

Winnipegjets.com

<https://www.nhl.com/jets/news/three-things-scheifele-all-time-jets-leader-in-goals>

Three things - Scheifele all-time Jets leader in goals Scheifele moves past Kovalchuk on franchise all-time goals list

By Jamie Thomas

WINNIPEG – The Winnipeg Jets extended their franchise record win streak to ten games after a 2-1 overtime win over the San Jose Sharks at Canada Life Centre. Mark Scheifele and Josh Morrissey scored for the Jets who improved to 42-14-3 and moved a point up on the Capitals for first place overall. Connor Hellebuyck made 17 saves in his return to the lineup after missing out on the Jets first game after the 4 Nations Face-Off break. Winnipeg will head on the road for two games starting Wednesday in Ottawa.

SCHEIFELE STANDS ALONE

When Mark Scheifele signed his contract extension that should make him a Winnipeg Jet for life and with that in mind, Scheifele will slowly become the franchise leader in many statistical categories. Fans were hoping that he would pass Ilya Kovalchuk as the all-time goal leader in Jets/Thrashers history on home ice, and with the game in overtime, Scheifele went to the net and converted a Nikolaj Ehlers rebound for his 32nd of the season and the 329th of his career to move atop the list. Scheifele is now one game winning goal behind Kyle Connor for the franchise lead.

OOPS, DID IT AGAIN

On Saturday, the Jets trailed by a goal in St. Louis until Gabe Vilardi scored with 28 seconds left to send the game to overtime and eventually won 4-3 in a shootout. Two nights later, Winnipeg found themselves trailing 1-0 late in the third until Josh Morrissey slap shot went off Sharks defenceman Mario Ferraro and past Vitek Vanacek to tie the game with 26 seconds on the clock this time. Winnipeg became the seventh team this season with multiple game-tying tallies in the final minute of regulation. The others: Seattle, Tampa Bay, St. Louis, Anaheim, Pittsburgh and Minnesota.

HELLEBUYCK ADDS TO HIS TOTALS

He wasn't that busy tonight, but Connor Hellebuyck made some big saves again to keep the Jets within striking distance after San Jose scored the first goal of the game at 15:07 of the first period. Hellebuyck extended his win streak to seven games and tied Laurent Brossoit (7 GP in 2018-19) for the second longest streak in franchise history. Of course, Hellebuyck holds the franchise record with a nine-game stretch in 2017-18. Hellebuyck leads the NHL with 35 wins.

Canadian Press

<https://www.chrisd.ca/2025/02/25/winnipeg-jets-san-jose-sharks-game/>

Scheifele Sinks Sharks in Overtime to Set Jets' Goal Record in Dramatic Fashion

By Judy Owen, The Canadian Press

Mark Scheifele couldn't have picked a more dramatic way to become the Winnipeg Jets' franchise leader for goals on Monday.

Scheifele recorded his 329th career goal on a rebound 1:33 into overtime to give the Jets a 2-1 victory over the San Jose Sharks and boost the team's franchise-record win streak to 10 games.

"Yeah, that was fun. That building was rocking," said Scheifele, who passed Ilya Kovalchuk's Atlanta Thrashers' record with his team-leading 32nd goal of the season.

"Their goalie stood on his head all night and made us go 59 minutes and 30 seconds to get past him. But obviously, that was a big win."

Vitek Vanecek stopped 33 shots for the NHL's last-place Sharks, but didn't see a crucial puck fly past him.

Jets defenceman Josh Morrissey tied the game with a blast from the top of the circle with 26 seconds remaining in the third after Connor Hellebuyck was pulled with 1:37 left.

"On the first one I didn't see anything, I can tell you that," Vanecek said of Morrissey's goal. "And then on the second one, (Nikolaj) Ehlers shot on my pad and then it was a rebound and then they just put it in."

William Eklund scored a power-play goal for San Jose (15-36-8), whose 18 shots on goal was its lowest this season by one shot.

Hellebuyck made 17 saves in front of 13,801 fans at Canada Life Centre, where some loudly booed at the start of the American anthem.

Scheifele said the franchise record wasn't on his mind too much.

"You think about it, but you also don't really think about it. It is what it is," he said. "You just want to go out there and play good hockey. When a chance to score a goal comes, you obviously want to bury it. It felt nice."

Scheifele played his 855th career game, all with the Jets. He now has 782 points, including his goals and 453 assists.

The 31-year-old Ontario product was Winnipeg's first draft pick in 2011 (seventh overall) after the Thrashers were bought and relocated to Manitoba.

What if someone had told him back then he would break the record?

"He wouldn't believe it, that's for sure," Scheifele said. "A kid from Kitchener, playing with the Kitchener Dutchman way back when I was 16, I never would have believed you."

"All you've got to do is trust in God's plan and that's what I've done. Obviously, I am very grateful for my family, and the Winnipeg Jets organization. They were the ones who trusted in me. I just want to keep on playing well for them."

He and Hellebuyck are the cornerstones of the franchise, with both signing seven-year, US\$59.5-million contracts in October 2023 that kicked in this season.

Morrissey said he was glad Scheifele made history.

"I've been thinking about that goal probably more than him," Morrissey said. "You know, I envisioned it giving him a backdoor tap-in and whatnot.

"Obviously for him to get that OT winner and get the record, what an accomplishment. What he means to the city, this organization, from basically Day 1 that the Jets came back.

"The first pick, the things he's done in this community, for the fan base. I mean you saw the fans embrace him. It's special. He's one of my best friends. You know, so happy for him. He works so hard. That's a lot of goals, so it's pretty impressive."

Jets head coach Scott Arniel also praised the talented centre, who has 65 points this season.

"That's a great accomplishment. Just shows the longevity, how he's played through his career, and he should be real proud of what he's done so far," Arniel said.

"He's got lots more to go, but to do it on a game-winner in overtime, he'll remember that one."

It was the second consecutive game that the Jets pulled a late victory out of a hat.

Gabriel Vilardi tied it 3-3 with 28 seconds remaining in regulation against the St. Louis Blues last Saturday. Kyle Connor ended up getting the only shootout goal for Winnipeg's victory.

The Jets moved into first place in the NHL, one point up on the idle Washington Capitals.

NHL.com

<https://www.nhl.com/news/san-jose-sharks-winnipeg-jets-game-recap-february-24>

Jets rally late in 3rd, top Sharks in OT for 10th straight win Scheifele scores at 1:33 to extend franchise mark after Morrissey ties it in last minute of 3rd

By Darrin Bauming

WINNIPEG -- Mark Scheifele scored 1:33 into overtime, and the Winnipeg Jets rallied late to extend their franchise-record winning streak to 10 games with a 2-1 victory against the San Jose Sharks at Canada Life Centre on Monday.

Scheifele skated in front of the crease and knocked in the rebound of Nikolaj Ehlers' point shot for his 329th NHL goal, moving him past Ilya Kovalchuk (328) for the most in Jets/Atlanta Thrashers history.

"That was fun. That building was rocking," Scheifele said. "Their goalie stood on his head all night and made us go 59 minutes and 30 seconds to get past him. But obviously, that was a big win."

Scheifele's goal came after Josh Morrissey tied it 1-1 with 26 seconds remaining in the third period on a one-timer through traffic from the left point after the puck banked to him off the boards.

“There’s no quit in our team,” Morrissey said. “Whether that’s tonight or in the playoffs or whatever it is, we just got to hang in there. That’s what we did. We did a lot of good things. Their goalie played well, they were defending really hard. Like I said, it took a while, but we finally cracked it. Great to get the win there.”

Connor Hellebuyck made 17 saves for the Jets (41-14-3), who haven’t lost since Jan. 20.

“That was just ... sticking with it,” Winnipeg coach Scott Arniel said. “We had so many chances. We had so many good looks, crossbars, and Vitek \[Vanecek\] made some big stops. But at the end of the day, we hung in there and we just stayed with it.”

William Eklund scored for the Sharks (15-36-8), who have lost six straight (0-4-2) and 12 of their past 13 (1-10-2). Vanecek made 33 saves.

