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<https://www.nhl.com/jets/news/three-things-jets-win-streak-reaches-five-games>

***Three things - Jets win streak reaches five games
Scheifele scores twice in 6-2 win over Bruins***

By Jamie Thomas

The Winnipeg Jets scored three goals 5:22 apart breaking a 2-2 third period tie helping them to a 6-2 win over the Boston Bruins at TD Garden. Mark Scheifele scored twice, Vladislav Namestnikov, Nikolaj Ehlers, Parker Ford and Kyle Connor added singles for Winnipeg who are back on top of the NHL standings at 36-14-3 (75 pts). Connor reached the 30 goal mark for the fourth consecutive season and Connor Hellebuyck won his 32nd game for Winnipeg who wrap up this road trip Saturday in Washington in a battle between the top two teams in the league.

SCHEIFELE TIES KOVALCHUK

With Winnipeg leading 1-0 in the first period, Mark Scheifele used his hand-eye coordination to perfection tipping a Neal Pionk shot past Joonas Korpisalo to make it 2-0 at 11:31. Scheifele recorded his fourth 30-goal season of his career and passed Patrik Laine for third most in franchise history.

In the third period with the score tied at two and the Jets on the power play, Nikolaj Ehlers slid a perfect pass to Scheifele in the slot and the Jets forward moved from his backhand to his forehand quickly and lifted the puck past Korpisalo for what turned out to be the game winner and his 31st of the season. Scheifele tied Ilya Kovalchuk with his 328th career goal joining Kovalchuk atop the Jets/Thrashers all-time goal list.

"Obviously a huge honour, obviously very, very special and he's a fantastic player," said Scheifele.

"Like I said before, I play with some pretty fantastic players that set me up in those positions."

THE DEBUT

Parker Ford made his NHL debut tonight for the Jets and what made the debut even more special was the fact that Ford is from Wakefield, Rhode Island and played his college hockey nearby at Providence. Ford has played 116 games with the Manitoba Moose over three seasons and has 62 points (31G, 31A). Ford was on the Jets fourth line with Alex Iafalfo and David Gustafsson, but Scott Arniel put him out for the opening face-off. To make it an even better night, Ford scored his first NHL goal at 5:57 of the third period to make it 5-2. Ford is the eighth player in franchise history to score in his NHL debut.

THE POWER PLAY

The Jets man advantage was an advantage again on Thursday night, scoring twice in four chances. Winnipeg was hoping for a much better start than the one they had in Montreal two nights ago. They got that from their first power play chance in the opening frame, Vladislav Namestnikov finished off a beautiful passing play that went from Cole Perfetti to Nino Niederreiter to Namestnikov to open the scoring.

NHL.com

<https://www.nhl.com/news/winnipeg-jets-boston-bruins-game-recap-january-30>

***Jets pull away from Bruins with 4 goals in 3rd
Ford scores in NHL debut for Winnipeg, which has won 5 straight***

By Joe McDonald

BOSTON -- Parker Ford scored in his NHL debut for the Winnipeg Jets, who pulled away with four straight goals in the third period for a 6-2 win against the Boston Bruins at TD Garden on Thursday.

Ford, an undrafted rookie, grew up rooting for the Bruins as a kid from Wakefield, Rhode Island. He had several family members and friends in attendance.

"My whole life I've wanted to do this for my family," he said. "It's going to be emotional when I go see them. They've done so much, and I feel like I owe it to them to have a little bit of fun when they come to these games."

Mark Scheifele scored twice, and Nikolaj Ehlers and Vladislav Namestnikov each had a goal and an assist for the Jets (36-14-3), who have won five in a row. Connor Hellebuyck made 27 saves.

Elias Lindholm had a goal and an assist for the Bruins (25-22-6), who were coming off a 7-2 loss at the Buffalo Sabres on Tuesday. Joonas Korpisalo made 21 saves.

"It's been a different year," Boston captain Brad Marchand said. "We're facing a lot of adversity this year, and we don't have a choice but to work through it. You can't get caught up in frustration. Obviously, none of us are happy where we're at and the position we're in, especially considering where we expected to be to start the year, but you can't focus on that. You have to focus on being better for the next one and that's what we have to worry about."

Namestnikov scored a power-play goal to give the Jets a 1-0 lead at 2:55 of the first period. Nino Niederreiter tried to put a rebound through his legs in front, but he lost control of the puck right to Namestnikov, who knocked it in with his backhand near the left post.

Scheifele made it 2-0 at 11:31 when he redirected Neal Pionk's wrist shot from the right point through Korpisalo's five-hole.

Marchand scored on the power play to cut the lead to 2-1 at 15:34. He beat Hellebuyck glove side with a wrist shot from the top of the left circle through a screen by Lindholm.

Lindholm then tied it 2-2 with a short-handed goal 11 seconds into the third period. Pavel Zacha won a face-off right to Lindholm, who roofed a one-timer from the edge of the right circle.

Scheifele responded 24 seconds later on the same power play to put Winnipeg back in front 3-2. He worked a give-and-go with Ehlers before lifting a shot over Korpisalo's glove from in tight.

"You don't want that to happen, but that's the way she goes sometimes," Scheifele said. "Getting a power-play goal right after that and going to work again was a great team effort."

Scheifele has scored 328 goals in the NHL, tying Ilya Kovalchuk for the most in Jets/Atlanta Thrashers history.

