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<https://www.nhl.com/jets/news/three-things-record-setting-start-to-season>

***Three things - Record setting start to season
Mark Scheifele and Kyle Connor each scored twice in a 6-3 win over the Rangers***

By Jamie Thomas

HEAVYWEIGHT FIGHT

Jets play by play voice Paul Edmonds described this battle between the NHL's best team, the Jets and last years Presidents Trophy winning Rangers as a heavy weight battle. With the fire power on both sides and the goaltenders at both ends, it had all the makings of a classic at Madison Square Garden. This game featured the two best defensive teams in the NHL but with that being said, it wasn't a defensive battle at all. Mark Scheifele opened the scoring 57 seconds into the game and Will Cuyllie tied it at 13:07 as the first ended 1-1. Winnipeg retook the lead in the second thanks to some magic from Gabe Vilardi on a Jets power play at 8:58. New York punched back with a power play goal of their own just under four minutes later off the stick of Alexis Lafreniere.

CONNOR IS INEVITABLE

Kyle Connor was on a season high five game goalless drought and looked like he was ready to end it from the drop of the puck. The Jets leading goal scorer had numerous chances before finally finding the back of the net in the second period, Neal Pionk hit Connor with a perfect pass to start a two-on-one. The 27-year-old ripped a great shot stick side on Shesterkin for his team leading 10th of the season. That goal helped a wild opening 40 minutes where the two teams combined for 33 scoring chances (WPG 17, NYR 16).

"It's not just a one-trick pony. If one line has an off night, we usually have two or three going and that can pick it up. I think that's what makes us so dynamic," said Connor.

"And it starts in our own zone. You see that tonight. If we defend well, the team's going to give us all the chances that we need. That's what we focus on coming into every single game."

The last time Mark Scheifele stepped on the ice at MSG, he scored the eighth hat trick of his career in an elite performance leading the Jets to a 4-2 win back in March. He opened the scoring tonight and in the third period, he gave Winnipeg their first two goal lead of the evening on a pretty passing play started by Connor who went to Dylan DeMelo and his pass was tipped in by Scheifele.

"It's MSG. Just a fun place to play," said Scheifele.

"I play with some good players and made some good plays out there. So, you play at MSG, you gotta put on a show."

NHL.com

<https://www.nhl.com/news/winnipeg-jets-new-york-rangers-game-recap-november-12>

***Jets defeat Rangers, fastest in NHL history to 15 wins
Scheifele, Connor each scores twice, Hellebuyck has 33 saves for Winnipeg; Cuyllé gets goal, assist for New York***

By Dan Rosen

NEW YORK -- The Winnipeg Jets became the fastest team to 15 wins in NHL history by defeating the New York Rangers in their 16th game of the season, 6-3 at Madison Square Garden on Tuesday.

The Jets (15-1-0) reached 15 wins faster than the 2022-23 Boston Bruins, 2007-08 Ottawa Senators, 2006-07 Buffalo Sabres, 1985-86 Philadelphia Flyers and 1929-30 Boston Bruins. They all did it in 17 games, previously the fastest.

"You know, you would never have drawn it up this way," Jets coach Scott Arniel said. "We had talked about it at the start of the year of banking points. We've got a very tough division, a tough Western Conference. We've got to eliminate eight teams to get into the big dance. Yeah, I don't think I quite drew it up this way, but certainly the guys have earned every inch of it."

Kyle Connor had two goals and an assist, Mark Scheifele scored two goals, Neal Pionk had three assists, and Nikolaj Ehlers had two assists. Connor Hellebuyck made 33 saves. Winnipeg has won seven in a row and is 7-0-0 on the road.

"Honestly, we know what we're doing, but we don't take too much stock in it," Connor said. "It's move onto the next one. It's how can we improve? How can we be better? I think that's what has made us successful to this point. Nobody is satisfied. There's still areas we can work on. We've won 15, but I think it speaks to the leadership, not getting comfortable. There's still a lot of season left."

Will Cuyllé had a goal and an assist, Artemi Panarin had an assist to extend his home point streak to eight games, and Igor Shesterkin made 27 saves for the Rangers (9-4-1).

However, four of Winnipeg's goals came off Rangers turnovers, including three by Mika Zibanejad.

"There's isolated incidents for everybody where we could have done something different, whether it be puck decisions or whether it be a little bit more responsible when we're pressing in the offensive zone," Rangers coach Peter Laviolette said. "There are definitely situations that we could have done things better offensively. I still think we were on the attack. It's one of those games where you're punching, trying to punch away at them and generate offense and sometimes you've got to cover up and make sure you're not coming back and leaving it the other way. Those incidents, they cost us the game."

Scheifele gave the Jets a 1-0 lead 57 seconds into the first period, scoring from between the circles off a defensive zone turnover by Zibanejad. Josh Morrissey got the puck on the right-wing wall and found Scheifele in front.

"We hunted it, 'J-Mo' jumped in and kept that puck alive," Arniel said. "This league is about pressure. When you're good at it, you can make it hard on the opposition."

Cuyllé made it 1-1 at 13:07 by scoring off a rebound of Braden Schneider's point shot.

Gabriel Vilardi's power-play goal at 8:58 of the second period gave the Jets a 2-1 lead.

K'Andre Miller fumbled the puck behind the net, allowing Winnipeg to sustain possession. Pionk sent the puck to the net and Vilardi tipped it down, slipped around Miller, dished to Ehlers on the right side, and got it back for a tap-in power-play goal.

"Some pretty high-end skill there and finish," Connor said. "You rewind 20 seconds before that, you see that type of end but at the same time we're hunting pucks, we're getting stick on puck on their defender. That's always first and foremost on our power play, stay on the puck, try to turn it over, win those battles, get the puck back and make plays like that."

Alexis Lafrenière scored a power-play goal for the Rangers at 12:51 to even it again, at 2-2.

Connor gave the Jets their third one-goal lead, 3-2, at 16:03, scoring off the rush following another Zibanejad turnover.

Scheifele made it 4-2 at 1:08 of the third period, scoring from in front off a pass from Dylan DeMelo seconds after Vilardi took the puck away from Zibanejad.

"It starts in our own zone and you see that tonight," Connor said. "We defend well, the team is going to give us all the chances we need."

Kaapo Kakko scored 32 seconds later to make it 4-3 at 1:40.

Vladislav Namestnikov extended the lead to 5-3 at 13:08, scoring from below the goal line off an end wall rebound from Ehlers' shot.

Connor's empty-net goal at 19:40 made it 6-3.

"I felt like we were chasing pretty much the whole game," Laviolette said. "There were some good things, but you play the top team in the league you want a better result."