“For sure you want to win this, 25 seconds or however long (it was) to get the win, but it’s hockey and you never know what’s going to happen,” Vanecek said. “I think the guys play really well, and then I try to do my best to hold it too, so I think it was a great game by us.”

Eklund gave the Sharks a 1-0 lead at 15:07 of the first period, scoring with a one-timer from the right face-off circle with six seconds remaining on a 4-on-3 a power play.

“We’re moving it quick (on the power play),” Eklund said. “Obviously, we have skilled players on there and we’re moving it quick and from that we get chances. We’ve got to keep playing like that.”

Said San Jose coach Ryan Warsofsky: “We played how we wanted to play. I give a lot of credit to our group, worked extremely hard each and every period with things that we talked about this morning. To fall short is a kick in the gut, so disappointed we don’t get the result, but I’m really, extremely proud of our group.

“Back-to-back (lost 3-2 at the Calgary Flames on Sunday), get in late last night, to have that type of effort against arguably the best team in the League, give a lot of credit to the group.”

NOTES: Scheifele has scored 32 goals this season, which is third in the NHL behind Leon Draisaitl (42) and William Nylander (33). ... Winnipeg has 19 comeback wins this season, which is tied with the Washington Capitals for the most in the NHL. ... With the primary assist on Eklund’s goal, Macklin Celebrini moved into a tie with Montreal Canadiens defenseman Lane Hutson for the most points among NHL rookies with 42. Celebrini (47 games) has played 10 fewer games than Hutson (57). Celebrini also leads all rookies in goals this season (18).

Winnipeg Free Press

<https://www.winnipegfreepress.com/breakingnews/2025/02/24/scheifeles-ot-heroics-set-franchise-goalscoring-record>

***Scheifele’s OT heroics set franchise goal-scoring record
Morrissey solves Sharks’ Vanecek late; Jets’ winning streak now at 10***

By: Ken Wiebe

Mark Scheifele still plans to chase down his idol, but for the time being, this overtime goal will be a memorable one to add to the record book.

After Nikolaj Ehlers ripped a snapshot from the slot, the Winnipeg Jets centre pounced on a rebound at 1:33 of overtime to propel his team to a dramatic 2-1 victory over the San Jose Sharks on Monday at Canada Life Centre.

In the process, Scheifele moved past Ilya Kovalchuk for the Jets 2.0 franchise record for goals by scoring the 329th of his NHL career.

The first-ever draft pick of the franchise back in 2011 needed 855 games to get to the top of the mountain.

“He wouldn’t believe it, that’s for sure,” said Scheifele, asked what that 18 year old kid standing at the podium at Xcel Energy Center after being chosen seventh overall would have thought about hitting a milestone like this one. “A kid from Kitchener, playing with the Kitchener Dutchman way back when I was 16, I never would have believed you. All you’ve got to do is trust in God’s plan and that’s what I’ve done.

“Obviously, I am very grateful for my family, the Winnipeg Jets organization. They were the ones who trusted in me. I just want to keep on playing well for them.”

Scheifele has said on multiple occasions that the record that he holds closest to his heart is the Jets 1.0 record of 379 that Dale Hawerchuk compiled over nine seasons with the organization during his Hall of Fame career.

“I’ve been thinking about that goal probably more than him. I envisioned it giving him a backdoor tap-in,” said Jets defenceman Josh Morrissey. “Obviously for him to get that OT winner and get the record, what an accomplishment. What he means to the city, this organization, from basically day one that the Jets came back.

“The first pick, the things he’s done in this community, for the fan-base. I mean you saw the fans embrace him. It’s special. He’s one of my best friends. You know, so happy for him. He works so hard. That’s a lot of goals, so it’s pretty impressive.”

Hawerchuk was Scheifele’s head coach with the Barrie Colts of the Ontario Hockey League and also served as his mentor, right up until the time he passed away after a long battle with cancer.

“That’s a great accomplishment,” said Jets head coach Scott Arniel. “Just shows the longevity, how he’s played through his career, and he should be real proud of what he’s done so far. He’s got lots more to go, but to do it on a game-winner in overtime, he’ll remember that one.”

The Jets, who extended their winning streak to 10 games and improved to 41-14-3 for the season, are back in action on Wednesday as they open a two-game road trip against the Ottawa Senators.

Let’s take a closer look at this one:

THE EQUALIZER

For much of this game, it looked like the Jets weren't going to be able to solve the puzzle that was Vitek Vanecek, who finished the game with 33 saves and was the main reason it looked like the Sharks might steal two points on the road until the late rally.

But for the second time in as many games since returning from the break, the Jets pulled the goalie and scored with the extra attacker.

On Saturday, it was Gabe Vilardi tipping a puck in with 28 seconds to go in regulation time and on Monday, Josh Morrissey played the role of hero, stepping into a slapshot with 25.9 seconds to go.

Morrissey's shift late in the third period before scoring the equalizer was two minutes and two seconds on a night he played 29 minutes and 35 seconds.

"I just hoped it didn't miss the net and I'd have to go back and get it again," quipped Morrissey. "No, it was good. End of the game, (you) want to be out there. I guess that's why you skate lines and do all that stuff to get in shape for those moments."

Arniel had no issue with this extended shift by his star defenceman, who is just a few days removed from a nasty flu virus.

"Yeah, he's a tough guy to pull off the ice. He wants to be (on) in those situations," said Arniel. "We spent a lot of time just in their end, so it wasn't like he had to race up and down the ice. Don't always ever want to get yourself caught in that, but at the end of the day that's one thing about Josh. His recovery is amazing. He said this morning he felt like he was 100 percent. (You) don't always want to go quite that high with the minutes, but it certainly paid off."

THE KEY PLAY

Nikolaj Ehlers unloads a snapper from the slot and Scheifele buries the rebound for the overtime winner.

THE THREE STARS

- 1) Vitek Vanecek, Sharks, finished with 33 saves.
- 2) Mark Scheifele, Jets, scored the overtime winner.
- 3) Josh Morrissey, Jets, scored the equalizer and had four shots on goal.

THE REFLECTIONS

Jets left-winger Kyle Connor took a few moments to reflect on his experience at the 4 Nations Face-Off, just like teammate Connor Hellebuyck and Team Canada D-man Josh Morrissey did the day before.

Connor had one assist in three games, starting the tournament on the top line with Jack Eichel and Matthew Tkachuk before bouncing around the lineup and being a healthy scratch in the championship final.

As someone who wants the puck on his stick with the game on the line, Connor was disappointed to be a spectator in the gold medal game.

"For sure, frustrating. I felt I could have made an impact, obviously," said Connor. "The tournament, personally, wasn't what I forecasted. Stuff like that happens, it's such a short tournament. They went a different route. I'm proud to be a part of that team."

“It’s a learning experience. Something that motivates you to get better and get back on that stage and know that you can make a difference.”

After producing 10 shots on goal in Saturday’s 4-3 overtime win over the St. Louis Blues, Connor was heavily involved offensively again, finishing with four shots on goal and nine shot attempts.

Connor has gone five games without finding the back of the net, but he’s been dangerous and has plenty to build on as he’s assisted on a pair of critical goals during the past two games.

EXTRA, EXTRA

Jets goalie Connor Hellebuyck made his 44th start of the season and made 16 saves. The only shot to beat him was a wicked one-timer from William Eklund during a Sharks power play at 15:07 of the first period. Hellebuyck’s best save of the contest came as he pushed post to post to stop a one-timer from Sharks rookie Macklin Celebrini during a power play in the second period.

The healthy scratches for the Jets included defencemen Ville Heinola and Haydn Fleury.

Arniel said that forward Morgan Barron continues to progress and he could be an option to return to the lineup either against the Senators or on Thursday against the Nashville Predators.

<https://www.winnipegfreepress.com/breakingnews/2025/02/24/reddick-returns>

Reddick returns Former Jets goalie honoured on Black History Night

By: Mike McIntyre

It was a viral marketing campaign well before the term even existed, with the Winnipeg Jets catching lightning in a bottle with their dynamic goaltending duo at the time.

