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<https://www.nhl.com/jets/news/three-things-no-puck-luck-for-jets-in-loss-to-wings>

***Three things - No puck luck for Jets in loss to Wings
Jets lose Colin Miller in 4-2 loss to Detroit***

By Jamie Thomas

WINNIPEG – The Winnipeg Jets fell behind 2-0 on route to a 4-2 loss at the hands of the Detroit Red Wings at Canada Life Centre. Josh Morrissey and Nikolaj Ehlers scored for the Jets who have dropped three straight and finish the first half of the season with a 27-12-2 record. Connor Hellebuyck saw his 11-game point streak (9-0-2) come to an end and missed out at his 300th career win. After playing five game in eight days, Winnipeg won't play until Tuesday when they host the Nashville Predators.

NO PUCK LUCK

The Jets had plenty of chances to score tonight but hit iron three different times, Cole Perfetti and Logan Stanley in the first period and David Gustafsson in the third. Add Neal Pionk having the game winning goal go off his stick and in and you can see it simply wasn't going to be a good night for Winnipeg.

"Yeah, a couple unfortunate bounces, hit a bunch of posts as a team. You beat the goalie, but you can't beat the post," said Cole Perfetti.

"The effort was there. Sometimes you're not going to get those bounces."

RED WINGS POWER PLAY

Since the Red Wings made the change to Todd McLellan as their head coach, their power play has been lights out. Detroit was 6-for-13 (46.1%) in the four games since the coaching change including four power play goals the last two contests. Detroit opened the scoring on their second man advantage when Dylan Larkin ripped a shot past Connor Hellebuyck at 6:25 in the first. In the second period with Winnipeg starting to take back some momentum, Lucas Raymond's shot went off Neal Pionk's stick and into the net for a 2-0 lead.

PLAYING WITH FIVE D

Winnipeg dodged a bullet when Josh Morrissey was hit in the face with a puck during the first period. The teams top defenceman returned a bit later in the first but then Colin Miller had a puck deflect and hit him in the neck area, he went to the room and did not return. Morrissey scored his fourth goal of the season that got Winnipeg on the scoreboard in the second period. The 29-year-old became the second defenceman in Jets/Thrashers history with 70 career goals, following Dustin Byfuglien (122).

Canadian Press

<https://www.chrisd.ca/2025/01/04/winnipeg-jets-detroit-red-wings-game-loss/>

Jets' Defencemen Really Feel the Pain of Losing 4-2 to Red Wings

By Judy Owen, The Canadian Press

The Winnipeg Jets were hurting from more than a third consecutive loss on Saturday.

The 4-2 setback to the Detroit Red Wings came with a pair of injuries to defencemen — one that was manageable and one that's up in the air.

After taking a puck to the mouth in the first period that required an exit to get eight stitches, Josh Morrissey scored a goal in the second frame but it wasn't enough for Winnipeg to avoid an 0-2-1 record in its past three games.

"Being around this league, throughout my career there's never an easy two points in the NHL," said Morrissey, who described his cut lip as not feeling great.

"We just saw that, obviously, two teams that are well below us in the standings, we gave up three out of four points. You have to find a way to get every point. Every point's the same no matter who you're playing, of course."

The Jets (27-12-2) lost 4-3 in overtime to the Anaheim Ducks last Thursday and were beaten 5-2 by the Colorado Avalanche on Dec. 31.

Winnipeg defenceman Colin Miller was also hit by a puck in the first period, but it was in the throat and he didn't return to the game.

"Pretty serious," Jets head coach Scott Arniel said of Miller's injury. "We'll just wait and see. He's got to get looked at here a little bit more and then we'll have a little bit more of an idea (on Sunday)."

Losing both defencemen until Morrissey returned late in the first period threw a wrench in the game plan, Arniel admitted.

"There were a lot of things happening in that first period — (and) it got us out of whack," he said. "We took over the second and we took over the third, there were a lot of chances. We outchanced them. We had chances.

"We had some posts, we had some looks, but at the end of the day they came out on top."

Dylan Larkin and Lucas Raymond each scored power-play goals to help extend Detroit's winning streak to a season-high four games.

Larkin added an empty-net goal and Alex DeBrincat also scored for Detroit. Raymond added one assist, Patrick Kane contributed a pair of helpers and Moritz Seider had three assists.

