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<https://www.nhl.com/jets/news/three-things-perfetti-hat-trick-ehlers-reaches-500-career-points>

***Three things - Perfetti hat trick, Ehlers reaches 500 career points
Big night for Perfetti and Ehlers in 5-2 Jets win***

By Jamie Thomas

WINNIPEG – Cole Perfetti scored his first NHL hat trick and Nikolaj Ehlers had a goal and two assists to get to 500 career points in the Winnipeg Jets 5-2 win over the Utah Hockey Club at Canada Life Centre. The Jets improved their record to 33-14-3 and are now 14-5 against the Central Division. David Gustafsson had the other goal for Winnipeg and Connor Hellebuyck recorded his 30th win of the season. The Jets will host the Calgary Flames on Sunday.

BIG NIGHT FOR PERFETTI

In the first period, the Jets were without Mark Scheifele who blocked a shot with his left hand. On their first power play without their number one centre, it took Winnipeg 48 seconds to score. Nikolaj Ehlers spotted Cole Perfetti wide open on the right side and Perfetti one-timed it past Connor Ingram for a 1-0 lead.

In the third period, with the game tied at two, Perfetti would score the eventual game winning goal. The 23-year-old went to the front of the net right as Dylan DeMelo let a shot go from the point, Vladislav Namestnikov tapped the puck over to Perfetti and he scored his second of the night.

Perfetti's hat trick goal was courtesy of Ehlers, who carried the puck through the neutral zone and left the puck for Perfetti and he found the empty net.

FROM GAME TIME DECISION TO 500 POINTS

For a player who did not take the morning skate and was listed as a game time decision, Nikolaj Ehlers put together a fantastic effort. After Perfetti had made it 3-2, Ehlers recorded the insurance goal by stealing the puck at the Jets blueline and cruising in to beat Ingram for point 499. The Jets forward got point 500 on the Perfetti empty netter and became the first Danish born player to reach that milestone.

GUS BUS

Utah tied the game with a power play goal from Nick Schmaltz at 1:13 of the second period. Winnipeg would restore their lead at 8:48 when a Dylan DeMelo shot the puck into the Utah zone and the puck would bounce off the glass right into the slot, David Gustafsson was in the right place to put in his first of the season.

<https://www.nhl.com/jets/news/jets-prospect-report-january-2025>

Jets Prospect Report - January 2025 Updates on Barlow, Yager and Walton

By Jamie Thomas

It took time but it looks like Colby Barlow has found his groove with the Oshawa Generals. The Jets 2023 first round selection was sent to one of the OHL's best teams in early October from the Owen Sound Attack in a massive deal.

The Generals went to the league final last season and before Barlow's arrival had three kids that were selected in the first round of the NHL Draft in Calum Ritchie (Colorado, 2023), Beckett Sennecke (Anaheim, 2024) and Ben Danford (Toronto, 2024).

"He was the guy in Owen Sound but here now, he's not the only guy and he's kind of coming into a team that had a lot of success last year," said Generals head coach Brad Malone.

"And not necessarily a pecking order but certainly guys that have already established themselves."

Barlow didn't record a point in his first six games, but he has 39 points (22 G, 17A) in his last 35 games. Malone said that even though the points weren't there at the start, Barlow was doing all the right things on and off the ice.

"He was getting a ton of opportunities. Just the puck wasn't going in and he didn't allow that frustration to creep into the team game," said Malone.

"He's been a great example for our younger guys and even his peers just on how to handle things when things aren't going well. He's been a great pro and he's done everything that we've asked of him away from the puck in terms of checking and playing a 200-foot game."

Before taking over as head coach in Oshawa, Malone was hired as player development coach and helped Barlow work through his offensive struggles.

"I just kind of emphasized 'When you show up in Winnipeg, the top six is full. There's a lot of skill in that top six, so if you want to be everyday Jet, you're going to have to buy into being a checker that can play the structure and can score'", said Malone.

"All these good NHL teams, they want their first rounders to come in and play full time but the whole checking emphasis in junior isn't there. We're trying to give that responsibility to Colby on a nightly basis so that when he does get to Winnipeg, that he's put down some tape for management and the coaching staff to see that he's able to play in that third line role and be a responsible checker and play hard and forecheck."

MOOSE UPDATE

A tough season for the Jets AHL affiliate, the Manitoba Moose got a little tougher with the news that Nikita Chibrikov is done for the season after suffering a lower-body injury on the weekend against Toronto. Dave Minuk of the Illegal Curve broke the news on Tuesday that the Moose leading scorer (18 points in 30 games) would be done for the season.

"I feel awful for Chibby. You never like to say anyone go down but it's an opportunity for other guys to step up," said Brad Lambert on Wednesday.

"Kind of try to contribute and we'll have to battle as best as we can without him."

The Moose will continue their homestand Thursday and Saturday against the Grand Rapids Griffins after losing both games against the Toronto Marlies last weekend.

OTHER PROSPECTS

Kieron Walton's incredible season keeps on going as the Jets sixth round pick from 2024 has moved his way into fourth spot in the Ontario Hockey League scoring race (27 G, 43A in 42 games). Walton is fourth in assists (43), second in power play assists (21) and tied for second in game winning goals (6).

- Kevin He (4th round, 2024) has led the Niagra IceDogs to second spot in the Central Division as the IceDogs are one point behind first place Barrie. As of Thursday, He is 15th in the OHL in scoring with 55 points in 42 games.
- Brayden Yager (1st round, 2022) served as Canada's captain at the 2025 World Junior Hockey Championship in Ottawa. Since he was traded from Moose Jaw to Lethbridge, Yager has 14 points in nine games with the Hurricanes. Lethbridge is fourth in the Eastern Conference just a couple points behind the first place Medicine Hat Tigers.
- Connor Levis (7th round, 2023) is almost a point per game player with his hometown team, the Vancouver Giants. Levis has 35 points in 40 games for the Giants. The biggest news regarding Levis came last month when he announced that he will be heading to the NCAA to play for Bowling Green State University at the conclusion of the WHL season. Levis is the first Giant to commit to an NCAA school following the changes to eligibility rules for NCAA hockey.
- Markus Lopenen (5th round, 2024) is adjusting to his first season playing in North America and has 10 points in his last 10 games with the Victoria Royals in the WHL.

NHL.com

<https://www.nhl.com/news/utah-hockey-club-winnipeg-jets-game-recap-january-24>

Perfetti scores hat trick, helps Jets cool off Utah Ehlers has goal, 2 assists, gets 500th NHL point for Winnipeg

By Darrin Bauming

WINNIPEG -- Cole Perfetti scored his first NHL hat trick, including the go-ahead goal, for the Winnipeg Jets in a 5-2 win against the Utah Hockey Club at Canada Life Centre on Friday.