Eldon Reddick and Daniel Berthiaume — a.k.a. “Pokey & The Bandit” — played their roles perfectly and dressed the part for a legendary poster that became a staple of bedrooms and basements across Winnipeg in the late-1980s.

“My kids were like ‘Dad, what were you thinking?’ Reddick told the Free Press on Monday morning as he stood inside Canada Life Centre. “I was like ‘You know, they were giving them out at 7-Elevens!’”

Now 60, Reddick still has one hanging in his Las Vegas home as a nod to a hockey past he remembers fondly.

“Winnipeg was always so good to me,” said Reddick, who went undrafted and signed as a free agent prior to the 1986-87 season after stints in the AHL and IHL. “I couldn’t have picked a better city to start playing in the NHL with.”

Short in stature (5-8) but big in personality, it didn’t take long for the Nova Scotia product to become a fan favourite.

History shows Reddick would spend three seasons here and appear in 117 of his 132 career big-league games, compiling a 41-51-14 record. He was traded to the Edmonton Oilers in the fall of 1989, going on to win a Stanley Cup in the spring of 1990 as an understudy to both Grant Fuhr and Bill Ranford.

“That made it worthwhile, but my heart was still always in Winnipeg,” said Reddick, whose oldest son was born here and brother still lives here.

It’s no surprise he jumped at the chance to return when the 2.0-era Jets recently called him to say they’d like him to be their special guest for Black History Night, which will be held on Monday as the club hosts the San Jose Sharks. Joining him on this trip down memory lane are his wife and four children.

“It’s a big honour and a privilege to be here,” said Reddick, who was the second Black goalie in NHL history (Fuhr was the first). “It was an easy choice to come back. It’s a good cause and hockey should really be for everybody.”

Reddick is trying to do his part. He co-founded the first high school hockey team in Nevada and mentors young goalies at The Yard, an artificial ice facility that makes training more accessible. He recalled coaching a peewee team years ago against a California club that featured Jets backup goalie Eric Comrie. Sharks forward Walker Duehr was on Reddick’s team.

“Hockey is such a great sport. Why wouldn’t you want to give back?” he said. “And Vegas is crazy. They don’t even have enough rinks, it’s grown so much. There’s more access than ever to see the game, more ability to see people that are like you, or not like you. It makes it a lot easier for boys and girls who want to play the game.”

Reddick said the timing of Black History Night was perfect, considering the Sharks’ Mike Grier is the NHL’s first black general manager.

“Barriers are breaking down,” he said.

Aligned with the NHL’s celebration of Black History Month, the game is a part of NHL Unites, a league-wide initiative that drives positive social change, fosters inclusion, and shares stories of Black hockey players who have made a difference in their communities.

Reddick also got to catch up Monday with other Jets 1.0 alumni including Randy Gilhen and Ray Neufeld, who was previously celebrated by the Jets during the inaugural Black History Night in 2023.

“Hockey is unique. We all live our lives, we do what we do, but as soon as we see each other we go back and it’s like we’re all in a locker room again,” Reddick said of the life-long bond.

What about the Bandit?

“I think he’s a fishing guide out in Virginia,” said Reddick, who laughed as recalled the pair bringing their own props to the poster photo-op.

He was thrilled to see Winnipeg get another crack at an NHL team in 2011 and marvelled at the growth he’s seen in the city since his last visit here more than 15 years ago. He also applauded

current Jets ownership for celebrating diversity and multiculturalism through special events such as Black History Night.

“Winnipeg’s always been like that, so that’s great on them,” he said. “There’s a lot of crazy people in this world today. For them to step outside the box, it’s awesome. I’m glad to be back to promote it a little bit.”

As part of Monday’s event, the Jets have the One Voice choir singing the national anthems, and Drum Café Winnipeg and The Hi-Life Steel Orchestra performing on the concourse and in the arena during intermissions.

There are also limited-edition Black History jerseys that were autographed and auctioned off, a special culinary additions such as Jamaican patties and jerk pork sandwiches with plantain chips, and Black History night merchandise designed by Black-owned Zueike which included a long-sleeve shirt paying homage to Reddick.

Reddick would love to see a different type of celebration around here in a few months from now — one that includes a certain trophy and a parade.

“I tell you right now they deserve it, the way they’re playing,” said Reddick. “Keep your fingers and toes crossed. It’s a long grind, you need to have key people stay healthy, that’s the biggest thing. But it would be awesome.”

Winnipeg Sun

<https://winnipegsun.com/sports/jets-pull-another-one-out-of-the-fire-against-lowly-sharks>

Jets pull another one out of the fire against lowly Sharks

By Paul Friesen

Just call them drama kings.

For the second straight game, the Winnipeg Jets avoided a regulation loss by the skin of their teeth and won in extra time.

Two nights after Gabe Vilardi tied the game in St. Louis with 28 seconds to go and the Jets net empty, Josh Morrissey did it with 26 ticks on the clock in Monday’s home game against San Jose.

Mark Scheifele was the overtime hero this time — Kyle Connor in a shootout on Saturday — and the Jets had a 2-1 victory, extending their franchise-record win streak to 10 before a crowd of 13,801.

“That was fun,” Scheifele said. “That building was rocking. Their goalie stood on his head all night and made us go 59 minutes and 30 seconds to get past him. But that was a big win.”

Scheifele’s goal was the 329th of his NHL career, passing Ilya Kovalchuk for top spot in the Jets-Atlanta franchise history.

Winnipeg’s first draft pick, in 2011, says he never saw this coming back then.

“He wouldn’t believe it, that’s for sure,” the 31-year-old said. “A kid from Kitchener, playing with the Kitchener Dutchman way back when I was 16, I never would have believed you.”

“He’s got lots more to go,” head coach Scott Arniel added. “But to do it on a game-winner in overtime, he’ll remember that one.”

As for Morrissey, he was playing his first game since an illness caused him to miss Canada’s win in the final of the 4 Nations tournament.

He must be fully recovered: he logged a team-high 29:35 of ice time and seemed to be out there constantly late in the game and in overtime.

“He’s a tough guy to pull off the ice,” Arniel said. “He wants to be in those situations. His recovery is amazing. He said this morning he felt like he was 100 percent. So don’t always want to go quite that high with the minutes, but it certainly paid off.”

“I guess that’s why you skate lines and do all that stuff to get in shape for those moments,” Morrissey said.

The 4 Nations break may have interrupted the Jets winning feeling, but it hasn’t stopped their momentum, as they improve to 41-14-3.

“It’s weird because it doesn’t really feel like it,” Scheifele said of the streak. “With a two-week break in between games, it kind of puts a damper on the good feeling. But a win’s a win. And what we’ve done all year, good or bad, we celebrate tonight, but come tomorrow we are looking onto the next game. We just want to keep going.”

The Jets’ plan was to jump on the last-place Sharks early and make them realize they didn’t stand a chance against one of the NHL’s best teams.

Instead, the league’s bottom-feeder, playing on back-to-back nights, no less, scored first and nearly pulled off the upset.

The final shots shed some more light on the disparity between these two, as Winnipeg won that tally, 35-17.

For the second straight game the Jets came away empty on their vaunted power play, going 0-2. San Jose was 1-3 with the extra man.

One of the game’s biggest hits came when Jets captain Adam Lowry crashed into Sharks goalie Vitek Vanecek in the first period. Problem is that’s against the rules, and San Jose made Lowry pay with William Eklund’s power-play goal.

It stayed that way until the third period, a Scheifele goal post the closest the Jets came to getting on the board through the first 40 minutes.

Not that they didn’t have their chances. Plenty of them, in fact.

But Vanecek turned them all aside, including a couple on the Jets only power play of the first two periods.

Handed another power play early in the third, the Jets had just one shot, and a harmless one at that.

When defenceman Colin Miller's blast from the point rattled off the goal post midway through the third, it appeared this would simply be one of those nights.

Morrissey and Scheifele ensured it wouldn't be.

Next up for the Jets, a two-game road trip beginning in Ottawa on Wednesday.

