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<https://www.nhl.com/jets/news/three-things-kings-shut-down-jets>

Three things - Kings shut down Jets Vilardi scores the only goal for Winnipeg in 4-1 loss to LA

By Jamie Thomas

The Winnipeg Jets are now 2-2 on their season long six-game road trip after a 4-1 loss to the Los Angeles Kings at Crypto.com Arena. The Jets had a season low 14 shots on goal and Gabe Vilardi had the only goal of the game and that came on the power play in the second period. Connor Hellebuyck made 30 saves for Winnipeg and suffered only his third loss of the season (15-3-0). The Jets will stay in the Pacific Division when they face the Vegas Golden Knights on Friday.

KINGS READY TO GO

The Kings got down to business early in the first period when Vladislav Namestnikov was called for slashing at 1:48. Los Angeles would take all of four seconds to score on the man advantage, Anze Kopitar redirected Adrian Kempe's point shot past Connor Hellebuyck for a 1-0 LA lead. Winnipeg has given up a power play goal in six of their last eight games. The Kings had a 14-3 shots on goal advantage before Winnipeg got their legs under them and played better during the final five minutes of the period.

POWER PLAY GETS JETS ON THE BOARD

Three minutes into the middle frame, former King Rasmus Kupari would be given a penalty shot after Brandt Clarke slashed him while he was on a breakaway. Kupari went in and was shut down by David Rittich, it was the first time the Jets had a penalty shot since December 22, 2023 (Mark Scheifele stopped by Jeremy Swayman). Then down 2-0, the Jets went to the power play for the first time at 9:03. Nine seconds into the man advantage, Gabe Vilardi scored his ninth of the season on a quick wrist shot.

LA LOCKS IT DOWN

Los Angeles got their two-goal lead back at 5:21 when Kevin Fiala's shot went off Haydn Fleury's skate and behind Hellebuyck on the first shot of the third to make it 3-1. Winnipeg could not generate much after that, failing to register a shot of their own until there was 5:36 left in the game, Neal Pionk sent a long shot at Rittich. The Jets finished with just two shots in the final period. Kempe scored into an empty net at 17:04 finishing off an impressive defensive performance by the Kings.

"Somehow today they killed our speed. We couldn't really get our forecheck going that well, like we would like to, we didn't create too many chances today," said Rasmus Kupari.

"We only scored one goal and very tough team to play against. Whenever we face them next time we got to find ways to be at our best and beat them."

NHL.com

<https://www.nhl.com/news/winnipeg-jets-los-angeles-kings-game-recap-november-27>

***Kopitar, Kempe each has 2 points, Kings stifle Jets
Rittich gets 100th NHL win for Los Angeles; Hellebuyck makes 29 saves for Winnipeg***

By Dan Greenspan

LOS ANGELES -- Anze Kopitar and Adrian Kempe each had a goal and an assist in the Los Angeles Kings' 4-1 win against the Winnipeg Jets at Crypto.com Arena on Wednesday.

Phillip Danault and Kevin Fiala also scored, Alex Laferriere had two assists, and the Kings (12-8-3) bounced back after allowing five goals in the third period of a 7-2 loss at the San Jose Sharks on Monday. David Rittich made 13 saves and got his 100th NHL win.

"We wanted to come out pretty hard and, obviously, we didn't like the way the last game went," Laferriere said. "I think it showed how resilient our group is and how we're able to bounce back."

Gabriel Vilardi had a power-play goal for the Jets (18-5-0), who are 3-4-0 following a seven-game winning streak. Connor Hellebuyck made 29 saves.

"We didn't really have it all night, to be honest," Winnipeg forward Nino Niederreiter said. "There were maybe a couple of minutes each period [in] which it feels like we played our game, but overall we just kind of were waiting, were hesitant, we didn't play our game. And L.A. was a desperate team, and we weren't desperate enough."