Alex Lyon made 21 saves for the Red Wings (17-18-4), who were 2-for-3 on the power play.

"We knew coming into the game that they have a really good power play, best in the league, so penalty kill was a huge part," Raymond said. "And we were able to get two on the power play, so good game."

Nikolaj Ehlers, with 3:15 remaining in the third, scored for the Jets, who got blanked on their two power-play chances.

Connor Hellebuyck stopped 25 of the 28 shots he faced and was held at 299 career wins for the second game in a row.

"Certainly the penalty kill has been a total rebound," said Detroit head coach Todd McLellan, who took over the team after the Christmas break and has guided it to a 4-1-0 record.

"Winnipeg didn't get many opportunities, but when they did we held our ground, we did our jobs ... and Alex made saves when he needed to make them. So when you win the special teams battle in this league, you have a real good chance at success."

Larkin scored at 6:25 of the first period, a frame in which Detroit outshot the Jets 17-7.

After Raymond made it 2-0 at 4:33 of the second period, Morrissey scored 75 seconds later with a shot that went off a Detroit stick.

The Jets outshot the Red Wings 11-3 in the middle frame.

DeBrincat's 17th goal of the season after a Winnipeg turnover made it 3-1 at 7:14 of the third and Ehlers tipped in Neal Pionk's point shot at 16:45.

Hellebuyck was pulled for the extra attacker with 2:37 left, but Larkin added the empty-netter with 29 seconds on the clock.

The Jets play the third game of their eight-game homestand on Tuesday against the Nashville Predators, the last team they beat on Dec. 30 in a 3-0 shutout.

NHL.com

<https://www.nhl.com/news/topic/game-recaps/detroit-red-wings-winnipeg-jets-game-recap-january-4>

***Raymond has goal, 2 assists to help Red Wings top Jets for 4th straight win
Larkin scores twice for Detroit; Winnipeg loses 3rd in row***

By Darrin Bauming

WINNIPEG -- Lucas Raymond had a goal and two assists, and the Detroit Red Wings hung on to defeat the Winnipeg Jets 4-2 at Canada Life Centre on Saturday.

"It's a big win for sure," Raymond said. "I feel like we've played some really good hockey lately and we continued that tonight. Obviously, they're a great team and they put us under pressure, but we kind of weathered that and got going."

Dylan Larkin scored twice, and Moritz Seider had three assists for the Red Wings (17-18-4). Patrick Kane had two assists, and Alex Lyon made 21 saves.

"The belief system has grown," said Detroit coach Todd McLellan, whose team is 4-1-0 since he replaced Derek Lalonde on Dec. 26. "It's got stronger over the last 10 days, which is essential. You can't play without that. Structurally we've adjusted a few things, but we can do all of that. Unless you have a receptive classroom and players that are willing to either change or learn, you have no chance. And give the players credit for, all of them, moving the train forward, if you will."

Josh Morrissey and Nikolaj Ehlers scored for the Jets (27-12-2), who have lost three straight, including the first two of an eight-game homestand. Connor Hellebuyck made 25 saves.

"There's never an easy two points in the NHL," Morrissey said. "Every point's the same no matter who you're playing, of course. And for us, [the] focus is, 'OK, we've got one game in (the next) five days here.' It'll give us a chance to rest, recover and get some practice time and actually utilize this homestand. So we need to come out with a good start, a better start than we had tonight, and just continue to be who we are and who we've been through the first 40 games. When we do that, we're a really good hockey team."

Larkin gave the Red Wings a 1-0 lead on the power play at 6:25 of the first period, beating Hellebuyck with a high wrist shot from the right circle to the stick side.

Detroit outshot Winnipeg 17-7 in the period.

"We're getting high shot volume," Raymond said. "I think just realizing what that creates. Loose pucks off of shots and getting their [defensemen] and forwards to turn, I think that creates a lot, and being able to retrieve pucks and get it to the net."

Raymond's power-play goal made it 2-0 at 4:33 of the second period. His one-timer deflected in off the stick of Jets defenseman Neal Pionk.

"A couple unfortunate bounces [and we] hit a bunch of posts as a team," Winnipeg forward Cole Perfetti said. "You beat the goalie but you can't beat the post. The effort was there. Sometimes you're not going to get those bounces."

Morrissey cut it to 2-1 1:15 later with a point shot through traffic at 5:48.

