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<https://www.nhl.com/jets/news/three-things-jets-blow-out-bruins>

Three things - Jets blow out Bruins Scheifele line combines for eight points in 8-1 rout

By Jamie Thomas

The Winnipeg Jets are back in the win column following an 8-1 win over the Boston Bruins at Canada Life Centre to improve to 21-9. The Jets top line of Mark Scheifele (2G, 1A), Kyle Connor (1G, 2A) and Gabe Vilardi (1G, 1A) combined for eight points. The Jets are back in action Thursday when they host Vegas.

CAN'T BE STOPPED ON HOME ICE

Mark Scheifele came into tonight on the longest point streak on home ice in Jets/Thrashers history at 12 games. The Jets centreman didn't wait long to extend the streak to 13, at 18:01 of the first period and Winnipeg up 1-0, Scheifele would one-time a Kyle Connor pass past Jeremy Swayman for his 15th of the campaign to give Winnipeg a 2-0 lead.

Scheifele would take the team lead in goals at 7:02 of the second period, this time it would be Josh Morrissey setting him up giving Winnipeg a three-goal advantage. It was Scheifele's 46th career multi-goal game and Ilya Kovalchuk for the most in franchise history.

The 31-year-old added an assist to his totals in the third period, Scheifele forced a turnover at the Bruins blueline before passing to Connor who moved back into a tie for the team lead in goals with his 16th.

"So, their line, they've had a great year so far, and it kind of starts with Mark driving it down the middle," said Adam Lowry.

"So in order for us to be successful, he started that, that's the line that we look to and that was a big performance."

CHIBBY

The Jets second round pick played in his second NHL game tonight after being recalled on Monday. Chibrikov, who currently leads the Moose in scoring, played on the right side with fellow Russian Vlad Namestnikov and Cole Perfetti.

Chibrikov was on the Jets second power play unit which scored twice, the Russian recorded a secondary assist on Alex Lafallo's goal in the third period for his first NHL assist. The 21-year-old added his second NHL goal in as many games as he scored the game winner last April against the Canucks in his debut.

HEATED THIRD PERIOD

After the Jets had made it 6-1 in the third period, things got heated between two teams that only play twice a year. Following the faceoff, David Gustafsson was challenged by the Bruins Trent Frederic and moments after that fight concluded, Logan Stanley dropped the gloves with Mark Kastelic. The next faceoff, Adam Lowry went toe-to-toe with Nikita Zadorov. The two teams combine for 66 penalty minutes.

NHL.com

<https://www.nhl.com/news/boston-bruins-winnipeg-jets-game-recap-december-10>

***Scheifele, Connor each has 3 points, Jets cruise past Bruins
Winnipeg scores 8 for 2nd time this season; Boston had won 4 in row***

By Darrin Bauming

WINNIPEG — Mark Scheifele had two goals and an assist for the Winnipeg Jets in an 8-1 win against the Boston Bruins at Canada Life Centre on Tuesday.

“We had guys anticipating the play and reading where the next play will be,” Scheifele said. “When you are able to stay above guys, it makes it tough for them to generate much. It was just a great full team effort.”

Kyle Connor had a goal and two assists, and Gabriel Vilardi and Nikita Chibrikov each had a goal and an assist for the Jets (21-9-0), who have won three of four. Connor Hellebuyck made 23 saves.

“I think there was just more directness,” Winnipeg coach Scott Arniel said. “I think we were real quick through the neutral zone and just the execution was there (in) all facets of the game... [Scheifele] had a couple huge goals, and I thought we did a good job on the forecheck. We did a good job in the D zone, not really giving their top guys a lot of time and space. I think that's kind of how we have to play to be successful.”

David Pastrnak scored for the Bruins (15-12-3), who had won four straight. Jeremy Swayman made 27 saves.

“They played well tonight and they certainly earned the two points. We didn't,” Boston interim coach Joe Sacco said. “They were just a better team tonight, I thought, from pretty much from start to finish. The penalties got us into a little bit of trouble tonight, but overall just not the start of the road trip we wanted.”

Vladislav Namestnikov scored on the power play to give the Jets a 1-0 lead at 12:09 of the first period. Neal Pionk's point shot came back off the end boards, deflected off Nino Niederreiter in front and fell to Namestnikov for a tap-in at the left post.

“This was coming,” Bruins captain Brad Marchand said. “Our practices have been sloppy, our execution has been off there, and it bleeds into games. The way you practice is how you play, it starts there and we haven't been good enough. So, we need to do a better job at being good in practice and that will translate to games.”

Scheifele made it 2-0 at 18:01 with a one-timer between the circles off a saucer pass from Connor.

“(The Jets) were very good,” Marchand said. “They were good and we were not good. We weren't executing. We were lost in our coverage and we were lost in our battles. So yeah, they were good, they made plays, but we did not have a good game.”

Scheifele scored with another one-timer, pushing it to 3-0 with a power-play goal at 7:02 of the second.

“Some unbelievable plays,” Scheifele said. “[Connor and Josh Morrissey] both made great passes. It was just a solid effort. We went to the right areas and good things happened.”

Pastrnak cut it to 3-1 with a power-play goal at 9:13, beating Hellebuyck glove side with a one-timer from the left circle.

“It's 3-1 after two periods. We've been in that position before,” Sacco said. “We thought that we could certainly work our way back into the game but we didn't, and so you don't take too much stock and at the end of the game when it's 7 (or) 8-1. But there's things that we need to address and correct, and we will.”

Connor scored to make it 4-1 at 1:15 of the third. Scheifele kept the puck in at the blue line, drove through the right circle and fired a pass to Connor for a one-timer in the slot.

“Usually when (the line of Scheifele, Connor, and Vilardi) play like that, it leads to a win,” Arniel said. “They came up huge for us throughout the game. Dominant shifts, some huge goals at critical times to get us the lead and things like that. Their line, they've had a great year so far and it kind of starts with Mark driving it down the middle. In order for us to be successful... that's the line that we look to, and that was a big performance.”

Vilardi extended it to 5-1 at 5:33, then Alex Lafallo scored with a redirection on the power play to make it 6-1 at 7:19.