The Kings went up 1-0 1:52 into the first period on Kopitar's seventh goal. He tipped in Kempe's long shot four seconds into a power play. It was Kopitar's 10th power-play point (two goals, eight assists).

Danault made it 2-0 at 7:10 of the second period, following up his own rebound at the right post for his second goal of the season. Los Angeles made significant changes to all four of its lines for this game, and Danault said those moves allowed him to reset his own approach.

"Sometimes it's good," Danault said. "We have to look at ourselves in the mirror and step up our game, everyone. Some guys struggle together, and you get with other line mates and can step up. It's normal. The lines should be moving when it's not going well."

Vilardi cut it to 2-1 at 9:12 on the power play, scoring from close range after Rittich couldn't cover the loose puck.

The Kings extended their lead to 3-1 at 5:21 of the third period when Fiala's shot was redirected before going in off the skate of Jets defenseman Haydn Fleury, who was battling Laferriere at the top of the crease.

"I mean, you're not going to score from outside the dots on a goalie like Hellebuyck," Laferriere said. "He's an unbelievable goalie, and you're not going to beat him clean every time, so I think anytime you can get chaos and bodies to the net, [it] kind of disrupts things and obviously disrupts things for him too."

Kempe scored an empty-net goal at 17:04 for the 4-1 final. Kopitar had the primary assist for his third straight game with multiple points (two goals, four assists).

The Jets had two shots on goal in the third period.

“They didn’t really let us get pucks to the net,” Niederreiter said. “A lot of shots got blocked, and they did a really good job in front of their net boxing us out. Credit to them. They played a good game.”

NOTES: Rasmus Kupari had his penalty shot at 2:58 of the second saved by Rittich after Kupari had been slashed by Kings defenseman Brandt Clarke on a breakaway. ... Kempe has five points (two goals, three assists) during a three-game point streak. ... Rittich is 100-63-24 in 210 NHL games. He is the eighth Czechia-born goalie with 100 NHL wins.

Associated Press

<https://www.sportsnet.ca/nhl/article/vilardi-scores-lone-goal-for-jets-in-loss-to-kings/>

Vilardi scores lone goal for Jets in loss to Kings

By Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — David Rittich made 13 saves in his 100th career victory, and captain Anze Kopitar had a goal and an assist in the Los Angeles Kings' 4-1 victory over the NHL-leading Winnipeg Jets on Wednesday night.

Phillip Danault and Kevin Fiala also scored, and Adrian Kempe added an empty-net goal for the Kings.

Gabriel Vilardi scored against his former team for the Jets, who have lost four of seven since their 15-1-0 start to the season. Connor Hellebuyck stopped 30 shots in the fourth game on Winnipeg's six-game trip.

Rittich was Hellebuyck's backup for the 2022-23 Jets.

Kopitar redirected Kempe's shot from the point on the power play just 1:52 in. Danault then skated unimpeded across Winnipeg's goal mouth in the second for his second goal of the season, ending a 10-game drought.

Two minutes later, Vilardi lifted a rebound nine seconds into a power play for Winnipeg's first goal.

But early in the third, Fiala flung a puck toward the net and got credit for his eighth goal when it banked in off Haydn Fleury's skate. Los Angeles' Swiss forward ended an eight-game goal drought.

Takeaways

Jets: The offensive powerhouse struggled mightily against Los Angeles' disciplined defensive effort, managing a season-low 14 shots. Winnipeg's early-season goal production probably wasn't sustainable, but the Jets have scored just three combined goals in their four losses over the past two weeks.

Kings: A much-needed rebound performance after their humiliating 7-2 loss to cellar-dwelling San Jose.

Key moment

Former Kings forward Rasmus Kupari was awarded a penalty shot early in the second period, but Rittich stopped it comfortably with an outstretched pad.

Key stat

Winnipeg hadn't recorded fewer than 20 shots in any game this season, but the Kings excel at limiting opponents' chances.

Up next

The Jets visit Vegas on Friday, while the Kings drive down to Anaheim on Friday morning for the post-Thanksgiving Freeway Faceoff.

