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<https://www.nhl.com/jets/news/three-things-jets-suffer-first-road-loss>

Three things - Jets suffer first road loss Lightning hand Jets first road loss of the season

By Jamie Thomas

An incredible run on the road came to an end for the Winnipeg Jets tonight as they fell 4-1 to the Tampa Bay Lightning at AMALIE Arena and see their record drop to 15-2-0. The Jets franchise best road winning streak to start a season ends at seven and they missed out on becoming the fifth team in NHL history to start 8-0 on the road. Adam Lowry scored the lone goal for the Jets who went 0-for-4 on the power play. Eric Comrie saw his five-game winning streak as a Jet come to an end as well, he made 32 saves. Winnipeg will wrap up their road trip Saturday against the defending Stanley Cup champion Florida Panthers.

UNCHARACTERSTIC START

The Jets have defended well consistently throughout this season, so it was a bit surprising to see them turn the puck over early in the first period. Winnipeg was on an odd man rush heading through the neutral zone when they turned the puck over and Tampa went back the other way and that led to Jake Guentzel opening the scoring at 7:24. In the second period, Brandon Hagel got in behind Vladislav Namestnikov in the slot and he beat Comrie for a 2-0 Lightning lead. That marked the first time the Jets trailed by multiple goals in a game on the road this season. Shortly after the Hagel goal, Dylan DeMelo was penalized for hooking and Anthony Cirelli would cash in on that power play giving Tampa a 3-0 lead 24 minutes into the game.

"We knew they were gonna come after us and they did. Took us a little bit to get into it, I thought we got up and running probably the last seven or eight minutes of the first," said Scott Arniel.

"We had some opportunities, we had some chances. They capitilized on theirs."

THE CAPTAIN GIVES LIFE

Adam Lowry took away some of the momentum from the home team when he got the Jets on the board just under three minutes after Cirelli gave the Lightning a three-goal lead. Lowry went to the front of the net as Colin Miller unloaded a shot from the point, the Jets captain redirected it past Andrei Vasilevskiy (who registered his 300th career win becoming the fastest ever to reach the milestone in 490 GP). It was the third goal of the season for Lowry and his first since October 20.

MORE ROAD STREAKS ENDING

Kyle Connor (who had 6-7—13 in 7 GP) and Neal Pionk (2-9—11 in 7 GP) missed out on extending their franchise-record season-opening road point streaks to eight games. Pionk had a chance to post the longest in NHL history by a U.S.-born defenseman, he remains tied with John Carlson in 2019-20 and Jeff Norton in 1989-90.

NHL.com

<https://www.nhl.com/news/winnipeg-jets-tampa-bay-lightning-game-recap-november-14>

***Vasilevskiy becomes fastest goalie to 300 wins, Lightning defeat surging Jets
Breaks record set by Plante; Winnipeg loses 2nd game in 1st 17***

By Corey Long

TAMPA -- Andrei Vasilevskiy became the fastest goalie to reach 300 NHL wins, and the Tampa Bay Lightning handed the Winnipeg Jets their second loss of the season, 4-1 at Amalie Arena on Thursday.

Vasilevskiy, who is the 40th goalie to hit the milestone, did it in 490 games, breaking the record set by Jacques Plante (521 games).

"I'm fortunate to win 300 for the same hockey club. That doesn't happen that often nowadays," Vasilevskiy said. "Obviously it's hard to win in this league, but for the last 10 years I've played for such a great team. They work so hard on the ice and they help me out a lot during the game."

For the 30-year-old, the accomplishment adds to a resume that already includes a Vezina Trophy as the best goalie in the NHL (2019), two Stanley Cup championships (2020, 2021) and the Conn Smythe Trophy as MVP of the Stanley Cup Playoffs (2021).

"How do you become the best?" Tampa Bay coach Jon Cooper said. "So you are put in the big moments, in the big times, and deliver time and time again. Anytime you say best, greatest, fastest ... something is coming with it. To do what he's done and get 300 wins in the amount of time that accomplished that, along the way winning the Vezina Trophy, winning two Stanley Cups, participating in the four (Cup) Finals. I'm not so sure what else you can say about the man. And then you put him in a game where he can get to 300 against the best team, that's 15-1 and again he rises to the occasion. He's been a pleasure to coach. He's generational and he's still in his prime."

Jake Guentzel scored twice for the Lightning (8-6-1), who were 0-3-1 in their previous four games and hadn't played in a week. Vasilevskiy made 23 saves.

Adam Lowry scored for the Jets (15-2-0), who could have been the fastest team in NHL history to get 16 wins in a season (17 games). Eric Comrie made 25 saves.

In its previous game, Winnipeg became the fastest team to 15 wins by defeating the New York Rangers 6-3 at Madison Square Garden on Tuesday.