Alex DeBrincat pushed the lead to 3-1 at 7:14 of the third period, finishing a give-and-go with Kane, but Ehlers made it 3-2 at 16:45 by tipping Pionk's point shot.

Larkin scored into an empty net at 19:31 for the 4-2 final.

"We've got to keep it rolling," Lyon said. "Whether we win or we lose we have to play the right way. Fortunately we got the win tonight."

Detroit went 2-for-2 on the penalty kill against Winnipeg's NHL-best power play (31.5 percent). The Red Wings are 10-for-13 (76.9 percent) on the kill in five games under McClellan; they were 64-for-93 (68.8 percent) in 34 games under Lalonde.

“Joining the group that's here, the focus went on penalty-killing,” McLellan said. “The power play was doing a pretty good job, there hasn't been many tweaks there, a few things we've talked about. But certainly the penalty kill has been a total rebound. ... When you win the special teams battle in this league, you have a real good chance at success.”

Jets defenseman Colin Miller left the game late in the first period after getting hit with a puck. Arniel called it “pretty serious” and said the team should know more about his status Sunday.

NOTES: Larkin has seven points (four goals, three assists) in a five-game point streak. He's had 18 point streaks of at least five games in his career, tying Ted Lindsay for 11th in Red Wings history. ... Seider played his 285th consecutive game to begin his career, passing Nicklas Lidstrom (284 games from Oct. 3, 1991 to April 9, 1995) for the longest such run by a defenseman in franchise history. Seider holds the second-longest streak by any skater in Detroit history, trailing forward John Ogrodnick (345 games from Jan. 12, 1980 to Feb. 26, 1984). ... Morrissey became the second defenseman in Jets/Atlanta Thrashers history with 70 career goals. Dustin Byfuglien scored 122.

Winnipeg Sun

<https://winnipeg.sun.com/sports/discombobulated-and-out-of-whack-jets-lose-third-in-a-row-second-at-home>

Discombobulated and out of whack, Jets lose third in a row, second at home

By Paul Friesen

His mouth bloodied and stitched up, Winnipeg Jets defenceman Josh Morrissey was feeling some pain after taking a puck to his face in Saturday's game against Detroit.

The injury didn't feel particularly good, either.

Morrissey's Jets had just dropped a second straight game on home ice, 4-2 to Detroit, not exactly bursting from the gate on this eight-game January home stand.

Coming off an overtime loss to Anaheim on Thursday, that's two games against non-playoff teams and just one point to show for it.

“Being around this league, throughout my career there's never an easy two points in the NHL,” Morrissey said. “We just saw that. Two teams that are well below us in the standings, we gave up three out of four points. You have to find a way to get every point. Every point's the same no matter who you're playing.”

Going into this extensive stretch of home cooking, the smart money for the Jets to bank some wins would have been in the first few games: Anaheim, Detroit and Nashville are all seventh-place teams in their respective divisions.

Scoring the game's first two goals didn't pay off against the Ducks, and allowing the first two wasn't a winning approach against the Red Wings, before 14,527 fans.

The third straight Winnipeg loss follows a four-game win streak and takes the Jets to the season's mid-point with a 27-12-2 mark, not too shabby, but a few points off where they probably planned to be when they flipped the calendar to 2025.

"A great start," head coach Scott Arniel called it. "We still have 41 to go, it's still a lot of hockey. We put ourselves in a good spot right now, with a lot of work to go."

Arniel mentioned a five-games-in-eight-days stretch as a factor the last two games, and Morrissey didn't disagree.

"That's where your margins for error are smaller, when maybe there's some fatigue," the defenceman said. "And that's where we need special teams to step up ... that can be the difference. Just little details in a game ... we just need to find a way."

The Red Wings scored twice on three power plays, while the Jets whiffed on two chances.

That schedule changes dramatically now, with just one game over the next five days, Tuesday against Nashville.

"It'll give us a chance to rest, recover and get some practice time and actually utilize this home stand," Morrissey said. "So we need to come out with a good start, a better start than we had, and just continue to be who we are and who we've been through the first 40 games. When we do that, we're a really good hockey team."

Down 2-1 after two, the Jets allowed Detroit's Alex DeBrincat, checked but not well enough by defenceman Ville Heinola, to make it 3-1 some seven minutes into the third.