Global Winnipeg

<https://globalnews.ca/news/10892238/jets-muster-just-14-shots-on-goal-in-4-1-loss-in-los-angeles/>

Jets muster just 14 shots on goal in 4-1 loss in Los Angeles

By Christian Aumell & Russ Hobson Global News

There's something about 4-1 games for the Winnipeg Jets right now.

After beating the Pittsburgh Penguins 4-1 Friday, losing to Nashville 4-1 Saturday and knocking off Minnesota 4-1 Monday, the Jets looked slow and weary in another 4-1 loss in Los Angeles Wednesday night.

The Jets were outplayed for the third straight game and now have losses in two of their last three contests.

"We didn't have enough attack," said Jets head coach Scott Arniel. "We didn't have enough continuous pressure where it was maybe one line, and the next line going out, and following that up. It just seemed like early on, it was just hit and miss.

"We started to get some rhythm. We got to play fast a little bit and we got after them a little bit in the second, but just not enough pucks getting to the blue paint. We didn't make their goaltender work."

The Jets were outshot 33-14 and only had two shots on goal the entire third period. It took them over 14 minutes to record their first shot of the period in the final frame.

"It was definitely not our best," said Jets forward Rasmus Kupari. "We were too slow there, gave up way too many chances. We got to pick it up to the next game."

Gabriel Vilardi scored the lone goal for Winnipeg on the powerplay. After their hot start, the Jets are now just 3-4 in their last seven games.

“We are the first place team,” said Jets forward Nino Niederreiter. “And everybody comes after us and we have to make sure we bring our best every single night to be successful. We sure didn’t do it tonight and that’s what it got us.”

Kupari missed on a second period penalty shot and the Jets also hit the iron twice in the stanza, but couldn’t carry the momentum over to the third.

“A few good chances, but I don’t know, we just couldn’t be at our best today and we got to find a reason, work harder, and move along,” Kupari said.

Things did not begin well for the Jets as Vladislav Namestnikov took a bad slashing penalty just 1:48 into the game and the Kings immediately made Winnipeg pay.

Los Angeles won the ensuing faceoff and just four seconds after the puck dropped, Anze Kopitar tipped an Adrian Kempe point shot past Connor Hellebuyck to make it 1-0.

The Kings continued to control play for the bulk of the first period, ending the frame with a 13-5 advantage in shots on goal but the score remained 1-0.

Winnipeg got a glorious opportunity to level the score when Kupari was slashed on a breakaway early in the second, earning him a penalty shot. Kupari tried to deke out David Rittich but he got in too deep and stuffed his attempt into Rittich’s left pad.

The Kings widened the gap at the 7:10 mark. Alex Turcotte got the puck in the corner in the Winnipeg end and hit a cutting Phillip Danault, who had eluded the check of Cole Perfetti on the boards. Danault had enough time to drive the net and get stopped by Hellebuyck but still be able to bang home the rebound before Perfetti or Nikolaj Ehlers could get to the crease.

Just over two minutes later, the Jets got on the board. Nine seconds after Tanner Jeannot went to the box for slashing, former King Gabriel Vilardi banged home a loose puck in front to make it 2-1.

The Jets had another power play look later in the period and Josh Morrissey struck iron on that chance but Winnipeg couldn’t find the back of the net.

It stayed 2-1 into the third before the Kings grabbed an insurance marker at the 5:21 mark of the third. Kevin Fiala’s shot from distance was heading wide but it glanced off the skate of Haydn Fleury in front of Hellebuyck and into the net.

The Kings tacked on one more into an empty net as Kempe scored with just under three minutes left.

Hellebuyck made 29 stops in the defeat.

The Jets continue their six-game road trip Friday in Vegas against the Golden Knights. Pregame coverage on 680 CJOB starts at 5:30 p.m. with the game action starting just after 7:30.