"End of the day, they were on a mission and they were not going to let us get into our game, and that's a good lesson for us," Winnipeg coach Scott Arniel said. "We know how we have to continue to play, we know what helps us have success, and just get back to it."

Guentzel gave Tampa Bay a 1-0 lead at 7:24 of the first period when he scored from the top of the slot off a drop pass from Nick Paul.

Brandon Hagel extended the lead to 2-0 at 3:10 of the second period when he took a feed from Darren Raddysh at the left hash marks and beat Comrie to the far post.

"They're a good hockey team over there, but we have a good team over here," Hagel said. "We have to start getting points, getting home wins. Six days off, we went out and worked on some things. I thought we came out and did exactly what we were supposed to do. We didn't beat ourselves up. We waited, capitalized when we needed to and defended."

Anthony Cirelli made it 3-0 at 4:07 with a power-play goal, redirecting a shot from Victor Hedman. It was Cirelli's 100th NHL goal.

Lowry cut it to 3-1 at 6:54 when a shot from Colin Miller deflected off Hedman and Lowry before getting past Vasilevskiy.

"I think there were parts of our game that we liked and there were certainly times when we were happy with how we were playing with the pressure and chances we were creating," said Lowry, the Jets captain. "Sometimes you just have to be patient when a team's going to sit back. ... Just a little bit of stubbornness on our part."

Guentzel scored his second of the game into an empty net at 19:39 of the third period for the 4-1 final.

The Jets lost for the first time on the road this season (7-1-0). They came into the game with the NHL's top-ranked power play (42.2 percent) but went 0-for-5 with one shot on goal.

"We were just giving up too many Grade A's, too many easy goals," Lightning defenseman Ryan McDonagh said. "Tonight we wanted to make it hard for them, make them go 200 feet. We managed the game well. We did a good job limiting the odd-mans. That's a good recipe for us. We should only need three goals to win games."

NOTES: Vasilevskiy is 300-148-31. ... Lightning defenseman Victor Hedman got his 583rd NHL assist, passing Steven Stamkos for second in franchise history. He is five behind Martin St. Louis (588). ... Tampa Bay forward Nikita Kucherov (assist) extended his point streak to six games (three goals, seven assists). ... The Jets were trying to become the fifth team in NHL history to start a season 8-0-0 on the road.

Sportsnet.ca

<https://www.sportsnet.ca/nhl/article/eric-comrie-shines-but-jets-leave-him-out-to-dry-in-loss-to-lightning/>

Eric Comrie shines, but Jets leave him out to dry in loss to Lightning

By Jacob Stoller

A quick box score scan provides low-hanging fruit to characterize the Winnipeg Jets' second loss of the season.

But contrary to what the numbers suggest, Eric Comrie wasn't the reason the Jets fell 4-1 to the Tampa Bay Lightning.

“Can't fault him,” Jets coach Scott Arniel told reporters post-game when asked about Comrie, who stopped 28 of the 31 shots he faced.

In fact, we should applaud him.

“Early in the game, late in the game, he kept us in that one,” Mason Appleton told reporters.

While it may feel off-putting to glorify a goalie that posted a .893 save percentage, Comrie was solid throughout a lopsided affair that would've been much uglier for the Jets if it weren't for their netminder.

The Jets came out flat. The Lightning pressed hard from the get-go, outshooting the Jets 5-0 less than two minutes into the game, pinning the visitors in their own zone for the majority of the first 10 minutes of the game. The opening goal of the game — scored in transition by Jake Guentzel after the Jets botched a zone exit — was the first of many instances where Tampa Bay pounced on Winnipeg's mistakes.

“Early on we just tried to make a few too many plays,” Adam Lowry told reporters. “We just didn't get to our game. Like through the neutral zone where sometimes they've got good gaps, you've got to put (the puck) in behind (them). We tried to make that extra play and they transitioned. They're dangerous off the rush.”

Aside from some brief sequences in each period, the Lightning were in control for the majority of Thursday night's game. But Comrie looked composed throughout and he even generated two highlight-reel saves on the penalty kill. The first came in the dying seconds of the second period, with Comrie denying a wide-open Anthony Cirelli from the slot. The second was arguably more impressive, with the 29-year-old sliding across the crease and kicking his pad out to deny a Nikita Kucherov one-timer.

“He's given us a chance every night to stay in hockey games or win games,” Arniel said.

The Jets' gamble on Comrie, who entered the season on the heels of two down years with the Buffalo Sabres, is paying off. In four games this season, Comrie has posted a .909 save percentage and a 2.77 goals-against average while facing 30-plus shots a night. His 0.76 high-danger goals-against average per 60 ranks second among goalies that have played at least three games, according to NaturalStatTrick.com.

