

## **Winnipegjets.com**

<https://www.nhl.com/jets/news/three-things-ehlers-hat-trick-helps-jets-to-10th-win>

### ***Three things - Jets win wild one over Tampa Dylan Samberg scores first career GWG in 7-4 victory***

By Jamie Thomas

WINNIPEG – The Winnipeg Jets opened the four-game homestand with a 7-4 win over the Tampa Bay Lightning. Winnipeg trailed 2-0 in the first period but got goals from Vladislav Namestnikov, Logan Stanley, Mark Scheifele, Alex Iafallo, Dylan Samberg, Nikolaj Ehlers and Cole Perfetti. Kyle Connor had an assist in the third period to extend his point streak to 12 games. The Jets will play Tuesday against the Utah Hockey Club for the first time this season.

#### ***SOMETIMES CALLS DON'T GO YOUR WAY***

At the 6:49 mark of the first period, the Lightning took a 1-0 lead when Brandon Hagel fired a loose puck into the net. It appeared that Conor Geekie had pushed Connor Hellebuyck's pad, so the Jets challenged saying it was goaltender interference, but after video review, the call stood. Winnipeg was given a bench minor for delay of game and Tampa Bay took advantage; Brayden Point scored on the power play for a 2-0 Lightning lead.

The Jets responded on a beautiful seeing eye pass from Josh Morrissey to Vladislav Namestnikov who tapped the puck through Jonas Johansson to cut the Lightning lead to 2-1 before the end of the first. But the most important thing is, the Jets showed no panic when down by two.

"Very calm. And we've showed that already a few times this season. There was no panic. Obviously not the way you want to start that game in the first period. We thought that was goaltender interference and suddenly you're down one and going on the PK," said Nikolaj Ehlers.

"That's what happens. But there was no panic in our group. And that shows that we have learned a lot over the last couple of years."

#### ***EHLERS PASSES FRANS NIELSEN***

Winnipeg continued their strong play in the middle frame, Nikolaj Ehlers spotted Logan Stanley in the high slot and the Jets defenceman fired a low shot past Johansson for his first of the season. It marked the fifth goal from a Jets defenceman in the last three games. Ehlers would add an empty net goal in the third period and in the process passed Frans Nielsen to become the all-time leading scorer amongst Danish born players in the NHL.

"Obviously I'm very proud of this. There's Danish guys that I've watched growing up and Frans was obviously one of them," said Ehlers.

"He was an outstanding player in this league. Lucky enough I got to play with him at the World Championships in his last year. It's a very proud moment. Very happy."

#### ***D DOING EVERYTHING***

With Dylan Samberg (1G), Stanley (1G), Dylan DeMelo (1A) and Morrissey (2A) all recording at least a point this afternoon, Jets defencemen are up to a combined for 43 points, which leads

the league and is the most through 12 games in franchise history. Samberg's goal was his third, which marks a career best and first ever game winning goal in the NHL. Stanley also had a huge hit in the third period that led to him dropping the gloves with Zemgus Girgensons, the Lightning forward was given an instigator penalty and the Winnipeg scored on the following power play.

## **NHL.com**

<https://www.nhl.com/news/tampa-bay-lightning-winnipeg-jets-game-recap-november-3>

### ***Jets score 7, stay hot with victory against Lightning Scheifele, Ehlers, Namestnikov each gets 2 points for Winnipeg, which has won 11 of 1st 12***

By Darrin Bauming

WINNIPEG -- Mark Scheifele, Nikolaj Ehlers, Vladislav Namestnikov and Cole Perfetti each had a goal and an assist for the Winnipeg Jets in a 7-4 win against the Tampa Bay Lightning at Canada Life Centre on Sunday.

"There was no panic," Ehlers said of the Jets, who came from behind to win for the seventh time this season, which leads the NHL. "Obviously not the way you want to start that game in the first period... But there was no panic in our group. And that shows that we have learned a lot over the last couple of years."

Dylan Samberg scored the go-ahead goal early in the third period, and Alex Iafallo also scored for Winnipeg (11-1-0), which has won three straight following its only loss of the season Oct. 28 against the Toronto Maple Leafs, 6-4. Josh Morrissey had two assists, and Connor Hellebuyck made 26 saves.

"We know that if we play the right way and with our structure, we're going to get our chances," Ehlers said. "I still think there's a lot of areas we need to look at and clean up from the game tonight. But overall, I think we played a good enough game to win. And we didn't panic. We felt good; we kept on going. We kept on playing, shooting the puck, and it paid off. So that's something that we got to keep going."

Nikita Kucherov had a goal and an assist, and Brayden Point and Brandon Hagel also scored for the Lightning (7-5-0), who had won three of four (3-1-0). Jonas Johansson made 27 saves.

"It was a tight game, you know, they scored and we scored," Tampa Bay defenseman Erik Cernak said. "I feel like we had a really good start, we scored a couple of goals, everything was going our way and then unfortunately we did a couple of mistakes, and they capitalized on that on that. So, it's tough to see, and we just have to battle through and just have to be better."

Point left the game at 11:13 of the first period and did not return. Lightning coach Jon Cooper had no update.

"I mean he's just a high elite player so whenever you lose a player like that the guys got to step up," Tampa Bay forward Jake Guentzel said. "You know injuries are part of the game, so (we've) just got to move on, and next man up."

Samberg gave the Jets a 5-4 lead at 7:38 of the third period on a point shot.

"[Samberg] knows that he has a good shot," Winnipeg coach Scott Arniel said. "He knows that he has to find a way to get it to the netfront. A great screen on that one, I think that was [Scheifele] in front. But we talk to our D all of the time -- go out and create that. When we're winning races, winning battles to get to the netfront, we have to make sure that we send that puck there. And that was a great opportunity for him to do that."

Ehlers pushed it to 6-4 with an empty-net goal at 17:15, and Perfetti also scored into an empty net at 19:23 for the 7-4 final.

"I was back and forth and unfortunately they got the one on us," Cernak said. "Then we were just chasing, you know, empty net. It's like I said, we just have to be better. We have to look into it and get better in those small details."

Hagel gave the Lightning a 1-0 lead at 6:49 of the first period, finding a loose puck that slipped out of a net-front scramble. Arniel challenged for goaltender interference on the play, but the goal was upheld following video review. The Jets were then penalized for delay of game for the failed coach's challenge.

"I just felt like [Hellebuyck] never had the chance to make the next save," Arniel said. "I understand the first part, but the next part was that he didn't have a chance to make the next save. That was the beef for us."

Point scored on the ensuing power play to make it 2-0 at 8:02 with a one-timer from the slot.

Namestnikov cut it to 2-1 at 12:23, redirecting Morrissey's cross-slot pass under Johansson.

"They just have a solid team, they're just built the right way," Cooper said of the Jets. "They've got some big studs that can put the puck in the net. They've got checkers and they've bought into a system, and when they break down the goalie makes saves. You know, that's a pretty good formula to have."

Winnipeg scored twice in a span of 1:47 in the second period. Logan Stanley's wrist shot tied it 2-2 at 5:49, and Scheifele finished a give-and-go with Gabriel Vilardi on a 2-on-1 rush to give the Jets a 3-2 lead at 7:36.