Winnipeg Free Press

<https://www.winnipegfreepress.com/breakingnews/2024/11/28/jets-fall-4-1-in-lacklustre-loss-to-kings>

Jets fall 4-1 in lacklustre loss to Kings

By: Mike McIntyre

LOS ANGELES — It's important to remember the 82-game NHL regular season is a marathon, not a sprint, and the result of any single game should always be taken with a massive grain of salt.

That said, the Winnipeg Jets spent 60 minutes essentially jogging on the spot Wednesday night, unable to get going on any level as the Los Angeles Kings ran roughshod over them in a 4-1 victory at Crypto.com Arena.

"We didn't have enough attack, we didn't have enough continuous pressure, where it was maybe one line and then the next line going out and following that up," Jets coach Scott Arniel told the Free Press. "We didn't make their goaltender work."

Indeed, the Jets mustered a season-low 14 shots on goal, including just two in the final period when you thought a push might be coming considering they were trailing. Former Jets backup David Rittich had a relatively easy night at the office in recording career win No. 100.

Arniel, in his first year at the helm of the Jets, was quick to point the finger of blame at himself.

"You know what, we were slow to get out again, and I'll put that on me," he said. "I've got to make sure that we push harder here."

Winnipeg falls to 18-5-0 on the season, which is still the best record in the NHL. They are 2-2 so far on this season-long six-game road trip in which every game has been decided by the same final score. Los Angeles improves to 12-8-3.

Let's break this one down further from our press box perch:

Flummoxed? Discombobulated? Bewildered? However you want to describe it, the Jets were a long way from their 'A' game that we've seen so often this season. It didn't help that the Kings were coming off an embarrassing 7-2 loss on Monday to the rebuilding San Jose Sharks and were eager to get back to their defensively stalwart ways.

"We didn't really have it all night, to be honest," said forward Nino Niederreiter. "Maybe a couple minutes each period where we feel like we played our game, but overall, we just kind of were waiting. We're hesitant. We didn't play our game. And, I mean, LA was a desperate team, and we weren't desperate enough."

You'd have expected a bit more from a Jets club that didn't like a lot about Monday's outing in Minnesota, in which Connor Hellebuyck stole the show — and arguably two points — with a stellar 43-save effort. At Wednesday's morning skate, the Jets spoke about needing to start stronger.

But a slashing penalty against Vlad Namestnikov at 1:48 of the first period ended up with an Anze Kopitar power play goal just four seconds later, courtesy of a deflected point shot that Hellebuyck had no chance on.

Phillip Danault made it 2-0 at 7:10 of the second period following some terrible puck management and zone coverage by the Jets. He was able to get an initial shot on Hellebuyck, then convert on his own rebound as Nikolaj Ehlers skated right by him.

Was it fatigue? Yes, the schedule has been difficult lately, as Winnipeg has already played in three different time zones on this trip. But Arniel gave them an unscheduled day away from the rink Tuesday to try and rest and recover.

“You can always say that it was tough traveling and all that. But at the same time, we had a good off day,” said Niederreiter. “Yesterday, we recharged our batteries, and I think it was more about us not being ready to play then not being recharged.”

A brief sign of life: It wasn't all gloom and doom for the Jets, as they actually played a decent second period. Gabe Vilardi, facing the organization which traded him as part of the Pierre-Luc Dubois deal 17 months ago, scored his ninth of the year just seconds into a Winnipeg power play to cut the deficit to 2-1 at 9:12.

The Jets had several other great chances in the frame, including a partial breakaway by Niederreiter and a clear-cut solo dash by Rasmus Kupari which resulted in a penalty shot after Kings defenceman Brandt Clarke slashed him.

Kupari couldn't beat Rittich.

“That was my first penalty shot in the NHL. Actually, I had one in a charity game this summer back in Finland, which I scored. I used the same move,” said Kupari.

Josh Morrissey and Cole Perfetti also rang shots off the post in the period as the Jets were inches away from evening it up.