The numbers are shiny, but what carries the most weight is what he showed tonight — that he can give the Jets a chance to win against a quality opponent. Entering tonight's game, Connor Hellebuyck had played 13 of the team's 16 games, or 81 per cent, which marks the heaviest workload in the league. Considering the burnout we saw from Hellebuyck in the previous two playoffs, not to mention the fact the Jets have gained so much ground in the standings early on, it's imperative that Hellebuyck's workload is monitored, especially with him being a near-lock to backstop Team USA at the 4 Nations cup this year.

Now, that's easier said than done. But so far, Comrie has done everything he can to make the Jets comfortable with giving their franchise netminder an extra night or two off.

How did Jets respond to first loss?

The Jets' seven-game winning streak entering tonight's game was undoubtedly their most impressive stretch of the season. The eight-game winning streak to start the year came against

just one opponent that made the playoffs last season. And then, they got punched in the nose by the Toronto Maple Leafs in a game that had many weary about the Jets' hot start.

But they kicked things up a notch over the ensuing seven games — four of which came against the Lightning, Colorado Avalanche, Dallas Stars and New York Rangers. They were night-and-day better during five-on-five action. And the numbers back that up.

"We're scoring a lot of goals, but I still think one of our team's best attributes is our five-on-five defensive play and that's going to need to continue to be the case if we want to continue on this run," Lowry told reporters.

Other takeaways

- Tonight was another example of why Lowry's leadership is so coveted. The way he intervened when Michael Eyssimont tried to fight Nino Niederreiter, how he responded to an accidental elbow from Erik Cernak by delivering a clean and hard check to Victor Hedman seconds later and his consistent effort to extend plays were all examples of why, in many ways, he's the heartbeat of the team's disciplined structure.

- Speaking of Eyssimont, some may look at him as "the one that got away" — he's carved out a role as an effective energy player since being placed on waivers by the Jets and he was noticeable tonight — but I think you've got to look at it in a different lens. His departure is a testament to how solid the Jets' bottom-six have been over the last few years. Eyssimont wouldn't be a regular on this roster — he wouldn't get minutes over Alex Lafallo, who is arguably one of the NHL's best fourth liners — but I'd argue he'd be a sizeable upgrade on most team's bottom-six.

- The Jets' league-best power play generated just one shot during four man-advantages (technically, it was five but the last one came in the dying seconds of the third).

"They were extremely aggressive," Arniel said. "They weren't going to give us time to stand still and make easy plays. They were after us in a hurry."

<https://www.sportsnet.ca/nhl/video/breaking-down-connor-and-winnipegs-elite-offensive-numbers/>

Breaking down Connor and Winnipeg's elite offensive numbers (VIDEO)

Mike Kelly joins the Hockey Central panel to discuss two elite NHL scorers Nikita Kucherov and Kyle Connor, why they've been so effective, how consistent the Jets offence has been, and some potential vulnerabilities in Winnipeg's penalty kill.

Associated Press

<https://www.sportsnet.ca/nhl/article/vasilevskiy-makes-nhl-history-as-lightning-snap-jets-7-game-win-streak/>

Vasilevskiy makes NHL history as Lightning snap Jets' 7-game win streak

By Associated Press

TAMPA, Fla. — Andrei Vasilevskiy made 24 saves in his 300th NHL win, and the Tampa Bay Lightning stopped Winnipeg's seven-game win streak with a 4-1 victory over the Jets on Thursday night.

Vasilevskiy is the 40th goaltender in league history to win 300 games. He reached the milestone in 490 games, the fewest in NHL history, 31 faster than Jacques Plante.

Winnipeg lost for just the second time in 17 games this season. It dropped to 7-1 on the road.

Jake Guentzel scored twice for the Lightning, who had lost their previous five games against the Jets, including 7-4 in Winnipeg on Nov. 3.

Guentzel put Tampa Bay in front 7:24 into the first period, and goals by Brandon Hagel and Anthony Cirelli 57 seconds apart early in the second made it 3-0.

Winnipeg captain Adam Lowry scored on a deflection at 6:54 of the second, but Guentzel got an empty-netter with 21 seconds left.

Jets backup goalie Eric Comrie made 25 saves but lost for the first time in his four starts this season.

Takeaways

Jets: Winnipeg's power play entered the game leading the NHL at 42.2%, but it went 0 for 5.

Lightning: Tampa Bay, coming off a seven-day layoff, won for the first time this month after going 0-3-1 in its first four November games.

Key moment

Cirelli's power-play goal 4:07 into the second was also the first by the Lightning in 17 extra-man opportunities at Amalie Arena this season. Tampa Bay scored on 31.2% of its power-play chances (38 of 122) at home in 2023-24.

Key stat

Vasilevskiy's win was just his fifth in 13 career decisions against the Jets (5-7-1).