Mitchell Chaffee tied it 3-3 at 8:39 on the rush, scoring with a shot from above the face-off dot.

"They get a lead, we tie it back up, down a couple, tie it back up," Arniel said. "It was just kind of a wild one that we stayed in. We always harp on staying with games, keep playing the way we know how to play and we'll get rewarded, and it was great to see some of those guys get goals who hadn't scored in a while."

lafallo put the Jets back ahead 4-3 at 4:03 of the third after Nino Niederreiter's pass from behind the net found him in the slot for a one-timer.

Kucherov then tied it 4-4 at 6:51, poke checking Namestnikov as he carried the puck in front of an unattended Winnipeg net before Hellebuyck could regain position following a clearing attempt.

“It’s nice to have everybody chip in,” Stanley said. “It takes 25 guys to win throughout the course of the season. Contributions from everyone is huge, and we’re just going to keep rolling.”

NOTES: Ehlers has 474 points in the NHL (209 goals, 265 assists) in 617 games, moving him past Frans Nielsen’s record of 473 points (167 goals, 306 assists) in 925 games for the most points among Danish-born players in NHL history. ... Jets forward Kyle Connor had an assist, giving him 19 points (nine goals, 10 assists) to extend his franchise-record season-opening point streak to 12 games. He became the second U.S.-born player in NHL history with a run of that length, following Kevin Stevens (13 games in 1992-93). Connor became the second Jets/Atlanta Thrashers player with a 12-game point streak at any time in a season, joining Patrik Laine (15 games from Feb. 16 to March 18, 2018). ... Victor Hedman factored on Point’s goal and recorded his 582nd career assist. He tied former teammate Steven Stamkos for second place on the Lightning’s all-time list behind Martin St. Louis (588).

<https://www.nhl.com/news/sydney-daniels-relishing-role-mentoring-indigenous-youth>

***Color of Hockey: Daniels relishing role mentoring Indigenous youth  
Former Jets scout, Harvard women’s player providing inspiration for ‘passion that was calling’***

By William Douglas

William Douglas has been writing The Color of Hockey blog since 2012. Douglas joined NHL.com in 2019 and writes about people of color in the sport. Today, as part of NHL.com’s celebration of Indigenous Peoples’ Heritage Month, he profiles Sydney Daniels, a former Winnipeg Jets scout who is actively working with Indigenous youth through hockey.

Sydney Daniels enjoyed working as a college scout for the Winnipeg Jets and became the second Indigenous woman named an NHL scout when the Jets hired her in September 2022.

But something kept gnawing at her.

“I had an amazing experience working for the Winnipeg Jets, I was able to learn so much from them and grow personally and professionally,” Daniels said. “I just thought the longer that I was trying to push down and push away the passion that was calling, the further away it might have gotten away from me.”

Daniels left the Jets prior to this season to follow that passion: to help improve lives within the Indigenous community, particularly its youth, through hockey.

“I took a leap, took a risk, and didn’t re-sign with them just to fully immerse myself into finding, following and, hopefully, making my dream come true,” she said.

The 29-year-old former Harvard University women’s hockey team captain and assistant coach now spends a lot of her time speaking to Indigenous groups in Canada, mentoring girls and working closely with her father, retired NHL forward Scott Daniels, in operating Daniels Hockey, which runs camps and clinics that help support Indigenous youth in Saskatchewan and other provinces in Canada.

The Jets organization said: “We’re happy for Sydney and excited to see her impact as she pursues her passion of helping Indigenous youth grow and succeed in the sport that she loves.”

In September, Daniels skated with her father, Reggie Leach and Jamie Leach, John Chabot and other Indigenous former NHL players in the second annual Every Child Matters Hockey Game in Kamloops, British Columbia.

The charity event was presented by the Orange Jersey Project to help raise awareness and encourage action for truth and reconciliation for the Indigenous children lost -- and those who survived -- at Canada's residential schools, as well as their families and communities.

"I look up and I'm on a line with John Chabot and Blair Atcheynum and I'm, like, 'How did I get here? This is pretty special,'" said Sydney Daniels, part of the Mistawasis Nehiyawak First Nation. "It was an incredible opportunity for me to meet more of Indigenous descent within the NHL, to learn from them and ask them questions about navigating this space for myself professionally.

"Getting to be linemates and just playing hockey with other Indigenous players was the most special part. Definitely a Top 10 favorite memory."

Daniels has worked with Canadian Tire Jumpstart Charities as a mentor in its "Play to Lead" program, a network of women and girls that provides an enabling environment for high-school aged athletes to reach their potential as leaders and advance gender equity and diversity in sport.

Canadian Tire Jumpstart Charities president Marco Di Buono said the organization has been impressed with Daniels' work as a "Play to Lead" mentor and work with Daniels Hockey, and is exploring ways to support her outreach efforts in the Indigenous community.

"Don't know what that looks like yet, she's still got some ideas she's fleshing out," Di Buono said, "but we want to be side by side with her on that journey. She's saving lives, not just changing them."

Daniels said she's a hockey lifer because the sport was a life saver for her family. Her late grandfather, Noel Daniels, attended the St. Michael's Residential School in Duck Lake, Saskatchewan.

It was part of a government-sponsored, church-run education system established to assimilate the country's Indigenous children, who were separated from their families. The schools, which opened in the 1880s and closed in 1996, were rife with abuse.

Becoming a skilled hockey player helped Noel Daniels and another St. Michael's student, Fred Sasakamoose, survive the harsh environment.

Sasakamoose later became the first Indigenous player with treaty status to play in the NHL when he debuted with the Chicago Blackhawks against the Boston Bruins on Nov. 20, 1953.

"I've been told that one of the priests that actually coached the hockey team looked after my grandfather, made sure he was fed and made sure he wouldn't be beaten and that was all given to him and afforded to him because he was a good hockey player," Daniels said. "My grandfather, him being grateful for the sport and recognizing that maybe this is what saved his life, paid it forward by teaching all of his kids how to play, including my father."

Scott Daniels went on to become a forward for the Hartford Whalers, Philadelphia Flyers and New Jersey Devils from 1992-99 and had 20 points (eight goals, 12 assists) in 149 NHL games and no points in one Stanley Cup Playoff game, with the Devils in 1997-98.

He passed the love of hockey on to his children.

“Ever since I was little, I always grew up wanting to be just like him, wanting to play in the NHL and fight in the NHL,” Sydney Daniels said. “But I quickly learned it wasn’t a possibility for me.”

But college hockey was. A forward for Harvard from 2013-17, Daniels was captain in her senior season and had 86 points (59 goals, 27 assists) in 126 NCAA games.

The Waltham, Massachusetts, resident also played for the United States and won a gold medal at the IIHF Under-18 Women’s World Championship in 2010-11 and a silver medal the following year.

After college, she played seven games for Boston of the National Women’s Hockey League in 2017-18 and was a Harvard women’s assistant coach from 2018-22, before the Jets hired her as a scout.