But that would be all they could muster, as Los Angeles completely locked it down in the final frame and gave Winnipeg absolutely nothing. Kevin Fiala increased the lead to 3-1 at 5:21, and then Adrian Kempe scored an empty-netter at 17:04.

“Somehow today they killed our speed,” said Kupari.

“We couldn't really get our forecheck going that well, like we would like to, we didn't create too many chances today. We only scored one goal and they're a very tough team to play against. Whenever we face them next time we've got to find ways to be at our best and beat them.”

Although he's too modest to say it, Kupari was a noticeable exception. He was using his motor all night long, not only to draw the penalty shot but two other minor penalties as well.

“That's my biggest thing,” said Kupari, who was part of that Dubois trade along with Alex Iafallo. “I gotta just keep using that every single game and could get results like that, draw penalties or create some chances for myself or my teammates. I gotta keep that up.”

The Scheifele problem: Something is clearly ailing Winnipeg's top centre, who once again didn't take a single faceoff on the night and didn't register a shot on goal, either. Neither did linemate Kyle Connor, for that matter. Those two have a combined 25 goals this season, but you're not going to score if you're not even shooting.

The Jets are being tight-lipped about whatever is physically going on with Mark Scheifele, who keeps getting Vilardi to take the draws. Whether it's a shoulder or a wrist or something else, he's definitely not 100 per cent.

And when you factor in the Jets are also without shutdown defenceman Dylan Samberg due to a broken foot, it suddenly feels like they have more than just one significant hole in the lineup.

At this point, it appears Scheifele is going to continue playing through whatever this is.

Key play: Fiala's goal early in the third period put this one to bed, as the Jets were not going to overcome a two-goal deficit with the way they were skating in quicksand.

Three stars:

1. Los Angeles C Anze Kopitar: 1 goal, 1 assist ;
2. Los Angeles RW Adrian Kempe: 1 goal, 1 assist;
3. Los Angeles RW Alex Laferriere: 2 assists.

Extra, extra: The Jets went 1-for-3 on the power play, while the Kings went 1-for-2.

Winnipeg was outthit by a 32-18 margin on the night.

Hellebuyck stopped 29 of 32 shots he faced.

Jets scratches were once again defenceman Dylan Coghlan (23 straight games) and forward David Gustafsson (22 of 23 games).

Winnipeg flew to Las Vegas following the game and will practice there on Thursday morning to get ready for Friday's game against the Golden Knights.

"At the end of the day, you're the hunted team, right?" said Niederreiter.

"We're the first place team, and everyone (comes) after us, and you have to make sure we bring our best every single night to be successful. And we shouldn't. Didn't do it tonight, and that's why they got us."

The Jets then wrap up this epic journey on Sunday afternoon in Dallas.

"There's one big game coming after another. So, we got to be on our best," said Niederreiter.

<https://www.winnipegfreepress.com/breakingnews/2024/11/27/perfetti-contributing-any-way-he-can>

***Perfetti contributing any way he can
Jets forward taking care of business despite scoring slump***

By: Mike McIntyre

LOS ANGELES — We take you back to Monday morning in Minnesota and Cole Perfetti, eager to shake a nine-game scoring slump, is the first Winnipeg Jets skater to hit the ice ahead of that night's game against the Wild.

The young forward is joined a few minutes later by veteran teammate Nino Niederreiter, and the pair are taking turns firing shots towards the net.

"Especially right now, when the puck's not going in, I like to get out there and just work on a couple things shot wise," Perfetti told the Free Press on Wednesday.

"I just want to see the puck go in the net, and right now it's just about getting extra reps doing that."

Practice makes perfect, right? In principle, sure, but on this day, one of Niederreiter's pucks goes right off the crossbar and directly into the face of Perfetti, who crumples to the ice.

"Luckily it hit me in the visor. That could have been bad," Perfetti said.

That little brush with disaster perfectly sums up the current state of things for Perfetti, whose drought extended to 10 games in a 4-1 victory over Minnesota. Everything that can go wrong right now seemingly is going wrong.