Up next

The Jets visit Florida on Saturday night. The Lightning host New Jersey on Saturday.

Global Winnipeg

<https://globalnews.ca/news/10870840/winnipeg-jets-fall-short-in-tampa-bay-4-1-for-second-loss-of-season/>

Winnipeg Jets fall short in Tampa Bay 4-1 for second loss of season

By Christian Aumell & Russ Hobson Global News

The Winnipeg Jets were bound to lose again eventually.

More than two weeks after their first loss of the season, the Jets were clearly the second-best team on the ice in a 4-1 loss in Tampa Bay Thursday night, dropping their record to 15-2 and snapping their seven-game win streak.

The Jets surrendered three goals in the first 25 minutes and couldn't mount a comeback as they suffered their first road loss of the season, ending their seven-game road win streak.

The Lightning ended a four-game winless spell.

"They came out hard," said head coach Scott Arniel. "We knew they were gonna. They had seven days off and it hadn't gone well for them. They were gonna come after us and they did.

"They were on a mission. They weren't gonna let us get into our game and that's a good lesson for us. We know how we have to continue to play. We know what helps us have success. and just get back to it here in another night from now."

Story continues below advertisement

After outscoring their opponents 9-1 at 5-on-5 over their last seven games, the Jets top line was kept off the scoresheet as Adam Lowry notched their only marker. Mark Scheifele, Kyle Connor and Gabriel Vilardi were all a minus-2 for the night.

Scheifele and Vilardi both had eight-game point streaks come to an end.

The Jets struggled with their zone entries and puck management as they committed 23 giveaways in the loss.

"Early on we just tried to make a few too many plays," said Lowry. "Just didn't get to our game. I think through the neutral zone where sometimes they got good gaps. You got to put it in behind, try to make that extra play and they transition and were dangerous off the rush, so, I think there was parts of our game that we liked."

Lightning goaltender Andrei Vasilevskiy set the NHL record for fastest to 300 career wins, a mark Jacques Plante held for over 61 years.

It was the first time the Jets gave up more than three goals on the road this season and it was only the second time they were held to just one goal.

"They did defend real hard obviously when you only score one goal and the way we've been scoring," said forward Mason Appleton. "They defended real well. When you don't come through

the zone clean because the neutral zone, how they played us, it will create a little more challenge to get that zone time.”

The Lightning, who were playing their first game in a week, were the stronger team right out of the gate and opened the scoring after a nearly six-minute run of play without a whistle.

After Winnipeg turned the puck over at the Tampa Bay blueline, Nick Paul carried the puck up the ice and into the Jets’ end, patiently waiting for a streaking Jake Guentzel to emerge into the slot. He received a pass from Paul, then wired it past Eric Comrie to make it 1-0 at the 7:24 mark.

The Jets started to push back a bit as the period rolled along, earning a power play with just under a minute left in the frame but they didn’t manage to get a shot on goal.

Tampa Bay carried a 10-7 edge in shots on goal into the second and quickly built on their lead.

After cycling the puck around the Winnipeg end, the Lightning got the puck to Darren Raddysh at the right point, who spotted Brandon Hagel cutting to the net. He got a perfect pass and got in close on Comrie before roofing it to make it 2-0 just 3:07 into the second.

Moments later, Dylan DeMelo took a hooking penalty and the Lightning, who had yet to score a power play goal on home ice this season, wasted little time making it 3-0 as Anthony Cirelli tipped a Victor Hedman point shot past Comrie at the 4:07 mark.

Less than three minutes later, the Jets got on the board thanks to a bit of a fluky goal. Colin Miller’s shot from the point glanced off the skate of Lowry after he got upended near the crease and rose over the arm of Vasilevskiy to make it 3-1.

Winnipeg earned their second power play of the night less than two minutes later but for the second time in the game, the league’s top power play unit failed to register a shot on goal.

Shots on goal favoured Tampa Bay in the second period 13-6 and for the first 40 minutes the Lightning had a 23-13 edge.

Winnipeg pushed in the third to try and get back into the game but couldn’t get another one past Vasilevskiy, failing on a pair of power plays in the final frame.

Comrie was pulled for an extra attacker with just over two minutes to go and it didn’t lead to much before Guentzel potted his second of the night into the empty net with 21 seconds to go.

Comrie turned aside 25 shots in his first loss of the season, while Vasilevskiy made 23 stops.

Winnipeg will look to start a new win streak Saturday when they visit the Stanley Cup Champion Florida Panthers. Pregame coverage on 680 CJOB starts at 4 p.m. with game action beginning just after 6 p.m.