"It's a huge honor," Scheifele said. "It's obviously very special. He was a fantastic player, and I've had some fantastic players set me up in those positions. ... It's very humbling. You grow up as a kid hoping to play in the NHL one day, and to reflect on that is pretty special, and I'm very happy to be part of this group of guys. It's a fantastic team, a fantastic organization."

Ehlers scored 42 seconds after Scheifele to make it 4-2. Bruins defenseman Mason Lohrei tried to make a move around Ehlers while carrying the puck out from behind his own net, but the Jets forward poked the puck into the open net instead.

Ford pushed the lead to 5-2 at 5:57, chipping in a loose puck in front after Alex Lafallo couldn't handle a centering pass from Logan Stanley.

"I couldn't really tell you," Ford said with a laugh when asked about seeing the puck go in. "I blacked out a little bit, but it was great. ... I was just focusing on playing my game tonight and helping the team win. Now I can go see the family and celebrate a little bit."

Kyle Connor added an empty-net goal with 37 seconds remaining for the 6-2 final.

"Probably not the way we drew it up, but a lot of great efforts tonight," Scheifele said. "Hellebuyck made some big saves, and 'Fordo' with his first (goal), which was pretty phenomenal, too. It was obviously a huge win."

NOTES: Connor scored his 30th goal of the season for the seventh time in the NHL, tying Kovalchuk for the most in franchise history. ... Bruins defenseman Charlie McAvoy returned to the lineup after missing seven games with an upper-body injury. He was minus-3 in 21:41 of ice time.

Associated Press

<https://www.sportsnet.ca/nhl/article/mark-scheifele-scores-twice-jets-use-third-period-flurry-to-beat-bruins/>

Mark Scheifele scores twice, Jets use third-period flurry to beat Bruins

By Associated Press

BOSTON — Mark Scheifele scored his 30th and 31st goals of the season and the Western Conference-leading Winnipeg Jets beat the Boston Bruins 6-2 on Thursday night.

Vladislav Namestnikov had a goal and assist, and Nikolaj Ehlers, Parker Ford and Kyle Connor also scored for the Jets. Connor Hellebuyck stopped 27 shots.

It was the fifth straight win for Winnipeg, which took the season series after beating Boston 8-1 in December.

Brad Marchand and Elias Lindholm had goals for Boston, which has lost two in a row. Joonas Korpisalo finished with 21 saves.

Trailing 2-1 and down a man with Marchand in the penalty box at the start the third period, Boston's Pavel Zacha won a faceoff and found Lindholm, who muscled it past Hellebuyck to tie it. But 24 seconds later, Scheifele added his second goal of the night, followed by a tap-in from Nikolaj Ehlers to give the Jets a two-goal cushion just 77 seconds into the final period.

Takeaways

Jets: Scheifele has feasted on the Bruins this season, scoring four goals in their two wins over Boston.

Bruins: Boston had a much better response coming off a lopsided loss at Buffalo, but yet another in a string of recent defensive lapses was too much to overcome.

Key moment

The Bruins held a pregame moment of silence for Skating Club of Boston skaters Jinna Han and Spencer Lane and their mothers, who were among those killed when an American Airlines flight collided with an Army helicopter Wednesday night and crashed outside Washington, D.C.

Key stat

Marchand is the first Boston player with power-play goals in back-to-back games this season.

Up next

Jets: End their three-game road trip with a visit to face the Eastern Conference-leading Washington Capitals on Saturday.

Bruins: Host the New York Rangers on Saturday.

Global Winnipeg

<https://globalnews.ca/news/10990434/ford-scores-in-nhl-debut-as-jets-demolish-bruins-6-2-in-boston/>

Ford scores in NHL debut as Winnipeg Jets demolish Bruins 6-2 in Boston

By Christian Aumell & Russ Hobson Global News

For Parker Ford, you couldn't have scripted it any better.

Playing in his first career NHL game in Boston, the Wakefield, Rhode Island native tallied his first NHL goal as the Winnipeg Jets took down the Bruins 6-2 for their fifth straight win.

It was a night Ford won't soon forget. After getting called up from the AHL's Manitoba Moose less than 24 hours earlier, Ford scored his first career goal, in his first NHL game, on his first shot on net, in front of friends and family just a few hours down the road from where he grew up.

Ford is just the eighth player in Jets/Thrashers franchise history to score in his NHL debut, joining a list that includes the likes of Nikita Chibrikov, Sami Niku, Patrik Laine, Nic Petan, John Albert, Jacob Trouba and Bryan Little.

"Just blacked out a little bit, but, yeah, it was great," said Ford. "I think I was just really focusing on playing my game tonight and helping the team win. Now I can go see the fam and celebrate a little bit."

Ford's services were required after Morgan Barron was placed on injured reserve as he's out week-to-week.

Ford said he had between 10-20 friends and family members make the short drive to see his debut.

"My whole life I've wanted to do this for my family," he said. "And it's probably going to be emotional when I go see them here."

Mark Scheifele scored a pair of goals as he hit the 30-goal plateau for the fourth time of his career. Scheifele also tied Ilya Kovalchuk's franchise record for most career goals with the team with his 328th as a Jet.

"Obviously, a huge honour," Scheifele said. "Obviously, very, very special and obviously he was a fantastic player and like I've said before, I've played with some pretty fantastic players that set me up in those positions, so, it all goes to them."

"It's very humbling. You grow up as a kid obviously hoping to play in the NHL one day and obviously to reflect on that, it's pretty special."

Vladislav Namestnikov, Nikolaj Ehlers and Kyle Connor scored the other goals for Winnipeg.