NOTES: The Jets have won seven straight road games to start the season, the ninth team in NHL history to do so following the Los Angeles Kings in 2023-24 (11-0-0), Buffalo Sabres in 2006-07 (10-0-0), New Jersey Devils in 2009-10 (9-0-0), Nashville Predators in 2018-19 (8-0-0), Pittsburgh Penguins in 2009-10 (7-0-0), Detroit Red Wings in 2005-06 (7-0-0), Philadelphia Flyers in 1985-86 (7-0-0) and Toronto Maple Leafs in 1940-41 (7-0-0). ... Vilardi and Scheifele each extended his point streak to eight games. ... Connor and Pionk each extended his road point streak to seven games. ...The Jets claimed goaltender Kaapo Kahkonen off waivers and loaned him to the Manitoba Moose of the American Hockey League. They also placed defenseman Logan Stanley on injured reserve retroactive to Nov. 9.

<https://www.nhl.com/news/connor-hellebuyck-chemistry-among-reasons-for-winnipegs-start>

Jets' start among best in NHL history thanks to Hellebuyck, team chemistry Resiliency also big reason why Winnipeg is fastest ever to 15 wins

By Dan Rosen

NEW YORK -- Nikolaj Ehlers went back to the end of last season when he was asked about why the Winnipeg Jets have been historically good at the start of this season.

"The end of last year was a big wakeup call," Ehlers told NHL.com at Madison Square Garden on Tuesday. "With the season that we had to then lose in the playoffs like we did was frustrating.

"I think we all knew we needed to change some things, and it wasn't players. It was our mentality, the way we go to work every single day. That has paid off."

The Jets (15-1-0) became the fastest in NHL history to 15 wins after a 6-3 victory against the New York Rangers. They were the first to win 14 of their first 15 games in a season. They won their first eight and currently have a seven-game winning streak.

To Ehlers' point, Winnipeg finished last season with 110 points (52-24-6), second in the Central Division behind the Dallas Stars' 113 and fourth in the NHL.

However, they were wiped out of the Stanley Cup Playoffs in five games, losing four in a row to the Colorado Avalanche in the Western Conference First Round after winning Game 1.

"You forget that we were fourth in the League overall in the regular season in points," forward Kyle Connor said. "I think our commitment to consistency and showing up and grabbing the guy next to you and making sure they have their best tonight is just at another level this year."

Bouncing back from last season's finish and being committed are obviously part of the Jets' success story through the first month-plus of this season. But there's more, a lot more.

Here are four reasons why the Jets are alone atop the NHL standings, and first in several statistical categories, including goals per game (4.56), goals against per game (2.13), power play (42.2 percent), comeback wins (seven) and goal differential (plus-39, 73-34):

1. Connor Hellebuyck

The Jets have had one of the best goalies in the world in their net for 13 of their 16 games.

Hellebuyck, who will start against the Rangers, leads the NHL with 12 wins and three shutouts. His 1.92 goals-against average and .934 save percentage is first among goalies with six or more appearances.

He set a Jets record for longest shutout streak, going 191:47 without giving up a goal before Dallas Stars forward Roope Hintz scored at 18:38 of the third period in Winnipeg's 4-1 win Saturday. Hellebuyck made 96 saves during the streak and the Jets scored 11 consecutive goals.

"We have so much confidence in him and when you have a goalie like that it makes it easier," Jets forward Mark Scheifele said. "Obviously, he's been fantastic. Some nights we play great in front of him and make it an easier night, and some nights we need him to pick us up and he does that. It's the sign of a good team."

2. Continuity

Ehlers bringing up the end of last season makes a lot of sense because 20 of the 22 players who have played at least one game this season were with Winnipeg in 2023-24.

Only defenseman Haydn Fleury and goalie Eric Comrie are new to the roster.

"We're familiar with this group and everybody has identified their roles and takes pride in what they do," Connor said. "I don't think there's anybody pouting around that they're not in a certain spot. Everybody has taken their roles and done the best they can. That's a huge part of it."

Even Scott Arniel, in his first season as Jets coach, spent the previous two seasons as an associate under Rick Bowness. Marty Johnston is in his third season as an assistant. Wade Flaherty, also an assistant, has been in Winnipeg for 13 seasons.

Davis Payne and Dean Chynoweth, both assistants, are new to the team.

"When you have to go through big changes, there's a growing period," Arniel said. "I think we've been through that already over the last couple of years. Whether that's players playing amongst each other, whether it's partners or whether it's line combinations, they've had the ability to do it for the last few years. We've won in different ways, and that is built from familiarity."

3. Depth

Arniel identified this as the No. 1 thing that he gets asked about from visiting media.

The Jets have an NHL-high 11 players with at least 10 points, with Connor leading the way with 22.

Scheifele has 21 points. Ehlers has 20. Josh Morrissey and Neal Pionk each has 17. Gabriel Vilardi has 14. Cole Perfetti has 13. Nino Niederreiter and Vladislav Namestnikov each has 12. Adam Lowry has 11, and Mason Appleton has 10.

"It's everyone playing the same without the puck, going to the right areas," Scheifele said. "Whether it's a gritty goal in front of the net or it's a nice play off the rush, every line can do the same thing and every line has guys who can finish. It all stems from playing good in the D-zone and letting offense take over."

The Jets have nine forwards who are averaging at least 14 minutes of ice time per game, led by Scheifele's 20:20, and four defensemen skating at least 20 minutes per game, led by Morrissey's 24:13.

The fourth line of Alex Iafallo (11:31 in 16 games), Morgan Barron (11:13 in 16 games) and Rasmus Kupari (10:02 in 15 games) is getting ample ice time. So too are defensemen Fleury (14:42 in five games), Logan Stanley (15:13 in 11 games) and Colin Miller (13:38 in 16 games).

That depth has allowed them to be arguably at their best late in games. The Jets have outscored opponents 28-10 in the third period for an NHL-best plus-18 goal differential.

4. Resiliency

Winnipeg has allowed the first goal in eight of 16 games, including being down at least 2-0 three times. But it is 7-1-0 in those games.

"I think there's a calmness," Ehlers said. "We get down one, we don't panic. We don't start to chase the game. We don't play different. We have our plan. We have our structure. We know we've got the players in here to score goals so we don't panic when that first goal goes against us. That's been a huge strength this year -- we just keep on playing."

Connor added, "I think that starts with the leadership here, the coaching staff and a little bit of a maturity, too, in this group over the years and realizing that we're a pretty good hockey team when we play the right way. We know what it looks like. We feel it when it's off."

Arniel said the Jets have been particularly good at moving on from the previous game to focus on the next opponent.