<https://winnipeg.sun.com/sports/hockey/nhl/winnipeg-jets/jets-connor-soaks-in-4-nations-experience-despite-being-a-healthy-scratch>

Jets Connor soaks in 4 Nations experience, despite being a healthy scratch

By Gordon Anderson

Winnipeg Jets forward Kyle Connor is a skilled player made for big moments, a player who likes the puck on his stick when it matters the most.

Yet, Connor was in street clothes in perhaps the most important international hockey game of the past decade, as Team USA lost 3-1 to Team Canada at the 4 Nations Cup finale at Boston Garden on Thursday evening.

"It was frustrating," Connor said after practice on Monday morning. "I felt I could have made an impact. Stuff like that happens as it is such a short tournament. They went a different route."

In the game against Sweden Connor logged 14:27 and then 14:23 in the Finland game. In the first game against Canada Connor played just 8:32 of ice time at five-on-five.

However, he didn't sound bitter about his diminishing ice time, maybe more appreciative to be around the best players in the world.

Connor was the proverbial dry sponge, soaking up the relevant information that could possibly help this Jets squad in the many big games they have in the coming weeks and months.

"It was good playing against the top players in the world and able to bond and connect with all those guys," Connor said. "You take everything you can out of it, whether it is little things like how to prepare, how to approach certain games or small details like the power play. I was just trying to soak it all up. It was good experience and great for the game as you saw how much media and attention it has it was fun to be a part of."

Equal measures of 'respect'

Heading into league action on Monday night the Jets are the only team in the NHL to reach the 40-win plateau. One of the ways the Jets got to this lofty total is their win-loss record against teams at or below .500.

The Jets are 13-3 against teams currently having middling seasons.

Lo and behold, here come the San Jose Sharks at 15-37-7. The Jets are 2-0 against San Jose this year.

“It’s vital that we get off to a good start and make it hard on them early on,” head coach Scott Arniel said. “Like I always say, you have got to respect your opponent. They’re not going to hand you anything. You have got to take it from them. The faster we can do that, maybe they won’t want to play anymore. But it’s important how we come out tonight.”

Including Monday night’s game, three of the next four are against teams who are sub .500 in Nashville (20-29-7) and Philadelphia (25-26-7). The only outlier in the group is the Ottawa Senators (29-24-4). The Jets play the Sens on Wednesday night in the Nations Capital.

Connor Hellebuyck says no team gets a free pass from what the Jets do best. Every team gets equal measures of pain from the team with the most wins in the league nearing the end of February.

“We respect every single game, and we try to go out and win every single game the same way and stick to our game and play at our level and it doesn’t matter who is on the ice across from us,” Hellebuyck said.

The Sharks have lost 11 of their last 12 games, dropping a 3-2 decision to the Flames Sunday in Cowtown.

“Yeah, the biggest thing is taking advantage of the situation that they played last night,” Arniel said. “We’ve talked about that a few times this year where we’ve had teams coming in from Chicago and Minnesota. This one they’re coming from out West.”

A fan of ‘Vladdy’

On Saturday the Jets announced the signing of Vladislav Namestnikov to a two-year deal worth an average annual value of US\$3 million per season.

“I’m a Vladdy fan,” Arniel said. “He plays in a bottom six role, he’s played in a top six role, he’s been on winning teams.”

Namestnikov is on a five-game point streak (one goal and six assists) heading into Monday’s game. Overall, Vladdy has 10 goals and 20 assists in 53 games played.

Arniel loves the extension and for many different and obvious reasons.

“He also kills penalties for us, he’s on our second power play unit,” Arniel said. “He’s a brave guy and he’s a guy who’ll block shots in any situation. He’s also a little bit of a pest out there, he likes to get under the skin of the opposition. And the last part is he wants to be here. He wants to be a Winnipeg Jet. And that’s, for us, you love to hear that. I’m a big fan of what I get from him every night.”

Global Winnipeg

<https://globalnews.ca/news/11033482/scheifele-scores-ot-winner-to-set-winnipeg-jets-goals-record-in-2-1-win-over-sharks/>

Scheifele scores OT winner to set Winnipeg Jets goals record in 2-1 win over Sharks

By Christian Aumell & Russ Hobson Global News

Until the final minute, it looked like it wasn't going to be the Winnipeg Jets' night.

But a late goal by Josh Morrissey sent the game to overtime before Mark Scheifele banged home a rebound to give the Jets a 2-1 win over the San Jose Sharks Monday night, extending their win streak to 10 games.

The goal was the 329th of Scheifele's career, breaking a tie with Ilya Kovalchuk to become the all-time leading scorer in the Jets/Thrashers franchise history.

"You think about it, but also you don't really think about it," said Scheifele. "It is what it is. You just want to go out there and play good hockey and (if) a chance to score a goal comes, you obviously want to bury it. So, obviously it felt nice."

Scheifele is still shy of Dale Hawerchuk's record of 380 goals with the Jets from the 1.0 era.

The 10-game win streak extends the franchise record, and breaks the Winnipeg NHL record of nine victories in a row from the Jets 1.0 in March of 1985.

It's the second straight game the Jets tied it in the final minute before eventually picking up the two points after a shootout win over the St. Louis Blues on Saturday.

The Jets badly outshot the NHL's last place Sharks 35-18, but they couldn't solve goalie Vitek Vanecek until the final minute of regulation when Josh Morrissey scored the equalizer.

"There's no quit in our team," said Morrissey. "Arny (Scott Arniel) came in after the second, just said, sometimes it takes 59 minutes, you just got to stick with it."

"We did a lot of good things. Their goalie played well. They were defending really hard and it took awhile, but we finally cracked it."

The Jets had a 13-3 advantage in shots in the final frame and hit several posts throughout the night until finally breaking through late in the game.

"That was just sticking with it," said Arniel. "It may take the first period and you win a hockey game or it may go right to the end, like it did again tonight. It's just staying with it, but we had so many chances. We had so many good looks and crossbars and Vitek made some big stops. But at the end of the day, we hung in there, and we just stayed with it, and found a way."

Cole Perfetti saw his point-streak end at six games, while Vladislav Namestnikov was kept off the scoresheet to conclude his five-game point-streak.

Things got a bit frisky about 13 minutes into the game. Perfetti was digging for a puck as Vanecek froze it, leading to a tussle after the whistle that got Nikolaj Ehlers and Jack Thompson matching minors for roughing.

A little over a minute later, Adam Lowry carried the puck into the Sharks' zone with a burst of speed but as he drove the net he lost his balance and ran over Vanecek, giving San Jose a 4-on-3 power play that they made count.

Macklin Celebrini set up William Eklund for a one-timer with a no-look pass that Eklund blasted high over Connor Hellebuyck's blocker for the opening goal at the 15:07 mark.

San Jose carried the 1-0 advantage into the second despite being outshot 10-6 in the opening frame.

With just under five minutes gone in the second, San Jose got their second power play look of the night when Dylan DeMelo was called for tripping, but this time the Jets got the kill.

After several dominant minutes by the Jets that didn't produce any goals, Kyle Connor was called for tripping, giving the Sharks a third power play of the game with under eight minutes to go in the second.

Celebrini nearly made it 2-0 a couple of times on the power play but he was denied by Hellebuyck, the best save of the night coming on a post-to-post pad save off a Celebrini one-timer.

With 3:01 remaining in the second, Winnipeg finally got a power play when Jake Walman shot the puck out of play from his own end. The Jets kept the puck in the Sharks end for most of the two minutes but were kept to the outside and couldn't generate the equalizer.

Shots in the second were 11-10 in favour of Winnipeg but they remained behind 1-0 on the scoreboard heading to the third.

Less than a minute into the period, Celebrini was sent to the box for holding but once again the Jets' league-best power play came up empty.

Colin Miller nearly tied it with about 11 minutes to go when his one-timer from the point beat Vanecek but rang off the iron.

Winnipeg pulled Hellebuyck for an extra skater with just under two minutes to go and it looked like the Sharks might be able to get to the finish line with the goose egg intact, but finally, with 25.9 seconds left, the Jets broke through.

Morrissey stepped into a slapshot that grazed off the leg of Mario Ferraro and past Vanecek to tie the game, sending the building into a frenzy and the game into overtime.