Daniels followed her friend Brigette Lacquette, a defenseman who was the first Indigenous woman to play for Canada’s women’s national team, into the NHL scouting ranks.

The Blackhawks hired Lacquette, a member of Cote First Nation in Saskatchewan, in 2021. She is also a member of the NHL Player Inclusion Coalition, established by the NHL and NHL Players’ Association in 2023 to advance equality and inclusion in hockey on and off the ice.

“She definitely helped me transitioning into the NHL Scout world,” Daniels said. “She was always there for me and being a great sound board.”

Daniels said she’s excited to see what this newest chapter in her career and life holds.

“Because of the success I’ve had in the hockey world,” she said, “I’m very lucky that it will and has opened doors for me to allow me to work directly with youth, impact them directly, allow them to see me and the things that I’ve done in hopes that it inspires a few of them.

“If I can impact just one person at one event, that would be the best thing that could happen for me.”

### **Canadian Press**

<https://www.chrisd.ca/2024/11/03/winnipeg-jets-tampa-bay-lightning-game-story-recap/>

### ***Ehler Hits Major Milestone: Jets Forward Becomes Denmark’s Top Sniper***

By Jim Bender, The Canadian Press

Nikolaj Ehlers quickly shook off the suggestion that he is now the Wayne Gretzky of Denmark.

With an insurance goal into an empty net in Winnipeg's 7-4 victory over the Tampa Bay Lightning on Sunday afternoon, the Jets forward became the highest-scoring Danish NHLer in history with 474 points.

"No, no, no no, definitely not," Ehlers protested. "I'm trying to be myself out there ... There's been a lot of really good Danish NHL players so far. I've played with most of them, so that's pretty cool for me, too. They've been idols to me. To be up there now, it's a pretty cool feeling."

Frans Nielsen, who played for both the New York Islanders and Detroit Red Wings, had held the mark since 2021.

"Obviously I'm very proud of this," Ehlers said. "There's Danish guys that I've watched growing up and Frans was obviously one of them. He was an outstanding player in this league. Lucky enough I got to play with him at the world championships in his last year. It's a very proud moment. Very happy."

Ehlers had tied the milestone when he set up Logan Stanley's goal early in the second period.

"I knew I was one point off getting to the same as him," he said. "And I forgot there after the empty-netter, I forgot for a second. And then I asked (Mark Scheifele) to go get the puck. It was pretty cool."

Ehlers had not talked to Nielsen recently.

"I've played with Frans a few times, for the national team," he said. "He's an incredible role model. Great guy. He was a great a player. So, I'm sure he's — I hope he's happy for me."

Jets coach Scott Arniel was pleased for the man they call 'Fly.'

"His career, obviously, he's a goal scorer," Arniel said. "That line (with Vladislav Namestnikov and Cole Perfetti), they got off to a slow start and they're up and running now. He's feeling pretty good about himself."

The Jets were also feeling good about the hellacious hit that Stanley laid on Luke Glendening early in the third period. Zemgus Girgensons then challenged Stanley to a fight, which the Jets defenceman won. Girgensons was then penalized for third-man-in, a major for fighting and a 10-minute misconduct. Stanley got a major penalty.

Alex Lafallo scored on the ensuing power play, giving Winnipeg a 4-3 edge. Although the Bolts tied it 4-4, that gave the Jets a psychological lift.

"That hit, I was on the ice, I felt that one too," Ehlers said. "And you know, for him to step up and then fight, it gets the whole team going — the bench going — and then we got a power play that goes in and scores a goal. That's pretty exciting for us. And obviously, it changes the momentum."

Arniel said that hit sparked the fans.

"They got into it," he said. "Obviously, our bench did as well. Stan's a big man. When he does that stuff, he's going to create more space for himself. It was a big moment and we knew what we had to do after that."

Stanley seemed to relish the hit.

“You just try to have a good gap and sometimes, those ones present themselves,” he said. “You just have to take advantage of it. It was a good hit.”

Stanley took no issue with Girgensons challenging him to a fight.

“I have a lot of respect for him,” he said. “He’s been in the league a long time and is sticking up for his teammates. I would do the same.”

**NOTES** — With his assist on Lafallo’s goal, Kyle Connor extended his franchise-record 12 games with points from the start of a season. ... With two helpers on Sunday, Josh Morrissey recorded his 13th assist in 12 games. ... The Jets have now been in first place for 14 straight days, the longest in franchise history. ... The Jets have scored a power-play goal in five straight games. ... The contest was Winnipeg’s annual Pride Game to promote inclusivity, acceptance and respect of those in the Rainbow community. Pride jerseys were auctioned off at the game to raise money for the Rainbow Resource Centre and Pride Winnipeg.

### **Sportsnet.ca**

<https://www.sportsnet.ca/nhl/article/jets-battle-back-from-head-scratching-goaltender-interference-call/>

### ***Jets battle back from head-scratching goaltender interference call***

By Jacob Stoller

WINNIPEG — The Winnipeg Jets had every reason to fold.

They were down 2-0 early in the game, thanks largely due to a head-scratcher ruling that upheld the first goal of the game. Jets coach Scott Arniel had good reason to challenge Brandon Hagel’s goal, as the replay showed that Conor Geekie pushed Connor Hellebuyck’s pad during a net-front scramble seconds before the goal. But upon review, it was determined that there was no goaltender interference.

“We’d challenge that every time,” Arniel said.

Brayden Point scored on the ensuing power play, which could’ve very well sucked the winds out of Winnipeg’s sails. But it didn’t. Good teams find a way. And the Jets did just that.

The 2-0 deficit woke the Jets up from their slow start to the game.

Right after Point’s goal, the Jets took control. Vladislav Namestnikov scored minutes later — which, given the momentum that was building, felt inevitable.

“I just liked we went back and got to work,” Arniel said. “I think we spent four, maybe five continuous shifts in their end of the rink before we scored. That’s the mentality. You can’t worry about what’s behind you. You have to move forward.”



Goals from Logan Stanley and Mark Scheifele in the second period — where the Jets outshot the Lightning 11-5 and out-chanced them 9-4 during five-on-play — put Winnipeg in the driver seat. That response, spearheaded by the missed call, was the catalyst to them defeating the Tampa Bay Lightning 7-4.

More importantly, it was another example of the Jets persevering when their backs are against the wall. There's a reason they've recorded an NHL-high seven comeback wins this year. It was similar to what we saw during the Jets first loss of the season against the Toronto Maple Leafs, where they clawed back from a 4-0 deficit. Winnipeg prides itself on never being out of the fight.

"There was no panic in our group," Nikolaj Ehlers said. "And that shows that we have learned a lot over the last couple of years."

Since former coach Rick Bowness' infamous 'no push back' press conference after their first-round exit against the Vegas Golden Knights in 2023, Winnipeg is tied for the sixth-most comeback wins in the league (25), according to MoreHockeyStats.com.

#### *WHY DID HAGEL'S GOAL STAND?*

The NHL's Situation Room said in a statement that the goal was upheld because they deemed Geekie was making a play on a loose puck when he pushed Hellebuyck's pad.

