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<https://www.nhl.com/jets/news/three-things-predators-end-jets-win-streak>

***Three things - Predators end Jets win streak
Pionk scores the lone goal in a 2-1 loss in Nashville on Thursday night***

By Jamie Thomas

The franchise record win streak for the Winnipeg Jets has come to an end at 12 games after a 2-1 loss to the Nashville Predators at Bridgestone Arena. Neal Pionk scored the only goal for Winnipeg whose record dropped to 42-15-3, the Jets went 0-for-4 on the power play and Nashville's winning goal was a power play tally by Tommy Novak. Eric Comrie made 28 saves and lost for the first time in his last four starts. The Jets return home to face the Philadelphia Flyers on Saturday.

GOALIE SHOW

Eric Comrie came into the night having won his last three starts allowing just five goals in those appearances. Comrie did his best to make sure that the Jets stayed within striking distance of the Predators in the third period, when he lunged over to rob Forsberg with his toe during a Nashville power play.

As for Juuse Saros, he had won at least 33 games in each of the last three seasons but only had 12 wins leading into this night. Saros had one of his best performances of the year shutting down the Jets who had some great looks throughout the game. Nikolaj Ehlers had the best chance to tie it up with under 40 seconds left, but Saros made a toe save to preserve the win.

PREDS CONTAIN JETS PP

The Jets had won their previous four games without scoring one power play goal in ten opportunities. Tonight, with Winnipeg trailing 2-1 in the second period, Colton Sissons and Nick Blankenburg took penalties six seconds apart giving the Jets a two-man advantage for 1:54. Winnipeg generated just two shots on that opportunity, and only four shots total on their four power plays and are now 0-for-14 over their last five contests.

"Yeah, we talked about it before. Special teams can be the difference in the game and certainly was tonight," said Neal Pionk.

"That's not to say Comms didn't give us a chance, because he made a lot of really good saves. So, we did give up the one and then didn't score on power play. Now, that's the difference."

PIONK SCORES

Jets defenceman Neal Pionk scored his ninth goal of the season on Thursday, he is now one goal away from tying his career best set back in 2022-23. Pionk is now up to 37 points this season and is nine points away from setting a career high with 22 games left this season.

Associated Press

<https://www.sportsnet.ca/nhl/article/jets-11-game-win-streak-ends-with-loss-to-predators/>

Jets' 11-game win streak ends with loss to Predators

By Associated Press

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — Juuse Saros made 23 saves and the Nashville Predators ended NHL-leading Winnipeg's franchise-record winning streak at 11 games, beating the weary Jets 2-1 on Thursday night.

Filip Forsberg and Tommy Novak scored to help Nashville snap a two-game losing streak.

Neal Pionk scored and backup goalie Eric Comrie made 28 saves for the Jets, coming off a 4-1 victory over Ottawa on Wednesday night.

Forsberg opened the scoring at 4:26 of the opening period. Ryan O'Reilly won a faceoff at the left dot and Gustav Nyquist sent a touch pass to Forsberg at the top of the circle, where he snapped a quick wrist shot through traffic past Comrie.

Pionk tied it with 8:55 remaining in the first with a slap shot from the right point that beat Saros high to the far side.

Nashville regained the lead with 4:31 remaining in the first on Novak's power-play goal.

Takeaways

Jets: Playing back-to-back games in Ottawa and Nashville was a tough challenge for the Jets.
Predators: Not much has gone right for Nashville this season, but it did split the season series with the Jets. Each team winning their two home games.

Key moment

Just before the horn sounded to end the first period, Saros stopped Kyle Connor on a partial breakaway to send Nashville to the intermission with a 2-1 lead.

Key stat

Winnipeg went 0 for 4 on the power play, including a two-man advantage for 1:54 late in the second period.

Up next

Both teams are in action Saturday. The Jets host Philadelphia, and the Predators are at the New York Islanders.