"It's a mindset that has been building for us," Connor said. "Even the one game we lost, it's 'Take what we can learn and don't dwell on it.' Same thing after the wins. 'How can we improve?'"

And, arguably above all else, the Jets have been fairly healthy, with 16 skaters playing all 16 games, including 11 forwards.

Stanley did not play Tuesday and will miss at least two more games with what Arniel called a "mid-body" injury, but defenseman Ville Heinola is now skating in regular contact drills for the first time since the start of training camp and is likely to make his season debut shortly.

"There's been times when you're rolling and the team is feeling good, but I just love the mentality of this group," Scheifele said. "We know we haven't done anything yet. We've had a good start, but it doesn't mean anything in the grand scheme. There's tough hockey ahead."

<https://www.nhl.com/news/nhl-edge-stats-connor-hellebuyck-fuels-winnipeg-jets-historic-start>

***NHL EDGE stats: Hellebuyck fueling historic start for Jets
Strong advanced metrics have goalie contending for Vezina Trophy again, 1st Stanley Cup championship***

By Troy Perlowitz

NHL.com's fantasy staff continues to cover the latest trends and storylines in the League through the lens of NHL EDGE puck and player tracker stats. Today, Troy Perlowitz dives into Winnipeg Jets goalie Connor Hellebuyck's near-perfect start to the season.

The NHL has not seen a repeat Vezina Trophy winner since Martin Brodeur won the award, given annually to the goalie voted best at the position by NHL general managers, for his third

and fourth time (2007, 2008). That could change soon if Winnipeg Jets goalie Connor Hellebuyck continues his exceptional play.

One year after Hellebuyck (who also won Vezina Trophy in 2020) joined Sergei Bobrovsky (won award with Columbus Blue Jackets in 2013, 2017) as the second active goalie with multiple Vezina wins, the 31-year-old Hellebuyck leads the NHL (minimum six games) in wins (11), goals-against average (1.83), save percentage (.935) and shutouts (three) through his first 12 games of this season.

Per NHL EDGE stats, Hellebuyck is tied for fifth in the League in high-danger saves (70) and has stopped 92 of 93 long-range shots faced (.989 long-range save percentage). Entering his matchup against the New York Rangers at Madison Square Garden on Tuesday (7 p.m. ET; MSG, TSN3).

Rangers starter Igor Shesterkin remains in the conversation with Hellebuyck for recognition as the League's top goalie, but it's uncertain whether he or veteran backup Jonathan Quick will start for New York against Winnipeg on Tuesday. Per EDGE stats, Shesterkin is just ahead of Hellebuyck in high-danger saves (73; third) this season and leads him in midrange save percentage (.941 vs .899), while Hellebuyck has the better high-danger save percentage (.854 to .811).

The Jets have outscored their opponents 45-22 with Hellebuyck in net this season, giving him an NHL-best plus-23 goal differential among goalies. Hellebuyck has had at least a .900 save percentage in nine of his 12 games, also leading the League in the number of such games. The only starting goalies with a higher percentage of games with greater than a .900 save percentage compared to Hellebuyck (75.0 percent) are Anthony Stolarz (80.0 percent; eight of 10) of the Toronto Maple Leafs and Ilya Sorokin (77.8 percent; seven of nine) of the New York Islanders.

The Jets allowed the fewest goals (199) in the NHL last season and challenged for the Central Division title down to the final week of the season before an eventual fourth-place finish in the NHL standings (second best in their history). Led by new coach Scott Arniel, the Jets are off to a historic start, becoming the first team in NHL history to win 14 of their first 15 games. After a 4-1 win against the Dallas Stars on Saturday, Winnipeg was leading the NHL in goals for (4.47) and goals against (2.07) per game, becoming the fourth team in the expansion era (since 1967-68) to lead both categories through its first 15 games in a season (joining Edmonton Oilers in 1984-85, Ottawa Senators in 2005-06, Boston Bruins in 2022-23).

After ranking 22nd in the NHL in power-play percentage (18.8) last season, the Jets are leading the League at 41.9 percent this season. The Jets/Atlanta Thrashers franchise has never finished a season higher than four in power-play percentage. Winnipeg's player movement on the power play has forced opponents away from the net to create shot opportunities with less traffic. Per EDGE stats, Jets skaters are averaging 8.88 miles per 60 minutes on the power play, the third-highest mark in the League.

An NHL-leading nine different Jets skaters have scored at least one power-play goal this season, led by left wing Kyle Connor (four). Per EDGE stats, Connor is second in the League with five midrange goals, with three of those coming on the power play; the only player with more midrange goals this season is Artemi Panarin (six) of the Rangers.

Fueled by their own goalie's success against high-danger shots, it isn't just Connor who has been able to post elite scoring numbers from locations outside of the slot area. Per NHL EDGE stats, the Jets, as a team, are among the leaders in both midrange goals (21; 95th percentile) and long-range goals (12; 99th percentile).

But even with the Jets having a deep offense, they have leaned on the strong play of Hellebuyck, particularly this past week, when he stopped 88 of 89 shots faced over three games. Winnipeg ranks 31st of the 32 teams in shot attempts percentage (42.6 percent) since Nov. 4 but has kept its winning streak going thanks to a goalie that was nearly perfect (3-0-0, 0.33 goals-against average, .989 save percentage, two shutouts).

The Jets are tied for 20th in shot attempts percentage (48.5) this season, so Hellebuyck could even be considered a dark horse contender for the Hart Trophy, given to the player voted most valuable to his team, if he carries the Jets to the Presidents' Trophy (best regular-season record); a goalie has not won the Hart Trophy since Carey Price of the Montreal Canadiens in 2015.

Four of the past seven Stanley Cup winners won their first championship in franchise history: the Florida Panthers (2024), Vegas Golden Knights (2023), St. Louis Blues (2019) and Washington Capitals (2018). If Hellebuyck is able to sustain his dominance and carry it over to the postseason, there could be another first-time champion in 2025.

Associated Press

<https://www.sportsnet.ca/nhl/article/scheifele-connor-each-score-twice-jets-down-rangers-and-improve-to-15-1-0/>

Scheifele, Connor each score twice, Jets down Rangers and improve to 15-1-0

By Associated Press

NEW YORK — Mark Scheifele and Kyle Connor each scored twice, Connor Hellebuyck made 33 saves, and the Winnipeg Jets won their seventh straight, 6-3 over the New York Rangers on Tuesday night.

Gabriel Vilardi and Vladislav Namestnikov also scored for the Jets, who have now won 15 of their first 16 games.

Will Cuyllé, Alexis Lafrenière and Kaapo Kakko scored for the Rangers, who dropped their second straight home game following last Thursday's 6-1 loss to the Buffalo Sabres.