Winnipeg's vaunted power play quickly got a chance to get that one back, but it came up empty for a second straight game.

With 3:15 to go, Nik Ehlers brought the Jets within one, tipping Neal Pionk's point shot for his 12th of the year.

But Dylan Larkin's second of the night into an empty-net sealed it, once again denying Jets goalie Connor Hellebuyck his 300th career victory.

The Wings led 1-zip after one, but that was only a fraction of the early story.

Five minutes into the game, Alex Lafallo took a penalty for, as the ref put it, "throwing-slash-shooting equipment." The Jets winger had tried to shovel a loose stick back to Vlad Namestnikov.

Detroit capitalized on the obscure call, Larkin beating Hellebuyck with a well-aimed wrist shot from the circle.

That wasn't the only discombobulating factor for the Jets in the early going.

When Morrissey took a puck to his face a few shifts in, they were forced to go with five defencemen.

Morrissey came back late in the first, but fellow blueliner Colin Miller wasn't so lucky. Before the period was up, a puck caught him in the throat area. He left the ice immediately, only to go down on his hands and knees in the tunnel behind the Jets bench, where he got some initial medical attention and didn't return.

"Pretty serious," Arniel said. "We'll just wait and see. There were a lot of things happening in that first period. It got us out of whack. We took over the second and we took over the third ... we out-chanced them. We had some posts, we had some looks."

The Red Wings got a whopping 17 shots through to Hellebuyck in that opening 20 minutes to seven for the Jets.

Lucas Raymond's power-play goal made it 2-0, before Morrissey scored his fourth of the season.

Shots were 11-3, Winnipeg, in the second but they remained down by one going into the third.

Final shots favoured Detroit, 29-23.

The lighter schedule will allow other team to make up games in hand on the Jets, too.

Minnesota, with a win on Saturday, is just two points back in the Central with one game in hand.

"The biggest thing for us is we need some people to get healthy," Arniel said, referring to blueliners Dylan Samberg and Haydn Fleury. "We lost another defenceman, so that's going to change things again."

<https://winnipeg.sun.com/sports/hockey/nhl/winnipeg-jets/only-a-matter-of-time-ex-jets-copp-chiarot-bullish-on-former-team>

'Only a matter of time': ex-Jets Copp, Chiarot, bullish on former team

By Paul Friesen

It was déjà vu all over again for former Winnipeg Jets Andrew Copp and Ben Chiarot.

Just like last winter, the two touched down with the Detroit Red Wings to see their former team flying high at or near the top of the NHL.

"They're buzzin'," Copp said before the teams clashed on Saturday. "They've got it figured out. Their lineup stays the same pretty much throughout the year, and they've got the chemistry with their linemates. Each line brings a little something different. And obviously Helle in goal is playing fantastic. First in the league for a reason.

"I don't think too much has changed. But they're firing on all cylinders."

After seven seasons in Winnipeg, Copp was traded at the 2022 deadline.

Chiarot played five seasons on the Jets blue line, but is no less impressed with how his old team has built around core players Mark Scheifele, Josh Morrissey, Adam Lowry and Connor Hellebuyck.

“They’ve just had good teams here for a long time,” the defenceman said. “And now they do a good job of putting the right pieces in place. It’s fun seeing those guys that I came up with and seeing what they are now. It’s what Zinger and Chevy (the Jets GM and his assistant Craig Heisinger) would have envisioned from Day 1. It’s all fallen into place.

“You see what that gets you. It’s a playoff team, a team that has a chance every year.”

Chiarot was expecting a heavy forecheck against him and his fellow blueliners on Saturday night, as the Jets tried to add to their league-leading 27 wins.

The big question: when will they start to win in the playoffs?

Copp and Chiarot were part of the 2017-18 team that made it to the conference final.

The Jets have won just one playoff series since.

“They’re right there,” Copp said. “You get down to the last 16, the last eight, the last four, you’re really splitting hairs. They struggled a little going into the playoffs last year, I feel like, and maybe some confidence was lost. But if they’re feeling good, they’re as good as anybody in the league. So it’s only a matter of time.

“They keep giving themselves chances in the playoffs, it’s going to come.”

Chiarot pointed out even the great Detroit teams had some disappointing playoff exits before they turned into a perennial powerhouse in the late 1990s and through the 2000s.