NHL.com

<https://www.nhl.com/news/winnipeg-jets-nashville-predators-game-recap-february-27>

***Saros stops 23, Predators end Jets' franchise-record winning streak at 11
Forsberg, Novak score; Winnipeg loses 1st game since Jan. 20***

By Robby Stanley

NASHVILLE -- The Winnipeg Jets had their franchise-record winning streak end at 11 games with a 2-1 loss to the Nashville Predators at Bridgestone Arena on Thursday.

The Jets (42-15-3) had not lost since Jan. 20 against the Utah Hockey Club.

"Focus on whoever is coming in next at home and be better and make the adjustments we can," Winnipeg forward Kyle Connor said. "But you can't dwell on it. Yeah, it was obviously a pretty fun streak to be a part of and obviously historic for this franchise. It was cool to look back on, but you've got to move on.

"You've got to be ready. You've got to adapt. You've got to be able to fight what's next."

Juuse Saros made 23 saves, and Filip Forsberg and Tommy Novak scored for the Predators (21-30-7), who had lost two straight.

"I really think the [penalty kill] and the saves [Saros] made, you could almost see it kind of rise him up a little bit," Nashville coach Andrew Brunette said. "Then he was amazing, I thought, after that. He just shut it down, and that's the [Saros] that we're kind of used to seeing. So hopefully he's feeling good about himself, and he takes that and brings it into the next one."

Neal Pionk scored, and Eric Comrie made 28 saves for the Jets, who were coming off a 4-1 win at the Ottawa Senators on Wednesday.

"[Saros] played really well," Pionk said. "I mean let's give them credit too, they played pretty good as a team too. You run into a good goalie and don't fire on special teams -- that's a bad recipe."

Forsberg gave Nashville a 1-0 lead at 4:26 of the first period on a wrist shot off a feed from Gustav Nyquist following a face-off win by Ryan O'Reilly.

"I think that's what it's going to have to be," Forsberg said of his team's effort level. "Efforts like this. Guys putting their body on the line, whatever it takes. I think that's something that we want to start doing, keep building that part of it. And you never know, we've been on runs before and certainly want to get on one again."

Pionk tied it 1-1 at 11:05 on a one-timer from the point off a pass from Rasmus Kupari.

"Same thing we've been doing all year, win or loss," Connor said. "Take what we can and learn from it. If there's anything we can, we're going to talk about it. The way the season is going, we've got to focus on the next opponent."

Novak's power-play goal put the Predators back ahead 2-1 at 15:29 on a backhand pass from Justin Barron.

Winnipeg had 1:54 of a 5-on-3 power play in the second period but was unable to convert.

"Special teams can be the difference in the game, and it certainly was tonight," Pionk said. "That's not to say [Comrie] didn't give us a chance because he made a lot of really good saves on the penalty kill. We did give up the one and then didn't score on the power play, and that's the difference."

Predators defenseman Roman Josi did not play because of an upper-body injury.

"That's how it's going to be," Nyquist said. "It's going to have to be like that. We've obviously got some guys out. We'll see how long here, but big opportunities for other guys stepping in. We know the position we're in, but at the same time we've got to have pride here and finish the season off strong."

NOTES: Winnipeg's 11-game run is the longest winning streak Nashville has ever halted, besting an eight-game run by the Red Wings in 2005-06. ... Predators forward Steven Stamkos has not recorded a point in 11 consecutive games -- the longest such streak of his NHL career. ... Predators forward Mark Jankowski has missed the past two games because of an upper-body injury. He participated in an optional morning skate on Thursday.

Sportsnet.ca

<https://www.sportsnet.ca/nhl/article/end-of-latest-win-streak-just-a-mere-blip-on-the-radar-for-high-flying-jets/>

End of latest win streak just a mere blip on the radar for high-flying Jets

By Jacob Stoller

We've been spoiled by this Winnipeg Jets team.

The Jets are sitting atop the NHL standings at the 60-game mark, with a double-digit cushion on first place in the Central. They've got the best goaltender in the world, the league's best power play. And it's been that way virtually all year long.

