



COLORADO AVALANCHE POSTGAME NOTES

COLORADO AVALANCHE 5, WINNIPEG JETS 2 TUESDAY, DECEMBER 31, 2024 | BALL ARENA

TEAM STATS

Avalanche

Shots: 38

Power Play: 0-1

Penalty Kill: 0-0

Faceoffs: 51%

Jets

Shots: 22

Power Play: 0-0

Penalty Kill: 1-1

Faceoffs: 49%

THREE STARS

First Star

Casey Mittelstadt
1 point (1g/0a)

Second Star

Josh Manson
2 points (0g/2a)

Third Star

Devon Toews
1 point (1g/0a)

STATS

[Game Summary](#)

[Event Summary](#)

TEAM NOTES

- ▲ The Colorado Avalanche extended their winning streak to a season-high-tying five games with a 5-2 victory over the Central Division-leading Winnipeg Jets. It was the first time The Avs beat the Jets this season.
- ▲ Colorado's cumulative assist total by defenseman entered tonight tied with Winnipeg with 78. The Avs' rear guards notched four helpers tonight and reclaimed the league-lead in that category.
- ▲ The Avalanche tonight were not assessed a penalty in the game for the ninth time in franchise history. The last time that happened was Nov. 3, 2021 vs. Columbus.
- ▲ The Avs have converted precisely two empty-net goals in each of their last three games and lead the league with 17 in all. The club has also netted at least one in each of their last four outings.

INDIVIDUAL NOTES

- ▲ **Mikko Rantanen** extended his point streak to 11 games with an empty-net goal. He's produced 19 points (6g/13a) over that run - which is tied for the second-longest of his career - and at the conclusion of the Avalanche game ranks eighth in goals (21) and tied for third in points (54) among NHLers.
- ▲ **Nathan MacKinnon** pushed his assist/point streak to five games (1g/10a) with an assist on Rantanen's goal. He's up to 61 points (14g/47a) and continues to lead the league in both assists and points this season.
- ▲ **Artturi Lehkonen** lit the lamp for the second game in a row and now has four tallies during that span. He has also registered at least a goal in five of his last 10 outings.
- ▲ Additionally, Lehkonen has found the scoresheet in 10 of his last 15 showings and inked his eighth career 20-point season tonight (14g/6a). His goal total ranks tied for second on the Avs despite playing in 26 of the team's 38 games.
- ▲ Lehkonen has tallied 34 goals in his last 82 regular-season showings dating back to 2022-23. His 0.54 goals per game average thru 26 contests this season ranks 12th in the NHL (min. 20 GP).
- ▲ **Cale Makar** got back on the scoresheet with an assist. At the conclusion of the Avalanche game, Makar reclaimed the assist lead among defensemen (35) and widened his point lead in that position group to four (46).
- ▲ At the conclusion of the Avalanche game, Makar's 35 assists rank sixth among all NHL skaters.
- ▲ Makar finished the 2024 calendar year with 95 points (24g/71a) in 83 games. Per NHL Stats & Info, that is the most an Avalanche/Nordiques defenseman has ever posted between a Jan. 1 - Dec. 31, a mark that Makar previously set during 2022.
- ▲ **Casey Mittelstadt** tallied his eighth marker of the season and is up to 24 points during his first full campaign with the Avs. It was his second game-winning goal of the campaign, which ties his single-season career-high (2020-21 and 2022-23).
- ▲ **Devon Toews** picked up his second goal of the campaign, both of which have come at Ball Arena (Nov. 11). The blueliner has found the scoresheet in three of his last four home showings.
- ▲ **Jonathan Drouin** returned to the lineup after a 16-game absence due to injury and finished with a pair of helpers. The winger's last two appearances have been multi-point games and he's found the scoresheet in each of his last four personal showings (2g/4a).
- ▲ **Josh Manson** also chipped in two assists in his second game back after missing 12 contests due to injury. Tonight marked his first multi-point performance of the season.
- ▲ **Samuel Girard** registered an assist, his 15th of 2024-25 to match last season's output in that category.
- ▲ **Logan O'Connor** hit the 10-point benchmark tonight with a helper (4g/6a). He's recorded double digit points in each of his last four campaigns.



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Colorado C Casey Mittelstadt

On His Goal: "It's been a while, so it was good. Obviously, I feel like that's how you usually get your first one after a while. It was a heck of a play by Mans (Colorado D Josh Manson) and [I'm] just happy that it was at a good moment for the team and a big win for us."

On Josh Manson's Return From Injury: "It's been huge. Obviously, the way he defends and how hard he plays and his toughness out there, I think we really missed it. Underrated offensively as well. Great to have him back around the guys for sure."

Colorado G Mackenzie Blackwood

On The Top D-Pair: "You saw the third period tonight, right? I think I had two or three shots, so that's what it's like most of the time. They're special players and it's fun to watch them control the play."

On Getting The Win: "It's huge. Every point counts in the standings. They're a great team, but you know, these four-point games can swing either way. They're important and coming to the end of the year, you don't want to have any 'what ifs' if you could have had this or that. You want to solidify your spot."

Colorado D Devon Toews

On What's Been Working Defensively: "Just everything, we're just trending. We are playing a better team game. We're committed to the defensive side. We are seeing that our offense isn't lacking from it. We're able to create offense by playing good defense instead of stretching to create offense in a way that hurts us defensively. Just a better commitment from the 20 guys on the ice that play our game."

On The Standings: "We can track any team down. You win enough games and they lose enough, you can track any team down. We dug ourselves a hole [at the] start of the year and we are starting to trend in the right way. We don't care where we finish as long as our game is trending in the right direction after game 82."

WINNIPEG JETS POSTGAME QUOTES

Winnipeg D Neal Pionk

On Tonight's Game: "I thought we did some good things. [We were] a little sloppy at times. [We] gave the top line a lot of chances, but overall, it [was] a decent game. We didn't come out with the win, though."

On Playing In Back-To-Back Games: "It's hard. It's not an excuse though. We're all pros. We've been through it before. We get some teams at home that go through that travel, so [we] can't use that as an excuse."

Winnipeg C Morgan Barron

On Tonight's Game: "It was just fine. I felt like we were kind of in it there in the third. They kind of carried the play for most of the game. I thought the shot clock kind of showed that. At the end of the day, it would have been nice to dig in a little bit more and find a way to come up with a win."

On Winnipeg G Eric Comrie: "He's been great. Going back to his last number of starts, it's kind of unfortunate that we've wasted his efforts and haven't been able to get a few wins for him. [We] just [have to] keep digging it in, trying to get something for him."