"It's awesome, because you see there's growth," Winnipeg coach Scott Arniel said of Perfetti. "When guys buy in to what you're preaching, and him recognizing, not getting farther away from the net but staying close -- 'Get inside, win your battles,' making sure he's good defensively -- when you build that stuff throughout your team, that's how you have a winning hockey club."

Perfetti made it 3-2 at 5:51 of the third period with his second goal of the game, scoring on a loose puck at the left side of the net.

He hadn't scored in 14 games.

"He has a night like tonight where he's in the right spot and plays great and gets three goals," Jets forward Nikolaj Ehlers said. "Sometimes you've just got to keep grinding, keep shooting. And I've been telling him that: 'Shoot, shoot, shoot.' He's got a pretty good shot. So it's pretty exciting for him."

Ehlers had a goal and two assists and got his 500th NHL point for the Jets (33-14-3), who have points in seven of their past nine (6-2-1). Dylan DeMelo had two assists, and Connor Hellebuyck made 17 saves.

After missing the morning skate Friday, Ehlers was a game-time decision because of an illness.

"You don't want to know how I woke up this morning," Ehlers said. "Obviously not the greatest day, health-wise, for an NHL game. But you know what? I felt better throughout the day and I feel good now, so I'm glad I could be out there."

Nick Schmaltz and Barrett Hayton scored, and Clayton Keller had two assists for Utah (21-20-7), which had won three straight, all against Central Division opponents, including a 5-2 home victory against Winnipeg on Monday and 4-0 win at the Minnesota Wild on Thursday. Connor Ingram made 24 saves.

"I think we're all pretty [ticked] off about losing that game," Hayton said. "That was a big one for us as a group."

Perfetti put the Jets in front 1-0 with a power-play goal at 17:52 of the first period. Ehlers set it up on the rush with a cross-ice feed to Perfetti for a one-timer from low in the right face-off circle.

"Just trying to focus on the input, on the small things, on doing every little detail as best as I can, and then the play is going to develop for you," Perfetti said. "[Ehlers] and [Vladislav Namestnikov] made some great plays. And just going, trying to go to the soft areas of the ice and find them, find the open spots. And when it's your night, [it] kind of just bounces your way. And [I] haven't had those bounces lately, but just trying to be consistent with my game. And you get rewarded eventually."

Schmaltz tied it 1-1 on the power play at 1:13 of the second period when he tipped Michael Kesselring's point shot.

"What we need to do is be the best version of ourselves every day," Utah coach Andre Tourigny said. "And I think today we were, and we played against a good team and we didn't win. That will happen. I can live with that, but we need to show up every night like we did tonight, and I believe that way we will end up at the end of the year with a big smile."

David Gustafsson gave Winnipeg a 2-1 lead at 8:48 with his first goal of the season, coming in his 18th game. DeMelo's dump-in took a strange bounce off the boards in the right corner, and with Ingram behind his goal getting ready to play the puck, Gustafsson shot into an open net from the left circle.

Hayton tied it 2-2 at 1:19 of the third, scoring with a wrist shot from above the right circle after taking a pass from John Marino as the trailer on the rush.

"I think tonight was a heck of a hockey game, too," Hayton said. "I think we were right in it -- [it] was a one-shot game all along. It was tough seeing it end 5-2 but I think we competed tonight, and I'm not happy with the way it finished, but I think there's a lot of good stuff in the game."

With the Jets ahead 3-2, Utah forward Nick Bjugstad hit the post from the left circle at 9:50 following a Winnipeg turnover.

Ehlers pushed the lead to 4-2 on a breakaway at 12:16 by scoring on a backhand inside the left post.

"[Ingram] did a good job," Tourigny said. "First goal is a [heck] of a play for them. The second goal hit the partition -- it is what it is. Third goal, it's a rebound [and] I think we could have been better a little bit with the pucks out of that. Next one is a breakaway, so no, I think [Ingram] did a great job."

Perfetti scored into an empty net at 18:15 for the 5-2 final. Ehlers got an assist for his 500th point (216 goals, 284 assists).

"It's special, but I think what's the most special is doing it here at home," Ehlers said of the milestone. "Getting closer (to 500), it wasn't in my head much. But I was hoping that I could do it at home in front of our fans that I think they're feeling pretty good tonight. So very, very special."

NOTES: Ehlers became the first Denmark-born player in NHL history with 500 points. The closest to the mark is Frans Nielsen (473). ... Winnipeg is tied with the Washington Capitals (33-10-5) for the most wins in the NHL. Washington has played two fewer games. ... Perfetti's hat trick was the fifth scored by a Jets player this season, tying the Colorado Avalanche for the most by one team. ... Schmaltz has 10 points (four goals, six assists) in an eight-game point streak. It's the longest of his NHL career. ... Hayton has four goals in a three-game goal streak, six points (two assists) in a four-game point streak and eight points (four goals, four assists) in his past five games.

Canadian Press

<https://www.chrisd.ca/2025/01/24/winnipeg-jets-utah-hockey-club-game-story-win/>

Perfetti Registers First NHL Hat Trick as Winnipeg Jets Down Utah 5-2

By Jim Bender, The Canadian Press

Cole Perfetti motivated himself.

Before the game, the slumping Winnipeg Jets forward told reporters he was determined to be "a little prick to play against."

Well, Perfetti led the team with three hits and scored for the first time in 14 games. That led to his first NHL hat trick as he led the Jets to a 5-2 victory over Utah before 13,878 fans at Canada Life Centre on Friday night.

And his third goal was part of an historic night for Nikolaj Ehlers.

"I've got to talk to you guys more often," Perfetti joked. "I was just trying to focus on the input on the small things and doing every little detail as best as I can. Then, you know the play's going to develop for you kind of thing and Fly (Ehlers) just made some great plays. Just trying to go to the softer areas of the ice and find the open spots.

"You know, when it's your night, bounces go your way and I haven't had those bounces lately, but just trying to be consistent with my game and you get rewarded eventually."

Ehlers set Perfetti up for his first of three goals, which snapped his 14-game drought. Perfetti then responded with a Lambeau Leap type of celebration.

"Yeah, it was exciting. I was happy, for sure," said Perfetti, who then thanked Ehlers. "I just said, 'Great pass, that was awesome.'

"That was a high-end play."