Hellebuyck improved to 12-1-0 this season.

Scheifele scored 57 seconds into the contest before Cuyllé tied it at 13:07 of the first.

Vilardi put the visitors ahead on the power play at 8:58 before Lafrenière tied the game again at 12:51 of the second.

Connor put the Jets ahead for good at 16:03 of the second. Scheifele scored again 1:08 into the third — his ninth of the season — before Kakko narrowed the deficit to 4-3 just 32 seconds later.

Namestnikov scored his fifth at 13:08 and Connor completed the scoring into an empty net with 20 seconds to play.

Igor Shesterkin, who gave up five goals and was pulled at home in the loss to Buffalo, made 27 saves for the Rangers.

Takeaways

Winnipeg stayed perfect on the road with seven straight wins.

Key moment

Hellebuyck made a lunging save on Reilly Smith at 4:50 of the second and denied Chris Krieder point-blank on a power play later in the period.

Key stats

Connor leads the Jets with 22 points. He is one of 11 Winnipeg players with 10 or more points.

Rangers forward Artemi Panarin assisted on Lafreniere's goal. Panarin leads the Rangers with 22 points — including 10 goals — and has points in 13 of New York's 14 games this season.

Up Next

Rangers: Host the San Jose Sharks on Thursday night.

Jets: Visit the Tampa Bay Lightning on Thursday night.

ESPN.com

https://www.espn.com/nhl/story/_/id/42357126/winnipeg-jets-become-first-team-nhl-history-15-1

Winnipeg Jets become first team in NHL history to be 15-1

By Greg Wyshynski, ESPN

NEW YORK -- The Winnipeg Jets made NHL history with their 6-3 victory at the New York Rangers on Tuesday night, becoming the first team to win 15 of its first 16 games in a season.

"You play at MSG, you've got to put on a show," said center Mark Scheifele, who scored two goals in the win. "It feels amazing. Obviously, it's been a great start for us, but tonight's over. Enjoy the win. And then back to work."

The Jets' start has been nothing short of remarkable. They became the fourth team since 1967-68 to lead the NHL in goals for and against per game through their first 15 games. They've scored five or more goals in half their games. Their 73 goals this season are the third most by a team in its first 16 games over the past 30 years.

With their win at the Rangers, the Jets moved to 7-0-0 on the road. The 36 goals they've scored away from Winnipeg are the most in NHL history for the nine teams that have won their first seven road games.

"We had talked about banking points at the start of the season. We've got a very tough division. I don't think I quite drew it up this way, but certainly the guys have earned every inch of it," said head coach Scott Arniel, who was promoted from associate coach in the offseason.

Kyle Connor scored twice, while Gabriel Vilardi and Vladislav Namestnikov added goals. Connor Hellebuyck made 33 saves for the Jets, many of them critical stops against the Rangers to maintain his team's momentum. Hellebuyck is now 12-1-0 on the season and outdueled the Rangers' Igor Shesterkin (five goals on 32 shots) in a battle of favorites to win the Vezina Trophy as the NHL's top goaltender.

Connor said he felt that the Jets' forecheck benefitted from the Rangers pressing offensively.

"I think they, for lack of better words, were cheating for offense in certain areas. They were going past our defensemen at times, and we were able to keep pucks in and make 'em pay," he said.

Rangers coach Peter Laviolette simply felt the Jets executed better.

"I don't think we were pressing. When you're playing a team that's firing offensively and the execution isn't where it needs to be, it can turn around on you pretty quickly," he said.

Scheifele scored 57 seconds into the contest before the Rangers' Will Cuyllie tied it at 13:07 of the first. Vilardi put the visitors ahead on the power play at 8:58 before Alexis Lafreniere tied the game again at 12:51 of the second. Connor put the Jets ahead for good at 16:03 of the second. Scheifele scored again 1:08 into the third -- his ninth of the season -- before Kaapo Kakko narrowed the deficit to 4-3 just 32 seconds later. Namestnikov scored his fifth at 13:08, and Connor completed the scoring into an empty net with 20 seconds to play.

"It's coming from all areas of our team, top to bottom. Everybody's involved in it, and that's what makes it so dangerous, so lethal," Connor said of the Jets' offense. "It's not just a one-trick pony. If one line has an off night, we usually have two or three going."

The Jets continue on the road with games at the Tampa Bay Lightning on Thursday and the Stanley Cup champion Florida Panthers on Saturday.

Connor said the team understands the history it's making but isn't allowing it to be a distraction.

"Honestly, we know what we're doing, but we don't take too much stock in it. It's move on to the next one. It's 'How can we improve, how can we be better?'" he said. "I think that's what made us successful to this point. Nobody's satisfied. We won 15 here, but I just think that speaks to leadership not getting comfortable. Still a lot of season left."

Sportsnet.ca

<https://www.sportsnet.ca/nhl/article/why-winnipeg-could-maintain-league-leading-pace-after-historic-start/>

Why Winnipeg could maintain league-leading pace after historic start

By Adam Vingan

The Winnipeg Jets are steamrolling their competition. On Saturday, they became the first team in NHL history to win 14 of their first 15 games, outscoring opponents 67-31 along the way.

It is easy to forget that the Jets finished last season with the fourth-best record in the league (52-24-6). To be fair, Winnipeg was crushed by the Colorado Avalanche in the first round of the playoffs, giving up 28 goals over five games. Clearly, though, the Jets got the message.

“It’s not always a straight line to the top,” said Jets forward Kyle Connor, who has nine goals and 19 points this season. “You’ve got to learn. You’ve got to develop. You’re seeing that here.”

So just how real are these Jets? They inevitably will cool off, because no team can maintain this torrid pace over a full season. But there are indicators that suggest the Jets will be more than OK once regression hits.

For starters, Winnipeg remains a top defensive team. The Jets rank third in expected goals against per 60 minutes in all situations (2.71) — an improvement over last season, when they were seventh in that category (2.84). Although the Jets are allowing 60.8 shot attempts per 60 (24th), most of them are coming from the outside. Just 36.1 per cent of shots taken against the Jets have come in the slot, the best rate in the league.

When the Jets have had defensive breakdowns, Connor Hellebuyck has been there to bail out his teammates. The reigning Vezina Trophy winner, whose recent shutout streak of 191:47 set a franchise record, has picked up where he left off last regular season.

Hellebuyck has recorded seven quality starts and a league-leading three steals in 12 games this season. Goaltenders are credited with a quality start when they post a positive goals saved above expected. A steal occurs when the amount of goals saved above expected is greater than the margin of victory. (Hellebuyck, for example, stole the Jets’ 1-0 win against the Avalanche last week by saving 2.71 goals above expected.)