Winnipeg maintained possession for the bulk of the extra frame before Ehlers came off the bench and ripped a shot that Vanecek stopped, but Scheifele slid home the rebound to end the game and give him his milestone marker.

Vanecek stopped 33 shots in defeat for the Sharks, while Hellebuyck only had to make 17 saves, including just four combined in the third period and overtime.

Winnipeg will hit the road now as they try to keep the good times rolling, heading to Ottawa for a showdown with the Senators on Wednesday night.

<https://globalnews.ca/news/11032103/winnipeg-jets-trade-deadline-analysis/>

ANALYSIS: With trade deadline looming, what's Jets GM's move?

By Kelly Moore CJOB

ANALYSIS: With trade deadline looming, what's Jets GM's move? - imageView image in full screen

The Winnipeg Jets will look to extend a franchise-record winning streak when they host San Jose on Monday night.

But will the Jets' continued success have an effect on GM Kevin Cheveldayoff's strategy, with the trading deadline now just a week and a half away?

There are two colliding theories at play here for the Jets' general manager and his trusted inner circle of advisors: If it ain't broke, leave the repair kit in the garage, and if a deep playoff run is the goal, you can never have enough depth.

Even without Connor Hellebuyck and Josh Morrissey Saturday night in St. Louis, Winnipeg found a way, again, to pull what looked like a certain defeat out of the fire in that 4-3 come-from-behind shootout win over the Blues for the 2.0 franchise's record ninth straight win.

Both stars will be back in the lineup Monday night for a shot at a 10th consecutive victory against an opponent playing on back-to-back nights. And you might remember what happened earlier this season when the Sharks rolled into town after having played the night before. Does 8-3 sound familiar?

Cheveldayoff did conduct some business over the weekend that saw Vlad Namestnikov join a rather exclusive club of Winnipeg Jets who have signed a contract extension in-season. Last year it was Nino Niederreiter. You could argue those two are among Chevy's best acquisitions near or at the trading deadline.

So when the clock strikes 2 p.m. central time on March 7, do the Jets need to take a run at one of the remaining names on the big board? Or would a "sneaky smart" move or two — along the lines of a Niederreiter and Namestnikov — to bolster an already deep team make more sense?

That brings us to yet another theory, that the players don't decide when it comes to trades.

But if Winnipeg keeps winning, perhaps the guys in that Jets dressing room will impact how the process eventually plays out.

The Athletic

<https://www.nytimes.com/athletic/6132114/2025/02/24/jets-nhl-ryan-oreilly-brock-nelson-trade-deadline/>

Ryan O'Reilly? Brock Nelson? Or should the Jets go shopping for chemistry at the deadline?

By Murat Ates

What is a prototypical Winnipeg Jets trade deadline deal?

We usually talk about Winnipeg's best trades in terms of Paul Stastny, the two-way centre who was an excellent fit on the 2018 Western Conference finalist Jets. We spent last spring talking about the Jets' acquisition of Sean Monahan and his perfect fit on the top power play.

It can be argued that Winnipeg's less-heralded moves — such as a fourth-round pick for Vladislav Namestnikov in 2023 — are a better roadmap for long-term success. Namestnikov has signed two contracts in Winnipeg since being traded, including the two-year, \$3 million AAV extension the Jets announced on Saturday. That's great value for a player acquired cheaply — and Namestnikov, who stuffed a St. Louis Blues entry attempt leading to Winnipeg's first goal on Saturday, is not the only example of this type of trade.

Kevin Cheveldayoff's best work has often come in the form of smaller acquisitions: Nino Niederreiter for a second-round pick, Dylan DeMelo for a third-round pick, Mason Appleton for a fourth-round pick, and so on. All three of those players have filled key on-ice roles and all three have signed extensions since Winnipeg traded for them. None of these players have had the peak impact of a Stastny but the long-term value proposition is higher because Winnipeg signed them when the time came. Five years of Niederreiter is worth more than two months of Stastny or Monahan, isn't it?

I think this is an important point of view to take into this year's trade deadline. Winnipeg could make swings for players at the top of our trade board — with \$11 million in projected deadline day cap space, all things are possible.

But wouldn't it be ideal if the Jets could replicate their history with players such as Namestnikov, Niederreiter and DeMelo?

Let's look at some options. My version of a perfect deadline continues to involve a big swing at a player such as Ryan O'Reilly. He's a Conn Smythe Trophy winner, a Stanley Cup champion and a \$4.5 million centre who still wins his battles, averages 59 points per 82 games and wins 56 percent of his faceoffs. O'Reilly wouldn't be a rental, either — the 34-year-old has two seasons left on his deal after this one.

But O'Reilly will be sought after by many teams. The Predators plan to honour his wishes as if he had a no-trade clause. A bidding war might not work out in Winnipeg's favour. The same applies to American speedster Brock Nelson, who produced zero points at the 4 Nations Face-Off and got beat on Canada's game-tying goal. It also applies to Mikko Rantanen, if Carolina can't extend him and puts him back on the market, and to any of the top-end players you find on our trade board.

It's not as if Cheveldayoff has avoided rentals altogether. He tried to sign Stastny in 2018 and Monahan last season, too — when a major acquisition fits, Cheveldayoff tries to keep them.

If you're looking for a classic Cheveldayoff trade, though, you need someone who meets all of these criteria:

- Under the radar
- Acquired cheaper than you might expect
- Fills a particular on-ice role

You'd get bonus points for picking a player who went on to sign with the Jets, but I won't short you for not knowing what hasn't happened yet.

The easiest way to reverse-engineer this Jets pickup is to focus on a role. O'Reilly seems ideal to me, but he's not an under-the-radar acquisition and I'd expect his price to start with a first-round pick. If the Jets can't add O'Reilly, Nelson or a player of that ilk, I think they'll look for middle-six forwards who can play heavy hockey. Nikolaj Ehlers is a brilliant offensive player and Cole Perfetti has the hockey IQ to produce points alongside him; I think Winnipeg may want to add a forward who can open up space for those wingers with more of a brute force approach.

That's not to say subtlety hasn't worked. This is Namestnikov's puck-thieving en route to Ehlers' two-on-one goal:

I think the Jets will look for players who match Namestnikov's tenacity but add a bit of extra muscle.

I'm essentially thinking of a second Niederreiter, ideally with more finishing ability. Josh Anderson comes to mind — he scored a smart, net-driving goal for Montreal on Saturday — but he was more effective back when he was a bulldozer for the Columbus Blue Jackets. Scott Laughton isn't a bruiser, but he plays through his opponents and can drive play from a middle-six role. He's also an accomplished penalty killer, which Winnipeg could use as much as five-on-five grit. Rickard Rakell was an effective forechecker for Sweden at 4 Nations but seems to be someone Pittsburgh should like to keep. Kyle Palmieri plays a game closer to what Anderson was at his peak and scores more often, more consistently.

The key consideration is chemistry. Adding quality players is always a good thing — I trust talent to figure things out — but Winnipeg has a good thing going. It wouldn't make sense to add a slow forward who can't contribute to the forecheck, for example, or a small defenceman who can only win his minutes on a sheltered third pair. The Jets are a fast, aggressive forechecking team who win a lot of pucks off of opposing teams' breakout attempts. Anderson gains appeal on that front, despite his drop-off in production, because he can still play at pace. Palmieri and Nelson can, too, whereas Laughton is a bit slower despite his commitment to two-way play.

"When you look at when Washington won their Cup, that year we obviously got 'Stas' — which, for us, was a perfect fit — but they went out and got some depth players and they ended up winning the Cup," Cheveldayoff said in January. "You just don't know. You don't know what the magic thing is. And that's obviously what we're trying to ascertain, but a lot of different things come down to what's realistic and what that opportunity is in front of you."

On the back end, I think the Jets will seek out crease-clearers who can make a good outlet pass.

Connor Hellebuyck is perhaps the best play-reading goaltender on the planet. His big and boring style depends on great angles and body position, which in turn depend on his hockey IQ. He has a relatively low save percentage on rebounds, however, and a quick review of playoff goals scored against him shows a disproportionate number of rebounds and deflections. A large

part of that is on the defence in front of him; Winnipeg gave up slot shots more often than anyone else in the 2024 playoffs.