“Part of it’s timing or peaking at the right time,” he said. “Can everyone stay healthy? Can your goalie get hot? My trip to the finals (with Montreal in ’21) we had the hottest goaltender in the league in Carey Price, and you just ride that wave.

“These guys will catch one, for sure.”

The Red Wings appear well on their way to a ninth straight season out of the playoffs.

A recent coaching change from Derek Lalonde to Todd McLellan had them on a three-game win streak coming into Winnipeg, 16-18-4 overall.

Copp (seven goals, nine assists) has recently been playing on a line with stars Patrick Kane and Alex DeBrinkat.

Chiarot has a goal and six assists as one of Detroit’s most utilized defencemen.

McLellan lauded the Jets power play for the many different ways it can score.

“That’s not the only thing they have going for them,” the coach said. “In my mind their as good a defensive team as there is in the league. And not just in their zone. In all three zones.”

Winnipeg Free Press

<https://www.winnipegfreepress.com/breakingnews/2025/01/04/jets-fall-to-red-wings-4-2>

Jets fall to Red Wings 4-2

By: Mike McIntyre

How much were the Winnipeg Jets fighting the puck on Saturday night as they faced the Detroit Red Wings? Let us count the many painful ways.

Josh Morrissey took an early shot to the face and was left bloodied, while Colin Miller was forced out of the game after getting hit in the throat. To add insult to injury, Cole Perfetti hit iron twice, while Logan Stanley and David Gustafsson each put one off the pipe as the Jets struggled to generate offence.

Meanwhile, Red Wings forward Lucas Raymond had his one-timer hit the stick of Jets defenceman Neal Pionk to beat a surprised Connor Hellebuyck, and then Alex DeBrincat scored the game-winner when Patrick Kane's pass attempt hit either his stick or skate — or maybe both — and ended up in the back of the Winnipeg net.

Yeah, it was that kind of night at Canada Life Centre, where the home team ultimately fell 4-2 in front of 14,527 fans.

"Sometimes you're not going to get those bounces," said Perfetti.

Of course, a valid argument can be made that the Jets didn't do nearly enough on the night to create their good fortune, especially while facing a team that was 20 points behind them in the standings when play began.

"Being around this league, throughout my career there's never an easy two points in the NHL. We just saw that, obviously," said Morrissey.

Winnipeg is now winless in the last three (0-2-1) and 27-12-2 overall as they hit the midway mark of the 82-game regular-season schedule. Detroit improves to 17-18-4, including four straight victories under new head coach Todd McLellan.

Let's break this one down further:

FRANTIC FIRST

It was quite the high-event first period, with the Jets looking to rebound following a disappointing 4-3 overtime loss to the Anaheim Ducks on Thursday night to kick off a season-long eight-game homestand.

Some poor puck management led to a Morrissey hooking penalty just 1:58 into the game. Winnipeg killed it off, only to lose Morrissey for a spell shortly after he stepped out of the box and got hit with a puck.

"It doesn't feel great," said Morrissey, who required at least eight stitches.

While he was getting repairs, Alex Lafallo was given a rare “throwing equipment” minor after he picked up teammate Vlad Namestnikov’s loose stick and tried to toss it his way, which is a no-no under NHL rules.

Dylan Larkin then opened the scoring on the subsequent man advantage as he was given plenty of time and space to rip a shot past Hellebuyck. At that point, just 6:25 into the game, the Jets were being outshot 8-1.

“I didn’t love our start, obviously,” said Morrissey. “We get behind the eight-ball with a couple of penalties early. It kind of takes a little bit of flow out of the game there for the forward lines and the D.”

It got worse. Although Morrissey returned to action later in the frame, Miller suffered a scary injury when a re-directed Detroit shot struck him in the neck. He immediately skated off the ice in distress, then went down on one knee in the tunnel area as trainers came to his aid.

“Pretty serious. We’ll just wait and see,” head coach Scott Arniel said following the game. “He’s got to get looked at here a little bit more and then we’ll have a little bit more of an idea (on Sunday).”

That left the Jets with just five blue-liners the rest of the night.

STABILIZING SECOND

It wasn’t a banner start to the middle frame, either, as Jets forward David Gustafsson took a tripping penalty and Raymond extended the Detroit lead to 2-0 on the ensuing power play at 4:33.