"The decision was made in accordance with Rule 69.7 which states, in part, that 'in a rebound situation, or where a goalkeeper and attacking player(s) are simultaneously attempting to play a loose puck, whether inside or outside the crease, incidental contact will be permitted, and any goal that is scored as a result thereof will be allowed,'" the league said in a press release.

#### *BIG GAME FOR BIG STAN*

Logan Stanley was an x-factor for the Jets. And frankly, it had nothing to do with his game-tying goal at the 14:11 mark of the second period. It was the bone-crushing open ice hit he delivered on Luke Glendening.

"That hit, I was on the ice, I felt that one too," Ehlers said.

Zemgus Girgensons took exception to the clean hit — drawing an instigator — and Stanley answered the bell, dropping the gloves with the seasoned veteran and earning the takedown in the process. The Jets scored on the ensuing power play.

It was the type of sequence that embodies why the Jets have been so keen on giving the 6-foot-7 defenceman plenty of leeway to figure things out.

"It really sparked the crowd. They got into it. Obviously our bench did as well," Arniel said. "Stan's a big man. When he does that stuff, he's going to create more space for himself. It was a big moment and we knew what we had to do after that."

Stanley, 26, has recorded one goal and three points in eight games after missing the team's first four games with a knee injury. Considering we haven't seen Haydn Fleury rotate in on the bottom pairing, it's safe to say the 2016 first-round pick has firmly cemented himself as a regular on Winnipeg's blue-line.

"The big thing is to be a bully," Arniel said of his expectations of Stanley. "Get after the skill. Get after their players. Make them retaliate, whether it's that penalty, or to get slashed or punched or

something. In that case there, we draw 17 minutes. He just has to play that game where he intimidates the opposition and people don't want to go near his side of the ice."

#### *OTHER THOUGHTS*

- With two points on the night, Ehlers became the highest scoring Danish skater of all-time (474) — passing Frans Nielsen.

"There's Danish guys that I've watched growing up and Frans was obviously one of them," Ehlers said. "He was an outstanding player in this league. Lucky enough I got to play with him at the World Championships in his last year. It's a very proud moment. Very happy."

- Dylan Samberg scored his third goal of the year. Before this season, he had three career goals through 156 games.

"The big thing about it, I think I've mentioned it a few times, is that he's playing with our top six a lot more than he was prior to because he had to go head-to-head with the bottom six," Arniel said. "He knows that he has a good shot. He knows that he has to find a way to get it to the net front. A great screen on that one, I think that was Scheif in front. But we talk to our D all of the time. Go out and create that. When we're winning races, winning battles to get to the net front, we have to make sure that we send that puck there and that was a great opportunity for him to do that."

So far this year, Samberg has recorded 2.79 even strength scoring chances per 60 minutes during five-on-five play — a huge uptick from last season (1.95).

- Kyle Connor left the game in the third period after being hit from behind by Nikita Kucherov. Arniel said he was fine — the concussion spotters pulled him — and Jets fans can breathe a sigh of relief.

"I'm not a fan of that one," Stanley said. "[Connor's] got his back turned and [Kucherov] kind of takes a run at him from behind. I'm glad [Connor's] alright."

#### **TSN.ca**

<https://www.tsn.ca/nhl/video/samberg-on-jets-win-this-was-a-fun-game-and-a-good-one-to-kick-off-this-homestand%7E3023332>

#### ***Samberg on Jets' win: 'This was a fun game and a good one to kick off this homestand'***

Dylan Samberg joins Sara Orlesky to discuss Winnipeg's win over the Lightning, which moves the Jets to 11-1 on the season, and what's been working well for him this season after his career-best third goal of the year stood as the winner.

## **The Athletic**

<https://www.nytimes.com/athletic/5886092/2024/11/04/nhl-2024-2025-regular-season-trends-analysis/>

### ***One month into the NHL season, what's real and what's not?***

By James Mirtle

Today marks exactly one month since the NHL season started in Prague with games between the New Jersey Devils and Buffalo Sabres.

Since then, the league's 32 teams have played 189 games, or 14.4 percent of a full season, and there have been some pretty wacky things happening.

As ancient philosopher George Costanza once said, "Up was down. Black was white. Day was..." Well, you get the idea.

But hockey's a funny sport, and this can be a weird league. Fringe players can go on unbelievable scoring runs. Weak teams can pile up wins over a short period, and powerhouses can look like minnows over a stretch of a month or two.

So to try and make sense of some of the unusual things that have happened so far, I'm going to break down some of the biggest outliers and weigh in on whether there's sustaining power to these trends. Let's dig in.

***Let's start with the three teams at the top. The Winnipeg Jets finished with the fourth-best record in the NHL last season with 110 points and didn't dramatically change their roster. They have perhaps the best goaltender in the world in Connor Hellebuyck and a lot of offensive firepower, so while they're on an 11-1-0 heater and a 150-point pace, I feel pretty comfortable saying they're for real.***

But what about the two surprise teams leading the way in this chart?

*Are the Wild and Capitals great now?*

Let's start with Minnesota. The Wild have the second-best record in the NHL for many reasons, with strong play from goaltender Filip Gustavsson right up there.

Minnesota finished 24th in team save percentage a year ago with .893; through 11 games, it's way up to third (.914).

That jump alone would have been enough to improve the Wild's goals against last season by more than 35, which quite likely would have made them a playoff team. Having Gustavsson healthy and playing a larger share of the games should help compared to a year ago.

But it's not just improved goaltending that has allowed Minnesota to climb from 20th to tied for third in goals against. After Sunday's big win over the Toronto Maple Leafs, the Wild are ranked second in expected goals against, meaning the quality of scoring chances they've allowed is better than almost every other team so far.

All of that points to the Wild being able to maintain their spot as one of the stingiest teams in the league.

Where we see some unsustainability creeping in is in their offensive game. The Wild have jumped from 21st in goals per game to eighth this season, driven in part by an incredible start from Kirill Kaprizov (21 points in 11 games after a rare quiet night against Toronto).

Overall, Minnesota isn't generating a much higher level of scoring chances compared to a year ago. But its shooting percentage is more than 13 percent, one of the top marks in the league and definitely not something that is sustainable over an 82-game season.

That said, there are a lot of positive indicators for the Wild, who are tracking to be one of the biggest positive success stories leaguewide if they continue to get better goaltending and a Hart-level performance from Kaprizov. Even if they fall back to the pack a bit in goal production, they're such a strong defensive team — thanks in part to what looks like another step forward for Brock Faber, who sits fifth in the NHL in ice time at 25:28 a night — that it won't sink their season.

As for the Capitals, they're off to a similarly terrific start after taking a lot of criticism last year for sneaking into the playoffs with some ugly underlying numbers.

What's different about Washington? The Capitals have greatly improved their analytical profile thanks to some smart offseason additions (Jakob Chychrun and Pierre-Luc Dubois) and unexpected performances from prospects already in their system (Connor McMichael and Aliaksei Protas). Washington, for example, is third in the NHL in expected goals share at even strength right now, behind only the Carolina Hurricanes (who they narrowly lost to on Sunday) and New York Rangers.