“Tonight we didn't use the momentum that we built (winning four straight),” Swayman said. “We've got four more games this road trip. We're going to take one game at a time and I'm excited for that.”

Mason Appleton's wrist shot from a tight angle below the right circle pushed it to 7-1 at 16:16.

“Some of the goals that I let in I just know I can stop,” Swayman said. “I hold myself to a standard, and when you let those in, it's not a great feeling so I want to make sure that doesn't happen again.”

Chibrikov scored in his season debut for the 8-1 final at 16:26. He has two goals and an assist in two NHL games after scoring in his League debut in the final game of the 2023-24 regular season.

“I thought [Chibrikov] played great,” Jets captain Adam Lowry said. “[Chibrikov] chips in with a couple of points and it was nice to see him get one there to kind of keep his goal-streak going in the NHL. Young guys come in and they play with energy. They've provided a bit of a spark for our lineup and it's nice to see them get rewarded... [Chibrikov] coming in and offering that spark, too. He had a great game.”

NOTES: Scheifele has 21 points (12 goals, nine assists) during a franchise record home point streak of 13 games. He recorded his 46th career multigoal game, tying Ilya Kovalchuk for the most in Jets/Thrashers franchise history. ... Connor has seven points (three goals, four assists) during a four-game point streak. He tied Bryan Little (521) for the fourth-most points in franchise history, behind Blake Wheeler (812), Scheifele (748) and Kovalchuk (615).

Canadian Press

<https://www.sportsnet.ca/nhl/article/jets-offence-bears-down-on-bruins-in-lopsided-win/>

Jets' offence bears down on Bruins in lopsided win

By Canadian Press

WINNIPEG — Mark Scheifele declined to say he was trying to prove something to Don Sweeney.

With the general manager who snubbed him when selecting players for Canada to play in the 4 Nations Face-Off watching from above, Scheifele scored two goals and added an assist to lead the Jets to an 8-1 beating of Sweeney's Boston Bruins before 12,921 witnesses at Canada Life Centre on Tuesday night.

"You're just happy to play a good game," Scheifele said. "Of course he's the GM. But, you just want to go out there and give it your all for your team and get a win. Obviously, we needed one at home here and I thought that was a great response there by all of us."

Scheifele not only extended his current point streak to five games this season but he extended his franchise-record home point streak to 13 games. He has scored 21 points over that span.

"I liked my game today," Scheifele said. "Obviously, I played with some pretty phenomenal players that make some great plays. Not every night is going to go well for you, but that's the fun part about hockey. You get to work on things every day and get better. That's always the goal."

Linemate Kyle Connor set Scheifele up for a one-timer in the first period. Then, Josh Morrissey set Scheifele up for another one-timer during a second-period power play to give the Jets a 3-0 lead. Scheifele then set Connor up for a key goal early in the third period, giving Winnipeg a 4-1 lead. Linemate Gabe Vilardi also scored a goal.

"Our spacing was good," Scheifele said. "We had guys in the right spot. Obviously, some unbelievable plays. KC (Connor), JMo (Morrissey) both made great passes. It was just a solid effort. We went to the right areas and good things happened."

Jets captain Adam Lowry enjoyed that line's output.

"It's awesome," he said. "Usually when they play like that, it leads to a win. They came up big for us throughout the game. Dominant shifts. Some huge goals at critical times to get us the lead and things like that.

"They've had a great year so far, and it kind of starts with Mark driving it down the middle. So, in order for us to be successful, he started that. That's the line we look to and that was a big performance."

Nikita Chibrikov, Mason Appleton, Alex Iafallo, on the power play, and Vladislav Namestnikov, on the power play, scored the other Winnipeg goals as the Jets tied for their biggest output of the season.

Connor Hellebuyck also recorded his NHL-leading 18th victory this season.

Chibrikov, who was called up from the AHL's Manitoba Moose to add some grit, proved a spark from the get-go.

"He's fun to watch," said Jets coach Scott Arniel. "He's a ball of energy. You can just see him, he's always on the go. ... He's just a fiery kid. His engine gets running and I'm glad he got out and got a chance to be in a game like that."

Chibrikov also had an assist.

"Chibi chips in with a couple of points and it was nice to see him get one there to kind of keep his goal-streak going in the NHL," Lowry joked. "Young guys come in and they play with energy. They've provided a bit of a spark for our lineup and it's nice to see them get rewarded."

Chibrikov scored his first NHL goal in the last game of last season.

NOTES

Speedy forward Brad Lambert was sent down to the Moose to make room for Chibrikov. ... The Jets also inserted both forward David Gustafsson and defenceman Ville Heinola, who had been healthy scratches. They replaced forward Rasmus Kupari and defenceman Colin Miller, respectively. ... Gustafsson had to leave the game after losing a fight late in the game.

Sportsnet.ca

<https://www.sportsnet.ca/nhl/article/we-stick-together-jets-show-grit-in-statement-win-capped-by-flurry-of-fights/>

'We stick together': Jets show grit in statement win capped by flurry of fights

By Jacob Stoller

WINNIPEG — Talk about a statement game.

On the heels of an up-and-down two weeks, the Winnipeg Jets were in need of a jolt. Something to rally behind.

And Tuesday's 8-1 thumping of the Boston Bruins was just that.

Mark Scheifele, Kyle Connor and Gabriel Vilardi responded from Sunday's dreadful showing against the Columbus Blue Jackets, combining for four goals while also outchancing the B's 9-2 during five-on-five play. Scheifele registered two goals and an assist, sticking it to Team Canada GM/Bruins GM Don Sweeney less than a week after being left off the Four Nations Face-off roster.

"They came up huge for us throughout the game — dominant shifts — some huge goals at critical times to get us the lead," said Adam Lowry.

Winnipeg's top line propelled them to victory. But their efforts — and the team as a whole (which was outstanding) — aren't what will define this game as an instance where, as Arniel likes to say, this group grew calluses.

The third-period melee was.

It all started after Alex Lafallo scored to give Winnipeg a 6-1 lead with 12:37 remaining in the final frame. On the ensuing faceoff, Trent Frederic cross-checked David Gustafsson on the back. Gustafsson retaliated. And then the gloves were off.

The fight went just about as you'd expect for such a mismatch. Frederic, who entered the game with 38 career fights, ended Gustafsson's first career fight swiftly with a single right hook to his face.