The Jets got out to an early two-goal lead in the first period. The Bruins tied the game just 11 seconds into the third, but the Jets scored four unanswered goals to secure the win, including markers less than a minute apart to all but seal up the victory.

"I loved our first period," said Jets head coach Scott Arniel. "That was way better than Montreal and we knew that Boston was going to be a little ornery after what happened the other night in Buffalo. They came out but I liked the way we played."

"We didn't let them get into a rush game. We did a good job of kinda hemming them in their end. We scored early which was big and when you do that on the road, it gets the opposition on their heels."

The Jets made one other change as Arniel pulled Haydn Fleury out of the lineup in favour of Colin Miller after using the same six defencemen for the previous four games.

Just over a minute into the game, Brad Marchand took a cross-checking penalty that sent Winnipeg's league-best power play to work.

The first unit couldn't get the job done, but the second unit did at the 2:55 mark of the period.

The puck found its way to Nino Niederreiter in front of the net, he tried to go between his legs to put a shot on goal but the puck slid through his legs and right to Namestnikov for a tap-in to open the scoring.

Winnipeg thought they had a second goal on the board just a few minutes later when Josh Morrissey wired a slapshot past Joonas Korpi in transition but Cole Perfetti was clearly offside on the play. Boston challenged it and after a very swift review, the goal was taken off the board.

The Jets were unfazed, however, taking a 2-0 lead for real at the 11:31 mark when a Neal Pionk point shot was deftly deflected by Scheifele and through Korpisalo's five-hole for Scheifele's 30th goal of the season.

Boston got back in the game late in the period when Marchand ripped a shot on the power play that beat Connor Hellebuyck through a screen, making it 2-1 after 20 minutes.

Neither team found the back of the net in the second period as each team failed on a power play chance. Boston outshot Winnipeg 11-10 after the Jets had an 11-9 advantage in that category in the first.

Right before the end of the second, Marchand was called for interference, giving Winnipeg 1:57 of power play time to start the third but Boston turned the tables on the Jets in the opening seconds of the period.

A blunder by Morrissey in his own end led to a great chance by Boston which Hellebuyck stopped, freezing the puck for a whistle. But on the ensuing faceoff, Pavel Zacha won the draw right to Elias Lindholm, who wired a shot past Hellebuyck to tie the game 11 seconds into the third.

Any momentum that the Bruins could have generated from the shorthanded tally was quickly dismissed thanks to Scheifele, who put the Jets back in front just 24 seconds later.

He skated the puck through the neutral zone before sending a pass to Ehlers inside the Bruins blueline. Ehlers then sent it back to Scheifele as he darted through the slot, beating Korpisalo high to restore Winnipeg's advantage.

The chaotic start to the third continued when Ehlers got in on the fun just 42 seconds later. Mason Lohrei attempted to skate the puck out from behind the Boston net and cut inside toward the crease, but Ehlers was there to poke the puck off Lohrei's stick and into the net with Korpisalo slow to get back in position.

The storybook moment for Ford came at the 5:57 mark of the third. Logan Stanley was first to a loose puck along the wall in Boston's end, skating it down below the goal line before sending a pass in front to Alex Iafallo. The puck bounced away from Iafallo but right to the stick of Ford, who knocked it home for his first NHL goal as his teammates along with friends and family in attendance shot to their feet in joyous celebration.

Winnipeg more or less cruised from there with Connor scoring his 30th of the season into an empty net in the final minute.

Hellebuyck turned aside 27 shots for his 32nd victory of the season, and thanks to Washington's overtime loss in Ottawa, Winnipeg now has the most points in the NHL with 75 points in 53 games.

Fittingly, the Jets will meet the Capitals Saturday evening in D.C. Puck drop is just after 6 p.m. with pregame coverage on 680 CJOB starting at 4 p.m.

Sportsnet.ca

<https://www.sportsnet.ca/nhl/article/parker-fords-memorable-performance-leaves-great-impression-on-jets/>

Parker Ford's memorable performance leaves great impression on Jets

By Jacob Stoller

Even if he played just one shift, it would've been a night to remember for Parker Ford.

The 24-year-old forward was making his NHL debut at TD Garden, less than an hour and a half away from his hometown of Wakefield, Rhode Island. He got to do a bucket-less rookie lap in front of his family and friends — many of which were seen banging on the glass as he twirled around. And Scott Arniel threw his line out there for the opening faceoff.

But when Ford tells his future grandchildren about his NHL debut, the story won't stop there. The five-foot-10 undrafted forward also scored on his first career shot after pouncing on a loose puck in front of the net.

"I couldn't draw it up much better than this, honestly," Ford told reporters after the Winnipeg Jets 6-2 win over the Boston Bruins.

The reaction of his family said it all.

"I'd say my whole life I've wanted to do this for my family," Ford said. "It's probably going to be emotional when I go see them here. They've done so much and I feel like I owe it to them to have a bit of fun coming to these games."

The goal was the cherry on top of a memorable performance that surely piqued the curiosity of Jets management. Ford may just be a recall in the wake of Morgan Barron's injury for now, but he very well could become a staple within Winnipeg's bottom-six in the not-so-distant future.

In just 8:13 minutes of ice time, the hard-nosed forward made his presence felt all over the ice — registering two takeaways, one block and one hit.

"To score that goal was a bonus," Arniel said. "But I liked that he was blocking shots, he did a good job in his end on the walls, getting pucks out, being responsible, and that's what you hope when some of these young guys come up, that it isn't overwhelming."