TSN.ca

<https://www.tsn.ca/nhl/video/biron-jets-couldn-t-recover-from-slow-start-against-lightning~3030101>

Biron: Jets couldn't recover from slow start against Lightning (VIDEO)

The Lightning outshot the Jets 5-1 early in the first and scored seven minutes into the frame. Martin Biron explains why Winnipeg wasn't able to recover from their slow start, like they have done so many other times this season.

<https://www.tsn.ca/nhl/video/lightning-hand-jets-second-loss-of-the-season-in-convincing-win~3029938>

Lightning hand Jets second loss of the season in convincing win (VIDEO)

The Lightning had six days off and it showed as they dominated the Jets to snap a four-game losing streak and hand the Jets their second loss of the year. Dan Robertson and Kevin Sawyer breakdown a disappointing night for Winnipeg.

<https://www.tsn.ca/nhl/video/early-trading-dreger-on-what-s-fuelling-jets-historic-run~3029756>

Early Trading: Dreger on what's fuelling Jets' historic run (VIDEO)

TSN Hockey Insider Darren Dreger joins Gino Reda to discuss the condensed scheduling issue when the NHL accommodates for international tournaments, how the Jets are maximizing their morning skate to be more efficient with ice time, what is motivating Winnipeg as the team continues to power through an historic start to the season and more.

Winnipeg Free Press

<https://www.winnipegfreepress.com/breakingnews/2024/11/14/jets-fall-to-lightning-4-1>

Jets record start slowed by second loss of season Winnipeg's winning streak snapped at seven

By: Ken Wiebe

TAMPA – Earlier in the day, Jon Cooper was holding court and providing some insight about the Winnipeg Jets and their fast start.

The head coach of the Tampa Bay Lightning provided the type of compliment that carries some additional weight, given that he knows a thing or two about what is required to reach the top of the mountain on two different occasions.

“Probably their biggest attribute is that they don’t beat themselves,” Cooper said after the morning skate. “They are really good at not doing that. If you have the discipline not to do that, you’ll win a lot of games in this league.”

No team in NHL history has won more often than the Jets have won in the first 16 games of this season, so this wasn’t just an opposing coach blowing smoke.

Cooper's assessment was an apt one, though the Jets didn't execute that part of their identity as often as they would have liked as they met the Lightning for the second time in 11 days.

The Lightning capitalized on some uncharacteristic mistakes and played with the urgency of a team that wasn't interested in losing five consecutive games, earning a 4-1 victory over the Jets on Thursday at Amalie Arena.

"I thought they defended really well. They didn't let us enter through the neutral zone with possession much," said Jets right-winger Mason Appleton. "There were times we were stubborn and didn't get it behind them, but that seemed to be the recipe. They did a really good job just bottling our speed up and creating turnovers."

The loss snapped a seven-game winning streak for the Jets, who are now 15-2 and will close out a three-game road trip on Saturday night against Paul Maurice and the defending Stanley Cup champion Florida Panthers.

"I think there's a lot of resilience in this group," said Jets captain Adam Lowry, when asked what his group learned about responding after the previous loss to the Toronto Maple Leafs back on Oct. 28. "We've gotten off to such a great start that we haven't faced a ton. Any time you lose in this league you kind of want to put it behind you."

"We've got a really positive mindset. We're still in a great spot. We didn't love the whole 60 minutes but parts of our game we liked. The rest is something we'll need to improve on."

Let's take a closer look at this one:

THE TURNOVER: One of the signs that the Jets were not as sharp as usual came just past the seven minute-mark of the first period when defenceman Colin Miller made a good read to join what was developing into a four-on-two rush that went awry.

Just before the offensive blue line, as Miller was trying to get his backhand pass out wide, the play was intercepted by Lightning defenceman Ryan McDonagh, who got the puck going the other direction and onto the tape of Nick Paul.

Paul made a slick pass through his legs to Jake Guentzel, who ripped home his shot to open the scoring.

Miller hustled to get back into the play, but there seemed to be a communication breakdown with partner Haydn Fleury when it came to who was going to check Paul and who was picking up the trailer (Guentzel).

With the benefit of hindsight, it probably would have made the most sense for Fleury to stay with Paul and for Miller to pick up Guentzel.

Miller regrouped to earn an assist on the lone goal by the Jets, blasting a slapshot that went in off of Lowry as he was falling to the ice.

POWER OUTAGE: The power play has been a potent weapon for the Jets this season and they continue to lead the NHL in efficiency, even after going zero-for-five on Thursday.

The number is a bit deceiving as the fifth power play lasted less than two seconds as former Jets forward Michael Eyssimont was called for slashing Morgan Barron.

What can't be denied was that the puck movement on the Jets' power play wasn't nearly as crisp as we're used to seeing on the other four man-advantages.

"They were extremely aggressive. They weren't going to give us time to stand still and make easy plays," said Arniel. "They were after us in a hurry. We didn't get enough. We only had one shot on the four power plays. So for us, our mindset is always to attack. Create the shot that creates the scramble and other opportunities. We'll reset that as well."