Fast forward to Wednesday, when Perfetti was once again the first to take a twirl at Crypto.com Arena to get ready for a battle with the Los Angeles Kings. He was also the last to wrap his morning skate, aside from healthy scratches David Gustafsson and Dylan Coghlan, the injured Logan Stanley and backup goaltender Eric Comrie.

Perfetti would have stayed even longer but his stick snapped in half as he tried a shot — a sign it was time to hit the showers.

To be clear, you won't get any "woe is me" stuff from Perfetti, who signed a two-year, US\$6.5 million contract a few days after training camp began after the Jets balked at signing a long-term extension at this point in his career, clearly wanting to see a larger sample size before they decide the true worth of the 10th-overall pick from 2020.

In fact, Perfetti likes where parts of his game are, even if the puck doesn't really want to play along.

"It's frustrating, but if you're getting the chances, if you're doing the right things... I'd be more worried if I wasn't getting the chances and we weren't as a line and knew we were doing something wrong," said Perfetti.

He cites the fact he's hit several posts in recent games, not to mention being the victim of a robbery last Saturday night by Nashville Predators goaltender Juuse Saros.

"It's going to come eventually," said Perfetti, who skates with Vlad Namestnikov and Nikolaj Ehlers. "Once the dam breaks for me personally and for us as a line, I feel like it's really going to start to come and we'll start to see the puck go into the net, which will be great."

Of course, it helps that the Jets entered play Wednesday with an NHL-best 18-4-0 record, which means Perfetti's personal power outage hasn't impacted the team as a whole.

"You can find other ways to contribute to a win," said Perfetti, who has chipped in with four assists in the last 10 games and is now up to 15 points (4G, 11A) in 22 games to sit in a tie for seventh in team scoring.

"No, the puck's not going in the net right now, but worry about my defensive game, worry about how we are playing when we are on the ice. Are we still attacking and not giving the other team any great looks? That's what you have to do right now. Goals are going to come, and they're going to come in waves. But right now, while the luck is not on your side, do all the other little things correct and help your team win that way."

Perfetti has been down this road before, including a career-long 23 game span last year in which he failed to light the lamp and had just two assists. That led to several stints as a healthy scratch and what he admits was a crisis in confidence which ultimately proved to be a painful but necessary lesson.

"Going through it for the first time really ever last year, you learn a lot about how not to deal with it. I feel like I kind of let it eat me up," Perfetti said.

"The more it went on and on, the more I pressed and the more it didn't come and the worse I felt about it."

As a result, he's taking a much different approach this time around, one he believes is translating into solid overall play. His coach, Scott Arniel, concurs.

"His game isn't all centred around just scoring goals and sometimes when it doesn't go in, you have a tendency to get farther away from the net," said Arniel.

"He recognizes that when he gets inside more, he'll get those looks. He's had some Grade-A's. Sooner or later, they'll go in. He has other responsibilities. Hopefully he starts off and gets a crazy bounce or something or an empty-netter to go in and that just gets him going and feeling good again. But I've really liked his game. He's playing really well without the puck."

Perhaps a dose of good karma will get the hockey gods on his side. Last Friday night in Pittsburgh, at the start of this season-long, six-game road trip, Perfetti had a chance to score his fifth of the year on a breakaway bid with the Penguins having pulled Tristan Jarry for an extra attacker.

Rather than shoot, he passed to teammate Kyle Connor who had joined him on what was a 2-on-0. Connor is the team's leading scorer and certainly doesn't need help in that department, but this gesture allowed him to record his first Gordie Howe hat track, having recorded an assist and a fight against Sidney Crosby earlier in the game.

“I’d love the goal. Obviously want to see the puck go in the net myself right now,” said Perfetti. “But as soon as I got the puck, I knew I was getting it to him. That’s all I was thinking about, getting him his Gordie Howe.”