Nothing encapsulated his impact better than a shift near the midway point of the third period. Moments after blocking a point shot from Mason Lohrei, the Providence College alum stripped the puck from Charlie McAvoy. Ford carried the puck through the neutral zone, chipped the puck into the offensive zone and beat Lohrei in a foot race. He then stick-lifted Lohrei — who is seven inches taller than him — before cycling the puck down to David Gustafsson.

"I thought he did a great job of looking comfortable and doing what he needed to do," Arniel said.

Technically, this isn't the first time Ford's raised eyebrows in a Jets sweater. Last fall, ahead of his first pro season, he recorded a team-high five points during the preseason and nearly

earned himself a roster spot. He went on to record 18 goals and 41 points in 72 AHL games last year, and while his offensive production has dipped as a sophomore (17 points in 34 games), he's been red-hot lately — scoring seven goals in his last nine games. But, as you saw Thursday, point production isn't Ford's bread and butter.

In fact, stylistically, his game draws parallels to another one of Winnipeg's undrafted free agent signings who also hailed from his alma mater — Brandon Tanev.

While Ford may not be as explosive of a skater, the way he leverages his hard-nosed style of play to help his team sustain offensive zone time is strikingly similar to Tanev.

The Jets could be in need of that next season, as there's no guarantee they'll be able to re-sign both Alex Lafallo and Mason Appleton — two bottom-six staples are UFAs after this season.

And if the Jets have another injury or two down the road, who's to say we don't see Ford get an extended trial run instead of someone like Brad Lambert?

He is a goal-per-game player, after all.

TSN.ca

<https://www.tsn.ca/nhl/video/sawyer-jets-power-play-continues-to-be-such-a-weapon%7E3071980>

Sawyer: Jets' power play continues to be 'such a weapon' (VIDEO)

TSN's Kevin Sawyer joins Dan Robertson to discuss Parker Ford scoring his first goal on his first shot in his first NHL game after being recalled from the AHL, and how the power play continues to be a weapon for the Jets.

Winnipeg Free Press

<https://www.winnipegfreepress.com/breakingnews/2025/01/30/scheifeles-pair-dooms-bruins>

Scheifele's pair dooms Bruins

Jets blow game wide open with third-period barrage of goals

By: Ken Wiebe

BOSTON — It probably won't be much longer before Mark Scheifele stands alone on this list, but that didn't prevent him from taking time to soak in the moment.

The Winnipeg Jets centre scored twice on Thursday to lead his team to a 6-2 victory over the Boston Bruins at TD Garden.

In the process, he joined Ilya Kovalchuk as the franchise scoring leader with 328 career goals.

"A huge honour. Very, very special," said Scheifele, who is up to 31 goals and 59 points in 53 games. "And (Kovalchuk) was a fantastic player. Like I've said before, I play with some pretty fantastic players that set me up in those positions, so all (the credit) goes to them.

“It’s very humbling. You grow up as a kid obviously hoping to play in the NHL one day, and to reflect on that is pretty special. I’m very happy to be part of this group of guys.”

The Jets close out a three-game road trip Saturday in what will be a first-place showdown with Alex Ovechkin and the Washington Capitals.

Scheifele hit the 30-goal mark for the fourth time in his career and sits alone in second spot in the NHL for goals behind Leon Draisaitl of the Edmonton Oilers.

“He realizes that he’s more of a threat when he’s in that mentality of shooting the puck,” said Jets head coach Scott Arniel. “If you become somebody that’s sort of one-dimensional and just a passer, the tendencies for the defender to take your options away... Now Mark recognizes when he’s alone, or he has a chance to shoot the puck, he has such a great shot as you saw on that breakaway. When he does those types of things, it makes it hard to defend him.”

Let’s take a closer look at what transpired:

THE RESPONSE

The Jets had a much better start than they did Tuesday in Montreal, building a 2-0 lead before Brad Marchand got the Bruins on the board late in the first period with a power-play marker.

With the Jets on the power play to start the third, the Bruins won an offensive-zone draw and got a shorthanded marker from Elias Lindholm to tie the game.

Scheifele responded with a goal 11 seconds later, sparking a run of four unanswered goals by the Jets to earn a fifth consecutive victory as they improved to 35-14-3 for the season.

BUILT FORD TOUGH

He survived his rookie solo lap without falling, he was in the starting lineup and before the night was over, Parker Ford found a loose puck in front and deposited his first NHL goal past Bruins netminder Joonas Korpi at 5:57 of the third period.

How’s that for an NHL debut for a guy who grew up roughly 90 minutes from Boston and rooting for the Bruins?

“It was awesome,” said Ford, who replaced Morgan Barron (upper body, week to week) on the fourth line. “I couldn’t draw it up much better than this, honestly.”

Ford admitted standing on the blue line during the national anthems and waiting for the puck to drop was a challenge.

“That was probably the hardest part. Just sitting there, my heart is racing. Just gotta relax and settle into the game,” said Ford, who quickly settled in. “Yeah, I’d say right at the drop of the puck. Same game I’ve been playing my whole life. Once the puck dropped it was all good.”

Following the game, Ford was met by a large group of friends and family members who were on hand to share in his monumental moment.

Where’s the souvenir puck headed?

“Right to the fam, for sure. I threw ‘em a couple pucks in warmups, but hopefully that one will mean a little bit more,” said Ford, who was asked what went through his mind after seeing the puck go in and the red light go on. “Couldn’t really tell you, to be honest. Just blacked out a little bit. It was great.”

For those keeping track at home, Ford also scored in his first American Hockey League game with the Manitoba Moose back March 28 of 2023.