Here are Hellebuyck’s goaltending splits in key areas from the past six seasons, and this one:

Offensively, the Jets are unlikely to keep shooting 14.3 per cent in all situations and scoring on 41.9 per cent of their power-play opportunities. Since the league began tracking power-play percentage in 1977-78, only the 2021-22 Edmonton Oilers (42.6 PP%) had a higher success rate through 15 games.

Even when that shooting percentage dips, Winnipeg’s improved shot quality should prevent it from plummeting. The Jets are top 10 in expected goals for per 60 after finishing 15th a season ago.

Jets coach Scott Arniel has put together a forward lineup with impressive scoring balance. The Jets’ top three lines have all scored at least nine goals when on the ice at 5-on-5.

Nino Niederreiter, Adam Lowry and Mason Appleton make up arguably the most underrated line in the league, outscoring opponents 10-1 and generating 68.4 per cent of the expected goals at 5-on-5 — the latter of which is fourth highest among 68 forward combinations that have played at least 60 minutes. They punish opponents off the cycle; Winnipeg has a 26-17 edge in those scoring chances when its third line is on the ice.

“It’s real simple for me,” Arniel told reporters after the team’s history-making win against the Dallas Stars on Saturday. “It is such a team effort. This isn’t (Connor 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."

The next few weeks will show us who the Jets truly are. Nine of Winnipeg's next 10 games are on the road, starting Tuesday against the New York Rangers. Eight are against playoff teams from last season, including two dates with the defending Stanley Cup champion Florida Panthers.

"It's been an amazing run," Arniel told reporters. "It's been fun. But we like winning a whole lot better than the alternative so I'd like to keep this going longer."

TSN.ca

<https://www.tsn.ca/nhl/video/jets-become-fastest-team-to-reach-15-wins-in-an-nhl-season%7E3028520>

Jets become fastest team to reach 15 wins in an NHL season (VIDEO)

It took 16 games for the Winnipeg Jets to reach 15 wins on the season, which sets a new NHL record. Frankie Corrado joins SportsCentre to breakdown their win over the Rangers and their incredible start to the year.

<https://www.tsn.ca/nhl/video/jets-never-trail-rangers-to-improve-to-15-1-on-the-season%7E3028517>

Jets never trail Rangers to improve to 15-1 on the season (VIDEO)

Dan Robertson and Kevin Sawyer breakdown the Winnipeg Jets doubling up the New York Rangers in a game they never trailed in, as Winnipeg continue their incredible season improving to 15-1.

<https://www.tsn.ca/video/the-talking-point-a-deep-dive-into-the-nhl-s-two-best-goalies%7E3027536>

The Talking Point: A deep dive into the NHL's two best goalies (VIDEO)

Connor Hellebuyck and Igor Shesterkin have each won a Vezina Trophy in the past three years, and FanDuel has them as the clear frontrunners to capture another this season. TSN Hockey analyst Martin Biron joins Domino's That's Hockey host Gino Reda to do a deep dive into the NHL's two best goalies.

<https://www.tsn.ca/nhl/video/harvey-s-hot-takes-does-cheveldayoff-deserve-more-credit-for-jets-start%7E3027426>

Harvey's Hot Takes: Does Cheveldayoff deserve more credit for Jets' start? (VIDEO)

The Winnipeg Jets now own the best start in NHL history with 14 wins in 15 games, does GM Kevin Cheveldayoff deserve more credit considering most of the team is unchanged from last year? Bryan Hayes joins Jay Onrait to discuss this and more in the latest Harvey's Hot Takes.

Global Winnipeg

<https://globalnews.ca/news/10866768/winnipeg-jets-continue-record-breaking-start-to-season-with-6-3-win-in-new-york/>

Winnipeg Jets continue record-breaking start to season with 6-3 win in the Big Apple

By Christian Aumell & Russ Hobson Global News

It's almost like the Winnipeg Jets don't know how to lose anymore.

The Jets went into Madison Square Garden and took down one of the NHL's best in the the New York Rangers 6-3 Tuesday night for their seventh win in a row and 15th in 16 games to start the season.

The Jets were once again led by their top line as they combined for six points. Mark Scheifele and Kyle Connor each scored twice, while their other linemate Gabriel Vilardi also found the net. Vladislav Namestnikov notched their other marker as the team continued their record-breaking start.

"We know what we're doing, but we don't take too much stock in it," Connor said. "It's move onto the next one. It's how can we improve? How can we be better? I think that's what's made us successful to this point. Nobody is satisfied."

Scheifele and Vilardi are both now riding eight-game point streaks which is a career-best for Vilardi.

With the victory, the Jets became the fastest team in NHL history to reach the 15-win mark.

"Obviously it's been a great start for us," said Scheifele. "Tonight's over, day off tomorrow, and we'll get ready for the Lightning, so, enjoy the win tonight and then back to work."

The Jets remain unbeaten on the road with a 7-0 mark away from Canada Life Centre this season. It was the seventh time in 16 games this season the Jets have scored six or more goals.

"We knew that there was going to be some opportunities going both ways," said Jets head coach Scott Arniel. "Certainly with the firepower the Rangers have, but when KC, Scheif, and Gabe step up like that, that's big for us. They did what they needed to do to get us on the board, and that was a big first goal."

After going 10 straight games with the exact same lineup, the Jets were forced to make a change on Tuesday after placing Logan Stanley on injured reserve earlier in the day. Haydn Fleury took Stanley's spot and appeared in his first game since October 18.

"He went from standing still to a hundred mile an hour race," Arniel said. "He jumped into a game against that, against the Rangers tonight. Real proud of the way he stepped up. We need it. We need the depth.

"To see him jump in and play a solid role, that's what you need when guys come into the lineup."

The Rangers nearly opened the scoring in the opening seconds but Chris Kreider rang a shot off the post from a dangerous spot in the Jets zone.

Moments later, Winnipeg made good on a great look to get on the board first.

After New York misplayed the puck in their own end it drifted to the point where Josh Morrissey got it and wired a hard pass to Scheifele, who was open behind the Rangers' defence. He gathered it and, in one motion, roofed it past Igor Shesterkin to make it 1-0 just 57 seconds in.

The Rangers drew level at the 13:07 mark of an entertaining opening period. Will Cuyllé rimmed the puck around the boards in the Winnipeg end, landing on the stick of Braden Schneider at the far point. His shot on goal was stopped by Connor Hellebuyck but Cuyllé banged in the rebound to draw level.

It stayed 1-1 into the second period before Winnipeg's league-best power play got on the board.