So that's why, to some, the Jets' recent 11-game win streak — which came to a halt after Thursday's 2-1 loss to Nashville — elicits a proverbial shrug.

It's understandable to be desensitized to Winnipeg's latest franchise milestone, not only because it's rattled off eight- and seven-game win streaks already this season, but the 4 Nations Face-off interrupted the momentum.

The players haven't made a big deal of it, either.

"It was cool to look back on, but you got to move on," Jets forward Kyle Connor told reporters in Nashville on Thursday.

However, when it's all said and done, this past month may go down as the defining part of the 2024-25 season. Why? We saw season-long weaknesses mold into strengths.

The second line of Nikolaj Ehlers, Vladislav Namestnikov and Cole Perfetti became an asset.

After being offensively stagnant for half a season, that trio has found a way to spend prolonged periods in the offensive zone, make plays in transition and generate offence. (In 11 games, Perfetti has 12 points, Ehlers has 11 and Namestnikov has 10.) They've provided Winnipeg with a much-needed second wave of attack behind Mark Scheifele's line.

Five-on-Five Stats: Ehlers — Namestnikov — Perfetti

Time Period	GP	Minutes	xGF%	SCF%	HDCF%
Before Jan. 22	35	107	49.7	47.7	40.6
Since Jan. 22	11	307	62.8	54.3	59.3

"They're up and running, and you can tell they're in sync with each other," Jets coach Scott Arniel said after defeating the Hurricanes on Feb 4. "I really see it when they get in the offensive zone, how they make those 10-foot passes to each other and kind of scissor cycle. They kind of (stay) close together and somehow they come out of that sort of pileup, and there's one of them going to the net all by himself and somebody gets a real good look. They feed off of each other real well."

The Jets penalty kill has quietly made positive strides.

Over their last 11 games, the Jets have killed off 80.8 per cent of their minor penalties. Although that's only a slight bump on how they performed up until their recent streak (79.4 per cent), the underlying numbers paint an encouraging picture. They're surrendering significantly less shots and chances against.

Jets Penalty-Kill Stats

Time Period	TOI/GP	SCA/60	HDCA/60	SA/60
Before Jan. 22 (17th)	4:17	56.52 (15th)	26.22 (24th)	52.19
Since Jan. 22 (7th)	3:58	41.11 (2nd)	19.19 (7th)	46.69

And then there's their play on five-on-five.

In the games before this streak — particularly after losing 3-1 to the Flames on Jan. 18, in a game where they posted 39 shots — Arniel spoke a lot about needing to generate more traffic in front of opponents' goalies. More greasy goals. During the 11-game streak, the Jets recorded 2.07 five-on-five high-danger goals per 60 minutes — the third-most in the league, a sizable jump up from their previous body of work (1.28, which ranked 13th).

A lot of the talk surrounding this team has been centred on growth. Now, just like this recent win streak itself, that narrative may be growing old for some.

While everyone wonders what earth-shattering moves GM Kevin Cheveldayoff could make, winning streaks like these — and the underlying numbers behind them — may compel Winnipeg to not tinker too much with what it has going.

Call it cliché, but part of what's made this Jets team so dangerous is the shared experience of the core. They've been embarrassed together. Evolved together. And they want to win together.

That's not to say this team doesn't have a couple holes to fill throughout the roster. It sure could use a top-pairing defenceman alongside Josh Morrissey. And, in a perfect world, you'd get an upgrade on Vladislav Namestnikov.

But with the buyers' market still looking like slim pickings a week away from the deadline, surely there's a few voices in the Jets war room pondering: Do we really want to tinker with what we have?

<https://www.sportsnet.ca/nhl/video/how-should-the-winnipeg-jets-approach-the-trade-deadline/>

How should the Winnipeg Jets approach the trade deadline? (VIDEO)

NHL insider Elliotte Friedman joins the FAN Hockey Show to discuss the Winnipeg Jets' remarkable season and what the team could be looking to add ahead of the trade deadline.

