big Apple, where a three-game road trip starts Tuesday against the New York Rangers.

"(Winnipeg's start) is historic but, you know, I just can't stress enough — and you guys are probably going to get sick of this — but it is about how we let the last game go and move on to the next opponent," said Arniel.

"We've done a good job and we get a huge break now. We get two days off. And then we start nine out of 10 on the road so just the way the players have done a fantastic job of putting things in perspective in each game, each situation, and moving on to the next."

Winnipeg Sun

<https://winnipeg.sun.com/sports/hockey/nhl/winnipeg-jets/jets-rout-stars-set-record-for-best-start-in-nhl-history>

Jets rout Stars, set record for best start in NHL history

By Scott Billeck

This start for the Winnipeg Jets won't soon be forgotten.

The local hockey team made NHL history on Saturday afternoon, etching its name into the league's history books after winning their 14th game in just 15 tries.

The victory, 4-1 over the visiting Dallas Stars, gives Winnipeg the best start in NHL history. Their 14-1-0 surge out of the gate passed the 2007-08 Ottawa Senators.

"It's a good accomplishment, but the work doesn't stop, and we just have to keep grinding," Vladislav Namestnikov said.

The Jets' sixth consecutive win kept them perfect in the Central Division (6-0-0), and wrapped up with their four-game home stand much the same.

"We've had some really good games this year, but that might have been the most complete game," head coach Scott Arniel said. "It was against an extremely good opponent, tough opponent, divisional opponent. Just the way we, especially structurally-wise, were for 60 minutes, that was rock-solid.

"We gotta be proud about how they went out and got after it, especially in that first period. They really got after them right away."

Alex Iafallo and Namestnikov each chipped in with a goal and an assist, while Rasmus Kupari and Nikolaj Ehlers also tallied.

Connor Hellebuyck's shutout streak ended at 191:47, the longest in franchise history.

He passed Ondrej Pavelec's mark of 187:05, set when the Czechia netminder shut out three straight teams at the tail end of the 2014-15 season.

"Another hell of a game," Iafallo said. "He's making incredible saves and keeping our plays in it and making those defensive plays. It goes a long way and pushes us forward. I think he's having a hell of a start, so he's got to keep it going. It's pretty fun to watch."

Iafallo opened the scoring at 7:28 of the first period, keeping Winnipeg's white-hot power play chugging along after a slick feed from Namestnikov.

"Each power play's feeding off each other and making quick plays like that gives everything momentum, so we've always got to keep doing that," Iafallo said.

Winnipeg dominated the opening frame, outshooting the dimly lit Stars 12-4.

Kupari made it 2-0 when he cleaned up a loose puck in front at 10:21.

Namestnikov's fourth was a lesson in not giving up on a play. Jake Oettinger stopped his wraparound attempt, but Namestnikov kept at it and jammed home the loose puck to make it 3-0 at 3:34.

Ehlers notched Winnipeg's second power-play goal at 7:14, tying Kyle Connor for the team lead.

Gabriel Vilardi and Mark Scheifele pushed their respective point streaks to seven games with assists on the goal.

"I'm pretty amazed a little bit," Arniel said of the start his team has had. "At the same time, these players, they do have to recognize that it's an amazing feat, what they've done so far. But we'd like to just keep this going a little bit longer. They've got to be awfully proud of what they've done.

"It's historic but ... I just can't stress enough — and you guys are probably going to get sick of this — but it is about how good we let last game go and move on to the next opponent."

Arniel praised what he figures is the key to Winnipeg's early-season success: a full team effort.

"This isn't Helle winning every game," Arniel said. "This isn't (Mark) Scheifele's line winning us every game. To me, this is 23 guys. This has been unbelievable in the sense of how everybody has contributed."

Hellebuyck's lone blemish, Roope Hintz's fifth goal of the season, came with 1:22 remaining in regulation and Winnipeg's No. 1 without his stick.

“It’s tough to see that one go in,” Arniel said. “It’s awesome what he does every night. You almost take it for granted at times. I know the crowd goes crazy, but we see that in practice every day, we see it in games often. He’s elite.”

Hellebuyck made 32 saves for his league-leading 11th win of the season.

Meanwhile, Jets fans had a little fun on 90s Night, including a “U.S. Backup” chant aimed at the Stars’ starter.

Oettinger was pulled after allowing four goals on 15 shots.

He’s likely to play second-fiddle to Hellebuyck for the Americans at the 4 Nations Face-Off in February.

“They’re always great,” Namestnikov said. “Chanting stuff, and it’s very loud, they feel like they’re on top of you. So, it’s a pleasure to play here, and great fans here.”