Ford’s teammates were thrilled for him.

“It’s amazing. That’s something he’ll always remember,” said Scheifele. “That’s very, very special, and obviously we’re all very, very psyched for him. He played great. Blocked some shots, (had) a good stick, did a lot of great things. And you get rewarded when you do that.”

“Ah, that was fun. Great to see for a hometown kid come in and get a chance to do that in this building,” added Arniel. “He contributed. He was good in a lot of areas. To score that goal was a bonus.

“But I liked that he was blocking shots, he did a good job in his end on the walls, getting pucks out, being responsible, and that’s what you hope when some of these young guys come up, that it isn’t overwhelming. I thought he did a great job of looking comfortable and doing what he needed to do.”

SECOND-UNIT STRIKE

It’s been said on multiple occasions one of the big reasons the Jets have maintained their position as the top-ranked power play in the NHL is both units have been productive.

The latest example was provided by the second unit on Thursday, with Vladislav Namestnikov finding a loose puck in front and slamming it home for his 10th goal of the campaign.

Cole Perfetti showed the attack mentality by getting the puck to the net, Nino Niederreiter got to his office near the blue paint and the puck landed on the stick of Namestnikov to complete the play.

Arniel felt the second line with Namestnikov, Perfetti and Ehlers (who added his 16th of the season by forcing Mason Lohrei to turn the puck over early in the third period) did a great job in the contest.

“I liked that line a lot better. I thought that the whole line, they certainly had a lot more zone time,” said Arniel. “They have to give us that kind of offensive output, so we’re a lot more dangerous than just Scheif’s line. You like to see that when we’re doing it all together like that.”

Namestnikov became the eighth member of the Jets to hit double digits in goals this season.

THE KEY PLAY

Scheifele’s second goal of the game came 24 seconds after the Bruins tied it on a shorthanded marker 11 seconds into the third period.

THE THREE STARS

- 1) Mark Scheifele, Jets, Two goals.
- 2) Nikolaj Ehlers, Jets, One goal, two points.

3) Parker Ford, Jets, Scores first NHL goal in his debut, one hit, adds one blocked shot.

EXTRA, EXTRA

Jets goalie Connor Hellebuyck made his 41st start of the season and made 27 saves to record his 32nd win of the campaign.

“Helly’s Helly. He’s there when we need him. You’re not going through 60 minutes and not giving up chances,” said Arniel. “There’s going to be breakdowns, things happen, but he’s a wall for us.”

Kyle Connor rounded out the scoring with an empty-netter to hit the 30-goal mark for the seventh time in his career.

The Jets made one other change to the lineup, inserting Colin Miller on the third pairing with Logan Stanley, who moved over to his strong side. Miller, who suited up in his 37th game of the season, took 17 shifts for 12:34 of ice time, finishing with one shot on goal, one hit and one shot.

<https://www.winnipegfreepress.com/breakingnews/2025/01/30/ford-firing-on-all-cylinders-after-jets-recall>

Ford firing on all cylinders after Jets recall Rhode Island product makes NHL debut against childhood-hero Bruins

By: Ken Wiebe

BOSTON — Parker Ford was in a deep sleep, though this jarring phone call was one he’d been waiting for his entire life.

As he awoke in a hotel room in the Chicago suburbs preparing to suit up for the Manitoba Moose on Wednesday night, the voice on the other end of the line told him he’d been recalled by the Winnipeg Jets.

This was not a dream though, it was very much a reality.

“We were on a road trip and I was actually pre-game napping and my phone started ringing,” Ford said after the morning skate on Thursday. “I thought it was my alarm, but it was the call. Yeah, just pure joy in the moment.”

Adding to the storybook nature of the circumstances was that the Jets play the Boston Bruins on Thursday at TD Garden, which meant he would have the support of multiple friends and family members as he made his NHL debut.

That joy extended to a phone call to his parents, who made the roughly 90-minute trek to Boston from his hometown of Wakefield, R.I., to share in the monumental moment.

As he spoke Thursday, Ford expressed his gratitude to his folks for the sacrifices they made over the years.

“My whole family, extended family, friends and coaches, they all believed in me from Day 1 and made me believe in myself,” said Ford. “It’s super special. I wasn’t sure I was coming here (to Boston), but when I heard that on the call, I was smiling ear to ear, for sure.”

Ford, now 24, grew up a fan of the Bruins and can pinpoint the moment hockey became his passion.

“Yeah, I was 10 or 11 years old and that was the first time I really fell in love with hockey. Seeing that Cup run,” said Ford, referring to the Bruins Stanley Cup victory in June of 2011.

As for his favourite Bruins player, that was an easy choice.

“Patrice Bergeron,” said Ford. “I was always a centre growing up and he always played the game the right way, really. I really liked his game.”

Ford rounded out that game during four seasons of NCAA hockey with the Providence College Friars, where he served as a co-captain during his senior season.

“Those were a great four years, I really developed as a person and a player there,” said Ford. “I met some of my best friends there. The hockey was great and I got to play a bunch of Boston schools, so it was probably the best four years of my life.”

In 131 career games with the Friars, Ford had 41 goals and 53 assists for 94 points and also suited up for Team USA at the 2020 World Junior Hockey Championship.

“Nah, I’m not surprised. I’m surprised it’s taken this long, to be honest,” Friars head coach Nate Leaman said Thursday. “He always showed up to play hard and the right way. He always made a big impact on the game. He competes. Good on the forecheck, very strong for his size and he’s got a good release.