THE HIT: Lightning defenceman Emil Lilleberg caught Jets centre Mark Scheifele with a heavy hit just inside the offensive blue line in the first period.

Scheifele had carried the puck in and passed it over toward Kyle Connor when Lilleberg stepped up and delivered the hard check that caught the Jets' centre by surprise.

With the benefit of replay, the hit was probably a touch late and could have been called interference.

It was also the type of play that a young player looking to establish himself as an NHL regular has to make in order to catch the attention of the coaching staff, whether it results in a penalty or not.

Scheifele responded in the second period by catching Lightning D-man Erik Cernak on the numbers and was lucky to not be called for boarding.

But the willingness to stand up for himself was something his teammates surely noticed.

THE START: For the fourth time this season, Jets goalie Eric Comrie did the job of the backup, keeping his team in the contest.

Although he suffered his first loss of the campaign, Comrie finished with 25 saves, including several of the highlight-reel variety – robbing Anthony Cirelli from point-blank range on the power play late in the second period and pushing across to prevent a one-timer from Nikita Kucherov from going in during a power play in the third.

"He's been good all year for us," said Appleton. "He made some great saves. Early in the game, late in the game, he kept us in that one."

Comrie is likely to start again next Saturday against the Nashville Predators on the back end of playing on consecutive days.

AFTERBURNER:

The key play – Anthony Cirelli tipped home a Victor Hedman shot for a power play goal to make it 3-0, giving the Lightning two goals in 57 seconds to extend a lead they wouldn't relinquish.

The three stars:

Lightning, Anthony Cirelli – 1G, 1P

Lightning, Nikita Kucherov – 1A, 1P, 10 shot attempts

Lightning, Ryan McDonagh – 1A, 1P

EXTRA, EXTRA: Jets winger Nino Niederreiter was held off the scoresheet, but he finished with three shots on goal and seven shot attempts to go with one hit and two blocked shots. Scheifele and right-winger Gabe Vilardi each saw their eight-game point streaks snapped in this one. Lightning goalie Andrei Vasilevskiy made 24 saves and became the fastest goalie to record 300 wins in his NHL career (491 NHL games).

Winnipeg Sun

<https://winnipeg.sun.com/sports/hockey/nhl/winnipeg-jets/tampa-bay-lightning-snaps-winnipegs-unbeaten-road-record-in-turbulent-game-for-jets>

Tampa Bay Lightning snaps Winnipeg's unbeaten road record in turbulent game for Jets

By Scott Billeck

Thursday night felt like an awkward high-five for the Winnipeg Jets. Although they intended to make good contact, they just couldn't hit the mark.

The Jets lost just their second game of the season (15-2-0) and watched their seven-game winning streak come to an end after dropping a 4-1 decision to the Lightning at Amalie Arena.

Winnipeg, which had won all seven of its road games prior to Thursday, struggled early and often, and any chance at another comeback to keep its historic start rolling always looked a half-step behind.

A couple of examples included Mark Scheifele missing Kyle Connor open in front in the second period, sailing a grenade through his legs instead of watching one explode into the back of the net off of Connor's stick.

Another came with Josh Morrissey leading a rush in the third. Kyle Connor was alongside him, but both seemed unsure who should continue deeper into the zone once Morrissey gained it. The puck was soon heading the other way.

You could write a short novel filled with more illustrations, but you get the point: It was an off night for the local hockey club.

Jake Guentzel opened the scoring 7:24 into the first period, and Brandon Hagel and Anthony Cirelli scored 57 seconds apart early in the second to deal the damage needed to see off the Jets, avenging their 7-4 loss to Winnipeg last week.

Adam Lowry scored Winnipeg's only goal in the game, a tipped shot later in the second.

Eric Comrie, making his fourth start of the season, made 25 saves in a losing effort. His stops on Cirelli on the doorstep and a sprawling pad save on Nikita Kucherov on the power play kept the Jets in the game in the third.

That's where Winnipeg's best push came, as Tampa was content with the lead they'd built. But even their red-hot power play, which had two looks in the final frame, couldn't save them, going 0-for-4 on the night.

Andrei Vasilevskiy was solid, stopping 24 shots as the Lightning improved to 8-6-1.

Guetzel popped his second into the empty cage with 20 seconds left.

The Jets cap off their three-game eastern swing on Saturday against the defending Stanley Cup champion Florida Panthers.

<https://winnipeg.sun.com/sports/jets-mark-scheifele-deserves-team-canada-spot-at-4-nations-face-off>

Jets' Mark Scheifele deserves Team Canada spot at 4 Nations Face-Off

By Scott Billeck

Slowly but surely, eyes are beginning to fixate on Mark Scheifele for Team Canada at the 4 Nations Face-Off.