<https://www.sportsnet.ca/nhl/article/32-thoughts-what-will-jets-capitals-do-at-the-nhl-trade-deadline/>

32 Thoughts: What will Jets, Capitals do at NHL trade deadline?

By Elliotte Friedman

- Where Mikko Rantanen and the Carolina Hurricanes stand
- Will Brock Boeser sign with the Canucks, or be traded by March 7?
- Could the NHL extend 3-on-3 overtime?

They are similar. Both start with "W," both lead their conferences. They are the only teams above 80 points and a .700 points percentage.

Washington and Winnipeg. Atop the league as the third month of our Gregorian Calendar arrives.

There was another similarity at the end of last season: disrespect.

The Capitals made the playoffs with the worst goal differential in the salary cap era (-37). Then-GM Brian MacLellan asked if we were going to bring that up every time we mentioned their name. Answer: yes.

They were swept out of the playoffs, completely overwhelmed by the Rangers. They led in that series for a total of 3:21. It wasn't good enough. MacLellan and Chris Patrick, the new GM, made a series of bold moves that re-shaped the roster. They finally landed Jakob Chychrun after a pursuit dating back to Arizona. They gave Logan Thompson the opportunity he craved, won a bidding war for Matt Roy and took a chance with Pierre-Luc Dubois. So far, everything's worked, rejuvenating Alexander Ovechkin in the process.

Winnipeg didn't back into the playoffs. They had 110 points, fourth in the NHL. Then, they fell apart in the playoffs under a literal Avalanche from Colorado. Connor Hellebuyck cracked under a relentless assault and the Jets panicked instead of sticking with what got them there.

GM Kevin Cheveldayoff could've thrown out the baby with the bathwater, but, instead he "doubled-down" with his group, as Dylan DeMelo said. Their exit meetings were brutally honest; how to avoid a similar collapse. Sometimes your improvements come from within, learning from your mistakes, doing your best to ensure they don't happen again.

One thing is for sure: the Jets believe in Hellebuyck. They believe he gives them a chance to win. They see it as their duty not to fall apart in front of him.

The West is brutal, much less wide-open than the east. All you can do is make sure your dress rehearsals go as great as possible, so it is habit when the curtain really rises. They won 16 of their first 17, and had an 11-gamer snapped Thursday in Nashville. You can't ask for much better than that.

That brings us to the deadline. If the Jets and Capitals have something else in common, it's a chemistry making them greater than the sum of their parts. I don't believe Washington wants to tinker with that. Sonny Milano is due back from injury and Ryan Leonard lurks at the end of the NCAA season. A friend watched him last weekend in Vermont and said, "He is going to drive opponents nuts." (Andrew Cristall — lighting it up at WHL Spokane — could see AHL playoff time with powerhouse Hershey depending on the Western League post-season. If he's half as tough as his mother, Jodi, he'll be a great pro.)

Maybe a third-line versatile forward. But you can see the Carburetor wanting to rev into the playoffs with this roster.

Winnipeg is a slightly different story. Cheveldayoff's taken big swings before, and you can feel the excitement among the fanbase at the possibility of another. He has to navigate what's available to him, and will undoubtedly research the sexiest options. But what if those are impossible, due to trade protection or lack of true supply?

I see another possible path. The most mobile, lengthy, physical, nasty defender he can find — fitting the profile of recent Stanley Cup champions who were loaded with them. One or two forwards to make your group a little deeper. Not the marquee names, but "perfect fits," the sum of the parts making you whole.

TSN.ca

<https://www.tsn.ca/nhl/video/comrie-solid-but-jets-see-their-11-game-win-streak-come-to-an-end%7E3088595>

Comrie solid, but Jets see their 11-game win streak come to an end (VIDEO)

TSN's Kevin Sawyer joins Dan Robertson to break down the Jets' loss to the Predators, pointing out that it wasn't Eric Comrie's performance that led to the defeat. Sawyer also discusses Winnipeg's struggling power play, which has gone 0-for-14 in the last five games.