“For me, he was always a winning hockey player.”

Leaman spoke at length about how Ford was able to overcome some of the obstacles put in front of him and not take on a woe-is-me attitude while riding the buses and playing in the minors.

He also applauded him for battling through concerns about his size that the 5-10, 180-pound Ford has faced for as long as he can remember.

“When he was in college, there were a lot of doubters,” said Leaman. “Everyone watched him and was intrigued, but ultimately there were some doubters. Winnipeg was one team that always believed in him.”

Ford was scouted heavily by Mark White and after his junior year, the player informed the Jets it was important for him to finish school and go back for his senior season.

At its conclusion, Ford inked a two-year entry-level deal with the organization in March of 2023.

The feisty forward appeared in eight games with the Moose that spring on an amateur tryout offer and took his taste of the pro game into his first NHL training camp fall and turned heads throughout.

Ultimately, Ford was the last forward sent to the Moose, where he enjoyed an excellent season, producing 18 goals and 41 points in 72 games.

He was rewarded with his first NHL recall in April but didn't appear in the Jets regular-season finale.

The silver lining was that it pushed the NHL debut to Thursday night in Boston.

"It's a surreal moment stepping out there," said Ford, noting he took some time to soak in the moment and look at the banners that hang inside TD Garden.

Morgan Barron got hurt late in the third period of Tuesday's game against the Montreal Canadiens, suffering an upper-body injury after delivering a punishing check to Kirby Dach.

Barron was placed on injured reserve and is officially listed as week-to-week, so that opened up a spot on the Jets' fourth line as they continue a three-game road trip that wraps up Saturday against the Washington Capitals.

Jets head coach Scott Arniel made the decision to insert Ford alongside David Gustafsson and Alex Lafallo and it wasn't simply for sentimental reasons.

Ford had scored seven goals in his previous nine games for a Moose team that's having trouble putting the puck in the net this season.

"He's a kid that every opportunity, he's made the most of it" said Arniel. "He works hard, he's a competitive kid. He's not big in stature, but he plays hard. That's kind of why we wanted him in this building."

Ford plays a robust game and his enthusiasm is contagious.

"It's just really exciting," said Jets forward Cole Perfetti. "It takes a lifetime of hard work to get to the NHL. It's a dream come true. Everyone can relate, I remember how I felt in that first game. It's the coolest thing in the world.

"To do that against his home team, it makes it even cooler."

Having the stars align for the debut is something that will make the occasion even more memorable, but Ford isn't going to be happy with just getting his name in the NHL register.

This is merely the next step in his inspirational journey and he's hoping that there will be many more entries to come.

Winnipeg Sun

<https://winnipeg.sun.com/sports/jets-make-it-five-in-beantown-hit-washington-on-a-roll>

Jets make it five in Beantown, hit Washington on a roll

By Paul Friesen

First place in the overall NHL standings will be on the line when the Winnipeg Jets roll into Washington, D.C., this weekend.

The Jets beat the Bruins in Boston, 6-2, on Thursday, and will carry a five-game win streak into a Saturday tilt with the Capitals.

It's the Jets' longest win streak since November, when they began the season with a record-setting 15-1 mark, and leaves them with 75 points, one more than Washington, the Caps holding two games in hand.

In Boston, Mark Scheifele scored the 327th and 328th goals of his career, matching the franchise-record Ilya Kovalchuk set when it was based in Atlanta.

At the other end of the spectrum, rookie Parker Ford scored his first in his first NHL game, capping a storybook day for the 24-year-old from Wakefield, RI, just 90 minutes down the road.

"It was awesome," Ford told reporters, post-game. "I couldn't draw it up much better than this, honestly. I'd say my whole life I've wanted to do this for my family. It's probably going to be emotional when I go see them... they've done so much."

Despite the lopsided score, the Jets had to deal with some third-period adversity.

Up 2-1 going into the period, they gave up a shorthanded goal just 11 seconds in.

Instead of sagging, they got it right back 24 seconds later on the same power play, Scheifele scoring his second of the night.

Nik Ehlers took advantage of a gift just 42 seconds after that, poking the puck off the stick of Boston defenceman Mason Lohrei and past a helpless Joonas Korpi.

That's when Ford got his career in gear, pouncing on a loose puck and notching his first to make it 5-2 and bringing a contingent of family and friends in the stands to its feet.

Asked what went through his mind, Ford had trouble remembering.

"Couldn't really tell you, to be honest," he said. "Just blacked out a little bit."

He was more certain of where the souvenir puck was going.

"Right to the fam, for sure. I threw 'em a couple pucks in warmups, but hopefully that one will mean a little bit more."

Ford had been called up a day earlier to replace an injured Morgan Barron on the fourth line.

Jets head coach Scott Arniel made sure he was in the starting lineup.

“Mom and Dad told me I had to start him. No, just kidding,” Arniel said. “That was fun. Great to see for a kid, a hometown kid, to come in and get a chance to do that in this building. (He) and his family are going to remember that for the rest of their life. He was good in a lot of areas. To score that goal was a bonus.”

“We’re all very, very psyched for him,” Scheifele added.

Vlad Namestnikov on a first-period power play and Kyle Connor into an empty net scored the other Winnipeg goals, leaving much of the Boston crowd booing a team that had lost 7-2 to lowly Buffalo two nights earlier.

Shots on goal were 29-27, Boston. The Jets were 2-for-4 on the power play, the Bruins 1-for-3.