As Gustafsson was tended to by teammates and trainers, Logan Stanley dropped the mitts with Mark Kastelic.

But the latter fight didn't simmer things down. The Jets were incensed. Especially Lowry, who was seen voicing his displeasure to Boston's bench.

Scott Arniel was also furious. But not because of the fight.

"Something else happened... don't need to get into it," the Jets coach said.

He didn't have to. The broadcast showed it all. Arniel was seen jawing at the Bruins coaching staff, and even the most amateur lip-readers could decipher that he was berating the Bruins' staff for speaking to his players. When Bruins coach Joe Sacco appeared baffled by Arniel's barking, the latter pointed at one of Boston's assistant coaches.

Lowry went on to fight Nikita Zadorov off the next faceoff. While his teammates tried to convince him otherwise, the Jets captain felt compelled to take matters into his own hands.

"You go after arguably their toughest guy and then hopefully, all the other stuff just goes by the wayside," he explained.

Arniel didn't want this game to be solely defined by the third-period extracurriculars. And it shouldn't be. The way they generated even-strength offence, displayed more of an 'attack mentality' on the man advantage and counteracted Boston's aggressive forecheck was encouraging.

"I'm not going to sit and talk about what happened in the last 10 minutes of the hockey game. That's detrimental for the game we played," Arniel said. "We played a hell of a hockey game against a good hockey team. That's more of what I'm concerned about."

But you can't overlook the impact of an entire team — from the coach all the way down to the 13th forward — sticking up for one another.

"That's what good teams do: we stick together," Scheifele said. "Good on [Stanley] and [Lowry] to get in there. We stick up for each other, we take care of each other. That's what makes us a good team."

Start of The Chibby Era?

Nikita Chibrikov had himself a game, recording a goal, an assist and four hits in his season debut.

"He's fun to watch. He is. He's a ball of energy," Arniel said of the 21-year-old winger. "You can just see him, he's always on the go."

Given what we saw tonight, and throughout the pre-season, there's no doubt Chibrikov is capable of being an everyday NHLer. Even once Ehlers returns, I wouldn't rule out the possibility of Chibrikov remaining with the club. He's a versatile player who can be slotted anywhere — be it in the top-six, or in the bottom-six — and his compete is contagious.

But even if he's re-assigned, there's no doubt that Chibrikov's first in line for a recall should another injury arise. He's more refined than Brad Lambert.

Is Frederic Solely to Blame?

It may not be as cut and dry as you think.

Gustafsson also put himself in a bad spot by accepting the invitation.

"I think it's 50-50," Lowry said. "You can't just place all of the onus on Trent. That's unfair. It's a tough spot. You get challenged to fight and you don't want to say no. Looking back, I think it just could have been handled differently.

"It's the game of hockey. It's unfortunate. That's really where we get upset. You don't want to see a teammate hurt. You don't want to see a teammate down on the ice with a head injury. So, I think that's where the emotion comes into it. Some of the responsibility is on both of those guys. We'll leave it at that."

Global Winnipeg

<https://globalnews.ca/news/10911761/top-line-power-play-explode-as-winnipeg-jets-demolish-boston-8-1/>

Top line, power play explode as Winnipeg Jets demolish Boston 8-1

By Christian Aumell & Russ Hobson Global News

It's been a while since the Winnipeg Jets looked that dominant.

Playing consecutive games on home ice for the first time in a month, the Jets were powered by their top line and their power play in a 8-1 romp over the Boston Bruins in a fight-filled contest on Tuesday.

Mark Scheifele scored twice and the top line exploded for four goals and eight points in a lopsided victory over one of the league's hottest teams as they ended the Bruins' four-game win streak.

"We played a hell of a hockey game against a good hockey team," said Jets head coach Scott Arniel. "We had lost our last game here that wasn't a real good outing by us. Like I said, a good veteran team, the way we come out and played – that's what I'm proud of."

With the Jets ahead by five goals in the third period, the game took a nasty turn with three fights. Trent Frederic one-punched David Gustafsson, while Logan Stanley scrapped Mark Kastelic in the same stoppage. And right after they dropped the puck Adam Lowry and Nikita Zadorov took their turns throwing punches.

Gustafsson needed stitches to close a gash after his first career fight.

“For guys that fight, we generally know who on the other team fights,” Lowry said. “Gussy, I’m real proud of him not backing down, but I think that’s a situation that he shouldn’t be put in the first place. That’s what I was upset about.”

Scheifele pushed his point-streak to five games and extended his franchise record with at least a point in his 13th straight home game. And he’s clearly over whatever injury was bothering him with seven points in his last four contests now.

The Jets had seven different goal scorers, struck five times in the final frame, and also notched three power play goals as they went 3-for-6 with the man advantage. The Jets had scored just twice on their previous 15 power play opportunities since Nikolaj Ehlers was injured.

“We had a lot of good chances,” said Scheifele. “We could have had even more. We have guys in the right spot. We have guys filling into areas in the right way, so, that’s definitely a positive outlook tonight.”

The Jets have now won three of their last four games.

Winnipeg got a great early chance to create some momentum when Frederic was called for interference just 25 seconds into the game but the Jets’ sputtering power play failed to get anything going.

They got another chance just past the midway point of the period when Brandon Carlo received a double-minor for cutting Kyle Connor with a high stick, and this time they made Boston pay.

Late in the first minor penalty, a point shot from Neal Pionk whistled wide of the net but it bounced hard off the end boards and back in front of the net. There, it bounced off the leg of Nino Niederreiter and off the post before Vladislav Namestnikov whacked the loose puck into an open net to make it 1-0 Winnipeg.

The Jets failed to score on the second minor but they managed to extend their lead with 1:59 to go in the period.

After Gabriel Vilardi carried the puck into the Boston zone, David Pastrnak attempted to steal it away but as he tried to skate off with it, Vilardi made a good poke check, leaving the Jets with a 3-on-2 in close. The puck landed on the stick of Connor in the corner, who waited as Scheifele skated to the slot and buried a perfect pass past Jeremy Swayman to make it 2-0 after 20 minutes.