<https://www.tsn.ca/nhl/video/insider-trading-what-s-the-market-for-evans-and-armia~3088820>

Insider Trading: What's the market for Evans and Armia? (VIDEO)

TSN's Hockey Insiders have the latest on Habs UFA forwards Jake Evans and Joel Armia ahead of the deadline, what the Jets are looking for, the Canes and Mikko Rantanen, Trent Frederic, the Sabres' Dylan Cozens, Bowen Byram and Alex Tuch and Islanders forward Brock Nelson.

<https://www.tsn.ca/nhl/video/button-sawyer-pinpoint-trade-targets-for-the-jets-ahead-of-the-deadline%7E3088366>

Button, Sawyer pinpoint trade targets for the Jets ahead of the deadline (VIDEO)

TSN Director of Scouting Craig Button and TSN's Kevin Sawyer join Dan Robertson to share which players they think the Jets should target ahead of the trade deadline.

Global Winnipeg

<https://globalnews.ca/news/11053908/analysis-winnipeg-jets-winning-streak-loss/>

ANALYSIS: Jets' winning streak is over. Why is that a good thing?

By John Shannon CJOB

We all know that NHL players want to win every night. That's just in their DNA. For the first time since Jan. 20, the Winnipeg Jets lost a game Thursday. And that's a good thing. You heard me, a good thing.

You see, now that the 11-game winning streak is over, Scott Arniel has every reason to remind his crew that some things need to change. The consistency that has been this team's calling card has to return.

The attention to detail that put this team at the top of the NHL table needs to be a bit more in focus. It's amazing to think, but this team, even after 11 straight victories, can play better. All you have to do is look at these four games the Jets have played since the break: two last-minute goals, allowing the team dramatic overtime wins against St. Louis and San Jose, and a lackluster win in Ottawa were great reminders to everyone that all was not perfect.

But, after winning those games, what was the problem? No need for change or urgency or attention to detail to change. The 2-1 loss to the Nashville Predators on Thursday allows for a not-so-gentle reminder that as good as they are, the Jets still have some areas in need of improvement. The penalty kill can be better, certainly faceoffs can be better, and I can only imagine that the coaches have a long list of gripes to address.

And let me remind you of last year, and a regulation season that ended with eight victories, including a rout of the Avalanche in Denver, that resulted in, as you well remember, a playoff series loss in five games to those very same Avs.

Now, three games in four nights didn't help, but this style of schedule isn't going away. The team is certainly used to it by now. But by losing to Nashville, the team can justifiably refocus on what has them the league's best. Better now than in April.

Yes, you always learn more from your mistakes, and from losing. And you have to fully expect that these Jets will learn enough to start another long winning streak.

<https://globalnews.ca/news/11053420/win-streak-ends-at-11-games-as-winnipeg-jets-fall-in-nashville/>

Win streak ends at 11 games as Winnipeg Jets fall in Nashville

By Christian Aumell & Russ Hobson Global News

Good thing there are no back-to-backs in the Stanley Cup Playoffs.

The Winnipeg Jets are now 1-5 in the second leg of back-to-backs after falling to the Predators 2-1 Thursday night in Nashville, ending their franchise-record 11-game win streak.

The Predators took the lead for good 15 minutes into the game and there was no scoring the rest of the way as the Preds hung on to end the Jets winning ways with Juuse Saros needing to make just 23 saves.

"There was some situations where we did miss the net," said Jets head coach Scott Arniel. "But at the end of the day, we threw a lot of rubber at him. He made some stops. He made some big stops. Coms (Eric Comrie) was good too, again, we didn't give him the run support that he needed."

The Jets were playing their second game in as many days and third in just the last four nights. The loss also ended a six-game road winning streak.

Neal Pionk scored their lone goal, while Filip Forsberg and Tommy Novak replied for Nashville.

The difference in the game was special teams where the Predators scored once on three chances, while the Jets were 0-for-4 on the man advantage and didn't take advantage of a 5-on-3 power play.

"Special teams can be the difference in the game," said Jets defenceman Neal Pionk. "And certainly was tonight. That's not to say Coms didn't give us a chance cause he made a lot of really good saves on our penalty kill.