Perfetti, who scored the game-winner in the third period, did become a pest on the ice, throwing hits and getting involved in some post-whistle skirmishes.

"I just see how effective it is," he said. "Trying to learn and adapt to the game and try to see where I can be better.

"As a smaller guy, I figured I can use my size actually to my advantage with being slippery, stuff like that. I just thing something kind of clicked and that's another element I can add to my game."

That is part of Perfetti's growth, said Jets coach Scott Arniel.

"He's learned from things that happened in the past, he doesn't get down," Arniel said.

When Ehlers set up Perfetti for his third goal – an empty-netter – it was his third point of the night and 500th of his NHL career.

"It's special," said Ehlers, who had a goal and two assists. "But I think what's the most special is doing it here at home.

"Getting closer, it wasn't in my head much. But I was hoping that I could do it at home in front of our fans that I think they're feeling pretty good tonight. So very, very special."

Ehlers made an unselfish play to set up Perfetti's first hat trick and reach the 500-point milestone.

"Even better. He thanked me a few times tonight," Ehlers said. "We all struggle with scoring goals sometimes, and sometimes, you think over it a little too much.

"I was talking to my brother about it this morning, and then he has a night like tonight where he's in the right spot and plays great and gets three goals. Sometimes you've just got to keep grinding, keep shooting. And I've been telling him that: shoot, shoot, shoot. He's got a pretty good shot. So it's pretty exciting for him."

Ehlers, who has been suffering from the flu, was a game-time decision to play.

“You don’t want to know how I woke up this morning,” he said. “Obviously not the greatest day, health-wise, for an NHL game. But you know what, I felt better throughout the day and I feel good now, so I’m glad I could be out there.”

Now, who gets the memorial puck?

“Oh, I’m taking that one,” Ehlers said. “I’m older.”

Dan Gustafsson also scored his first goal of the year.

Nick Schmaltz and Barrett Heyton replied for Utah.

NOTES: Jets netminder Connor Hellebuyck recorded his league-leading 30th win ... The Jets are the only NHL franchise to currently boast five players with at least 40 points ... Hayton has now scored four goals and eight points in his last five games.

Sportsnet.ca

<https://www.tsn.ca/nhl/video/jets-respond-after-getting-called-out-by-arniel-following-loss-to-utah%7E3067090>

'Mad' Cole Perfetti goes off in defining effort for Jets vs. Utah

By Jacob Stoller

WINNIPEG — Cole Perfetti put his money where his mouth is on Friday night.

Earlier that morning, the Winnipeg Jets forward was asked by a reporter how he’d assess his game.

At the time, the 23-year-old baby-faced Whitby, Ont., native was in the midst of a 14-game goal drought. He had tallied just eight points over his previous 25 games, a sizable drop-off from his first 24 games (17 points).

But you wouldn’t have known it, judging by his demeanour.

“I feel like I’m really starting to play really good hockey, all over the ice,” Perfetti told reporters. “Becoming a two-way guy, that’s kind of what I’m trying to focus on. Being harder on the puck. Harder on the walls. Kinda being a little prick to play against.”

Not exactly the first things that come to mind with him.

But the 2020 10th-overall pick said he was priding himself on mastering the intangibles that help teams win games. If he did all those little things, the offensive production would come soon enough.

And that’s what wound up happening later that night, with Perfetti scoring a hat trick and putting forth his best all-around effort of the season en route to the Winnipeg Jets defeating the Utah Hockey Club, 5-2. He actually played the part of a pest quite well, irritating Utah players, registering three hits and making a couple of nice stick plays in the offensive zone.

“You guys got him all mad this morning,” Jets coach Scott Arniel said, tongue-in-cheek, after the game. “Like I mentioned, he’s one year older, he’s learned from things that have happened in the past, he doesn’t get down. He gets frustrated, but he doesn’t get down and let it drag into the rest of his game. Did a great job going to the net, got inside and he got some greasy goals. That’s kind of, a lot of times for guys not scoring, what gets you off and running. I liked his compete. I think he mentioned to you guys he hasn’t stopped competing, and that’s the best part of it.”

Perfetti had an extra jolt right out of the gate.

Less than five minutes into the game, he back-checked hard and stick-checked Lawson Crouse to negate a scoring chance. He stripped a puck that was within an arm’s length of Utah goalie Connor Ingram with 3:45 left in the opening period, and although he didn’t win the ensuing board battle in the corner, he finished his hit with authority.

Then, with 2:08 remaining in the first period, Perfetti snapped his goal-scoring slump with a power-play one-timer that came via a beautiful Nikolaj Ehlers cross-ice pass.

It was a goal-scorer’s goal, topped off by swagger in his celebration, where he jumped into the glass. As he and his teammates congregated, the sense of relief was clear as day on his face.

Midway through the second, Perfetti darted up the ice to join Ehlers in a rush. As he entered the zone in transition, Ehlers dished it off to him. Jusso Vailmaki tried to get a stick on the puck, but Perfetti lifted Vailmaki’s stick, grabbed the puck, pulled off a toe-drag and then dished the puck off to Ehlers, who generated a scoring chance.

You could tell Perfetti was feeling himself, weaponizing his smarts and overcompensating for his weaknesses in ways we haven’t seen before. And there was that jam he showed. Where the heck did it come from?

Between a stoppage in play at 5:19 of the second, Perfetti drew a reaction out of Logan Cooley. After Neal Pionk gave Cooley a little bump, Perfetti did the same as the latter attempted to skate away from Pionk. Cooley proceeded to deliver a full two-hand slash to Perfetti’s lower body.

Perfetti was serious about becoming a pest.

“I mean, depends on who. Obviously, I’m not much of a fighter, so gotta be smart with that,” he said. “At the same time, I can get under his skin for two seconds, maybe. And he’s got his mind elsewhere. And that’s a success. Just trying to add that element. Obviously, that’s not my main thought going into each shift, is to be a pest. It’s just to grow and be the best player I can be and adapt in every way possible, and that’s just maybe one thing I can add to my game.”

The more you can do well, aside from just goals and assists, the less of a burden it is when you’re snake-bitten.

Right from the drop of the puck, you could tell that Perfetti was out to be a difference-maker. He didn’t look like a player squeezing his stick too hard amidst a dry spell.

And he was rewarded for that on his second goal, where he picked up a loose puck net front to score the eventual game winner.

His third goal of the night was an empty-netter that Ehlers set up, marking the Danish winger's 500th career point.

"He thanked me a few times tonight," Ehlers said. "We all struggle with scoring goals sometimes, and sometimes you think over it a little too much.