It will be well-deserved if he makes the cut — and let's be frank: He should.

Anything less would exclude one of the game's most impactful players from the highly anticipated best-on-best tournament.

That's a testament to how the 31-year-old's game has grown in recent years and how well he's playing currently.

And let's face it: These rosters are always a confluence of the game's biggest names and those who register in the what-have-you-done-for-me-lately column.

Scheifele fits well on both sides of that ledger just a few weeks before general manager Don Sweeney reveals his choices.

Don't just take my word for it. Let Scheifele's body of work do the talking.

The low-hanging fruit — still nutritious, some say — is his start to the 2024-25 campaign, where he's produced nine goals and 21 points through 16 games. That's good for 13th in NHL scoring while averaging just over 20 minutes a night. He's factored in nearly 30 per cent of Winnipeg's goals to date.

So the stats are there, sitting sixth in scoring among Canadians, including second in goals.

Beyond the numbers, Scheifele's best attribute will arguably be his ability to rise to the occasion.

He's thrived in his career on the biggest stages.

Whether you go back to the 2017-18 playoffs or boil it down further to specific games— his two-goal, game-winning effort on Tuesday at Madison Square Garden immediately comes to mind — Scheifele's been able to produce magic when the lights are shining brightest.

"To me, those are the most fun moments in the game," Jets defenceman Josh Morrissey, a likely shoo-in for Canada's defensive corps, said last month.

Those comments came a couple of days after Scheifele took over in Winnipeg's 2-1 win against the Chicago Blackhawks.

Scheifele scored twice in less than two minutes, first a goal to send the game to overtime and then another to bag Winnipeg two points.

The lead-up to his tying goal came with a pair of faceoff wins, and then he beat his check to the puck to ensure his stick was the one to get the puck back on goal after a rebound. Scheifele wouldn't be denied.

The overtime winner from Scheifele was perhaps even more impressive because he managed to elevate again, setting a pick and then rolling to the middle of the ice where Kyle Connor would find him to end the game 38 seconds into the extra frame.

Connor would later say Scheifele has trained so much for those moments that they're never unfamiliar and never become too big.

You think back to overtime in the 2010 gold medal game in Vancouver. There wasn't a heartbeat in that building that wasn't racing in the upper hundreds. Expect Sidney Crosby's.

Scheifele can remain calm in chaos, which he has repeatedly demonstrated for the Jets.

Even now, the pressure to perform has been high.

As Jets head coach Scott Arniel pointed out last week, all eyes have been on Scheifele.

"I know that he's being watched and being watched hard," Arniel said.

"With Scheif, he's taking pride... with the buy-in to how we play without the puck and what he does when he doesn't have it, that's also part of what whoever is watching him."

Combine it all with the Kitchener Kid's skill, and Canada has a player that can be put anywhere and succeed.

Big shot. Speed. Faceoffs. Two-way play. Centre. Winger. Whatever. Scheifele has all of that.

And he's coachable.

The transition from Paul Maurice to Dave Lowry to Rick Bowness had its rocky moments, but Scheifele emerged as a better all-around player.

Arniel is benefitting from that with his two-way play.

Tampa's Jon Cooper, who will lead Canada in February and was Scheifele's assistant on Team North America at the 2016 World Cup of Hockey, would, too.

Cooper's seeing the same thing.

"I've had him twice, because I had him at the world championships, too," Cooper told reporters in Tampa on Thursday. "If you're going to talk about a student of the game and somebody that

follows everything and knows everything that goes on in this league, it's Mark Scheifele. I really appreciate that about him, especially when I'm lacking some stat detail. You can always go to him.

"He really cares about the game. I think he would be known as an offensive player for most of his career. I would say the best two-way play of his career is going on right now. And there's no doubt about that."

It is a ringing endorsement for a player making a rock-solid case to represent his country.

CBC Manitoba

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

What a time to be a fan in WINnipeg, 'the hottest sports city in Canada' 'How fun would it be to be in Winnipeg right now?' sportscaster asks. ('It's phenomenal,' fan replies)

By Darren Bernhardt

Let's just put a little more emphasis on the name of Manitoba's capital, shall we? Welcome to WINnipeg.

The city has become the envy of sports fans in other markets as its pro teams continue to carve their names into history.

The NHL's Winnipeg Jets and CFL's Blue Bombers are fully in the spotlight for their ongoing remarkable runs, while the baseball Goldeyes just capped a season in which they clinched their division and played for the league championship, and the basketball Sea Bears have shattered league attendance records after just two seasons in existence.

"How fun would it be to be in Winnipeg right now?" sportscaster Jay Onrait recently said on his TSN show, SC with Jay Onrait.