Make no mistake: A little gesture like that goes a long way when it comes to team building.

“Obviously everyone wants to score goals and that’s the main objective of the game,” said Perfetti.

“But at the same time the more you press and put pressure on yourself, it’s just going to mount up and the more you do that, the less chances you’re going to score. Because now you’re gripping your stick when you do get a chance, or you’re beating yourself up if you miss a chance. Eventually it’s going to go. I’m just waiting for the game that it comes.”

Winnipeg Sun

<https://winnipeg.sun.com/sports/hockey/nhl/winnipeg-jets/we-are-the-hunted-team-jets-cooling-off-after-sizzling-start>

'We are the hunted team': Jets cooling off after sizzling start

By Paul Friesen

For the second straight game the Winnipeg Jets came out flat, only this time their star goaltender couldn't stand on his head until they woke up.

Truth is, they never did fully wake up in Los Angeles on Wednesday, dropping a 4-1 decision to a Kings team that made the top squad in the NHL look very ordinary.

Coming off an emotional win over rival Minnesota two days earlier, the Jets got little going against L.A., managing just 14 shots on goal.

“We didn't really have it all night,” Nino Niederreiter told reporters on the scene. “We were waiting, we were hesitant. LA was a desperate team, and we weren't desperate enough.”

Trailing 2-1 early in the third period, the Jets' fate was all but sealed when the Kings' Kevin Fiala banked a pass/shot off Jets defenceman Haydn Fleury's skate and behind Connor Hellebuyck.

The Kings counted on their tight-checking the rest of the way, even holding the NHL's top-rated power play without a shot on goal during a third-period Jets man advantage.

“We were too slow,” Rasmus Kupari said. “Gave up way too many chances. Somehow they just killed our speed.”

Winnipeg's only goal came from Gabriel Vilardi on a second-period power play.

Anze Kopitar and Phillip Danault had staked the Kings to a 2-0 lead.

Adrian Kempe added a late empty-netter, as the Jets fell to 3-4 in their last seven games, after a sizzling 15-1 start.

“We are the hunted team,” Niederreiter said. “And you have to make sure we bring our best every single night to be successful. Didn’t do it tonight, and that’s why they got us.”

The Jets are still 18-5 overall, 9-4 on the road.

L.A. improves to 12-8-3, 7-2-1 at home.

Head coach Scott Arniel took the responsibility for his team’s poor starts the last two games.

“We were slow to get out again, and I’ll put that on me again,” he said, citing an inability to create any sustained pressure or zone time. “I’ve got to make sure that we push harder. Give L.A. credit, they moved us out of there. But that’s an area that we’re usually pretty strong at. We really got away from it.”

Special teams were prominent over the first 40 minutes.

The league’s 27th-ranked power play needed just four seconds to get on the board.

Jets forward Vladislav Namestnikov had barely sat down to serve his slashing penalty when Kopitar tipped a point shot past Hellebuyck less than two minutes into the game.

The Jets were out-shot 9-1 through the first half of the first period, and the shot gap ballooned to 13-2 at one point, the Kings looking far more energetic and dangerous.

The Jets got a potential injection of energy early in the second when Kupari, a former King, was slashed on a breakaway and handed a penalty shot for the first time in his career.

Kupari’s stickhandling didn’t fool former Jets backup goalie David Rittich, though, and it remained 1-zip, L.A.

The Kings went right back to work, Danault left alone in front of Hellebuyck long enough to bang his own rebound home.

A second-period power play finally got the Jets on the board, Vilardi, another former King, scoring his ninth of the year from his usual spot right on the doorstep.

Winnipeg came close to tying it before the second was up when Cole Perfetti, in a 10-game scoring drought, rang a shot off the goal post.

Minutes later Josh Morrissey found some iron on a Jets power play, but it remained a one-goal Kings lead going into the third.

Shots were 24-12 through two, 33-14 at the final horn.

Unlike Monday in Minnesota, the Jets didn’t take over the final 20.