"And then he has a night like tonight, where he's in the right spot and plays great and gets three goals. Sometimes you've just got to keep grinding, keep shooting. And I've been telling him that: shoot, shoot, shoot."

Jets fans are hoping, for both Perfetti and their team's sake, that this isn't another one-off. Perfetti's two-goal outing on Nov. 29 — which snapped an 11-game goal drought — looked like a jumpstart. But then he went on to score just one goal in his next 25 games.

At some point over those last 25 games, though, a light switch seemed to go off for Perfetti. If he's going to become the top-six forward many believe he can be, he needs to bring more than just raw offensive talent to make an impact night-in and night-out.

"Talking with the coaches, the biggest thing is I need to find a way to impact the game, when not producing, That's kind of been my thing. If I can get a couple hits, if I can get a couple blocks, get in on the forecheck, then I can help the team win in a different way," he said. "My mindset is just trying to adapt and be the best player I can be."

Winnipeg Free Press

<https://www.winnipegfreepress.com/breakingnews/2025/01/24/perfetti-fills-his-hat>

Perfetti fills his hat

Ehlers notches 500th point with assist on forward's hat trick goal

By: Ken Wiebe

As he stood in front of reporters and fielded questions, Cole Perfetti was using words that you don't normally associate with the mostly mild-mannered and polite Winnipeg Jets forward.

To be clear, Perfetti was in the midst of a lengthy goal-scoring slump that was at 14 games before Friday's game against Utah HC when he detailed some of the ways he'd be working to round out his game during the dry spell.

You could understand why Perfetti was talking about getting under the skin of his opponents rather than taking questions about his excellent vision and hockey sense.

"I feel, obviously the production might not be there in the sense of the stat sheet and stuff like that, but I feel like I'm really starting to play really good hockey all over the ice," Perfetti said after the morning skate. "That's what I'm trying to focus on, being harder on the puck, harder on the walls, kind of being a little prick to play against, not being fun to play against.

"Be annoying, reliable in all zones. Eventually the production is going to come, the offensive side of it will come. How can I affect the game if I'm not scoring or if I'm not getting production?"

And if I'm able to still look myself in the mirror and say I contributed to this win, that's a successful game."

The words he spoke were backed up with action when the puck dropped for the game.

By the time the final buzzer sounded, Perfetti was being celebrated and showered by a plethora of hats that were tossed onto the ice after he recorded his first NHL hat trick in what was a 5-2 victory at Canada Life Centre.

Perfetti, who was limited to two assists during the previous 14 games, scored once on the power play after a brilliant cross-ice feed from Nikolaj Ehlers, converted a pass from Vladislav Namestnikov on the backdoor after getting to the blue paint and then completed the hat trick into an empty net to close out the scoring.

"You guys (in the media) got him all mad this morning," said Jets head coach Scott Arniel. "He's one year older, he's learned from things that have happened in the past. He gets frustrated, but he doesn't get down and let it drag into the rest of his game.

"He did a great job of getting to the net. He got inside and he got some greasy goals. That's kind of, a of times, for guys not scoring, that gets you off and running."

Perfetti, who finished with eight shot attempts in the game, was also involved physically in the contest, finishing with a team-high three hits while also getting under the skin of Logan Cooley, who slashed the Jets forward after the whistle, but was not penalized on the play.

"I don't know. I've got to talk to you guys more often," Perfetti joked after the game. "Just trying to, again, focus on the input on the small things, doing every little detail as best I can and the play is going to develop for you kind of thing.

"When it's your night, it just kind of bounces your way. I haven't had those bounces lately, but I'm just trying to be consistent with my game and you get rewarded eventually."

The Jets, who improved to 33-14-3, return to action on Sunday at 5 p.m. with a rematch from last Saturday against the Calgary Flames who defeated the Jets 3-1 last Saturday..

Let's take a closer look at this one:

THE MILESTONE

Ehlers stole the puck from Utah HC D-man Michael Kesslerling in the neutral zone and then sped in on a breakaway, slipping his backhand off the right pad of Ingram and in.

That goal made it a 4-2 game and provided some valuable insurance for the Jets, who were looking to avenge a shoddy effort against Utah on Monday in Salt Lake City.

By notching three points in the contest, Ehlers is up to 42 points in 41 games this season and he's up to 500 points for his NHL career.

The performance was even more impressive when you consider Ehlers was a game-time decision after missing the morning skate with an illness.

“You don’t want to know how I woke up this morning. Obviously not the greatest day, health-wise, for an NHL game. But you know what, I felt better throughout the day and I feel good now, so I’m glad I could be out there,” said Ehlers. “I’ve played feeling much worse than that.”

Asked who would be getting the puck as a memento — Ehlers for 500 or Perfetti for his first hat trick — the Danish forward took charge.

“Oh, I’m taking that one. I’m older,” said Ehlers, noting there would be more hat tricks coming for his linemate. “(Five-hundred points) is special. But what’s the most special is doing it here at home.”

THE CAROM

During the second period, Jets defenceman Dylan DeMelo wound up for a routine dump-in, but his play turned into a primary assist when the puck hit a stanchion and bounced right in front.

With Utah HC goalie Connor Ingram departing the crease to try and knock the puck down, David Gustafsson came off the bench and found himself staring at a wide open net.

Gustafsson fired the puck home for his first goal of the season.

After going 16 games without a point, Gustafsson has points in consecutive contests after recording an assist on Wednesday against the Colorado Avalanche.

THE SCARE(S)

Two Jets players went to the room — albeit briefly — and another was shaken up after blocking a shot.

Jets centre Mark Scheifele was the first to depart after blocking a shot late in the first period, though he returned to play the final shift before the buzzer and finished the game.

Mason Appleton was drilled by a Josh Morrissey shot and went down in pain, but was able to walk things off in the tunnel and didn’t miss a shift.

Jets defenceman Dylan Samberg also blocked a shot with his left hand that stung him, but he didn’t miss a shift either.

KEY PLAY

Cole Perfetti’s second goal of the game proves to be the game-winner at 5:51 of the third period.

THE THREE STARS

1. Cole Perfetti, Jets, First career NHL hat trick, 3 hits.
2. Nikolaj Ehlers, Jets, 1 goal, 3 points.
3. Dylan DeMelo, Jets, 2 assists.

EXTRA, EXTRA

Forward Brad Lambert was recalled from the Manitoba Moose on Friday morning and took part in the pre-game skate, since Ehlers was a game-time decision. Lambert, who suited up in four games with the Jets earlier this season, has three goals and 16 points in 29 American Hockey League games this season.