It's part of what makes Rasmus Ristolainen appealing. He's matured into a player who doesn't chase big hits, while maintaining a net-front physicality that makes him tough to play against.

Via Hockey Viz, these are the areas in which Philadelphia gives up more (red) or less (blue) shots when Ristolainen is on the ice.

I hold that Hellebuyck's save percentage during last year's playoffs would have been worlds better if the Jets had more success boxing out in the slot, tying up sticks and competing for deflections and rebounds. There are much more exciting names rumoured to be available — Seth Jones and Bowen Byram come to mind — who don't protect the slot as well as Ristolainen has this season. Jamie Oleksiak, who the Jets have previously been interested in, hasn't matched Ristolainen on this front, either, which is a yellow flag given Oleksiak's past success in the role. Neither would be a pure rental; Oleksiak has one year left on his contract, while Ristolainen has two.

Namestnikov's signing comes at an ideal time to reframe our expectations. The Jets have the cap space and Cup ambitions to make big swings. But Cheveldayoff's best, most sustainable work has come from finding — and retaining — players who fill a need. Winnipeg's biggest needs are players with enough puck skill to keep things moving at the Jets' established pace who can also win the kind of battles that give Winnipeg's current players more space to work with. The Jets are already a top team in the NHL; they don't need to satisfy my blue-sky O'Reilly thought to become one.

<https://www.nytimes.com/athletic/6157262/2025/02/25/nhl-trade-deadline-casey-mittelstadt-avalanche/>

Could Avalanche's Casey Mittelstadt be on the move? 7 teams that could be interested

By Shayna Goldman

If any team can shake up the trade market, it's the Colorado Avalanche.

Colorado has already pulled off a number of deals this season. Management successfully overhauled the crease and sent shockwaves through the NHL with the Mikko Rantanen trade. Could there still be more to come?

While the Avalanche look like a playoff lock with their current group, their odds of going the distance are slim. So management may turn back to the trade market to address remaining areas of weakness — including down the middle of the second line.

The Avalanche took a big swing to address that last season by trading defenseman Bowen Byram for center Casey Mittelstadt. He fit seamlessly in Colorado and helped reset the depth chart down the stretch and into the playoffs, which earned him a three-year extension carrying a \$5.75 million cap hit.

But less than a year later, Mittelstadt has fallen out of favor in Colorado, landing him on The Athletic's trade board.

What has gone wrong for Mittelstadt this season

Mittelstadt was living up to the hype when Buffalo traded him. He had emerged as a steady playmaker in his middle six and was hitting his stride on the scoresheet. But some sustainability questions may have given the Sabres' front office pause ahead of his expiring contract. The Sabres had scored 3.66 goals per 60 in Mittelstadt's five-on-five minutes in 2023-24, but their expected goal pace fell a full goal below that.

Mittelstadt answered some of those concerns with the Avalanche. The team still outpaced expectations in his minutes down the stretch, but there was more substance below that. According to All Three Zones tracking, his shot assist volume stayed pretty consistent between Buffalo and Colorado in the regular season. The key difference was the quality of that puck movement — he generated more high-danger passes and was set up by them more often.

Despite not being the fastest skater, Mittelstadt kept up with the Avalanche's up-tempo style well down the stretch and into the playoffs. That was especially true in Round 1 against the Winnipeg Jets, when he helped drive play with a 61 percent expected goal rate and a 5-3 five-on-five scoring edge in his minutes.

But that impact from last spring hasn't carried into this season. While he has had a couple standout games — last month he put up three points against the Dallas Stars and dominated play in his minutes — they are few and far between this year.

Mittelstadt had some scoring luck when he was on the top power-play unit early this season, but his five-on-five game has taken a major step back. He has only scored at a rate of 1.45 points per 60, reminiscent of those earlier years in Buffalo. It isn't a matter of poor puck luck in his minutes, either. Almost every element of his game has trended in the wrong direction.

The Avalanche are below break-even in his minutes in terms of both expected and actual goal share, both of which are hovering around the 45 percent mark. Mittelstadt's play on both sides of the puck contributes to that. Defense has always been an area of weakness for him, but over the last couple of seasons, his offense has helped make up for it. This year, the team is only mustering 1.99 expected goals per 60 in his minutes.

Mittelstadt has always been a pass-first player, but it has been to a fault this year. He has passed away scoring chances, leading to a downtick in his shot and expected goal creation. But even more concerning is how much his puck-moving ability has tanked. Mittelstadt is entering the zone less often and less efficiently and isn't setting up as many scoring chances in transition. His pass volume and quality have also taken a hit.

Combine that lackluster offense with disastrous defense and it's easy to see why the Avalanche would want to move on. But in his defense, there is one more consideration — the rotating cast of wingers around him. There have been a lot of key injuries in Colorado this season, including to players projected to play on his wing. Artturi Lehkonen and Jonathan Drouin both missed time and Valeri Nichushkin has only been available for 21 of the team's 59 games. That has led to more minutes with players like Ross Colton, Logan O'Connor and Nikolai Kovalenko, who aren't second-line caliber. But Mittelstadt also shared the ice with Rantanen for 175 five-on-five minutes and couldn't find his game in that time either.

Maybe Mittelstadt can rebound when Nichushkin returns and remind the Avalanche why they bet on him. But management may want more certainty on their second line, especially in the post-Rantanen era.

Why teams may be interested, despite his down season

Mittelstadt may be struggling, but a handful of teams could still pursue the center.

His position is a prime reason why. There is always a high demand for centers. Just look at last year's deadline: first-round picks were part of the return for rentals Elias Lindholm and Sean Monahan. The Seattle Kraken were able to command a second- and fourth-round pick for Alex Wennberg.

Mittelstadt isn't a pending unrestricted free agent, so an acquiring team has to be ready to commit to him for the next couple of seasons. However, that cost-control factor may be a perk for some teams that want more financial certainty over the next couple of seasons. Pending free agents may be looking to cash in this summer with the rising cap in mind, which could make the middle class more expensive. That could subsequently make Mittelstadt's salary look all the more reasonable.

And then there's the age factor. There will only be so many centers available at the deadline and over the summer. And most aren't 26 years old like Mittelstadt. While he isn't thriving in his prime right now, managers are more likely to bet on a reclamation project of sorts at 26 years old versus 30.

If any team can pull off a creative trade to get out of a bad situation, it's the Avalanche. After the Alexandar Georgiev and Rantanen trades, no one should discount that front office's ability to pull off a surprising swing. With Mittelstadt, Colorado should have options because he could be a fit for a contender or an up-and-coming team looking to take the next steps.

Which teams could or should be interested?

Carolina Hurricanes

The Hurricanes are often linked to players on the trade board because management looks at every opportunity to improve. And there is room to improve at the 2C position.

While Carolina already added a playmaker in Taylor Hall earlier this season, it wouldn't hurt to add another pass-first player to give the second line an offensive boost — especially if he can help a shooter like Andrei Svechnikov take his game up another level. Mittelstadt's rush game could add another element to a team that thrives off the forecheck, and the Canes' system could help mask some of his defensive deficiencies.

The Canes have the cap space to fit Mittelstadt's next two seasons, even with a Rantanen extension. But management may need to move some salary out to make it all click this year. Could adding Mittelstadt open the door to flipping Jesperi Kotkaniemi or Jack Roslovic (if not to Colorado)? It's possible. If neither of those roster players interest the Avalanche, the return could center around future assets that could be used to replace Mittelstadt in a separate trade.

Toronto Maple Leafs

The Maple Leafs need to find center reinforcements at the deadline. The ideal target would be a 3C with the ceiling to jump up to a 2C capacity. John Tavares holds that role now, but the coaches could want to shift him to wing down the stretch to alleviate his workload. For any acquisition with term like Mittelstadt, the idea could be to roll him as a 3C this season with 2C potential next year because even if Tavares extends, the team needs a succession plan in case he drops down the lineup or shifts to wing full-time.