But the Jets began to carry the play, and Morrissey quickly cut the deficit in half just 65 seconds later as his slap shot went through a maze of traffic and beat Alex Lyon.

There were plenty of other good chances, too, with the Jets outshooting the Red Wings 10-3 (after being outshot 17-7 in the first). But both Lyon and the iron behind him had other ideas.

“Obviously if some of those go in, a different game,” said Morrissey. “But there’s posts every game. Sometimes you’re on the right side of it, sometimes you’re on the wrong.”

Arniel got the line blender out in an attempt to spark his sleepy club, breaking up the top line of Mark Scheifele, Kyle Connor and Gabe Vilardi for a spell. Nikolaj Ehlers took Vilardi’s spot, while Vilardi moved down to play with Perfetti and captain Adam Lowry, who had swapped spots with Namestnikov to centre the second line.

That left Namestnikov, Lafallo and Nino Niederreiter as the third line.

“I thought it was good. We created lots, and after the first period we didn’t really give up too too much,” said Perfetti.

“That’s the strength of our team, our depth and our ability to have different guys play with different guys all the time. From top to bottom there’s a lot of talent and a lot of playmaking ability.”

COMEBACK INCOMPLETE

DeBrincat restored the two-goal buffer with the re-direct at 7:14 of the third period on a play where young defenceman Ville Heinola failed to tie up the Red Wings winger.

The Jets didn't go quietly, with Ehlers tipping a Pionk shot with 3:15 left in regulation to bring them back within one.

Winnipeg had several more quality looks once Hellebuyck was pulled for an extra attacker, but Larkin would thwart the comeback attempt by scoring into an empty net with 29 seconds left in regulation.

"There were a lot of things happening in that first period, (and) it got us out of whack," said Arniel.

"We took over the second and we took over the third, there were a lot of chances. We outchanced them. We had chances. We had some posts, we had some looks, but at the end of the day they came out on top."

Arniel cited his team's busy run— Saturday was their fifth game in eight days — as a potential factor in this recent swoon, which began with a New Year's Eve loss in Colorado and has now included back-to-back setbacks against teams well out of playoff spots in Anaheim and Detroit.

"I have never used the schedule as an excuse," said Arniel in explaining some of his juggling.

"(But) we had some guys that were a little bit tired or fatigued and I was trying to use everybody and get guys their rest between shifts and then throw them back out when they're ready to go."

KEY PLAY

The Patrick Kane to Alex DeBrincat play that produced the game-winning goal in the final frame.

THREE STARS

1. Detroit LW Lucas Raymond: 1 goal, 2 assists.
2. Detroit D Moritz Seider: 3 assists.
3. Detroit C Dylan Larkin: 2 goals.

EXTRA, EXTRA

The Jets lost the special teams battle in this one, going 0-for-2 on the power play and killing off just 1-of-3 penalties.

Hellebuyck finished the game with 25 saves on 28 shots and remains one win short of becoming just the 30th goalie in NHL history with at least 300 wins and 40 shutouts. Lyon turned aside 21 of 23 pucks that came his way.

Jets' healthy scratches were once again defenceman Dylan Coghlan and forward Dominic Toninato. Defencemen Dylan Samberg and Haydn Fleury and forward Mason Appleton are all currently on the injured list.

The Jets will return to practice on Monday to get ready to face the Nashville Predators on Tuesday night — which is their only game in a five-day span.

"It'll give us a chance to rest, recover and get some practice time and actually utilize this homestand," said Morrissey.

"So we need to come out with a good start, a better start than we had (Saturday night), obviously, and just continue to be who we are and who we've been through the first 40 games. When we do that, we're a really good hockey team."

Detroit News

<https://www.detroitnews.com/story/sports/nhl/red-wings/2025/01/04/red-hot-detroit-red-wings-keep-sizzling-defeating-nhl-best-winnipeg-jets-4-2/77463603007/>

Red-hot Wings keep sizzling, defeating NHL-best Jets 4-2

By Ted Kulfan

Whatever it is coach Todd McLellan has done to transform the Red Wings, it sure is working.

Playing in Winnipeg on Saturday, home of the NHL-leading Jets, the Wings never trailed while defeating the Jets 4-2.

It was the fourth consecutive victory for the Wings (17-18-4) with McLellan behind the bench — they lost his debut against Toronto — and moved the Wings to within two points (40-38) of the final wild-card playoff spot in the Eastern Conference.