After going 0-for-3 two nights earlier in Montreal, the NHL’s No. 1 power play got Winnipeg on the board just three minutes into the game.

This time, though, it wasn’t the usual suspects doing the damage.

An attempted between-the-legs move by Nino Niederreiter resulted in a loose puck in front for Namestnikov, who made no mistake burying his 10th of the year.

It didn’t take long for one of Winnipeg’s big guns to weigh in, Scheifele tipping a Neal Pionk shot later in the first to become the first Jet to reach the 30-goal mark. It’s the fourth time in 12 seasons Scheifele has hit the big 3-0.

The Bruins got one back on their own power play, Brad Marchand rifling a shot past a screened Connor Hellebuyck late in the first.

But Arniel had no problem with that opening 20 minutes after the dud first period his team had played in Montreal two nights earlier.

“I loved our first period. That was way better than Montreal,” he said. “We knew that Boston was going to be a little ornery after what happened the other night in Buffalo. We didn’t let them get into a rush game. We did a good job of kind of hemming them in their end. We scored early, which was big. And when you do that on the road it gets the opposition on their heels.”

Neither team could find the scoresheet in the second, so the Jets took their 2-1 lead and a power play into the third – then quickly lost it off a faceoff in their own end.

“A bang-bang play,” Arniel said. “But at the end of the day, that’s what you love about your top players. When they respond... the challenge of going back to try and score.”

Scheifele did just that, hitting goal No. 328 in style, off a power-play rush and feed from Ehlers.

“It’s very humbling,” No. 55 said of his franchise milestone. “You grow up as a kid hoping to play in the NHL one day, and to reflect on that is pretty special. Very happy to be part of this group of guys.”

<https://winnipeg.sun.com/sports/hockey/nhl/winnipeg-jets/jets-arniel-goes-with-feisty-ford-for-game-against-ornery-bruins>

Jets coach goes with feisty Parker Ford for game against 'ornery' Bruins

By Paul Friesen

One man's misfortune is another man's golden opportunity.

Undrafted Winnipeg Jets prospect Parker Ford made his NHL debut in Boston on Thursday, taking the place of injured forward Morgan Barron.

Barron is out a matter of weeks after getting hurt in Tuesday's win in Montreal.

Ford, a 5-foot-9, 181-pound native of Wakefield, Rhode Island, some 90 minutes out of Boston, was called up from the Manitoba Moose, who were in Chicago, on Wednesday.

"I was actually pre-game napping, and my phone started ringing," Ford said from Boston Thursday morning on a video posted to the Jets web site. "I thought it was my alarm. But it was the call. Just pure joy in the moment. It's super special. I wasn't sure I was coming here, but when I heard on the call, I was just a smile, ear to ear."

Ford's first order of business: Call his parents and some friends and get to Boston to get ready to face the team he idolized as a kid.

Thursday's morning skate under all the Stanley Cup banners, including the one from the 2011 playoffs that grabbed his heart as a 10-year-old, was a moment he won't forget.

"That was the first time I really fell in love with hockey, seeing that Cup run," Ford said. "It's a surreal moment, stepping out there."

The 24-year-old took Barron's place on the fourth line, the Jets playing him over first-round draft pick Brad Lambert, even though Lambert was already travelling with the team.

The feisty product of Providence College and the U.S. junior league brings a different skill set, although he was hot with the Moose, scoring seven goals in his last nine games.

"Every opportunity he's made the most of it," Jets coach Scott Arniel said. "Whether it's getting a chance to come to our training camp, to play for the Moose, now to earn this opportunity to be here. He works hard, he's a competitive kid. He's not big in stature but he plays hard, and that's why we want him in this building. Have him go out and do what he can."

Arniel liked the prospect of adding Ford's feisty play against a Boston team the Jets thumped, 8-1, when they last met in December. As a result, Arniel expected an "ornery" opponent.

"But there's been a lot of water under the bridge since that game," Arniel said. "For both teams."

As well, the Bruins were coming off a 7-2 loss to lowly Buffalo on Tuesday.

Ford made quite a splash in his first training camp with the Jets two years ago and carried that over to his first season in the American League, scoring 18 goals and 23 assists. This season, he has 11 goals and six assists in 36 games.

“We’ve been struggling to win games down there,” he said. “But I’ve been really working hard and just putting my head down and trying to make an impact every shift I’m out there. The puck’s been going in for me lately. But my work ethic is there every game. Just trying to be consistent.”

He was looking forward to having quite the cheering section at Thursday’s game: his parents, his sister, friends, his girlfriend and her family members, all from Rhode Island.

Parker says without his support network he wouldn’t have realized his dream.

“The sacrifice they give, my whole family, extended family, friends and coaches — they all believed in me, from Day 1, and made me believe in myself.”

Arniel’s pre-game message to Parker was to soak it all up.

“Enjoy the moment,” the coach recalled telling him. You hear guys always talk about their first games and for him to do it here in Boston, that’s special. But have fun. Don’t get too stressed out.”

Boston Herald

<https://www.bostonherald.com/2025/01/30/b Bruins-let-winnipeg-get-away-in-third-lose-6-2/>

Bruins let Winnipeg get away in third, lose 6-2

By Steve Conroy

Just when it looked like the Bruins’ Garden mojo was going to work its magic again, the malaise that’s haunted them on the road made a guest appearance on Causeway Street on Thursday.

The B’s erased a two-goal deficit early in the third period, only to give up two goals to the Western Conference-Winnipeg Jets in 42 seconds and three in the first 5:56 of the third. The Jets then cruised to a 6-2 victory over the B’s.