“Every chance to be up here is an opportunity to learn something new and get more experience up here,” said Lambert.

The Jets went one-for-one on the power play on Friday, but it’s the lack of opportunities on the man-advantage that has been interesting to monitor.

The Jets other healthy scratches were defencemen Colin Miller and Ville Heinola.

<https://www.winnipegfreepress.com/breakingnews/2025/01/24/mcvie-the-glue-that-held-it-all-together>

***McVie ‘the glue that held it all together’
Players remember coach who led Jets from WHA to NHL***

By: Mike McIntyre and Ken Wiebe

Tom McVie will forever be linked to the Winnipeg Jets, leading them to their final World Hockey Association championship and ushering in the NHL’s 1.0-era in this city.

It’s not surprising tributes began flowing as fast as his famous witty one-liners as word spread this week the beloved longtime coach had died at the age of 89.

“He was a tremendous man,” Morris Lukowich told the Free Press on Friday. “And he was quite a character.”

Lukowich was a key part of that Avco Cup-winning club in 1978-79, then was one of the few players who stayed on with McVie as the Jets joined the NHL the following season.

“He was a very disciplined coach, and he expected us to be in tremendous shape. He worked extremely hard, and he was in great shape, too,” said Lukowich.

“We’d work hard, but there was a lighter side, too. He enjoyed humour, and we would often have a good laugh together. He really was like a father figure to me.”

Things didn’t go nearly as well for the expansion club — a 21-69-18 overall record in 108 games before McVie was fired and replaced by Bill Sutherland midway through the 1980-81 campaign.

“It was a shame, a real shame, that they took apart our team when we came to the NHL,” said Terry Ruskowski, who played on the WHL Jets in that final year, then moved on to the Chicago Blackhawks of the NHL.

“I don’t know if the NHL was scared of us coming in there and doing really well, but McVie kind of got dealt a bad hand. If it wasn’t for him, we wouldn’t have won a championship. He was the glue that held it all together.”

Ruskowski, who would go on to skate for four different NHL teams over the next decade, said he always viewed McVie as one of the best leaders he ever had.

“The thing I really admired of him that he didn’t ask for your respect. He earned it,” said Ruskowski.

“That, and while he seemed gruff on the outside, inside he was a big teddy bear. The things he said and the things he did, there was no favouritism either way. And that was probably one of the biggest reasons why we were successful. All he wanted to do is win hockey games and put the right people together to do that. And he certainly did that.”

Lukowich and Ruskowski kept in touch with McVie over the years and their paths would occasionally cross in person at reunion events.

“He left me laughing,” Ruskowski said of their most recent phone conversation, which lasted close to an hour.

They reminisced about old times, including a famous practice when McVie had the players skating so hard that some of them ended up vomiting. One was the late Scott Campbell, who didn’t want to let McVie think he’d got the best of him.

“Scotty was coming off, he was still throwing up, and he turns to Tommy and says ‘Is that the best you could do?’ And Tommy growls ‘Just wait until tomorrow,’” said Ruskowski.

“The thing is, every drill we did, he’d do the same drill. So you couldn’t complain about it too much. He was just a solid guy, and it was his job to win, to put guys together and put the team first.”

McVie had previously coached the Washington Capitals prior to coming to Winnipeg and would go on to coach the New Jersey Devils and Boston Bruins, along with various stops in the AHL and ECHL before hanging up his whistle for good in 1998. His 328 victories put him among the top 20 in AHL history.

“I think he really missed being in hockey,” said Lukowich, who has but one regret about his time with McVie.

Bobby Hull benched

It went back to the time Bobby Hull broke a team rule by arriving late to a game against the Montreal Canadiens and McVie decided to scratch him to send a message.

Hull ended up quitting the next day.

“I chatted with Tom about it and he still felt that he had to stick with his guns there and that if he was to let Bobby off the hook, then where would our discipline go?” Lukowich recalled.

“I just really felt that we had to have some sort of an exception that would have allowed Bobby to stay, because we ended up missing him the rest of that season and Bobby was such an incredible player and really added to our team that year.”

However, it showed that McVie was a man of principle, he said.

The native of Trail, B.C. died at his home in Vancouver, Wash., according to the Bruins organization. His name was placed on the Stanley Cup in 2011 after Boston won it and included him as an ambassador.

“Tom’s personality, voice, and knowledge of the game transcended his title and time in our city as the team made the transition from the WHA to the NHL,” the Jets said in a statement this

week. “His ability to tell a story only added to the legend of the hockey club’s arrival on the big stage.”

AROUND THE GLASS

Tough love

We suspect McVie would give a tip of the fedora to Buffalo Sabres bench boss Lindy Ruff for his old-school approach to his struggling squad this week.

After a sloppy 6-4 loss in Seattle on Monday followed by a late-night flight to Vancouver, Ruff made his players get up bright and early the next morning to head to the rink. Not only did he put them through their paces despite playing on a back-to-back that evening against the Canucks, it was more like a practice complete with full-blown battle drills.

The message was essentially this: You didn’t work hard enough in the game, so you’re going to do it now.

Give the Sabres credit. They came out against a rested Canucks team and beat them 3-2. No doubt that’s the type of response Ruff was hoping for.

Contrast that with the approach from Jets bench boss Scott Arniel, who tore his group to shreds following their 5-2 loss in Utah Monday — calling it “embarrassing” and “horses—t” but then killing them with kindness the following day by cancelling a scheduled practice in Denver.

His players also responded with a solid outing in their next game, beating Colorado 3-2 in overtime. It just shows there’s different tools in a coach’s kit to try and get the job done.

Doing Winnipeg proud

Seth Jarvis keeps finding new ways to impress. The 22-year-old Winnipeg product, fresh off recently being named to Team Canada for the upcoming 4 Nations Face-Off, is on pace for a career year with the Carolina Hurricanes.

He recorded his first four-point game in the NHL on Thursday night when he had two goals and two assists against the Columbus Blue Jackets in a 7-4 victory.

Jarvis is now up to 38 points (18G, 20A) in 42 games with the surging Hurricanes, who have won four straight games and sit second in the Metropolitan Division behind the league-leading Washington Capitals.

Jarvis and his teammates will make their annual visit to Winnipeg on Feb. 4.

Forsberg on fire

When Filip Forsberg rolled into Winnipeg on Jan. 7 for the first of two road games, the Nashville Predators winger was mired in a lengthy goal-scoring drought — one that extended to 18 games.