The Jets head back on the road next week, stopping in New York to face the Rangers before double-dips in Florida against the Lightning and defending Stanley Cup champion Panthers.

The Athletic

<https://www.winnipegfreepress.com/breakingnews/2024/11/07/jets-heap-praise-on-unsung-hero>

Winnipeg Jets achieve best start in NHL history at 14-1-0 after beating Stars

By Murat Ates

WINNIPEG — The Winnipeg Jets are off to the best 15-game start in NHL history, winning 14 of their first 15 games to build a record of 14-1-0.

A sold-out Canada Life Centre crowd watched as Winnipeg beat the Dallas Stars 4-1 to clinch the record, getting power-play goals from Alex Iafallo and Nikolaj Ehlers, plus even-strength goals from Rasmus Kupari and Vladislav Namestnikov.

The clinching game was a rout against Winnipeg’s division rivals — a party, a goal-scoring parade. By the second period, with the Jets leading 3-0, the crowd felt comfortable chanting “U.S. backup” at Stars goalie Jake Oettinger. When Ehlers scored to make it 4-0, the Stars pulled Oettinger from the game and the chants grew louder.

After allowing one goal, Connor Hellebuyck also set a Jets record for longest shutout streak at 191:47, surpassing Ondrej Pavelec’s 187:05 in 2014-15.

Here are the keys to how Winnipeg accomplished the best start in NHL history.

That mythical 10 percent

Winnipeg finished fourth in the NHL with 110 points and 52 wins last season, including eight straight wins to end the regular season. The Jets’ five-game loss to the Colorado Avalanche in the first round of the playoffs was stunning — not just the loss, but Colorado’s dominant play — and it left Winnipeg with an offseason challenge.

“Until you’re the team standing there at the end (of the playoffs), you’ve done nothing,” Jets general manager Kevin Cheveldayoff said in the wake of the loss. “The onus is on everybody within the organization to be that 10 percent better.”

It’s a message players embraced, with Jets stars and leaders like Josh Morrissey, Adam Lowry, Mark Scheifele and more sharing some version of the same message. It’s also the sort of thing every non-championship team talks about, but our read of the Jets dressing room in the wake of last season was of a higher level of accountability entering the offseason.

Part of Winnipeg’s success this season comes from defense-first identity-line players like Lowry, Mason Appleton and Nino Niederreiter making yet more elite defensive plays while cranking off their offensive output. Part of it comes from Kyle Connor’s nine-goal, 10-assist explosion to start the season, paired with better backchecking efforts at key times. There is a story I have told about the Jets — that their best offensive players don’t play defense and the best defensive players don’t add offense — that Winnipeg has proved completely, thoroughly wrong.

There have been tough moments — no team or player is perfect — but few tough stretches of play.

Revamped, league-leading 43.9 percent power play

Both of Winnipeg’s power-play units scored in the record-clinching win against Dallas on Saturday.

lafallo’s perfectly timed cut into the slot to receive Namestnikov’s centering pass opened the scoring; it demonstrated this year’s injection of movement and pace into both power-play units. It was also the second unit’s eighth goal of the season, including three from breakout player Cole Perfetti, taking creative advantage of four left-handed forwards and Neal Pionk’s vision from the point.

Ehlers’ one-timer from the slot showed why it was so important to add him to Winnipeg’s elite array of offensive players featuring Scheifele, Connor, Vilardi and Morrissey. The joy of Winnipeg’s first unit is partly in the variety of setups — they’ve scored goals on plays last year’s Jets wouldn’t have been in position to try — and in the number of options each player has available to him with the puck. Players are in nearly constant motion, rotating into more and more dangerous positions with each pass of the puck, and Ehlers’ goal was the top unit’s 10th of the season.

Connor’s four goals lead all Jets power-play scorers; his next one will equal his total from all of last season.

Elite goaltending

No record-setting streak is possible without elite goaltending performances. Hellebuyck’s performance in team win No. 13 was the stuff of legend.

Facing the team that beat him for 24 goals in five playoff games, Hellebuyck was simply spectacular, stopping 35 shots to earn his second straight shutout, outright stealing Winnipeg’s win. His 32-save performance against Dallas outshone rival U.S. netminder Oettinger, which led to chants of “U.S. backup” from the Canada Life Centre crowd.

Magic moments

Even a team with the league's best power play, the defending Vezina Trophy-winning goaltender at the height of his powers, and a defense corps that's produced a pile of offense while giving up only 30 goals in 15 games needs help from time to time.

There have been individual performances and moments that kept the streak alive, uniquely transcending Winnipeg's team quality.