Neal Pionk kept a loose puck in at the point and sent it toward the slot where Vilardi made a fantastic hand-eye play to knock the puck out of the air before undressing K'Andre Miller, sending a pass to Nikolaj Ehlers before burying the return pass into an open net for a highlight reel marker at the 8:58 mark.

Winnipeg's lead lasted less than four minutes. With the Rangers on a power play, Alexis Lafrenière beat Hellebuyck from the point, aided by a great screen by Kreider.

But just over three minutes later, the Jets wrestled control back in this topsy-turvy affair. Pionk sprung Connor on a 2-on-1 with Rasmus Kupari and Connor decided to keep the puck and fire it on goal, beating Shesterkin for his tenth goal of the season, restoring Winnipeg's lead with 3:57 remaining in the second.

Winnipeg extended the lead just 68 seconds into the third when Dylan DeMelo sent a puck to the net that was deftly deflected by Scheifele past Shesterkin for his second of the night.

New York responded 32 seconds later when Kaapo Kaako jammed home a rebound to make it 4-3.

It stayed a one-goal game until the 13:08 mark as Vlad Namestnikov and Ehlers were sprung on a 2-on-1. Ehlers misfired on a one-timer off the rush but Namestnikov found the loose puck behind the net after the miss and tucked it into the net with Shesterkin way out of position on the opposite side.

New York tried to mount a comeback but whiffed on some good looks before Connor scored into an empty net with just under a minute to go to make it a 6-3 final.

Hellebuyck turned aside 34 saves to earn the win.

Winnipeg will look to pile onto their record-breaking start to the season Thursday night in Tampa Bay. The game starts just after 6 p.m. with pregame coverage on 680 CJOB beginning at 4 p.m.

Winnipeg Free Press

<https://www.winnipegfreepress.com/breakingnews/2024/11/12/jets-stars-shine-in-6-3-win-over-rangers>

Jets stars shine in 6-3 win over Rangers

By: Ken Wiebe

NEW YORK – Playing in the world’s most famous arena, the Winnipeg Jets’ stars certainly came out to shine.

Mark Scheifele and Kyle Connor each delivered a pair of goals and combined for five points, Nikolaj Ehlers had two assists, Gabe Vilardi had a highlight-reel marker on the power play and Connor Hellebuyck finished with 33 saves as the Winnipeg Jets earned a 6-3 victory over the New York Rangers on Tuesday night at Madison Square Garden.

“They certainly did,” said Jets head coach Scott Arniel. “We knew there were going to be some opportunities going both ways with the firepower the Rangers have. When KC, Scheif and Gabe step up, that’s big for us. They did what they needed to do to get us on the board. That was a big first goal.”

Scheifele has been a force against the Rangers, delivering 15 goals and 20 points in 19 career games – including 10 in his past seven games at Madison Square Garden.

“It’s MSG. Just a fun place to play,” said Scheifele, who is up to nine goals and 21 points in 16 games. “I play with some good players and made some good plays out there. So, (when) you play at MSG, you’ve got to put on a show.”

The Jets, who became the fastest team in NHL history to record 15 wins, improved to 15-1 on the season and continue this three-game road trip on Thursday against the Tampa Bay Lightning.

“We talked about it at the start of the year, of banking points,” said Arniel. “We’ve got a very tough division. We’ve got a tough Western Conference. We’ve got to eliminate eight teams to get into the big dance. I don’t think I quite drew it up this way, but the guys have earned every inch of it.”

Let’s dig a little deeper into this one:

EARLY STARTER: The Jets got on the board 57 seconds into the game as Josh Morrissey kept the puck in at the offensive blue line and found Scheifele all alone in the slot. Scheifele accepted the pass and fired his shot past Igor Shesterkin.

The goal helped Scheifele extend his point streak to eight games.

After getting outscored 9-2 at five-on-five at one point, Scheifele’s line with Connor and Vilardi has now outscored its opponents 11-10.

That’s an impressive turnaround, but how have they flipped the script?

“Their buy-in without the puck has been a big part of it. If they don’t have it, they can get it,” said Arniel, who was steadfast in his belief of the line getting things back on track. “They’re aware of stuff like that and they want to be on the plus side of those numbers. It’s a long season and those things kind of have a tendency to work themselves out. I love the fact that, first, they’re thinking about our end and know that they have the skill set when they have the puck, it’s on their stick, they’re going to make plays and put themselves in situations to score goals.”

Connor provided a similar answer.

“I think just identifying what we’re good at,” said Connor, who leads the Jets with 10 goals and 22 points. “It’s getting through that neutral zone and not turning the puck over. It’s a function of our team game. Playing hard defence.”

THE POWER PLAY SPECIAL: The Jets have been a menace with the man-advantage as they continue to lead the NHL in power-play efficiency.

Tuesday’s second period marker was a form of artistry, with Vilardi and Nikolaj Ehlers taking advantage of a turnover before executing a perfect give and go.

Vilardi showed off his soft hands and patience, knocking the puck out of the air before finding Ehlers on the backdoor before Ehlers returned the favour and left Vilardi with an open net.

“Some pretty high-end skill there and finish,” said Connor, who had a game-high seven shots on goal in the contest. “I mean, the way Gabe picks up that puck in the middle of the ice. He knocks it out, pulls it around, passes it to (Ehlers), and to have that presence of mind and feel the goaltender sliding hard and to just tap it over and know he’s got a back-door.”

For Vilardi, it was his seventh goal of the season and extended his point streak to eight games.

“We were never worried about him. He’s a phenomenal player,” said Scheifele. “And, obviously, he’s unbelievable around the cage. So, we weren’t worried about him at all. It’s early in the season and he’s been playing amazing as of late.”

THE RETURN: After sitting out as a healthy scratch for 11 consecutive games, Haydn Fleury was back in the Jets’ lineup for the first time since Oct. 18 against the San Jose Sharks.

Paired with Colin Miller, Fleury took 19 shifts for 13:19 of ice time, including 2:47 while shorthanded, finishing with one shot on goal, four shot attempts and one hit.

“He went from standing still to a 100 mile an hour race,” said Arniel. “Real proud of the way he stepped up. We needed it. We need depth. Our defence has been really good to start the year.

“He got a taste of it early on, but obviously has been out a while. To see him jump in and play a solid role, that’s what you need when a guy is coming into the lineup.”

With Logan Stanley out for at least this road trip, Fleury has a bit of runway to show what he can do.

AFTERBURNER:

The key play – Scheifele redirected a pass from Dylan DeMelo 68 seconds into the third period to extend the Jets’ lead to two goals for the first time in the contest.