Forsberg finally found the back of the net in a 5-2 loss and he’s been red-hot ever since, putting together a seven-game goal-scoring streak (and a nine-game point streak overall). During those seven games, Forsberg has nine goals and 14 games and he’s up to 18 goals and 47 points in 47 games — which leads the Predators in both departments.

It should come as little surprise the Predators have got things turned around this month and are riding a five-game winning streak going into the weekend to help them hang around the periphery of the chase for the second wild-card.

Because of the poor start, the Predators have their work cut out for them, but head coach Andrew Brunette reinforced the team hasn't lost its belief and they've backed up those words with action.

Winnipeg Sun

<https://winnipeg.sun.com/sports/hockey/nhl/winnipeg-jets/perfetti-explodes-ehlers-hits-500-as-jets-avenge-loss-to-utah>

Perfetti explodes, Ehlers hits 500, as Jets avenge loss to Utah

By Paul Friesen

On a Friday night in Winnipeg, Jets forward Cole Perfetti found the cure for his 14-game scoring slump: Talk about it on Friday morning.

A mere hours after telling media types he was confident the points would come – and that he was enjoying becoming “a little prick” to play against – the 23-year-old ended his drought in style, scoring his first career hat trick in a 5-2 Jets victory over Utah.

“I’ve got to talk to you guys more often,” Perfetti cracked, postgame.

Head coach Scott Arniel had some fun with it, too.

“You guys got him all mad,” Arniel said. “He mentioned to you guys he hasn’t stopped competing, and that’s the best part of it.”

Perfetti’s first goal since Dec. 21 opened the scoring, while his second broke a 2-2 third-period tie and helped the Jets avenge an embarrassing 5-2 loss in Utah four days earlier.

The hats poured down after his empty-netter with 1:45 to go.

“When it’s your night, it just bounces your way,” he said. “And haven’t had those bounces lately.”

It wasn’t a dominant performance, with Utah getting its share of chances despite recording a mere 19 shots on Connor Hellebuyck.

But it was plenty good enough against a team that had played the night before and suffered another loss earlier in the day: Utah’s initial attempt to trademark the nickname Yeti was denied.

“They weren’t going to give us an easy one and they weren’t going to let us get anything without us earning it,” Arniel said. “And that’s what we had to do.”

David Gustafsson and Nik Ehlers scored the other Jets goals, Ehlers on a third-period breakaway that made it 4-2.

Ehlers, a game-time decision because he'd woken up sick, assisted on two of Perfetti's goals, including the empty-netter, to reach 500 career points, drawing a standing ovation from what was left of a crowd of 13,878.

"It's special," Ehlers said. "But what's the most special is doing it here at home. Getting closer, it wasn't in my head much. But I was hoping that I could do it at home in front of our fans. I think they're feeling pretty good. So very, very special."

Ehlers said he was keeping the game puck for himself – "I'm older," he joked – but he was as eager to send praise in Perfetti's direction as he was to dish the puck off for his linemate's empty-netter.

"He thanked me a few times," Ehlers said. "We all struggle with scoring goals sometimes, and sometimes you think over it a little too much... and then he has a night like tonight where he's in the right spot and plays great and gets three goals. Sometimes you've just got to keep grinding, keep shooting. And I've been telling him that: shoot, shoot, shoot."

As for how he was feeling earlier in the day, Ehlers avoided the gory details.

"You don't want to know how I woke up this morning. Obviously not the greatest day, health-wise, for an NHL game. But I felt better throughout the day and I feel good now, so I'm glad I could be out there. I've played feeling much worse than that."

The win ups the Jets' record to 33-14-3 as they remain on top of the Western Conference.

Shots were 28-19, as Winnipeg won its second straight.

The Jets made Utah pay for its first penalty, Perfetti pouncing on a slick, cross-ice feed from Ehlers for a one-timer that shook the monkey from his back late in the first period.

"We locked eyes and I thought it was coming," Perfetti said. "And he put it right on my tape. That was a high-end play."

"We haven't had many power plays," Arniel added. "So to make that sting like that, that was big. It got us up and going."

The visitors responded on their first power play, with Nick Schmaltz's goal on a deflection coming with Gabe Vilardi in the box early in the second period.

Before the second period was up, Gustafsson took advantage of a weird bounce off the stanchion, on a Dylan DeMelo shoot-in, that caught goalie Connor Ingram way out of his net. Gustafsson's first goal of the season came in his 18th game.

The Jets thought they had another when Rasmus Kupari found an open net, but the refs ruled the whistle had gone after Nino Niederreiter fell into Ingram.

Utah tied it again early in the third period, when the Jets allowed Barrett Hayton to cruise down from the blue line for a wrist shot that beat Hellebuyck.

Less than five minutes later, Perfetti got his second on a rush started by Ehlers and continued with a sneaky, net-front pass from Vlad Namestnikov.

Up next, a home game against Calgary on Sunday.

<https://winnipeg.sun.com/sports/hockey/nhl/winnipeg-jets/the-little-prick-when-not-scoring-jets-perfetti-wants-to-annoy>

The 'little prick': when not scoring, Jets' Perfetti wants to annoy

By Paul Friesen

He'd gone 14 games without scoring a goal, but Winnipeg Jets forward Cole Perfetti going into the weekend said he's getting better at something else, something you can't measure on the stats sheet.

"Being a little prick to play against," the 23-year-old said before the Jets faced off against Utah. "Not being fun to play against. Be annoying, reliable in all zones. Eventually the production is going to come."

The first-round draft pick from five years ago is coming off a roller-coaster, 19-goal season that also saw him go through a long slump and get scratched for a bunch of games down the stretch and in the playoffs.

This time, he's trying to make his presence felt even when the points aren't coming.

For someone who can't just impose his will by sheer size – Perfetti weighs in at just 185 pounds – that has to look a certain way.

"Obviously I'm not going to send a guy into the third row and kill a guy," Perfetti said. "But if I can get in on them on the forecheck, if I can use my size as an advantage actually against them, be a little slippery off them in tight spots, get in on their hands, be annoying on the forecheck, turn pucks over, they'll get annoyed real fast.

"It's real annoying when a guy is all over you and you're having a tough time getting the puck out against him."

Being "a prick" and staying out of the penalty box can be difficult things to marry, but Perfetti has done that at a high level.

The minor he took in Colorado on Wednesday ended a streak of 28 games, penalty-free.

Getting rid of those zeroes in the more fun column of the stats sheet is something he's trying not to worry too much about.

Going into Friday's game, Perfetti had seven goals, 18 assists, in 49 games. Over the previous 14, he had just two assists.