Boston was the better team over the first few minutes of the second, leading to their first power play chance of the game but it was nullified after 49 seconds when Pastrnak lifted Logan Stanley’s stick into Stanley’s face, which the officials deemed to be a high-sticking penalty.

Not long after Winnipeg's penalty expired, the Jets struck on the power play again. Josh Morrissey collected a loose puck at the top of the Boston zone, looped in on the right side and fired a cross-ice feed that Scheifele buried to make it 3-0 Jets.

A Pionk slash put Boston on their second power play of the night and this time they took advantage. Moments after Pastrnak missed the net on a one-timer, he got the puck back and wired it top shelf over the left shoulder of Connor Hellebuyck, making it 3-1 Winnipeg at the 9:13 mark of the second.

It stayed 3-1 into the third before the Jets added to their lead just 75 seconds into the period. Brad Marchand fumbled the puck at his own blueline, allowing Scheifele to pick it up and carry it down the boards before he found Connor in the slot for his 16th of the season, matching Scheifele for the team lead.

The lead kept growing at the 5:33 when Vilardi beat Swayman from the faceoff dot with a wrist shot that snapped Vilardi's stick as he released it.

Less than two minutes later, the Jets power play struck again when Alex Lafallo tipped a Pionk point shot past Swayman to make it 6-1. Nikita Chibrikov, playing in his second NHL game, picked up his first NHL assist on the goal.

With the game out of reach, the silliness began. First it was Gustafsson and Frederic dropping the gloves and as they were being escorted to the box, Stanley and Kastelic got in a fight, which earned them a game misconduct for being the second fight during one stoppage in play.

Off the ensuing faceoff, Lowry and Zadorov dropped the gloves and not long after, Charlie McAvoy was called for his second penalty of the night but Winnipeg couldn't cash in on their sixth power play of the game.

Mason Appleton got in on the fun with 3:44 when he sent the puck on net from just below the goal line and somehow beat Swayman.

Ten seconds later, Cole Perfetti forced a turnover in the Boston end when he got a stick on an Andrew Peeke clearing attempt, sending the puck slowly into no-man's land where Chibrikov blasted a shot top-shelf to make it 8-1, the final touch on a much-needed offensive explosion for a Jets team that had scored 19 goals total over their past nine games.

Hellebuyck make 23 saves to pick up the win, while Swayman allowed all eight goals on 35 shots.

The Jets will look to make it back-to-back wins when they host the Vegas Golden Knights Thursday night. Pregame coverage on 680 CJOB begins at 5 p.m. with the puck dropping just after 7 p.m.

<https://globalnews.ca/news/10912351/analysis-winnipeg-jets-top-line-win/>

ANALYSIS: Jets' top line leads outburst of scoring in blowout win

By Paul Edmonds CJOB

At the end of the night, the game sheet might have reflected that seven different players recorded goals for the Winnipeg Jets in their victory Tuesday evening over Boston.

But what the NHL document of record doesn't reveal is the sheer dominance the line of Mark Scheifele, Kyle Connor and Gabe Vilardi played with in the Jets' biggest offensive outburst since mid-October and their largest margin of victory of the season.

In a game where Winnipeg needed a response after two straight home losses — and against a team with a deep winning culture — the Scheifele trio combined for eight points and were virtually unstoppable.

They were quick and fast, physical, determined and connected — a spinning turbine of power the big, bad Bruins were incapable of defusing.

And as a result, the rest of the team followed in lockstep behind their number-one line on a night where the Jets, likely for the first time this season, really needed to win a hockey game.

As Jets' captain Adam Lowry said post-game about his top scoring line, "Usually when they play like that, it leads to a win."

And not only was last night a win for the Jets, it was also perhaps a subtle message to everyone outside their dressing room that after a preposterous four-week road schedule and injuries to three key players, including Scheifele himself, that adversity can be a gift.

Now, one game — and a major offensive one at that — only represents 60 minutes of hockey in a marathon of a season.

But when you have your number-one line playing with the dominance like they did last night, it most certainly bodes well for the prospects of the team overall moving ahead.

And that's something the Scheifele line's eight points on the game sheet might suggest, but doesn't completely reveal at the end of the night.

Winnipeg Free Press

<https://www.winnipegfreepress.com/breakingnews/2024/12/10/b Bruins-sent-into-hibernation>

Bruins sent into hibernation

Jets refuse to be intimidated as top line leads scoring outburst

By: Mike McIntyre

The Winnipeg Jets came out swinging Tuesday night — figuratively and literally — with a dominant, team-building performance that might just go well beyond the two points they collected in the standings.

An 8-1 beatdown of the Boston Bruins at Canada Life Centre left plenty of players black and blue, thanks to a third period that went off the rails and even had both coaches screaming at each other.

When the dust had settled and the goal horn finally stopped blaring, the home team had skated off its most impressive and lopsided victory of the year.

"I thought we played a hell of a hockey game," said Jets head coach Scott Arniel, who believes this can be a classic example of his group "building calluses" as he often refers to.

"There's a lot of things that will come out of that game. The attack mentality of our five-on-five game. The attack mentality of our power play. Playing against a heavy team and playing the right way. Sticking up for each other," he said.

"Those are all glue things that happen. Those are all things that build towards the future. I'm proud of the guys in all circumstances of that hockey game. We handled it extremely well."

Winnipeg improves to 21-9-0 to sit on top of the NHL standings with 42 points. Boston, which entered play on a four-game winning streak, fell to 15-12-3.

"I think there was more directness," captain Adam Lowry said of how his team, which had won just five of its past 13 games, turned the tide in such a significant way. "I think we were real quick through the neutral zone and the execution was there in all facets of the game."

There's plenty to discuss out of this one. Let's get right to it.

About that feisty final frame

The ugliness began when Boston defenceman Charlie McAvoy caught Jets forward Cole Perfetti with a nasty shot to the head early in the third period. Fortunately, Perfetti appeared to escape any serious damage.

Winnipeg quickly capitalized on the ensuing power play to make it 6-1, and the visitors decided they weren't going to go down without a fight.

On the ensuing faceoff, Bruins tough guy Trent Frederic, a veteran of 38 career scraps, went after Jets forward David Gustafsson, who has never dropped the gloves in his life, and caught him with a devastating blow to the face. Gustafsson was clearly concussed, unable to get up on his own, and needed assistance to leave the ice.