The three stars

Jets LW Kyle Connor: 2 G, 3 P, 7 SOG

Jets G Connor Hellebuyck: 36 shots, 33 saves

Jets C Mark Scheifele: 2 G, 2 P

EXTRA, EXTRA: Vladislav Namestnikov rounded out the scoring for the Jets, giving him goals in consecutive games and five goals and 12 points in 16 games. His career highs are 20 goals and 44 points in 62 games with the Lightning in 2017-18.

Seth Wenig / The Associated Press

New York Rangers' Chris Kreider, top, and Winnipeg Jets goaltender Connor Hellebuyck watch the puck during the third period.

Seth Wenig / The Associated Press

New York Rangers' Chris Kreider, top, and Winnipeg Jets goaltender Connor Hellebuyck watch the puck during the third period.

Jets defenceman Neal Pionk chipped in three assists and he's up to 17 points in 16 games. That leaves him tied with Morrissey for second among blue-liners in the NHL.

Ehlers is up to six points on the power play this season (including three goals) and the decision by Davis Payne to promote the Danish winger to the top unit has clearly been bearing fruit in the first quarter of the season.

Hellebuyck made his 13th start to the season and improved to 12-1, with a goals-against average of 1.91 and a save percentage of .934. With Hellebuyck starting five consecutive games, look for backup Eric Comrie to make his next start on Thursday against the Lightning.

<https://www.winnipegfreepress.com/breakingnews/2024/11/12/for-arniel-new-york-remains-starting-point-in-long-road-back-to-head-coaching-job>

For Arniel, New York remains starting point in long road back to head coaching job

By: Ken Wiebe

NEW YORK — Scott Arniel was standing at the epicentre of his long road back.

As a large throng of media members were peppering the head coach of the Winnipeg Jets about their historic start, Arniel was also asked a series of questions about the five seasons he spent behind the New York Rangers bench as an associate coach on Alain Vigneault's staff.

"For me, it was the real start of the reset for me after coaching in Columbus," said Arniel, referencing his first shot at an NHL head coaching job with the Blue Jackets from 2010 to 2012. "I got to come in here with (Vigneault) and some great coaches. Great organization.

"I had never coached for an Original Six franchise and to come in here and see how the Rangers do things and how they went about their business on and off the ice."

Arniel coached a number of high-end players during his tenure, including Henrik Lundqvist, Marty St. Louis, Brad Richards, Rick Nash, Mats Zuccarello, Chris Kreider, Mika Zibanejad, Ryan McDonagh and Dan Girardi, among others.

The Rangers advanced to the Stanley Cup final before losing in five games to the Los Angeles Kings in 2014, then made it back to the Eastern Conference final the following spring before being eliminated by the Tampa Bay Lightning in a seven-game slugfest.

“We had a chance to go to the Stanley Cup,” said Arniel. “Obviously, we didn’t win it. But the opportunity to be in the Eastern Conference and see the rivalries that are out here, it was a great learning curve for me. I got to work under some good people that springboarded me forward to where I am today.”

It also gave Arniel the experience of being on the home team inside Madison Square Garden.

“It’s the most famous arena in the world. It’s unbelievable,” said Arniel. “It’s a different atmosphere when you’re in these buildings. This building can get crazy loud. At the same time, they’re honest fans. They let you know when you’re going good, they also let you know when you’re not going so good.”

“It’s a fun place to play and it’s a fun place to have success.”

Jets defenceman Neal Pionk, who was acquired in a trade with the Rangers, was also reminiscing about playing at Madison Square Garden on Tuesday morning.

“It’s always special coming to MSG, whether you played here or not,” said Pionk. “It’s where I got started and I have a lot of good memories here. I scored my first (NHL) goal here, I played my first (NHL) game here.”

That memorable goal came against Buffalo Sabres netminder Robin Lehner on March 24 of 2018.

“It was a three-on-two rush and Jimmy Vesey hit me with a backdoor pass,” said Pionk.

STANLEY INJURED: After suiting up in 11 consecutive games, Jets defenceman Logan Stanley has been sidelined with a “mid-body” injury and has been placed on injured reserve, retroactive to Nov. 9.

Stanley has one goal, three points and 13 penalty minutes this season while averaging 15:13 of ice time per game and playing on the third pairing with Colin Miller.

Arniel said Stanley remained in Winnipeg and will be re-evaluated when the Jets return home from their current three-game road swing.

“He’s been dealing with something for the last probably week-and-a-half or two weeks,” said Arniel, noting the injury was not related to the knee issue that kept him out of the bulk of training camp. “We just felt it was time to shut it down. He was playing in a lot of pain.”

The Jets did get some good news on the injury front on Tuesday as fellow blue-liner Ville Heinola has been cleared for contact and shed the non-contact jersey for the first time since Day 1 of training camp.

After dealing with an ankle issue, Heinola needs to work on getting his conditioning back up and into more game situations before he's an option for game action.

There is still no timetable for his return.

"We'll see. I'm not going to rush it here," said Arniel. "We want him to be around for the rest of the year."

Arniel said a conditioning stint with the Manitoba Moose of the American Hockey League has not yet been discussed.

However, given the amount of time Heinola has already missed this season, getting in some game reps in the minors would make a lot of sense.

KAHKONEN CLAIMED: The Jets added to their organizational depth on Tuesday afternoon, claiming goaltender Kaapo Kahkonen off waivers from the Colorado Avalanche.

Kahkonen was signed to a one-year deal by the Jets on July 1 and he competed for the backup job with Eric Comrie before he was placed on waivers on Oct. 11.

When the Avalanche got off to a rocky start, Kahkonen was claimed on Oct. 12, but he only appeared in one game with them and two more with the AHL's Colorado Eagles during a conditioning stint.

With Alexandar Georgiev playing better since his return to action and Justus Annunen stabilizing things in the No. 2 role, Kahkonen was once again the odd-man out and placed on waivers.

Since the Jets were the only team to put in a claim, they were able to assign him directly to the Moose.

Kahkonen will help provide some valuable experience with the Moose, whose crease is being tended by second-year pro Thomas Milic and rookie Dom DiVincentiis.

Originally chosen in the fourth round (109th overall) of the 2014 NHL Draft by the Minnesota Wild, Kahkonen has 140 NHL games on his resume and is someone the Jets believe in, so bringing him back was a logical decision.

Winnipeg Sun

<https://winnipegson.com/sports/scheifele-shines-bright-in-nyc-as-jets-double-up-rangers-6-3>

Scheifele shines bright in NYC as Jets double up Rangers 6-3

By Scott Billeck

On Winnipeg's off-days in New York City, it's rumoured you can find Mark Scheifele perusing one of the Big Apple's many I Love N.Y. stores.