"The way I look at it, the way we talk about it as a group and from the coaches, how can I affect the game if I'm not scoring or if I'm not getting production?" he said. "And if I'm able to still look myself in the mirror and say I contributed to this win, that's a successful game."

Seeing his team at the top of the Western Conference alleviates some of the frustration of not scoring.

“It’s a little frustrating,” he acknowledged. “But at the same time I’m able to look myself in the mirror and say I played a good game defensively, I didn’t give much up, we were good as a line. If you can find parts of the game where you contributed to the win, production or not... that’s pretty awesome.”

He couldn’t say that when head coach Rick Bowness sat him out at times last year, when his goal drought reached a staggering 23 games.

Scott Arniel doesn’t sound concerned about Perfetti staying cold for that long again.

“That’s not just him. Guys go through stretches,” the Jets first-year coach said. “If he wasn’t doing those things, being annoying and playing well without the puck – he is getting inside, he’s getting looks. Goal scorers, playmakers, they go through spurts where when they get hot, they get real hot.

“All I say to him is that as long as he’s doing all of the other things well, those numbers will come.”

Global Winnipeg

<https://globalnews.ca/news/10977144/perfettis-first-career-hat-trick-powers-winnipeg-jets-past-utah-5-2/>

Perfetti’s first career hat trick powers Winnipeg Jets past Utah 5-2

By Christian Aumell & Russ Hobson Global News

That’s one heck of a way to break out of a goal scoring drought.

Cole Perfetti scored for the first time in over a month, then added two more tallies for his first career hat trick as the Winnipeg Jets dumped the Utah Hockey Club 5-2 Friday night.

Perfetti ended a lengthy 14-game goalless drought with a three-goal night, and Nikolaj Ehlers had one goal and two assists to record his 500th career point.

“When it’s your night, it kinda just bounces your way,” Perfetti said. “Haven’t had those bounces lately, but just trying to be consistent with my game and you get rewarded eventually.”

The Jets won for the fifth time in their last seven games, while also ending Utah’s modest three-game win streak.

David Gustafsson notched the only other goal for Winnipeg as they scored three times in the third, including an empty netter.

The victory avenged what Jets head coach Scott Arniel called an embarrassing loss from only a few days earlier.

“This was a team that kind of embarrassed us and they’re a good hockey team,” said Arniel. “They compete hard and they weren’t gonna give us an easy one and they weren’t gonna let us get anything without us earning it. That’s what we had to do tonight. I know Fetts (Perfetti) and Fly (Ehlers) were real good, but I liked a lot of our guys.”

Ehlers missed the morning skate and was a game-time decision with an illness.

“I did feel good out there,” said Ehlers. “I’ve played feeling much worse than that.”

Ehlers became just the sixth player in franchise history to hit the 500 point plateau.

“It’s special,” he said. “But I think what’s the most special is doing it here at home.”

His 500th career point came on Perfetti’s hat trick goal into the empty net, but there’s no argument over who gets the milestone puck.

“Oh, I’m taking that one,” said Ehlers. “I’m older.”

Story continues below advertisement

“500 points is pretty cool,” said Perfetti. “Fly can have that one. He can take that.”

The first period was mostly uneventful until Matias Maccelli was called for holding with just under three minutes to go.

With Mark Scheifele briefly in the locker room after blocking a shot with his hand, Perfetti jumped on the top unit and that proved to be a boon for the young player. After the Jets struggled to enter the zone for the first half of the power play, Ehlers skated the puck down the wall before sending a cross-ice pass that Perfetti one-timed into the back of the net for his first goal since December 21.

Utah would begin the second period on a power play as Gabriel Vilardi was called for slashing with 14 seconds left in the first, and Utah took advantage just over a minute into the middle frame.

The Jets got a clear but behind the play, Alex Lafallo lost his stick and went to his bench to get a new one. That allowed Utah to carry the puck back into the zone on a 5-on-3 with Michael Kesselring as a wide-open trailer. He got a pass at the top of the zone and wired a shot that was tipped by Nick Schmaltz and through the legs of Connor Hellebuyck to level the score.

Winnipeg regained the lead at the 8:48 thanks to a friendly bounce. Dylan DeMelo fired the puck into the Utah end from the neutral zone and Connor Ingram left his crease to intercept it behind the net. But as he did that, the puck took a funky bounce off a stanchion in the corner and rolled into the slot where Gustafsson rushed in to whack it into the yawning cage before Ingram could get back in position.

The goal was Gustafsson’s first of the season and fifth of his career in his 131st career game.

Winnipeg nearly made it 3-1 a few minutes later when a net front scramble resulted in Rasmus Kupari scoring after an early whistle. Officials announced that there was inadvertent goalie interference on the play, therefore they blew the whistle.

The Jets carried a 21-14 edge in shots on goal as well as their 2-1 lead into the third period, but the lead didn't last long as Utah, like they did in the second, struck just over a minute into the final frame.

John Marino skated the puck towards the faceoff dot to the Hellebuyck's left before dropping it off to a trailing Barrett Hayton, who ripped a shot high over Hellebuyck's right shoulder to tie the game at the 1:19 mark.

Less than five minutes later, Perfetti struck again to restore Winnipeg's advantage.

A point shot from DeMelo was stopped by Ingram but Vladislav Namestnikov slid the rebound to the side of the crease where Perfetti was open for a tap-in goal with 14:09 remaining.

Ehlers got in on the fun with just over eight minutes to go, pouncing on a turnover at the Utah blueline. Kesselring fumbled the puck, then tripped as Ehlers took the puck away and skated up the ice on a breakaway. He glanced behind him to see how much time and space he had before undressing Ingram and sliding a backhand into the goal to make it 4-2.

Utah pulled Ingram with just under three minutes to go but couldn't muster much of a push before Ehlers made a great play to get the puck to Perfetti for an empty netter, sealing his first career hat trick and giving Ehlers his 500th NHL point with the assist.

Hellebuyck only had to make 17 saves to earn his 30th win of the season, while Ingram turned aside 24 shots in defeat.

Winnipeg will look to make it three wins in a row when they host Calgary on Sunday at 5 p.m. Pregame coverage on 680 CJOB begins at 3 p.m.

TSN.ca

<https://www.tsn.ca/nhl/video/biron-jets-are-one-of-the-best-teams-in-the-nhl-when-they-outwork-other-teams%7E3067283>

Biron: Jets' are one of the best teams in the NHL when they outwork other teams (VIDEO)

Since being called out by head coach Scott Arniel after their loss to Utah Monday night the Jets have won two games in a row including getting revenge against Utah Friday night. TSN Hockey analyst Martin Biron joins SportsCentre to discuss what he liked from the Jets in this win, and if he thinks the Jets should scale back Connor Hellebuyck's workload.