"We had a real good checking mentality, we played good positionally, we bent but not break (defensively) and guys worked hard and deserved the win," McLellan told Fan Dual Sports Network.

Dylan Larkin (15th goal) and Lucas Raymond (16th goal) scored power-play goals, Alex DeBrincat (17th goal) added a big third-period goal and Larkin scored his 16th with an empty-net goal that clinched the victory. Goaltender Alex Lyon made 21 saves to earn the win against likely Vezina Trophy (best goaltender) favorite Connor Hellebuyck (Commerce Township), Lyon's sixth win in his last seven decisions.

"We're just playing the right way," Lyon told FDSN. "Doing things the right way and playing the right way and just keep trucking along, and this is the best way to do it."

Moritz Seider had three assists, while Kane and Raymond assisted on two goals each.

Josh Morrissey and Nikolaj Ehlers scored for Winnipeg (27-12-2).

Ehlers cut the Wings' lead to 3-2 with his 12th goal at 16:46 of the third period. But the Wings staved off a Jets comeback attempt in the final two minutes and Hellebuyck was pulled, with Raymond finding Larkin for the empty-net goal with 29 seconds left.

Larkin gave the Wings a 1-0 lead with his 15th goal — and a goal in his third consecutive game — in the first period. The Jets gave Larkin too much room in the circle, Larkin skated into the low circle, and wristed a perfect shot over Hellebuyck's shoulder at 6:25.

Raymond made it 2-0, with yet another Wings power-play goal. Raymond accepted a pass from Moritz Seider, and one-timed a shot from the flank that deflected off the stick of Winnipeg defenseman Neal Pionk and over Hellebuyck at 4:33 for his 16th goal.

Winnipeg got back to within a goal quickly. Morrissey's shot from the point nicked the stick of the Wings' Tyler Motte and handcuffed Lyon, Morrissey's fourth goal, at 5:48.

"It's a great win for sure," Raymond told FDSN. "We've played some real good hockey lately and continued it. They're a great team and put pressure, but we weathered it."

Detroit Free Press

<https://www.freep.com/story/sports/nhl/red-wings/2025/01/04/detroit-red-wings-game-score-recap-winnipeg-jets-dylan-larkin/77454317007/>

Detroit Red Wings power through Winnipeg Jets with special teams work for 4-2 win

By Helene St. James

An outstanding first period, a surging power play and some puck luck propelled the Detroit Red Wings to their first four-game winning streak of the season.

Their 4-2 victory at Canada Life Centre came against the Winnipeg Jets, who came into Saturday's game perched atop the NHL standings, but also winless in their previous two games. The Wings (17-18-4) won their fourth straight game under new head coach Todd McLellan, who lost his first game after he was hired Dec. 26 and is unbeaten since.

Dylan Larkin, Lucas Raymond and Alex DeBrincat scored to put the Wings up by two goals, but Nikolaj Ehlers trimmed it to one with 3:15 to play in the third period. The Jets pulled goalie Connor Hellebuyck (Commerce) to have an extra attacker for most of the final two minutes, allowing Larkin to add an empty-netter for his 16th goal of the season. Moritz Seider picked up his third assist of the night on the play.

The Wings set the tone from the start. Their first power play unit created a ton of looks on the second man advantage and was rewarded when Larkin blasted the puck past Hellebuyck at 6:25 of the first period. It was a careless penalty by the Jets that left them shorthanded again, with Alex Lafallo busted for picking up a stick and attempting to give it to the teammate who had dropped it; that's a no-no — a "throwing equipment" penalty.

The goal was part of as good a first period as the Wings have played all season, at least on the road. The Jets were without top defenseman Josh Morrissey for half the first period, but even so, the Wings set the pace and kept the tempo going. Shots after 20 minutes favored them, 17-7.

Adding on in the second

Raymond one-timed a setup from DeBrincat that sank into Winnipeg's net at 4:33 of the second period during another power play, deflecting in off a Jets player on the way. The Jets cut it back to a one-goal game when Morrissey beat goalie Alex Lyon a little more than a minute later, and Winnipeg continued to outplay the Wings in the second period, outshooting them 11-3.

DeBrincat picked up his 17th goal of the season at 7:14 of the third period when he tipped Patrick Kane's shot, though it appeared to also go off a Jets player.