They were 24th in that metric a year ago, which means they've made a league-best jump in their ability to control play and outchance their opponents.

Like the Wild, the Capitals' shooting percentage is unsustainable, but even if it comes down, they have plenty of room to fall back from 4.18 goals per game and still remain a top-10 offensive team in the league.

Goaltender Charlie Lindgren, meanwhile, has started slower than a year ago, and big free-agent defenseman signing Matt Roy has played just one game due to injury. So there's still room for improvement from that perspective.

So, we're obviously very early in the season, but based on what we've seen, the Wild and Capitals appear largely for real, and two of the biggest surprises overall. And coaches John Hynes and Spencer Carbery have their names on the Jack Adams candidates list already.

Honorable mentions: Anaheim, Calgary and Columbus

*Are the Bruins, Avs and Preds bad now?*

Let's go through these one by one ...

Boston: The Bruins needed their big weekend. Two games, two wins and two shutouts will help. Before beating the Philadelphia Flyers and Seattle Kraken, the Bruins certainly appeared to be in big trouble.

Even with the wins, it's not pretty. Long one of the NHL's analytic darlings, they currently sit 20th in expected goals share, 23rd in puck possession and 20th in shot share in all situations.

They haven't been scoring. They weren't getting great goaltending until the shutouts this weekend. Both of their special teams are bad (24th and 17th). And perhaps most troublingly, big offseason addition Elias Lindholm has really struggled with a 44 percent expected goals share and 50-point scoring pace for his seven-year, \$7.75-million-a-season UFA contract.

They've looked like David Pastrňák and a bunch of guys on too many nights right now.

Maybe this weekend is a sign. Maybe Jeremy Swayman can turn things around and carry them to a respectable record the rest of the way, but the early returns have been awful. And it'll take more than two wins over mediocre opponents to shake that feeling.

Jeremy Swayman and the Bruins have struggled in the first month of the season. (James Guillory / Imagn Images)

Colorado: The Avs' issues with injuries have been well-publicized. At one point last week, they were missing six of their top 10 forwards and had to resort to playing rookies Ivan Ivan and Nikolai Kovalenko in the top six and on the power play.

The good news is they still have Nathan MacKinnon and Cale Makar, and they're carrying a roster that is missing more than \$30 million in talent some nights.

Their biggest problem right now (beyond the infirmary) is that No. 1 netminder Alexandar Georgiev is basically unplayable with an .820 save percentage and the league's worst goals saved above expectations mark.

Once they get healthy — with some big names like Valeri Nichushkin, Artturi Lehkonen and Jonathan Drouin all getting close — they should be OK. So don't write them off yet.

Nashville: The Predators' big, splashy offseason has not worked out very well so far.

But you can make a decent case they have just been incredibly unlucky. They're dead last in five-on-five shooting percentage (4.6 percent) and PDO, which aren't going to be that low for much longer.

If there's a concern for the Predators, it's that even if they do regress to where they should be, they look like a very average team that will be on the playoff bubble even in a better-case scenario. They are top-heavy, don't have a lot of depth, and invested a lot in aging scorers (Jonathan Marchessault and Steven Stamkos) from whom they might be asking for too much as they decline.

And considering what they're paying Juuse Saros, they need him to be a lot more than what he's given them of late.

Honorable mentions: Edmonton (although after Sunday's win, they've now won four of five!)

Those are some of the key team trends to watch.

Let's drill down one level further to some of the surprising players having unusual starts and see if they have sustaining power.

### ***Skaters off to amazing starts***

***Neal Pionk, Winnipeg: We're going to go out on a limb and predict that Pionk is not going to finish the season with 89 points. Pionk, 29, is in his eighth season and has never really gotten a ton of attention leaguewide; he's always kind of been just a dependable No. 3 defenseman in a small market. He has 13 points through 12 games, but his career average is closer to 35 a season. The Jets have a ridiculous 19 percent shooting percentage when he's been on the ice, but, hey, ride the hockey gods' lightning while you can.***

Mark Stone, Vegas: What a welcome name to see atop the NHL scoring leaders early on this year. Stone, 32, has battled a pile of injuries for years. In fact, he hasn't played more than 56 games in a season since way back in 2019-20. There were a lot of concerns about how Vegas was going to produce offensively after losing Marchessault and Chandler Stephenson in free agency, but Stone has more than picked up the slack, piling up 20 points through 12 games to help the Golden Knights climb to second in the NHL in goals per game early on. He's not going to pile up more than an assist per game, obviously, but his shooting percentage is close to normal-ish, and, if healthy, it's certainly plausible he can put up big numbers alongside Jack Eichel.

Alex Laferriere, Los Angeles: Eight goals in 12 games is a nice little heater for the 23-year-old in his second season. His shooting percentage is nearly 30 percent, but Laferriere is also getting bigger minutes, is on PP1, and is playing with better players than he was a year ago. He had big goal totals with Harvard two years ago in college, so there's talent there, and he could surprise by hitting the 25-goal mark. Not bad for a third-round pick.

Honorable mentions: Connor McMichael, Casey Mittelstadt, Pavel Dorofeyev, Yegor Chinakhov

### ***Goalies off to amazing starts***

Lukáš Dostál, Anaheim: The 24-year-old Czech has had potential building for a bit now. That he's leading the NHL in goals saved above expected, however, is a surprise, especially behind the Ducks' makeshift defense. Dostál absolutely dominated the Finnish league as a youngster and falls in a long line of very good goalies picked by Anaheim over the years. Whether this season is his breakout or not is tough to predict but don't be surprised by an upward trajectory, given his skill set and pedigree. With John Gibson hurt, this has been his time to shine.

Kevin Lankinen, Vancouver: Where would the Canucks be without him right now? Lankinen landed in Vancouver late and on a bargain-basement \$875,000 contract, but he's been excellent with a 5-0-2 record and .919 save percentage. The undrafted Finn has shown flashes in a backup role in Nashville before, and it certainly helps that the Canucks are playing some nice defensive hockey in front of him (sixth in the NHL in expected goals against at even strength). Obviously they're looking forward to getting Thatcher Demko back at some point, but Lankinen just might be one of this season's breakout players in goal — and one of the NHL's top bargains in doing so.

Honorable mentions: Joel Blomqvist, Dan Vladar

### ***Skaters off to tough starts***

Zach Hyman, Edmonton: From a 54-goal season last year to ... just two points in his first 11 games? Two points — and the winning goal — on Sunday were nice, but no star has slumped more so far than Hyman, who just isn't getting as many chances at the net as he did a year ago. He obviously wasn't going to shoot 3 percent for the whole season, but the more troubling thing is he's producing close to one fewer shot per game, in part because he's missing the net more and has had a lot more opportunities blocked. It's possible he falls back into the 30-goal range at this point, especially with Connor McDavid missing time.

Elias Pettersson, Vancouver: One goal and only four points in 10 games for the \$11.6 million man is tough. Tougher is some of the highlight packs that have been circulating on social media showing his mistakes and brain farts blown up in a bigger way. The Canucks' shooting percentage with Pettersson on the ice is way down, so perhaps there's some bad luck at play here, but his shot rate is down almost 50 percent, his scoring chance numbers are some of the lowest of his career, and giveaways have skyrocketed. The most concerning thing about Pettersson's funk is it's a continuation of what happened in the second half of last year and into the playoffs, when he produced just 23 points over his final 40 games. There's real reason for concern here.