The Hockey News

<https://thehockeynews.com/nhl/chicago-blackhawks/latest-news/winnipeg-jets-want-jonathan-toews-to-consider-coming-to-them>

Winnipeg Jets Want Jonathan Toews To Consider Coming To Them

By Vinnie Parise

Jonathan Toews was a pillar of the Chicago Blackhawks organization for a long time. In addition to being great as an individual hockey player, he had the Stanley Cup handed to him by the commissioner of the National Hockey League three times. His character and leadership matched what he brought on the ice.

Toews hasn't played since the end of the 2022-23 season. The Blackhawks didn't want to bring him back as they moved on from the glory days and he took some time away from the game to better his overall health.

Now, he is looking to return possibly. We know it won't be with Chicago but plenty of teams will be looking for a middle six center who could win face-offs, play well in his end, and contribute some depth scoring.

One team that has expressed interest in him is the Winnipeg Jets. Kevin Cheveldayoff told the Winnipeg Free Press that he would be interested in making a move like that.

We know that Toews has begun skating and is getting close to the point where his body is ready for NHL action. A competitor like him wouldn't return if he wasn't ready to compete at a high level.

The cool thing about this possibility is the fact that Toews hails from Winnipeg, Manitoba. After all of those years with the Blackhawks, finishing up with his hometown team would be a wonderful ending.

Cheveldayoff was also there in Chicago during some of Toews' early years with the Blackhawks. The two have worked together before so the relationship is there to get this done if both sides see fit.

As of now, the Jets are one of the best teams in the NHL. They enter play on Friday with a record of 32-14-3 which leads the entire Western Conference and is second in the entire league. With a veteran leader like Toews added to the mix, they would have what it takes to win the whole thing.

Salt Lake Tribune

<https://www.sltrib.com/sports/utah-hockey-club/2025/01/24/utah-hockey-club-loses-winnipeg/>

John Marino believes 'there's still a lot left' in Utah Hockey Club

By Belle Fraser

John Marino spent four months watching Utah Hockey Club from the outside.

Now back from injury, the defenseman has quickly embedded himself into the team systems and mindset. One thing has been clear for Marino through six games played with The Club.

“You can see guys want to win here and we’re able to compete against any team,” he said.

Friday’s 5-2 loss against the Winnipeg Jets at Canada Life Centre was another game in which Utah held its own and challenged the opponent but did not have enough to gather two points.

They were close, though, tying things 2-2 at the beginning of the third period before giving up three goals against.

The loss closed out a four-game stretch in which Utah played all Central Division teams. The Club got six points out of the week, beating the Jets at Delta Center on Monday before earning wins against the St. Louis Blues and Minnesota Wild.

Despite Friday’s sour ending, Marino sees the will from his new teammates. He’s been a big part of it, too. The 26-year-old led all defensemen with 22:56 of ice time in Winnipeg and assisted on Barrett Hayton’s tying goal.

“It’s a young group of guys who have played together for a little bit here. They have a bunch of chemistry out there too and it’s pretty easy to fit in with them,” Marino said. “There’s still a ton of confidence in that room — what we’re able to do and how we’ve been playing lately. ... I think everyone knows how good we can be and there’s still a lot left.”

Marino’s assist came 1:19 into the third period. Clayton Keller wired the puck to him as they entered the zone. Marino brought it down low before hitting Hayton in the high slot where he wristed it by Jets’ netminder Connor Hellebuyck for the 2-2 equalizer. It was Hayton’s 12th goal of the season and fourth in three games.

“He’s been huge coming back. It’s impressive seeing what he’s done. It’s crazy being out for that long and coming into this prime time of the season — it’s fast hockey, it’s competitive hockey,” Hayton said of Marino. “He’s a skilled, smart player and makes a lot of great plays.”

Cole Perfetti regained the Jets’ advantage at 5:51 with his second goal of the game — and what turned into a hat trick by the end of the night. The forward was stationed on the left doorstep of Connor Ingram’s net and knocked in the loose puck that popped out from an initial point shot.

Nikolaj Ehlers extended the gap to 4-2 at 12:16 with a back-handed goal off a breakaway after Utah turned it over at the offensive blue line. Perfetti’s empty-net tally at 18:15 sealed the 5-2 win for the Jets.

“I think when they scored their third goal, it was tough for us to generate and sustain offense,” Utah head coach André Tourigny said. “I think we worked hard, we did the right thing, we just maybe ran out of gas or played against a really good team that’s really good at defending.”

Utah had its legs in the first 40 minutes — which included a power-play goal from Nick Schmaltz.

After Perfetti scored on the power play in the first period for a 1-0 lead, Utah struck on its own man advantage to open the middle frame.

Schmaltz planted himself in front and tipped Michael Kesselring’s shot in for the 1-1 scoreline at 1:13. The play marked Schmaltz’s 10th goal of the season and fourth point in the last three games. The forward also extended his point streak to eight games.

“He’s a leader, he’s a top player and he’s a big-minute player. Schmaltz can do a lot of stuff on the ice,” Tourigny said. “The team as a whole, we’re playing hard, with more pace. I think we’re playing in our strength more. I like the mindset.”

Kesselring has run the point on the first power play unit for the past four games in Mikhail Sergachev’s absence; the defenseman is day to day with an upper-body injury. With the assist on Schmaltz’s goal, Kesselring has a goal and an assist on the power play since his promotion.

(Bethany Baker | The Salt Lake Tribune) Utah Hockey Club defenseman Michael Kesselring (7) looks to pass the puck during the second period of the game at the Delta Center in Salt Lake City on Monday, Dec. 2, 2024.

(Bethany Baker | The Salt Lake Tribune) Utah Hockey Club defenseman Michael Kesselring (7) looks to pass the puck during the second period of the game at the Delta Center in Salt Lake City on Monday, Dec. 2, 2024.

The Jets then capitalized on a miscue from Ingram. The Utah goaltender went out of the crease to retrieve a dumped-in puck but it instead bounced out to the left circle where David Gustafsson blasted it into the open net. Winnipeg earned the 2-1 lead at 8:48 and took it into the final stanza where things started to unravel and resulted in a loss for Utah.

“I think we’re all pretty pissed off about losing that game,” Hayton said. “That was a big one for us as a group. Looking back it was a four-game stretch against these teams we’re competing with. Those first three were great games, but right now it’s tough to look at it that way.”