The biggest problem? Mittelstadt's defense. If anything, Toronto should be looking for someone to help absorb some of the defensive workload Tavares has had to take on.

And then there's the question of return, because the Maple Leafs don't have a center to send back to Colorado. Maybe Nick Robertson and draft picks would thread the needle for the Avalanche and help position them for future trades.

Winnipeg Jets

Would the Avalanche want to make a deal with their division rival? Not all Central Division teams are off-limits, but the Jets might be because the teams could face each other in the playoffs again.

Winnipeg may not be interested in Mittelstadt, either. The team may not be in the market for another defensively flawed forward and may prefer someone with more two-way upside.

But the Jets are worth noting as a team in the market for a second-line center for the second consecutive deadline. Winnipeg saw just how effective Mittelstadt could be in the playoffs after he scored six points in its five-game Round 1 series last spring. If the return is right for Colorado — say, Cole Perfetti, who would help the Avalanche get younger and save cap space — it could be worth dealing with a potential playoff foe.

Boston Bruins

The next tier of trade targets comes in below the contender's circle. The fact Mittelstadt isn't a rental could drive interest for teams on the fringes of the playoff picture.

The Bruins finally seem realistic about their trajectory, which could kick off a retool on the fly around their franchise cornerstones. One of their biggest focuses has to be improving their center depth.

While the Bruins should be looking to replenish their prospect pool, the team also needs to find younger NHL-caliber players ready to help as soon as possible. At 26 years old, Mittelstadt is the type of reclamation project the Bruins should be targeting.

In return, Pavel Zacha's two-way game could interest Colorado. He brings an element of versatility as someone who can be trusted in all situations. Brandon Carlo could also be the reinforcement the Avalanche need to solidify their blue line.

Columbus Blue Jackets

Management may want to reward the Blue Jackets for their surprising playoff push with deadline reinforcements. Unlike some veteran teams, Columbus can afford to spend. The team is ripe with cap space and wouldn't need to wait for the cap to rise to take on Mittelstadt. And even if the team falls short after buying at the deadline, it won't be a wasted season — it is a year of major progress against the odds.

Mittelstadt could start at 2C behind Adam Fantilli and shift to the third line once Monahan returns. Considering how many injuries the Blue Jackets have dealt with this season, it wouldn't hurt to have extra center support. Aside from the positional advantages of adding Mittelstadt, the Blue Jackets could use more puck-movers up front.

Like most teams on this list, the Blue Jackets don't have a clear 2C replacement for the Avalanche. However, they have assets that Colorado could use in future dealings, considering how pricey centers can be at this time of year.

St. Louis Blues

Say the Blues make some core changes and move on from Brayden Schenn. That would open up a hole down the middle that Mittelstadt could fill.

St. Louis is in an awkward position. The team isn't built to contend, and there isn't a clear rebuilding path forward, either. That is why management has been targeting younger, NHL-caliber talent like Dylan Holloway and Philip Broberg. Mittelstadt is still in the right age range for the Blues and would be a multi-year commitment but not a long-term anchor on the books, which should help the team build more cap flexibility.

A Mittelstadt trade may only make sense if the Blues move Schenn (who likely isn't a 2C target for Colorado with his age and contract in mind). It's a similar situation to the New York Islanders — if Brock Nelson gets dealt (and unlike Schenn, he is a very strong fit for the Avalanche), New York may want a center to fill that void in its top nine in return. The Islanders aren't on the official destination list because management usually doesn't move on from core players, especially not while they still have a chance at the postseason.

Nashville Predators

Nashville could use two things: center depth and more puck-movers. Steven Stamkos has played some center this year, but the 35-year-old may become more of a full-time winger in the near future. Even Tommy Novak has spent some time on the wing this year after taking a step back on the ice. So if the Predators think they can get Mittelstadt's game back on track, he could help Nashville reload for next year.

The return could go a few different directions. Nashville could take on Mittelstadt's contract for draft picks, giving Colorado more cap flexibility and trade assets. Or maybe the Avalanche could bet on their own reclamation project in Novak, whose transition game has completely fallen flat this season after being such a standout over the last two seasons. Colorado may have to sweeten the deal to make up for the two-plus-million difference in cap between these two centers, though.

One other option? A reunion with Ryan O'Reilly, whose 200-foot game could revitalize Colorado's second line. There is no urgency to move O'Reilly on Nashville's part, but general manager Barry Trotz is likely listening to offers that could benefit the team and interest the player.

Sportsnet.ca

<https://www.sportsnet.ca/nhl/article/jets-morrissey-motivated-after-missing-biggest-game-of-my-life/>

Jets' Morrissey motivated after missing 'biggest game of my life'

By Jacob Stoller

WINNIPEG — Last Thursday, Josh Morrissey was bedridden with an illness in a Boston hotel room as his Team Canada teammates hoisted the 4 Nations Face-Off trophy.

This wasn't just a run-of-the-mill flu.

"In the morning, I felt fine at the morning skate. Maybe not perfect, but felt fine. Then in the afternoon, I had my pre-game meal and sort of in the middle of the nap, it started to go sideways. I won't get into any more detail than that. But I tried to get things to subside," Morrissey told reporters on Sunday afternoon. "The team doc, we did everything possible. To me, that was the biggest game of my life and I didn't want to miss that game."

It was a devastating circumstance for Morrissey, who catapulted up Team Canada's depth chart throughout the tournament and became a prominent part of the team's backend. But there was nothing he could do.

"He played so good in that tournament and for a sickness like that to get you, especially a guy like that, it's got to be really, really, really, really, really bad for him not to play a game," Mark Scheifele said on Monday after scoring the overtime winner in the Winnipeg Jets' 2-1 win over the San Jose Sharks. "And I knew it was really, really, really bad."

Watching Morrissey on Monday, you would never guess what he had just endured days earlier.

From start to finish, he was the best player on the ice — registering one goal, four shots, and six shot attempts all the while playing a game-high 29:35 minutes. He logged 7:52 minutes in the final 11:23 of the third period.

"That's one thing about Josh. His recovery is amazing," head coach Scott Arniel said. "He said this morning he felt like he was 100 per cent. I don't always want to go quite that high with the minutes, but it certainly paid off."

To encapsulate his performance in one word: hungry.

Early in the first period, Morrissey joined the rush, opened his hips, and carried the puck from the left blue line down the wall and up to the right flank before setting up Nikolaj Ehlers for a net-front chance. Later in the period, Morrissey joined the rush once again and after his net front chance was denied, he relentlessly backchecked to support Logan Stanley, who would have been in a vulnerable spot defending a 2-on-1 if not for Morrissey's backpressure.

At the 6:24 mark of the second period, Morrissey single-handedly killed off 12 seconds of San Jose's power play — skating the puck from the right side of the blue line all the way around the net before retreating back out to the defensive zone and dishing the puck to Dylan DeMelo, who then iced the puck.

And if it weren't for his third-period heroics, Winnipeg's win streak wouldn't have hit double digits. As the Jets trailed 1-0 with less than a minute and a half remaining and Connor Hellebuyck pulled for an extra attacker, Morrissey beelined to Winnipeg's net to prevent a perfectly placed clear from turning into a goal. A minute later, with 27 seconds left on the clock, Morrissey stepped into a point shot that zipped past Vitek Vanecek and sent the game to overtime.

As the fans cheered, Morrissey's beet-red face was shown sporting a smile on the jumbotron. Oddly, despite coming off such a rigorous shift, he almost appeared refreshed — like he could play another 25 minutes.

In the post-Paul Maurice/Blake Wheeler era, Morrissey has grown into a prominent leader for the Jets — a player whose output can single-handedly elevate those around him. His evolution over these last few years best encapsulates the evolution of this team's core, the majority of whom have been here for all the trials and tribulations since the team's 2018 Western Conference Final berth. In a lot of ways, Morrissey — in his words, and his play — has become a walking example of a player that's sick and tired of coming up short in the playoffs.

That hunger we saw from Morrissey on Monday? It's hard not to link it to his 4 Nations experience. Not the devastation of missing the final game. But the fact that he was an impact player on the world's biggest stage.