The Jets were incensed, with defenceman Logan Stanley fighting another Boston pugilist, Mark Kastelic, while Gustafsson was still down. Both were tossed out of the game for a secondary altercation.

"Trent plays a hard game. I'm not disagreeing with that. Guys that fight, we generally know who on the other team fights," said Lowry.

"I think it's just one of those things. Gus, I'm really proud of him for not backing down, but I think that's a situation that he shouldn't be put in in the first place. That's what I was upset about."

With Arniel and Bruins interim bench boss Joe Sacco exchanging heated words, Lowry then fought rugged Boston defenceman Nikita Zadorov right off the next faceoff.

“You see one of your teammates go down and obviously not thrilled with how it happened,” said Lowry. “I think you answer the bell and it just settles everything down.”

Winnipeg was up 3-1 entering the final frame, but reeled off five goals in a row as Boston seemed more interested in trying to get its pound of flesh.

“Stuff happens. Obviously you don’t want to see that happen to Gus, but at the end of the day our two big boys (Stanley and Lowry) settled it back down,” said Arniel.

“Once those two fights were done, it was done. I don’t like all the stuff that happens but it’s hockey. They’re pissed off at us, or where the score was at, of their game. At the end of the day I like that we stuck together.”

There was no post-game update on Gustafsson beyond the fact he was getting stitched up for what Arniel called a “nasty cut” and assessed by doctors.

Scheifele snub

You get the sense this game also got personal for Mark Scheifele. The star Jets centre, fresh off being overlooked for a spot on Team Canada, would never admit to having any extra motivation as he faced the Bruins.

But his performance spoke volumes and might have Don Sweeney — who happens to be the general manager of both the visitors and the national squad for the upcoming 4 Nations Face-Off — regretting his decision.

“You’re just happy to play a good game. Of course he’s the GM. But you just want to go out there and give it your all for your team and get a win,” said Scheifele.

“Obviously, we needed one at home here and I thought that was a great response there by all of us.”

In a game that featured plenty of talent that will play in the tournament — Connor Hellebuyck (USA), Kyle Connor (USA) and Josh Morrissey (USA) from the Jets and McAvoy (USA), Jeremy Swayman (USA), Brad Marchand (CAN) and Elias Lindholm (SWE) for the Bruins — it was Scheifele who stood out the most.

He scored twice and added a highlight-reel assist to lead the way.

“Obviously some unbelievable plays. (Connor), great pass. (Morrissey) great pass,” said Scheifele. “It was just a solid effort, we went to the right areas and good things happened.”

Swayman, by the way, was likely looking for the nearest exit as he was left in for the entire 60 minutes, stopping just 27 shots that came his way.

Connor also had a big game, scoring his 16th of the year (tied with Scheifele for the team lead) and adding two assists. Morrissey had a helper, while Hellebuyck stopped 23 of the 24 shots he faced. For the Bruins, Marchand and McAvoy each had a helper, while Lindholm was kept off the scoresheet.

Chibrikov makes an impact

Nikita Chibrikov was making his season debut for the Jets, one day after getting summoned from the Manitoba Moose. Playing on a line with Perfetti and Vlad Namestnikov, he certainly made a good impression.

Chibrikov recorded his first NHL assist on Alex Iafallo's power-play tally in the third, then scored his second-career NHL goal to round out the scoring with just over three minutes left in regulation. Chibrikov, who lit the lamp in Game 82 last year with Winnipeg, did not look out of place at all.

"He's fun to watch. He is. He's a ball of energy. You can just see him, he's always on the go, said Arniel.

"Made a nice play on the power-play goal, held onto it. Nice to see that shot there at the end. He's just a fiery kid. His engine gets running and I'm glad he got out and got a chance to be in a game like that."

The feisty 21-year-old Russian, who led the Moose in scoring, will get an extended look, especially with Nikolaj Ehlers still sidelined with a lower-body injury.

It will get overlooked with everything else that happened, but Winnipeg's power play woke up in a big way against the Bruins.

Namestnikov got it going at 12:09 of the first, Scheifele's second goal in the middle frame also came with the man advantage, and Iafallo's tally also came with a Bruin in the box. Add it all up and a team that was two for its last 18 on the power play went three-for-six on the night.

"We had a lot of good chances, and I think we could have had even more," said Scheifele.

"We are moving it, we have guys in the right spot, we have guys filling in to areas in the right way. That was definitely a positive tonight."

Winnipeg's other five goals came at five-on-five, with Gabe Vilardi and Mason Appleton joining Scheifele (his first of the night), Connor and Chibrikov in that department.

Key play

Kyle Connor's goal 75 seconds into the third period made it a 4-1 game and seemed to put actual hockey on the back burner for the undisciplined Bruins.

Three stars

Jets C Mark Scheifele: 2 goals, 1 assist;
Jets LW Kyle Connor: 1 goal, 2 assists;
Jets Gabe Vilardi: 1 goal, 1 assist.

Extra, extra

The crowd of just 12,921 was the smallest of the year for the Jets.

In addition to Chibrikov coming in for Brad Lambert (who was re-assigned to the Moose), the Jets also inserted Gustafsson in for Rasmus Kupari, and Ville Heinola in for Colin Miller.

Winnipeg is set to practice on Wednesday to prepare for Thursday's game against the Vegas Golden Knights.

<https://www.winnipegfreepress.com/breakingnews/2024/12/10/chibrikov-earns-his-shot>

***Chibrikov earns his shot
Giving Moose scoring leader NHL experience all part of Jets long-term plan***

By: Ken Wiebe

Scott Arniel essentially said it was part of the master plan.

Although the Winnipeg Jets were mostly happy with the play of forward prospect Brad Lambert during his four-game callup, he was returned to the Manitoba Moose on Monday.

Taking his spot is winger Nikita Chibrikov, who leads the Moose in scoring with five goals and 13 points in 18 games in the American Hockey League this season.

"We felt both Chibby and Lambo had good training camps and that (if) we had an opportunity, (if) something happened with our top-six, that we want to get a chance to look at them," said Jets head coach Arniel. "And with (Nikolaj) Ehlers being out, this is a little bit by design. I really liked what Lambo did for us, but we want to see Chibby, too."