Brad Marchand scored one of the B’s two goals but was in the box for two against, one after a bad penalty late in the second period. With the game out of reach, Marchand was also tagged with a 10-minute misconduct. The B’s were also victimized by a bad decision from Mason Lohrei that wound up in their net and gave the Jets their two-goal lead back in the third. This time, they were not giving it up.

The truth of the matter was that the B’s put in a game battle for most of the night, but Winnipeg is just that much better than them.

It has been a one-step-forward-one-step back kind of season for the B’s and each loss like the Thursday’s brings them closer to the “retool” to which team president Cam Neely alluded recently. What a retool looks like remains to be seen but there has been speculation even about

the captain being moved for futures. That chatter will only intensify as we get closer to the March 7 trade deadline if the UFA-to-be remains without a contract extension.

“I’m not really about what’s being said in the media,” said Marchand. “At the end of the day, they’re going to make the decisions for the group that they feel is necessary. I have no control over that. I have to worry about what’s going on in here and play for this group and as long as I’m wearing a Boston Bruins (sweater) that’s what I’m worried about.”

But while Marchand tried to stay positive, saying they’re still in the playoff hunt, he did concede to some frustration.

“It’s been a different year. We’re obviously facing a lot of adversity with the group this year,” said Marchand. “But we don’t have a choice but to work through it. You can’t get caught up in frustration. Obviously none of us are happy about where we’re at and in the position we’re in, especially considering where we expected to be at the start of the year. But you can’t focus on that. You have to focus on being better for the next one and that’s what we have to worry about. We can’t get caught up in it. Are we happy with where we’re at? Absolutely not. We haven’t played to our standard and we haven’t played the way we know we’re capable of as a group. That is frustrating. But at the end of the day, we have to worry about what we can control and that’s our effort tomorrow and prepare for the game Saturday (against the Rangers.)”

The Bruins found themselves in two-goal hole in the first period, but they got one back before the break.

Just 1:19 into the game, Marchand was called for crosschecking Dylan DeMelo. It was a marginal call – Marchand tapped DeMelo in the lower back and the defenseman went for a tumble – but the Jets and their top-ranked power play made it count.

At 2:55, Vladislav Namestnikov backhanded home a fat rebound from the low slot and, just like that, the B’s were on the chase.

It appeared that Winnipeg had taken a 2-0 lead at 5:51 when, off the rush, Josh Morrissey’s dart beat Joonas Korpisalo over the glove arm before the netminder could even raise it. But the B’s challenged for offside and, quickly, the goal was taken off the board when it showed Cole Perfetti had indeed jumped the gun.

But the Jets would get that second goal at 11:31. After Marchand could control a puck in the neutral zone, the Jets’ first line went on the attack. Eventually, Mark Scheifele deflected home a Neal Pionk point shot and you had that sinking feeling that this one was not going to be competitive.

Winnipeg, however, helped the B’s to get back in the game. Namestnikov took an offensive zone holding call against Charlie Coyle and the B’s cashed in on the power play. Marchand took a feed from Elias Lindholm up near the left point and, with space in front of him, he drifted down to the top of the circle. Using David Pastrnak’s screen, Marchand snapped home his 19th of the year past Vezina-front runner Connor Hellebuyck at 15:34.

The B’s continued to stay in the fight in the second period. They needed a big save from Korpisalo when a turnover and then a breakdown led to Namestnikov being all alone in front of the Boston net. He threw a good move at the netminder, but Korpisalo stoned him with a great pad save.

After Namestnikov took a tripping penalty late in the period, it appeared that Lindholm had the tying goal on his stick at the side of the crease and fair amount of open net in front of him, but he decided pass it back into the slot to no one and the chance passed.

Still, the B's were in striking distance going into the third, though they made it hard on themselves after Marchand took an ill-advised offensive zone interference penalty behind the Winnipeg net with three seconds left in the second. Though the time and area of the ice called for more restraint, Marchand thought both calls against him were ticky-tack.

"When you look at those and then you look at some of the ones they let go on (Pastrnak) ... it is what is. You can't change it," said Marchand, an opinion that most likely got him the misconduct later in the game.

But in the third, Lindholm did cash in 11 seconds into the third with a shorthanded goal. Pavel Zacha won an offensive zone draw to Lindholm in the slot and he roofed it over Hellebuyck.

You would think a goal like that would spur a team upward. But in this case, you would be wrong. The Jets answered with a pair of goals in just 42 seconds to rip the B's hearts out.

The first one came 22 seconds after the Lindholm goal with the Jets still on the power play. On a give-and-go, Scheifele took a feed from Nikolaj Ehlers and broke in alone on Korpisalo, lifting it over the goalie.

At 1:17 the Jets made 4-2 on a gaffe from Lohrei. After a bit of a scramble, Lohrei took the puck behind the net and came out on the right side. With Korpisalo out of position, Lohrei made the mistake of trying to beat the forecheck by cutting in front of the half empty net. Ehlers simply flicked it off Lohrei's stick and into the net.

As coach Joe Sacco said, it was a gift goal. That was the killer.

"It's a good forecheck but we have to make the right decision there with the puck. We can't cut into the front of our goalie. We have to make the smart, reliable play in that situation," said Sacco.

Wakefield, R.I.'s Parker Ford later scored his first career goal in his NHL debut and the Jets were on their way. The Jets added an empty netter late.

And with 29 games left in season, time is running out for this team to convince Neely and GM Don Sweeney not to peel away assets to plan for the future.