"It was the fastest hockey I've ever played," Morrissey said. "And that was kind of the general sentiment around our dressing room, even talking with guys like (Sidney Crosby) that had been in the 2010 and 2014 Olympics, he's played everything, the Stanley Cup finals and everything else. Every guy was saying it was the fastest, most skilled and intense hockey they'd played. I'm always thinking about how I can improve as a player. And definitely being around those guys, being in that environment, playing on that stage in those pressure moments, I think I tried to soak it all in, learn a ton, and bring those things back with me to help me become a better player and be a better player here with the Jets and hopefully be able to play in big moments like that with our team."

Scheifele Sets Franchise Record

Mark Scheifele, of all people, understands the significance of the Winnipeg Jets franchise — past and present.

That's why, as gratifying as it was to score his 329th career goal — passing Ilya Kovalchuk to become the all-time leading goal scorer of the Jets/Thrashers franchise — it didn't quite feel like an authentic moment in Jets history. Kovalchuk, mind you, never played a single game for Winnipeg. There are Thrashers banners hanging in the rafters of Canada Life Centre.

"I'm chasing a different guy. A guy that meant a lot to me and this community," Scheifele told Jets host Sara Orlesky in a post-game rinkside interview. "That one will be even more special."

He's talking about the late Dale Hawerchuk, his junior coach and mentor. Scheifele is 51 goals away from surpassing Hawerchuk for the most goals ever scored in a Jets uniform.

That's the kind of milestone that strikes a chord with Winnipeggers. And when that day comes, it'll be a full-circle, storybook moment — the first draft pick in 2.0 history surpassing 'Ducky' atop the (unofficial) all-time Jets leaderboard.

It may not technically be a "franchise record" but it will be far more significant than surpassing a player with no history to this city.

TSN.ca

<https://www.tsn.ca/video/~3086312>

Domino's That's Hockey: Are Jets about to wreak havoc after rocky 4 Nations? (VIDEO)

Josh Morrissey missed the 4 Nations Face-Off final due to an illness, Kyle Connor was a healthy scratch for the title clash, and Connor Hellebuyck had a strong tournament but gave up the golden goal as Team USA settled for second. Are the Jets about to wreak havoc after a rocky 4 Nations? Domino's That's Hockey weighs in.

<https://www.tsn.ca/nhl/video/biron-jets-10-game-win-streak-fueled-by-resilience-unselfishness-and-consistency~3086297>

Biron: Jets' 10-game win streak fueled by 'resilience, unselfishness, and consistency' (VIDEO)

TSN Hockey analyst Martin Biron joins SportsCentre to discuss the remarkable run in Winnipeg as the Jets secured their 10th consecutive win with an overtime victory over the Sharks, what makes Mark Scheifele so underappreciated around the NHL, and what has made 18-year-old Macklin Celebrini a difference-maker for San Jose.

San Jose Mercury News

<https://www.mercurynews.com/2025/02/24/vanecek-shines-but-sharks-lose-heartbreaker-against-western-conferences-best-team/>

Vanecek shines, but Sharks lose heartbreaker against Western Conference's best team

By Curtis Pashelka

The Sharks know that wins could be hard to come by for the rest of the regular season, particularly after they traded their leading scorer and a top pair defenseman earlier this month.

But they still expect to be competitive down the stretch, even against several of the NHL's best teams.

That was the case on Monday, as they led the Winnipeg Jets for over 59 minutes before defenseman Josh Morrissey scored to tie the game with 25.9 seconds left in regulation time. Mark Scheifele then scored 1:33 into overtime, lifting the Jets to a 2-1 win over the Sharks at Canada Life Centre.

William Eklund's first-period power-play goal almost stood up as the winner as the Sharks took on the Western Conference-leading Jets.

Goalie Vitek Vanecek was rock solid, making 32 saves, but it wasn't enough to help the Sharks snap a six-game road losing skid that dated back to Jan. 14. or end Winnipeg's nine-game winning streak, which began on Jan. 22.

"We played how we wanted to play," Sharks coach Ryan Warsofsky said. "I give a lot of credit to our group, worked extremely hard every period with things that we talked about this morning. To

fall short is a kick in the gut, so disappointed we don't get the result, but I'm really, extremely proud of our group."

Vanecek hasn't won since Nov. 29, when the Sharks beat the Seattle Kraken 8-5 at SAP Center. Vanecek has a 0-4-2 record since that game, as he missed roughly six weeks with a fractured cheekbone, but he probably deserved a better fate against the Jets.

"For sure you want to win this, 25 seconds or however long (it was) to get the win, but it's hockey and you never know what's going to happen," Vanecek said. "I think the guys play really well and then I try to do my best to hold it too, so I think it was a great game by us."

The Sharks have lost 12 of their last 13 games and are 0-3-2 since trading leading scorer Mikael Granlund and veteran defenseman Cody Ceci to the Dallas Stars on Feb. 1.

Coming off a 3-2 loss to the Calgary Flames on Sunday, the Sharks wanted to tighten things up on the defensive end, as Warsofsky felt all three goals his team allowed were preventable. That was going to be easier said than done against the Jets, who, before Monday, were the second-highest-scoring team in the NHL with an average of 3.60 goals per game.

"They're dangerous, and they're deep at every position," Warsofsky said of the Jets. "It's going to be about us being a really simple hockey team tonight and grinding it out and not feeding pucks to the middle and with soft little flips, (and then) they're off to the races."

The Sharks opened the game's scoring in a sometimes feisty first period.

With the Sharks on a 4-on-3 power play, the Sharks worked it around inside the Jets' blue line before Macklin Celebrini, at the top, sent a no-look pass over to Eklund, who wired a slap shot past goalie Connor Hellebuyck for his 12th goal of the season at the 15:07 mark.

"We're moving it quick (on the power play)," Eklund said. "Obviously, we have skilled players on there, and we're moving it quick, and from that, we get chances. We've got to keep playing like that."

The goal was preceded by an on-ice scrum involving Sharks defensemen Jack Thompson, Mario Ferraro, and Jets forward Nikolaj Ehlers. After Thompson and Ehlers were sent to the penalty box, Jets forward Adam Lowry was next to go after he lost his balance, crashed into Vanecek, and was called for goalie interference to set up the 4-on-3.

LILJEGREN OUT: Defenseman Timothy Liljegren missed the game with an upper-body injury he sustained in a the Sharks' 3-2 loss to the Calgary Flames on Sunday.

Liljegren, paired with Mario Ferraro, left the game midway through the second period after he had six shot attempts and was credited with one block in 11:21 of ice time.

Liljegren was being evaluated Monday, Sharks coach Ryan Warsofsky said, and it was unclear if the right-shot defenseman could play Thursday against the Montreal Canadiens. If not, Liljegren might have to go on injured reserve, which would allow the Sharks to recall another defenseman from the AHL's San Jose Barracuda.

Marc-Edouard Vlasic took Liljegren's spot in the Sharks' lineup and was paired with rookie Shakir Mukhamadullin. Jake Walman and Henry Thrun comprised the Sharks' top defense pair, and Ferraro and Thompson were paired together.

Acquired by the Sharks in October in the trade that sent defenseman Matt Benning and two draft picks to the Toronto Maple Leafs, Liljegren has nine points and is averaging 18:04 in ice time in 44 games with San Jose.

Vlasic missed the first half of the season with an upper-body injury and has played in just seven games, all of which came in January. He has two assists this season and is averaging just under 15 minutes in ice time per game.

INJURY UPDATE: Warsofsky added that Monday was "a big day" for winger Nikolai Kovalenko regarding whether he could join the Sharks later this week. Kovalenko, who hasn't played since Jan. 30 with an upper-body ailment, has been skating on his own recently and is still in San Jose.

Since being acquired by the Sharks in December in the trade that sent Mackenzie Blackwood and Givani Smith to the Colorado Avalanche, Kovalenko has one goal and seven assists in 17 games. He is averaging 12:10 in ice time per game. Kovalenko has been on IR since Feb. 6, and the Sharks will have to create a roster spot for him once he's cleared to play again.