Chibrikov is a feisty forward with good offensive instincts and, though he doesn't play with the same pace as Lambert, he often finds himself in the middle of the action.

"He goes after the puck, he's got some bite to him. He goes inside. I'm sure he's going to disrupt some people," said Arniel. "But I love the fact he shoots the puck, too. He loves to shoot the puck. He gets himself in a position for that."

The other layer to this move is that by bringing up a feisty winger, Vladislav Namestnikov moves back to his natural position after shifting to the wing as Lambert occupied the second-line centre role. Cole Perfetti rounds out the second line.

Chibrikov made his NHL debut in game 82 last season, finding the back of the net against the Vancouver Canucks.

Having gone through the emotions of suiting up in his first NHL game last April, Chibrikov should be able to focus on doing the things that allowed him to earn the promotion to the Jets.

"It helps a lot. When I made my debut, it was one of the first steps to becoming an NHL player and build a little bit more confidence," said Chibrikov, noting that Namestnikov's ability to speak Russian will make it a little easier to communicate on the ice with his linemate. "But it is a new season, it's not their last game, so (there's) more pressure here. I am ready."

Chosen in the second round (50th overall) in the 2021 NHL Draft, Chibrikov is in his second pro season in North America and he's made a smooth transition after coming over from the KHL.

"Play my way, be ready (to make) a little bit quicker and faster decisions," said Chibrikov, noting he is comfortable on either wing but prefers to play on the right, his off-side. "Try to go in the

corners, be heavy with the guys. I am not afraid to go to the net. Make smart decisions and (show) a little bit of playmaking.”

Although his skating needs to improve before he becomes an NHL regular, he’s got a lot of qualities that should make him an effective player within this forward group.

“He’s definitely earned the opportunity,” said Jets captain Adam Lowry. “One thing about him, he’s really tenacious. He’s good on the forecheck. For not being a huge guy, he likes to go to those dirty areas.

“He’s got tremendous skill, a great playmaker, so yeah, we’re looking forward to seeing how he complements Vladdy and Fetts (Perfetti).”

Ehlers was back on the ice for the first time since suffering a lower-body issue while throwing a hit on Vegas Golden Knights forward Pavel Dorofeyev on Nov. 29.

It remains to be seen whether or not he’ll be an option to return before this four-game homestand wraps up on Saturday against Patrik Laine and the Montreal Canadiens.

“It’s just his first skate, first time out on the ice,” said Arniel. “So, I won’t get into it too much with him.”

To be clear, this isn’t punishment for Lambert missing an empty net in Saturday’s 4-2 win over the Chicago Blackhawks or that he was held without a point while averaging 12:44 of ice time and generating one shot on goal and eight shot attempts.

Lambert handled the defensive responsibilities well and Arniel went out of his way to say that’s often one of the biggest issues for a young centre.

There were some mistakes made away from the puck that can be fixed with experience, but overall it was evident Lambert understood what was being asked of him and was committed to doing the job in all three zones.

“Huge gains, even from training camp to this last little stretch. You have to play on the right side of people, especially in your end of the rink,” said Arniel.

“He’s a better player now than he was in September. The biggest thing is that we don’t want this to be an in-and-out splash player that comes up and struggles. There’s a process here. And the process so far is he got a chance to do it in early December, to get this look and to play against really good players from other teams and that’s part of his growth.”

In the big picture, getting some games for two forward prospects such as Lambert and Chibrikov should serve both the players and the organization well as the season progresses.

“Obviously, Lambo came in and I thought as his games went along, he got better. He got more comfortable. It’s one of those things where it takes time,” said Lowry.

“To get both of these guys the opportunities to get some games and to get their feet wet at the NHL level, it’s going to be huge for their development.”

Winnipeg Sun

<https://winnipeg.sun.com/sports/hockey/nhl/winnipeg-jets/scheifele-leads-the-way-as-jets-slaughter-bruins>

Bad blood, good vibes, as Jets slaughter Bruins

By Paul Friesen

Take that, Don Sweeney.

Arnie Lowry on Lowry's leadership during fights with Bruins: 'Why he wears the C'

We're not sure if that's what Mark Scheifele was thinking as he skated off the ice on Tuesday night.

The Winnipeg Jets centre had just fired two goals and set up another against the GM of Canada's team in the upcoming 4 Nations Face-Off, also the GM of the Boston Bruins.

Sweeney may have left Scheifele off his Team Canada roster, but he can't deny the effect he had on his NHL team, as the Jets slaughtered the Bruins, 8-1.

"You're just happy to play a good game," Scheifele said. "Of course he's the GM. But you just want to go out there and give it your all for your team and get a win. Obviously, we needed one at home here and that was a great response by all of us."

Facing a Boston team on a four-game streak and a 7-2 run since changing head coaches, the Jets built a 3-0 lead and never looked back.

Kyle Connor, Gabe Vilardi, Vlad Namestnikov, Alex Iafallo, Mason Appleton and Nikita Chibrikov, playing his first game of the season, had the other Winnipeg goals, improving the Jets to 21-9 on the season.

A crowd of 12,921 watched the game deteriorate into meaningless scraps once it reached 6-1 in the third period.

One fight, noted scrapper Trent Frederic taking on and knocking down Winnipeg's David Gustafsson, had the Jets particularly irate.

Gustafsson, with no career fights under his belt compared to 38 for Frederic, had to be helped off the ice.

"For guys that fight, we generally know who on the other team fights," Jets captain Adam Lowry said. "Gussie, real proud of him not backing down. But that's a situation that he shouldn't be put in in the first place. So that's what I was upset about."

Lowry was so upset he dropped the gloves with Boston's towering Nikita Zadorov on the next shift.

“You just want to let your teammates know you’ve got their back,” he said. “I had my linemates trying to tell me no, but sometimes you’ve got to do what you’ve got to do. You don’t want to see a teammate down on the ice with a head injury. So that’s where the emotion comes into it.”

Jets coach Scott Arniel didn’t immediately confirm Gustafsson suffered a concussion, saying only he’d been cut and had to be stitched up.