Whether it was Scheifele's diving goal with Hellebuyck pulled to force overtime against the Chicago Blackhawks — or his overtime winner — the Jets' star center pulled a win out of nowhere in the dying minutes of Game 2. In Game 3 against the Minnesota Wild, Scheifele scored Winnipeg's only goal of regulation time straight off of a faceoff with two seconds left in the first period.

Connor won that game in overtime with a scorching shot off the bar and in, building part of Winnipeg's perfect 3-0-0 record in extra time. There was Ehlers' hat trick against the Columbus Blue Jackets, or his overtime winner against the Seattle Kraken that trickled just past Joey Daccord with Hellebuyck pulled on a delayed penalty call. There was the Jets' team-wide resilience after a controversial goaltender interference non-call put Winnipeg down 2-0 early against the Tampa Bay Lightning.

Time and time again, Winnipeg's players have stepped up in the biggest, most defining moments of games. Their defensemen have protected the crease, all four lines have contributed offense, and Hellebuyck has built the case for a Vezina Trophy encore.

Historical context/comparisons

The Jets stand in a class of their own at 14-1.

Before that, they were one of only two teams to start a season 13-1.

And before that, they were one of only six teams to win 12 out of their first 13 games. Here's what happened to the other teams in this elite group.

Playoff outcomes for best 15GP starts

Winnipeg Jets

2024-25

14-1-0

TBD

TBD

Ottawa Senators

2007-08

13-2-0

7th in East

Lost R1: 4 games to PIT

Colorado Avalanche

2013-14

13-2-0

1st in Central

Lost R1: 7 games vs. MIN

Quebec Nordiques

1994-95

13-2-0

1st in East

Lost R1: 6 games to NYR

Detroit Red Wings

2005-06

12-2-1

1st in West

Lost R1: 6 games vs. EDM

Pittsburgh Penguins

1994-95

12-1-2

3rd in East

Lost R2: 5 games to NJD

It's clear greatness surrounds all of these teams.

What's unclear is how immediately that greatness arrived — particularly in the Stanley Cup playoffs.

It might be sobering to learn that none of the other five teams went on to win the Stanley Cup in the season of their run. Four of the five were eliminated in the first round, and the 1995 Pittsburgh Penguins made it as far as Round 2, losing to the New Jersey Devils, the eventual champions.

The 1994-95 Quebec Nordiques lost in the first round but won the Cup the next season in Colorado after acquiring Patrick Roy in a trade with the Montreal Canadiens. The Detroit Red Wings won the Presidents' Trophy before their first-round loss in 2006 and won the Cup in 2008. The Penguins were on the downswing from back-to-back championships in 1991 and 1992, and the Ottawa Senators had made the previous year's Stanley Cup Final.

The one thing that remains clear? Fourteen wins in 15 games is a spectacular, history-making accomplishment, but 16 playoff wins are promised to no one.

How it happened, according to coach Scott Arniel

"It's real simple for me. It's such a team effort. It is such a team effort. This isn't Helle winning every game. This isn't Scheifele's line winning us every game. To me, this is 23 guys. This has been unbelievable in the sense of how everybody has contributed. Whether that's blocking shots or making little detailed plays, defending, but obviously scoring goals. Early in the year, we had to score late in games to send it to overtime and win it. Just different ways of finding ways to stay in games and then getting the 2 points. The best answer I can give you is that this has really been a team run for us."

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<https://www.tsn.ca/nhl/video/jets-pass-toughest-test-yet-with-historic-victory-over-stars%7E3026926>

Jets pass toughest test yet with historic victory over Stars (VIDEO)

Dan Robertson and Kevin Sawyer recap the Winnipeg Jets' record-setting 14th win of the season, over the Dallas Stars on Saturday.

<https://www.tsn.ca/nhl/video/namestnikov-on-jets-historic-run-we-re-relentless-we-never-give-up%7E3025632>

Namestnikov on Jets' historic run: 'We're relentless, we never give up' (VIDEO)

TSN's Sara Orlesky spoke with Winnipeg Jets forward Vladislav Namestnikov after his team's historic 14th win in 15 games this season.

<https://www.tsn.ca/nhl/video/should-hellebuyck-be-in-the-hart-conversation%7E3025627>

Should Hellebuyck be in the Hart conversation? (VIDEO)

Connor Hellebuyck was once again excellent against the Dallas Stars, turning away all but one of the 33 shots he faced. That gives him 11 wins, three shutouts, and a .935 save percentage on the year and it has TSN Hockey analyst Frankie Corrado asking: Should we start talking about Hellebuyck in the Hart Trophy conversation?