Up next for Winnipeg, a Friday night date with the Golden Knights in Vegas. They’ll close out the trip with a Sunday matinee in Dallas.

That’ll mark their ninth road outing in 10 games.

But Niederreiter says tired legs are no excuse for what happened on Wednesday.

“You can always say that it was tough travelling and all that,” he said. “But at the same time, we had a good off day (on Tuesday). We recharged our batteries. It was more about us not being ready to play than not being recharged.”

TSN.ca

<https://www.tsn.ca/nhl/video/what-s-changed-for-the-winnipeg-jets-since-their-hot-start~3023047>

What's changed for the Winnipeg Jets since their hot start? (VIDEO)

The Winnipeg Jets started their season 15-1-0 with a +39 goal differential, but in their last seven games they are just 3-4-0 with a -5 goal differential. TSN's NHL analyst Bruce Boudreau joins SportsCentre to discuss what's changed for the Jets since their hot start, and if he believes they're still the team to beat in the West.

<https://www.tsn.ca/nhl/video/sawyer-kings-rush-defence-stood-out-in-win-over-jets-wednesday~3034945>

Sawyer: Kings' rush defence 'stood out' in win over Jets Wednesday (VIDEO)

TSN's Dan Robertson and Kevin Sawyer join SportsCentre to discuss how the Kings were able to slow the Jets Wednesday night to win 4-1, and how Gabriel Vilardi performed against his former team picking up Winnipeg's lone goal.

<https://www.tsn.ca/video/~3037068>

Domino's That's Hockey: Re-visiting the lopsided Jets and Kings mega deal (VIDEO)

Did we underestimate how good of a deal Kevin Cheveldayoff pulled off when he traded Pierre-Luc Dubois to the Kings for forwards Gabriel Vilardi, Alex Iafallo, and Rasmus Kupari back in 2023? Domino's That's Hockey revisits the mega deal.

ESPN.com

https://www.espn.com/nhl/insider/story/_/id/42603390/nhl-2024-25-grades-quarter-season-all-32-teams-players-standings-playoffs

Grades for all 32 NHL teams at the quarter mark of 2024-25

By Ryan S. Clark & Kristen Shilton

With a little more than 25% of the 2024-25 NHL season complete (by total games) -- and all but one team, the Vancouver Canucks, at or beyond the 20-game threshold -- it's time to take a snapshot of each team's progress.

There have been some positive surprises -- such as the Winnipeg Jets, Minnesota Wild and Washington Capitals -- and some not-so-positive shocks too, like the sluggish start for the

Nashville Predators, Boston Bruins and St. Louis Blues, the latter two of whom made coaching changes within the past week.

Which teams have earned A's for their play? Who is falling behind? Read on for the report cards for all 32 teams.

Winnipeg Jets

Preseason over/under: 95.5

Current points pace: 134.2

What's gone right? Practically everything under the sun. The Jets are second in the NHL in goals per game, just percentage points behind Washington. They're second in shooting percentage with 13.4 percent success rate. They're allowing the third-fewest goals per game. Their power play is scoring at a rate of 33.9% while their ability to score is so balanced that they already have 11 players with more than 10 points. They're giving Connor Hellebuyck a level of offensive production that's only made life easier for the two-time reigning Vezina Trophy winner.

What's gone wrong? Not much. But if there has to be an answer, it's their penalty kill, but even that comes with caveats. The Jets have a league-average PK that has a 77.9% success rate. While it's one of the few areas in which the Jets are not among the league leaders, it hasn't been a problem in a way that has cost them multiple losses.

Grade: A+. Right now, there are three questions facing the Jets. Is this the best team in the NHL? How long can they sustain this start? And the third and perhaps most important: Can they translate their early-season success into the postseason and advancing out of the first round? The Jets have used the past several seasons to show that they are a perennial playoff team. Showing that they are one of the teams in the West that can challenge for a Stanley Cup, however, has been the problem. Is this the year that changes?