It's an oft-repeated comment these days, on podcasts, websites, radio and TV sports shows, and among rival teams.

For Neal Einarson, the answer is simple: "It's phenomenal to be a Winnipeg sports fan right now."

He's been a Bombers season ticket holder for 23 years, suffering through a nearly 30-year Grey Cup drought, and has had Jets season tickets since the franchise relocated from Atlanta in 2011.

Einarson is soaking it all in, but is also realistic.

"It's not going to last forever, so we have to enjoy every moment of it."

The Jets are off to the fastest start in history. Not their history — in the history of the NHL.

The Bombers, meanwhile, have triggered talk about being a dynasty as they head to their fifth consecutive CFL championship game this weekend.

"I've been going to Bombers and Jets games since I was a kid, and I've never seen a run like this. Winnipeg is the hottest sports city in Canada, and it's an incredible time to be a fan," said Winnipeg Mayor Scott Gillingham.

Saturday was particularly monumental, as the Jets and Bombers both entered the annals of their respective leagues.

The Jets won their 14th game in just the 15th game of the season on Tuesday, becoming the quickest team to ever do that. The Bombers dismantled the Saskatchewan Roughriders to win the CFL West Division final.

"From an analysis perspective, I think it's a big deal, because it's almost impossible to do [what the Jets did], and usually it requires a healthy dose of luck for a team to pull this off," said Sean Reynolds, Sportsnet reporter and Hockey Night in Canada host.

"It hasn't taken the Jets luck to get here. They've been that good. They've been the better team, night in and night out."

Only four other teams in the NHL's 107 years have won 15 games by their 17th contest. Winnipeg stands alone in doing it in just 16.

"I grew up watching the Habs, with [Montreal Canadiens legend] Guy Lafleur and company, and they didn't do this. This is incredible stuff," said Scott Regehr, host of CBC Radio's morning sports.

No one is scoring more than the Winnipeg Jets in the NHL, with an average of four goals per game, and no one has had fewer goals scored against them. The Jets have a +39 goal differential. The next closest is Carolina with +23.

"Not only is it going to be hard [for opposing teams] to generate chances against the Jets, because they're so good defensively, you have to beat [goalie] Connor Hellebuyck, which is not easy to do, but now you have to worry about a potent offensive team," TSN hockey analyst Frankie Corrado said on Sportscentre this week.

"They are a full team. There's no weakness with this group."

And they're doing it by committee, rather than relying on one or two stars. Winnipeg has 11 players with 10 or more points.

If the Jets' skaters happen to struggle at any point in a game, the league's best goaltender has their back.

Hellebuyck is the reigning Vezina Trophy winner and a two-time recipient of the award for top NHL goalie. And early in the season, he's making a solid bid for this third.

He just came off setting a record for the longest shutout streak for the Jets, going 191:47 without allowing a puck to slip by him until Dallas scored with only one minute and 22 seconds left to play on Saturday.

"Connor Hellebuyck is the best goaltender in the world, and it's not really a conversation," Reynolds said.

"If you're a Winnipeg Jets fan, you are watching something right now ... that not many fans of any team at any time in the history of the NHL have have seen. So enjoy what you're seeing. It's extremely rare."

Jets head coach Scott Arniel, a former Jet who is in his first season as the team's bench boss, said the team expected success after finishing last year's regular season as the No. 4 team overall, but maybe didn't expect this much, this soon.

"I don't think I quite drew it up this way, but certainly, you know, the guys have earned every inch of it."

It's caused some whiplash injuries for hockey pundits who've had to spin their heads and take notice of a team they don't often given enough credit, Reynolds said.

"To say the Winnipeg Jets are opening eyes would be an understatement," he said. "It's early in the season, and you don't win the Stanley Cup in November, by any means. But I think everyone thinks right now it's the Winnipeg Jets [versus] everybody else."

"No one is coming close to touching the Winnipeg Jets right now."

As for the Bombers, they are 10.5 point favourites to win their third Grey Cup in five years, a remarkable turnaround in a season that saw them sputter to an 0-4 start and then 2-6, before stepping on the gas and going on an eight-game winning streak.

"Basically, we're in the middle of a dynasty with the Bombers here," Reynolds said. "But it sure does seem like someone is smiling down on this team, the way things have lined up for them."

It looked like there was some divine intervention on Oct. 26, when the Bombers seemed set to lose to Montreal in their final game of the regular season, opening the door for Saskatchewan to possibly steal first place. Sudden wind gusts caused Montreal to botch a punt and then propelled a winning Bomber field goal from 51 yards out.

"It almost feels like the football gods out there are massive Blue Bomber fans," Reynolds said.

They might need a little of that support again. Just one more time.

Although the Bombers have only lost once since July, the team that beat them was the Toronto Argonauts — their opponent in Sunday's Grey Cup.