Arniel got into a verbal exchange with Bruins coach Joe Sacco during the melee, but says it wasn’t the fight matchup that had him so PO’d.

“Nope,” he said. “Something else happened that, don’t need to get into it.”

TV replays suggested Arniel might have been upset with something said on the Boston bench, whether by Sacco or an assistant coach.

“I’m not going to sit and talk about what happened in the last 10 minutes,” the coach said. “That’s detrimental for the game we played. We played a hell of a hockey game against a good hockey team. That’s more of what I’m concerned about. We had lost our last game here and it wasn’t a really good outing by us.

“The way we came out and played, that’s what I’m proud of. That’s what I got out of that hockey game.”

Coming off an uninspiring, 4-1 loss to Columbus, the Jets had a lot more punch.

It was Scheifele’s skill, though, that provided the knockout blow.

After scoring in both the first and second periods, No. 55’s most impressive play may have come on his team’s fourth goal early in the third.

Hustling to keep a puck in at the Boston blue line, he carried it down low and delivered a perfect feed to Connor in the slot as he was drilled into the end boards by Zadorov, losing his helmet but no doubt gaining a measure of satisfaction.

“Usually when they play like that, it leads to a win,” Lowry said of the Jets top line. “They came up huge for us throughout the game, dominant shifts, some huge goals at critical times to get us the lead.”

Namestnikov got things started in the first period, breaking a 10-game drought on a power play, the first of three power-play goals for the home side.

The Jets made it 2-zip before the first was up, Vilardi’s hustle forcing a turnover in the Bruins zone and Connor setting up a wide-open Scheifele for his 15th.

The home side had overcome some shaky early minutes to take a two-goal lead into the first break, out-shooting Boston 14-8.

Seven minutes into the second, and right after a four-on-four gave way to another Jets power play, Scheifele made it a three-goal game, rifling a cross-ice Josh Morrissey feed past a helpless Jeremy Swayman.

The Bruins got that one back on a power play of their own, David Pastrnak's patented one-timer going over the shoulder of Connor Hellebuyck.

Other than some fisticuffs, that's all the Bruins could muster.

The Jets, on the other hand, got plenty out of this one.

"There's a lot of things that will come out of that game," Arniel said. "The attack mentality of our five-on-five game. The attack mentality of our power play. Playing against a heavy team and playing the right way. Sticking up for each other. Those are all glue things. Those are all things that build towards the future.

"I'm proud of the guys in all circumstances of that hockey game. We handled it extremely well."

The immediate future sees the Vegas Golden Knights pay Winnipeg a visit on Thursday.

<https://winnipeg.sun.com/sports/hockey/nhl/winnipeg-jets/jets-auditions-continue-as-nik-ehlers-remains-out-coach-cant-leave-gus-bus-idling-arniel-says-quilt-the-right-word-for-coaching-bumps>

Jets auditions continue as Nik Ehlers remains out

By Paul Friesen

The second-line auditions continue for the Winnipeg Jets this week, but with a very different candidate.

What Jets' Arniel expects to see from Chibrikov with Ehlers out

After giving high-end prospect Brad Lambert a four-game look, the Jets called up Nikita Chibrikov for Tuesday night's home tilt with Boston and likely a couple more games after that.

The job has been up for grabs since Nikolaj Ehlers suffered what looked like a foot injury in Vegas at the end of November.

Ehlers took his first few strides on blades Tuesday morning, but remains unfit to practise.

So it's Chibrikov's job to lose, for now.

"We talked coming out of training camp... both Chibby and Lambo had good training camps," coach Scott Arniel said. "And (if) something happened with our top-six that we want to get a chance to look at them. And with Ehlers being out, this is a little bit by design."

That plan could have settled on one audition had Lambert made it impossible for the Jets to send him back down to the American League.

The first-round draft pick from two years ago went pointless in four games, despite generating some looks.

Arniel says he liked what he saw, though, from the 6-foot-1 Finn, who played the more demanding centre position.

“Huge gains, even from training camp to this last little stretch,” the coach said. “It’s the hardest thing to do, especially for a centre man. You have to play on the right side of people, especially in your end of the rink. Even on tracking, coming back to the neutral zone.

“We talked about it before he played his first game and showed him some video about what some other guys on our team, how they defend. And he was great. He bought into a lot of that stuff.”

Better, though, to end his audition and get him back to playing heavier minutes on the farm, Arniel said, then have him potentially lose some confidence at the NHL level.

“The biggest thing is that we don’t want this to be an in-and-out splash player that comes up and struggles,” the coach explained. “There’s a process here. I told him I don’t know if this is going to be first of January I see him again, whether it’s in March, I don’t know when it’s going to be. We’ll see. Everything is a growing process for him. I want him to be an NHL player for a long time.

“We’re not going to rush things along where these young guys get put in situations where it backfires and now their confidence drops.”

The smaller, feistier Chibrikov, a second-rounder three years ago, brings a different element on the wing.

“He’s a little ball...” Arniel began, cutting himself off presumably before using the “little ball of hate” reference for shift disturbers like Boston’s Brad Marchand. “He goes after the puck. He’s got some bite to him. He goes inside. I’m sure he’s going to disrupt some people. But I love the fact he shoots the puck, too. He loves to shoot the puck. He gets himself in a position for that.”

The 5-foot-10, 170-pound Chibrikov led a struggling Moose team in scoring this season, with five goals, eight assists and just six minutes in penalties in 19 games, while recording a minus-10 rating.

In 70 AHL games last season, he scored 17 times and added 30 assists with 53 minutes in penalties, going minus-18. He added a goal in two playoff games.

“One thing about him, he’s really tenacious.” Jets captain Adam Lowry said. “He’s good on the forecheck. For not being a huge guy, he likes to go to those dirty areas. He’s got tremendous skill, a great playmaker.”

Gustafsson needs to play

Arniel made two other lineup changes for Tuesday’s game, putting defenceman Ville Heinola back with Logan Stanley, relegating Colin Miller to healthy-scratch status.

Up front, he inserted David Gustafsson at centre on the fourth line, between Alex Iafallo and Morgan Barron.

That move wasn’t a knock on the scratched Rasmus Kupari, the coach said.