Steven Stamkos, Nashville: Unlike the two stars above, Stamkos is getting his usual looks at the net and putting three pucks on goal a game, right in line with his recent averages. But he has been a 17 percent shooter for 15 years, and right now, he's converting at just 6 percent. (And Nashville collectively is shooting only 1 percent with him on the ice at five-on-five, which isn't going to continue.) Stamkos actually has the highest individual expected goals per minute of his career right now, so he should start finding the back of the net more regularly soon.

Honorable mentions: Charlie McAvoy, Ryan Nugent-Hopkins, Quinton Byfield, Devon Toews

#### *Goalies off to tough starts*

Jeremy Swayman, Boston: I already mentioned him above, but I think it's worth a bit more context. Missing training camp and preseason is no joke, especially for a goalie; it can really set players back, and that appears to be the case for Swayman. He didn't ink his eight-year, \$8.25-million-a-season deal until Oct. 6, two days before the regular season, and his numbers are basically down across the board, including an ugly .884 save percentage before Sunday's shutout. Swayman was one of the most reliable goalies in the NHL his first three seasons in a tandem role, so this was probably a blip, but the Bruins are hemorrhaging chances against and he doesn't have a reliable partner in the crease to work with for the first time. We'll see if this weekend is something they can build on.

Stuart Skinner, Edmonton: Is it the short offseason, maybe? Skinner was phenomenal in the Oilers' run to the Stanley Cup Final last spring, but between the regular season and playoffs, he logged a grueling 82 appearances in only his second season as an NHL starter. Skinner's goals saved above expected numbers aren't far below league average this season, so this isn't all on him as the Oilers' makeshift blue line is definitely more porous than it was a year ago (they've fallen from eighth down to 19th in expected goals against at even strength so far). It may make sense to go with more of a tandem usage here for a bit until both goalies find their way a bit more. We'll see how Calvin Pickard fares against the New Jersey Devils on Monday.

Honorable mentions: Alexandar Georgiev, Juuse Saros, Adin Hill, Connor Ingram

## **Winnipeg Free Press**

<https://www.winnipegfreepress.com/breakingnews/2024/11/03/high-flying-jets-fill-the-net-again>

### ***High-flying Jets fill the net again Overpower Lightning 7-4 to earn 11th victory***

By: Ken Wiebe

Nikolaj Ehlers knew he was within striking distance.

The Winnipeg Jets forward had countryman Frans Nielsen squarely in his sights, but after firing a puck into the empty net to put this game on ice to give him two points in the game and 474 in his career, Ehlers stood alone with the most points recorded by an NHL player born in Denmark.

“Obviously I’m very proud of this,” said Ehlers, whose team opened a four-game homestand on Sunday at Canada Life Centre with a 7-4 victory over the Tampa Bay Lightning. “There’s Danish guys that I’ve watched growing up and Frans was obviously one of them. He was an outstanding player in this league. Lucky enough, I got to play with him at the world championships in his last year.

“He’s an incredible role model. Great guy. He was a great player. I hope he’s happy for me.”

Mark Scheifele scooped up the milestone puck for Ehlers after setting up the empty-net goal with 2:45 to go in the third period.

Ehlers figures to create a bit more separation on Nielsen and Pittsburgh Penguins forward Lars Eller (409 points) as his career continues.

“I’m trying to be myself out there. Like I said, there’s been a lot of really good Danish NHL players so far,” said Ehlers. “I’ve played with most of them, so that’s pretty cool for me, too. They’ve been idols to me. To be up there now it’s a pretty cool feeling.”

The Jets, who improved to 11-1 on the NHL season, are back in action on Tuesday against Utah HC.

Ehlers is up to eight goals and 17 points on the season and he continues to be one of the most productive players on a Jets team that has now scored at least six goals on six different occasions.

Let’s take a closer look at what transpired:

***PICTURE PERFECT*** – Scheifele and Gabe Vilardi provided an example of textbook execution during a two-on-rush during the second period.

Scheifele froze the Lightning defender and got the puck over to Vilardi, who returned the favour to leave his linemate with an open net to fire into.

The goal was Scheifele’s seventh of the season.



Connor extended his point streak to 12 games on Sunday, chipping in an assist during the third period marker by Samberg that proved to be the game-winner.

Samberg has already reached a career-high for goals in just the 12th game of the season (he had three total in 156 games coming into the campaign).

*ON THE BOARD* – Jets defenceman Logan Stanley took a nifty pass in the slot from Nikolaj Ehlers and ripped home a shot through traffic as Vladislav Namestnikov provided a jumping screen at 5:49 of the second period.

It was the first goal of the season for Stanley, who has suited up in eight consecutive games after missing the first four contests of the season with a knee injury.

Stanley also delivered a heavy check in the neutral zone on Lightning forward Luke Glendening.

“It really sparked the crowd. They got into it,” said Arniel. “Obviously our bench did as well. Stan’s a big man. When he does that stuff, he’s going to create more space for himself. It was a big moment and we knew what we had to do after that.”

Zemgus Girgensons responded by dropping the gloves with Stanley and was promptly (and correctly) given an additional minor penalty for instigating the fight and a customary 10-minute misconduct.

“Right, that’s kind of how it’s going,” said Stanley, asked if he thought he would have to fight despite it being a clean hit. “Girgensons there, I have a lot of respect for him. He’s been in the league a long time and is sticking up for his teammates. I would do the same.”

The Jets got a power play goal with 20 seconds left in the minor to take a 4-3 lead when Alex Lafallo scored his first of the season after a nice set-up from Nino Niederreiter.

“That hit, I was on the ice (for it), I felt that one too,” said Ehlers. “For him to step up and then fight, it gets the whole team going — the bench going — and then we got a power play that goes (out) and scores a goal. That’s pretty exciting for us. And obviously, it changes the momentum.”

*THE HIT II* – Connor was pulled from the game by the concussion spotter with just over five minutes to go in the third period after he took a high hit from behind from Lightning forward Nikita Kucherov.

Arniel said Connor was fine, though he didn’t like the fact the hit was delivered while the Jets’ winger was engaged with another Lightning player.

“I’m not a fan of that one. KC’s got his back turned and he kind of takes a run at him from behind,” said Stanley. “I’m glad KC’s all right.”

*CHALLENGE NOT ACCEPTED* – The Lightning crashed the crease to make it 1-0 at 6:49 of the first period, but Arniel used a coach’s challenge for goalie interference, arguing that Jets goalie Connor Hellebuyck wasn’t able to reset because of contact from Tampa Bay forward Conor Geekie.

Not only did Geekie end up in the lap of Hellebuyck at the end of the play, but the Strathclair product and former Winnipeg Ice forward also pushed the right pad of the Jets' netminder to start the sequence.

One could make the argument that Jets defenceman Josh Morrissey pushed Geekie into Hellebuyck near the end of the play, but it's strange that the goal wasn't overturned for the initial foray.