OK, that's (probably) made up. But one thing isn't a fabrication: Scheifele loves Gotham.

The 31-year-old scored twice on Tuesday night at Madison Square Garden, including the game-winner against the New York Rangers, as the Jets improved their historic start to 15-1-0 with a 6-3 win, becoming the fastest team to reach 15 wins in NHL history.

“It’s MSG. You gotta get up for MSG,” Scheifele told reporters in New York. “It’s just a fun place to play. I play with some good players. Made some good plays out there. You play at MSG, you gotta put on a show.”

Scheifele opened the scoring 57 seconds into the game, then redirected his ninth of the season 1:08 in the third as the Jets won their seventh straight game.

The centre has made mincemeat of the Rangers at the world’s most famous arena recently, scoring a hat trick in Winnipeg’s 4-2 win last season and a pair of goals in a 4-1 triumph the year prior.

Kyle Connor also potted a pair, while Gabriel Vilardi pushed his point streak to eight games with his seventh of the season. Vladislav Namestnikov, who scored his second in as many games, also tallied for Winnipeg.

“It’s coming from all areas of our team, top to bottom, D-men — everybody’s involved in it, and that’s what makes us so dangerous, so lethal,” Connor said of the offensive outbursts his team has enjoyed. “We’re not just a one-trick pony. If one line has an off-night, we usually have two or three going that can pick it up.”

Connor Hellebuyck made 35 stops for his league-leading 12th win of the season.

One of the prettiest goals of the season came in the second period when Vilardi put Winnipeg up 2-1 at 8:58 on the power play.

The sequence, fitting for the bright lights of a big city, began with Vilardi’s deft touch on a Pionk shot in front to gain possession. It continued when Vilardi nutmegged Rangers defenceman K’Andre Miller, leaving the winger alone in front. The crescendo arrived two passes later, with Vilardi finishing from Nikolaj Ehlers on a quick tic-tac-toe.

Shesterkin, who made 26 saves in a losing effort, had no chance.

“Just phenomenal,” Scheifele said of the goal.

Alexis Lafreniere tied the game 2-2 at 12:51 before Connor sent the Jets to the third with a 3-2 lead at 16:03.

After Scheifele put the Jets head 4-2, Kaapo Kakko scored 32 seconds later to pull the game to within a goal.

Namestnikov’s hard work behind Shesterkin paid off when he scored his fifth at 13:08, and Connor sealed it on an empty-netter with 23 seconds left in regulation.

<https://winnipeg.sun.com/sports/scheifele-shines-bright-in-nyc-as-jets-double-up-rangers-6-3>

The Jets continue their three-game road trip with a stop in Tampa on Thursday.

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New York Post

<https://nypost.com/2024/11/12/sports/rangers-dont-measure-up-to-nhl-best-jets-in-loss/>

Rangers don't measure up to NHL-best Jets as familiar issues plague them again

By Mollie Walker

It feels like it's been ages since the Rangers were the top team in the NHL, even though it was just last season.

Because despite having close to the exact same team as that Presidents' Trophy-winning campaign, the Blueshirts — since they got back to full strength three weeks ago — have not come close to resembling the squad that dominated most of 2023-24.

That has been apparent for a while.

But with the best team in the NHL so far this season, the Jets, at Madison Square Garden on Tuesday night, it was obvious that the Rangers did not measure up in an empty net-abetted 6-3 loss.

"We go out on the first shift and we were going right away, I thought we were on point and it just seemed like we make a mistake inside of the game and it ends up costing us," head coach Peter Laviolette said after the loss. "It turns around quick. There's a lot of isolated incidents out there where right now they're the top team in the league and they make you pay. They're scoring a lot of goals and they did that to us."

It was one of the better performances the Rangers have had in the last eight games, but it had to be with the hottest team in the league coming to their house just five days after they were embarrassed there by the Sabres in a five-goal defeat.

The Jets came into the night on a six-game winning streak, fresh off setting a new NHL record after winning their 14th game in their first 15 of the season.

Plus, they had the sharpest goalie in the league right now in Connor Hellebuyck behind them.

The task was always going to be a lofty one, but the issues that have plagued the Rangers lately — poor puck management and sloppy breakouts — were the difference.

Mika Zibanejad had a particularly tough night amid a stretch where the Rangers' No. 1 center has not looked like himself.

Three of his turnovers directly led to Jets goals.

There was also a moment at the beginning of the middle frame when the Swedish center briefly left the game.

Zibanejad's teammates noticed something was wrong, a trainer escorted him off the ice and talked to him on the bench before he went to the room briefly.

The 31-year-old returned shortly after, but the Rangers continued to be hampered by his insufficient play.

"He came back and played, I think he took a minute," Laviolette said about the peculiar sequence. "I think he was gone, off the bench for just a minute and then came back and maybe missed one shift."

The Rangers may have started off with more pop than they had in the previous few games, with Chris Kreider ringing one off the post on the first shift of the game, but poor puck management from Zibanejad in the Rangers zone cost the home team the first goal of the game less than a minute in.

It was then the Jets' NHL-best power play versus the Rangers' league-leading penalty kill.

Special teams was one of several litmus tests the Rangers were facing in the game, and the Jets came out on top.

After K'Andre Miller's failed clearing attempt during Winnipeg's second man-advantage opportunity, some nifty stick work from Gabriel Vilardi got the puck behind Miller and the Jets forward buried a 2-on-0 with some help from Kyle Connor.

It was just the second power-play goal the Rangers had allowed in their last 25 shorthanded stretches.

The Rangers managed to capitalize on their second power play, as well, when Alexis Lafreniere joined the first unit and blasted one from the top of the zone to knot the game at 2-all.

"It's a huge part of the game, if you get one or two it changes the game and same for them," Braden Schneider said. "They have a really good kill and I thought their goalie was also really good tonight, too."

The Jets managed to take a two-goal lead just over a minute into the final frame, but the Rangers had a much better offensive response than they have lately.

Just 32 seconds after Mark Scheifele scored his second of the game, Kaapo Kakko battled for position in front and swept in a rebound off a long shot from Schneider to make it a one-goal game again.

Winnipeg then put the game away on a hustle play from Vladislav Namestnikov after he failed to convert on a 2-on-1 rush with Nikolaj Ehlers.

Namestnikov stayed with the play, scooped up the puck and put it in before Rangers goalie Igor Shesterkin could get back in the net.

Tuesday marked the second time in the last three games the Rangers have given up six goals.

“We need to help our goalies more,” Filip Chytil said. “Because five goals or six goals is still a lot. We just have to work on it every day now until it’s going to be — not perfect — but at least way better than right now.”