“I can’t leave Gus. And I’d love to do it in a scenario where maybe it’s every three or four games, but I’ve liked a lot of what our fourth line has done. But I still want Gus to be a part of this group

and want to get him into these games. He's another guy that can help us on faceoffs and help us on the PK."

Third time's no charm

Going into Tuesday's game, the Bruins were 7-2 since firing Jim Montgomery and replacing him with interim head coach Joe Sacco.

This marked the third time in the last week the Jets have squared off against a team experiencing the coaching-change bump.

"It's not a trend I really like to hear, either," Arniel said. "But yeah, it's wild. But it seems to be what's been going on in the league the last four, five years. Guilt is probably the word I'm going to come with. They're playing a lot harder it seems, at times."

TSN.ca

<https://www.tsn.ca/nhl/video/jets-power-play-heats-up-in-rout-of-bruins%7E3044840>

Jets' power play heats up in rout of Bruins (VIDEO)

The Jets scored a power play goal in every period against the Bruins after just two over their last six games. Frankie Corrado takes a closer look at what's working for Winnipeg with the man-advantage after they finished 22nd in the league last season.

<https://www.tsn.ca/nhl/video/jets-score-a-power-play-goal-in-every-period-win-spicy-tilt-with-bruins~3044721>

Jets score a power play goal in every period, win spicy tilt with Bruins (VIDEO)

The Jets scored a power play goal in every period against the Bruins after just two over their last six games. Frankie Corrado takes a closer look at what's working for Winnipeg with the man-advantage after they finished 22nd in the league last season.

Boston.com

<https://www.boston.com/sports/boston-bruins/2024/12/11/bruins-winnipeg-jets-loss-road-trip-nhl-struggles/>

Bruins do little to quiet the doubters after ugly showing against Jets

By Conor Ryan

Joe Sacco said the quiet part out loud on Monday afternoon.

Yes, the Bruins were 7-2-0 since Sacco took the team's reins in mid-November.

But Boston benefited from one of its lightest stretches of the 2024-25 campaign over that stretch, with just one of those nine games against teams currently in the playoff picture.

That one matchup was against the Vancouver Canucks on Nov. 26 — a game that Boston controlled for significant stretches, but couldn't find any semblance of a scoring touch in a 2-0 loss on home ice.

Even with Boston buoyed by a four-game win streak, Sacco stressed that the immediate returns drawn from the last few weeks wouldn't mean much if his team fell flat on its face during a daunting five-game road trip.

"I'd like to see how we respond. I think it tells a lot about your team when you get on the road, about the identity of your group and how it responds to different environments," Sacco said at Warrior Ice Arena. "We're going to play one of the better teams in the league in our next game. I won't look too far ahead because Winnipeg is obviously going to be a nice challenge.

"But I think it's important that we remain true to our identity and that's what's given us success lately. But it's a test on the road for us."

So far, the Bruins are flunking.

After not giving up more than three goals in a single game since Sacco took over, the Bruins were caved in by a talented Jets team, dropping a lopsided 8-1 result at Canada Life Centre.

"This was coming," Brad Marchand bemoaned after Tuesday's result. "Our practices have been sloppy. Our execution has been off there, and it bleeds into games. The way you practice is how you play."

"We lost to a better team tonight, from start to finish," Sacco added.

After crafting an identity as a stingy, physical hockey club over the last three weeks, Boston lived up to the building on Tuesday. Well, as far as the physicality.

But three scraps from Trent Frederic, Mark Kastelic, and Nikita Zadorov in the third period — when the Bruins were already down, 6-1 — won't assuage the pain that awaits when the Bruins review the film on Wednesday.

Once again, the Bruins' offense struggled to land punches on Tuesday — with only a David Pastrnak one-timer beating a quality netminder in Connor Hellebuyck during the second period.

But all of the strides that Boston has made of late as far as D-zone coverage, discipline, and goaltending all dissipated during Tuesday's beatdown.

After negating 90.9 percent of opposing power plays since Sacco's ascension as interim head coach, the Bruins' penalty kill coughed up three Winnipeg tallies over six opportunities.

Boston was whistled for nine total penalties on Tuesday — with a double minor for high-sticking from Brandon Carlo opening the floodgates for Winnipeg via a Vladislav Namestnikov tally 12:09 into the game.

The play at 5-on-5 play wasn't much better.

"We made it an easy night for them and they were just doing what they wanted today," Pastrnak said. "There's a lot of penalties ... there's a lot of defensive mistakes at 5-on-5."

Ironically, the Bruins actually held a 13-5 edge in high-danger scoring chances at 5-on-5 action against Winnipeg.

But Boston's lack of finish against a top goalie like Hellebuyck — coupled with a poor night from Jeremy Swayman — led to a lopsided result.

Swayman was knocked for a career-worst eight goals in the loss — a frustrating step back for a No. 1 netminder who sported a .918 save percentage in six games since Sacco's promotion.

As noted by 98.5 The Sports Hub's Ty Anderson, this marked the first time a Bruins goalie has given up eight goals in a single game since Dan Vladar in April 2021, as well as just the fifth time it's happened since 2003.

Despite only generating an expected goals rate of 1.84 at 5-on-5 action, the Jets managed to score five against Swayman over that significant stretch of play.

"Some of the goals that I let in, I know I can stop them," Swayman said. "And that's something that I hold myself as a standard, and when you let those in, it's not a great feeling. I want to make sure that that doesn't happen again and staying sharp and playing my game. I know I can stop those goals. So that's what I'm going to do and push forward."

The road isn't necessarily going to get any easier for the Bruins on this extended road trip.

The Bruins still have the Kraken, Canucks, Flames, and Oilers on this trek, with Vancouver, Calgary, and Winnipeg already in playoff position as of Tuesday night. Both the Oilers and Kraken sit three points or fewer out of a wild-card spot.

Boston's record might reflect a team that has started to trend in the right direction under Sacco. But that optimism was always going to be undercut by the quality of competition they faced over the last few weeks.

And through one game of this road trip, the Bruins aren't doing much to dispel the doubt that this roster isn't all that much better than the fodder that they trounced over the previous nine games.

"It's not the start of the road trip that we wanted, but we'll look at some things, we'll correct some areas that need fixing like we always do, and we'll just get back at it tomorrow in practice," Sacco said.