"Yeah, we were (surprised). And we'd call that all day. We'd challenge that every time. They made the decision. We have to live with it," said Arniel, who was treading lightly when it came to criticism of officials even as he was asked a follow-up question later in the availability. "I can't really comment on that. I mean, I think we all saw what we saw. I just felt like Helly never had the chance to make the next save. I understand the first part, but the next part was that he didn't have a chance to make the next save. That was the beef for us."

*AFTER BURNER* – Key play: Samberg wired home a shot from the left point 47 seconds after Kucherov tied the game, sending the Jets to their 11th win in 12 outings.

Three stars

Nikolaj Ehlers – 1G, 2P

Dylan Samberg – 1G, 1P

Nikita Kucherov – 1G, 2P

*EXTRA, EXTRA* — Vladislav Namestnikov and Cole Perfetti also scored for the Jets, while Hellebuyck finished with 26 saves and improved to 8-1 on the season. The Lightning had given Andrei Vasilevskiy 10 of the first 11 starts of the campaign but had backup Jonas Johansson between the pipes on Sunday and he finished with 27 saves.

The healthy scratches for the Jets were forward David Gustafsson and defencemen Haydn Fleury and Dylan Coghlan. Defenceman Ville Heinola (ankle) and forward Jaret Anderson-Dolan (foot) have been on the ice in recent days as they continue to work their way back from injury.

The Lightning were without Brayden Point for the bulk of the game as the top-line centre appeared to suffer a groin injury at some point in the first period after he scored a power-play marker that made it 2-0.

<https://www.winnipegfreepress.com/sports/2024/11/04/jets-prospects-check-he-piling-up-points-in-ohl>

### ***Jets prospects check: He piling up points in OHL***

By: Mike McIntyre

There's no time like the present for the Winnipeg Jets, who keep racking up the goals and wins and points as they have soared to the top of the NHL standings with an unprecedented start to the 2024-25 season.

But the future seems fairly bright as well.

The organization currently has 24 prospects playing in various leagues and levels who could one day work their way up to the big club. A dozen of them are currently with the Manitoba

Moose, while the other 12 are scattered around the Canadian Hockey League, college and European clubs.

To help you keep tabs, we'll check in on the kids the first Monday of every month over the course of the campaign.

Let's begin with Kevin He, who is starting to look like a steal.

Selected last summer in the fourth round (109th-overall), the product of Beijing turned plenty of heads with an impressive first training camp with the Jets. And He has carried that momentum back to junior, where he's currently lighting it up with the Niagara Ice Dogs on the OHL.

Take his latest effort on Sunday as an example. He scored the game-winner just 53 seconds into overtime to give his club a 4-3 victory over the Sudbury Wolves. He also had an assist and was named the first star.

The 19-year-old is now up to 23 points (12G, 11A) in 15 games to put him near the top of the league's scoring lead. The Jets are thrilled with his development, and He could turn out to be one of those later-round gems that every organization hopes to find.

He has a motor that never quits, a terrific work ethic and an inspiring story, becoming the highest China-born player ever drafted. There's also some clear leadership abilities, too, since He was recently named captain of his team.

Elsewhere in the non-professional ranks:

*OHL:*

–*F Kieron Walton* (6th round, 2024): He's off to the best start of his young career, with 19 points (6G, 13A) in 15 games with Sudbury. At 6'6 and 216 pounds, he's been using his huge frame effectively.

–*F Colby Barlow* (1st round, 2023): A slow start with just six points (4G, 2A) through 12 games with the Oshawa Generals. Sure, he's been a bit snakebitten, but you'd expect much more from a first-round pick who many had pegged as a lock for Canada's World Junior squad. That's no longer such a sure thing, and Barlow is going to have to pick up the pace. He didn't have a great camp with the Jets, either.

–*F Jacob Julien* (5th round, 2023): Julien had arguably the best development of any prospects last year, jumping from 16 points to 78 with the London Knights. Was that just a blip? He's got just eight points (2G, 6A) in 13 games with London this year. Not bad, but some early regression, it seems.

*WHL:*

–*F Markus Loponen* (5th round, 2024): A nice debut so far for the 18-year-old Finnish product, who is getting his first taste of North American hockey. Loponen has eight points (4G, 4A) through 12 games with the Victoria Royals.

–*F Brayden Yager* (1st round, 2023): He's the only one in this piece that wasn't drafted by the Jets, but we're including him because he was swapped for Rutger McGroarty. While McGroarty is now struggling in the American Hockey League (one assist in six games with Wilkes-Barre), the 19-year-old Yager is once again leading the way with the reigning WHL champion Moose

Jaw Warriors with 17 points (8G, 9A) in 13 games. Look for him to be the No. 1 centre with Canada at the World Juniors.

–*F Connor Levis* (7th round, 2023): The odds are stacked against any player taken this late, but Levis continues to show plenty of promise. The 20-year-old right-winger has 14 points (7G, 7A) in 13 games this year with the Vancouver Giants. He had 55 points in 65 points last year, so he's on pace to surpass that.

#### *COLLEGE:*

–*D Zach Nehring* (3rd round, 2023): He's jumped from the USHL (14 points in 44 games last year) to college and has made a seamless transition. With five points (3G, 2A) in his first four games at Western Michigan University, the 19-year-old from Minot, N.D. was just named the rookie-of-the-month for the National Collegiate Hockey Conference.

#### *EUROPE:*

–*D Alfons Freij* (2nd round, 2024): There's a lot to like about this smooth-skating Swede, and he's off to a nice start in the top men's league over there with four points (1G, 3A) in 13 games. The 18-year-old had spent the last three years in the Swedish junior league.

–*D Garrett Brown* (4th round, 2022): Brown is finally healthy after suffering a torn ACL last year after just eight games with the University of Denver. He's been held without a point through seven games this year.

–*F Fabian Wagner* (6th round, 2022): Nothing much to report here. Fifteen games for Linkopings HC in the top Swedish men's league and zero points so far. The 20-year-old forward had just six points (1G, 5A) in 41 games last year.

–*F Dmitry Rashevsky* (5th round, 2021): It remains to be seen whether this intriguing player will ever be lured away from the KHL, but the Jets certainly hope that could be the case. He has six points (3G, 3A) in 21 games with Moscow Dynamo so far this year after putting up 43 points (24G, 19A) in 67 contests last season,

#### *MANITOBA MOOSE:*

It's been a rough first few weeks for the American Hockey League team, which is just 3-5-0 so far.

–*G Thomas Milic* (5th round, 2023): Milic was arguably the MVP of the Moose last year as a rookie, but it's been a tough start so far. He is 1-3-0 with a 3.60 GAA and .857 SV%.

–*F Brad Lambert* (1st round, 2022): No doubt disappointed he couldn't crack the big club out of camp, it's been a quiet showing so far with six points (1G, 5A) in 8 games after putting up 55 points (21G, 34A) in 64 games as a rookie last year.

–*D Elias Salomonsson* (2nd round, 2022): Winnipeg's top blue-line prospect has not disappointed as he plays his first year in North America, with five points (1G, 4A) through seven games and some steady two-way play.

–*F Danny Zhilkin* (3rd round, 2022): He was never a big scorer even in junior, so not a surprise to see him with just one assist through seven games.

–*G Dom DiVincentiis* (7th round, 2022): Easily the surprise of the year so far for the Moose. The rookie was expected to begin his pro career in the ECHL but remained with the Moose after the Jets lost Kaapo Kahkonen on waivers out of camp. He is 2-2-0 in four starts with a sparkling 1.78 GAA and .941 SV%.

–*F Nikita Chibrikov* (2nd round, 2021): No sophomore slump for the promising young Russian, who has seven points (3G, 4A) in eight games to lead the Moose in scoring.

–*F Chaz Lucius* (1st round, 2021): The Jets are being careful with him, sitting him out occasionally as a form of load management following numerous injuries that have sidelined him in the past. Lucius has played in just three games so far, with two assists. Look for his workload and production to eventually pick up.

–*D Dmitry Kuzmin* (3rd round, 2021): He spent some time in the ECHL last year after struggling at the AHL level and has appeared in six games with the Moose this year, failing to record a point so far.

–*F Daniel Torgersson* (2nd round, 2020): The 22-year-old from Sweden just hasn't been able to put it together. He had a disappointing 2023-24 season with the Moose (1G, 8A in 52 games) and has no points to show for five games this year. He was a healthy scratch for the other three games.

–*D Tyrel Bauer* (6th round, 2020): As tough as they come, Bauer has appeared in just three games so far this year and has one fight but no points.

–*D Simon Lundmark* (2nd round, 2019): One of the real surprises of Jets training camp, and one of the final cuts, the 24-year-old is a key piece of the blue-line for the Moose. He has two points (1G, 1A) in eight games so far.

–*F Henri Nikkanen* (4th round, 2019): Now 23, Nikkanen is once again struggling to produce much at the pro level with three points (1G, 2A) in eight games.

## **Winnipeg Sun**

<https://winnipeg.sun.com/sports/jets-ehlers-makes-danish-history-as-jets-thump-lightning>

### ***Nikolaj Ehlers makes Danish history as Jets thump Lightning***

By Scott Billeck

Just call him the King of Denmark.

Or maybe not.

“Oh, I would not call myself that,” Ehlers said.

Sure. But it's tough to argue against it.

Ehlers became the highest-scoring Danish-born player in NHL history on Sunday, tying Frans Nielsen on 473 points with an assist in the second period before taking sole possession of the crown on an empty-netter in Winnipeg's 7-4 win over the visiting Tampa Bay Lightning.

Ehlers' two points pushed his season total to 17 in 12 games and eclipsed Nielsen's mark in 308 fewer games in front of 12,912 at Canada Life Centre.

"I'm very proud of this," Ehlers said. "There's Danish guys that I've watched growing up and Frans was obviously one of them. He was an outstanding player in this league. Lucky enough I got to play with him at the World Championships in his last year. It's a very proud moment. Very happy."

Dylan Samberg scored the game-winner at 7:38 of the third period, setting a career-high with his third goal of the season to push Winnipeg's impressive start to 11-1-0.

"The big thing about it, I think I've mentioned it a few times, that he's playing with our top six a lot more than he was prior to because he had to go head-to-head with the bottom six," head coach Scott Arniel said. "He knows that he has a good shot. He knows that he has to find a way to get it to the net front."

Samberg had just three goals to his name through 156 games coming into this season.

Meanwhile, Kyle Connor's point streak to start the season increased to 12 games, with his pass setting up Samberg's winner.

The concussion spotter pulled Connor from the game in the third period after a high hit from Nikita Kucherov.

Arniel allayed any fears that his top scorer was hurt.

"He's fine," Arniel said. "He was high-fiving everybody there at the end."

Arniel also praised Connor for his backcheck on a shorthanded early-third breakaway by Brandon Hagel with the Jets nursing a 5-4 lead.

"Helle made a big stop, but KC came the distance and we got ourselves back," Arniel said. "Those are the second-effort things we talk about that make a difference in a game."

Winnipeg scored four times in the third after coming into the frame tied 3-3.

The Jets have scored a league-high 59 goals this season and have a league-best plus-29 goal differential.

Alex Iafallo put Winnipeg ahead 4-3 with the team's 15th power-play goal of the season — tops in the NHL — before Kucherov caught the Jets napping on a cheeky poke check in front.

After Samberg's goal and Ehlers' empty-netter, Cole Perfetti drove the final nail in the coffin, sliding his fourth into the open cage with 37 seconds left in regulation.

The game got off to a controversial start, with Brandon Hagel's opener for the Lightning surviving a goaltender interference challenge from Jets head coach Scott Arniel.

Strathclair's Conor Geekie appeared to pitchfork Hellebuyck's pad before ending up on top of Winnipeg's No. 1 as the puck popped back out to the slot for Hagel to bury.

Replays made a good case for Winnipeg's challenge, but the goal stood.

In its explanation, the league cited Rule 69.7, which states that a goal should be allowed "in a rebound situation, or where a goalkeeper and attacking player(s) are simultaneously attempting to play a loose puck, whether inside or outside the crease. Incidental contact will be permitted, and any goal that is scored as a result thereof will be allowed."

Making things worse, Brayden Point scored on the ensuing power play for Tampa to make it 2-0 after the Jets were dinged for delay of game for losing the challenge.

"We'd challenge that every time," Arniel said. "They made the decision. We have to live with it. We had to kill the penalty. We didn't and we're down 2-0. I just like the way the guys stayed in it and found a way to get ourselves back in the game."

Winnipeg pulled the game to 2-1 through Namestnikov, who redirected a slick feed from Josh Morrissey.

"I just liked we went back and got to work," Arniel said. "I think we spent four, maybe five continuous shifts in their end of the rink before we scored. That's the mentality. You can't worry about what's behind you. You have to move forward. We put that 2-0 behind us and got after them."

Logan Stanley scored his first of the season, assisted by Ehlers, to make it 2-2 at the 5:49 mark of the second period.

"I thought there was a little bit of open ice there, and I'm glad it went in," Stanley said.

Winnipeg led 3-2 at 7:36, with Mark Scheifele's seventh coming on a tic-tac-toe with Gabriel Vilardi.

Winnipeg dominated the middle frame, but Mitchell Chaffee took a mile when given an inch, scoring on Tampa's first shot of the period at 8:39 to level the game 3-3.

Stanley's impactful night continued when he crushed Luke Glendening with a clean, open-ice hit, drawing an instigator penalty from Zemgus Girgensons.

"You just try to have a good gap and sometimes those ones present themselves," Stanley said. "You just have to take advantage of it. It was a good hit."

"Girgensons there, I have a lot of respect for him. He's been in the league a long time and is sticking up for his teammates. I would do the same."

Added Arniel: "When he does that stuff, he's going to create more space for himself. It was a big moment and we knew what we had to do after that."

Winnipeg's four-game homestand continues on Tuesday when division rival Utah makes its first trip to Winnipeg during its inaugural season.