"Run into a good goalie, don't fire on special teams, and that's a bad recipe."

The Jets are now goalless in their last 15 chances with the man advantage over their last five plus games.

"I thought we were moving it well," said forward Kyle Connor. "We did everything but score tonight. I liked our pace. We had an attack mindset.

"We just got bury on those."

It was the Jets first loss in more than a month since January 20.

“Like every game whether we win or lose, reflect on it, learn from it, wash it, and get back after it on Saturday,” said Pionk.

Cole Perfetti played in his 200th career NHL game in the loss.

Haydn Fleury appeared in his first game since January as he replaced Colin Miller on the blueline.

The home team drew first blood at the 4:26 mark of the first period. Off a faceoff win in the Winnipeg end, Gustav Nyquist slid a short pass to Forsberg and he ripped it high past an unsuspecting Comrie.

Winnipeg drew even with just over 11 minutes gone in the period. The Jets’ fourth line forced a turnover with a strong forecheck before Rasmus Kupari got the puck back to the point. Pionk one-timed the pass and his shot eluded Saros to tie the game with his ninth goal of the season.

Nashville would regain the lead on the power play at the 15:29 mark of the period. With Alex Lafallo in the penalty box, Adam Lowry was carrying the puck behind his net when he had it knocked off his stick by Luke Evangelista, who then got it in front to Justin Barron. He slid the puck over to a wide-open Novak for a tap-in to make it 2-1.

Despite Winnipeg out-attempting Nashville 24-16 in the first, the Preds actually outshot the Jets 14-6 as Winnipeg struggled to actually get the puck through to the net.

Neither team found the back of the net in the second period and for the second straight game the Jets had a lengthy 5-on-3 that they couldn’t capitalize on.

Colton Sissons took an interference penalty at the 15:11 mark and six seconds later, Nick Blankenburg sent the puck out of play to give the Jets a two-man advantage for 1:54. The Jets got three shots on goal during that time and hit the post as teams got back to even strength but Nashville maintained their lead going to the third period despite being outshot 14-6 in the second.

Comrie did his best to keep the Jets in the game in the third, making a couple of phenomenal saves on a Predators power play, but Winnipeg couldn’t find the goals to reward his efforts.

The Jets pulled Comrie for an extra attacker with just under two minutes remaining, but could not muster the equalizer as the horn sounded on the game and their win streak.

Both goalies were fantastic with Comrie turning aside 28 shots in defeat.

Winnipeg will look to start a new win streak when they return home to host the Philadelphia Flyers on Saturday night.

Winnipeg Free Press

<https://www.winnipegfreepress.com/breakingnews/2025/02/27/also-ran-predators-shutdown-jets>

Also-ran Predators shutdown Jets

Saros a wall as power play continues to shoot blanks, win-streak comes to an end

By: Mike McIntyre

NASHVILLE — The Winnipeg Jets left Nashville in a bit of a fog Thursday night, unsure of exactly what happened and nursing at least a few regrets — just like many visitors to this notorious party town.

It wasn't just that their franchise-record 11-game winning streak came to a halt against one of the NHL's worst teams this season. It was the very out-of-character way they dropped a 2-1 decision to the Predators.

Specifically, the league's best power play has suddenly gone ice cold and flat-out cost them.

Winnipeg went 0-for-4 against Nashville, including a five-on-three advantage in the second period that lasted 1:54. It's the fifth consecutive game the NHL's No. 1 unit has been silenced, with them going 0-for-14 in that time. The Jets also came up empty on a two-minute five-on-three advantage in Wednesday's 4-1 victory in Ottawa.

"A little bit of a funk, just not connecting, not firing all cylinders," said defenceman Neal Pionk, who scored his team's only goal which came at even strength.

"Special teams can be the difference in the game, and certainly was (Thursday)."

Indeed, especially since the game-winner came off the stick of Predators forward Tommy Novak late in the first period while Alex Lafallo sat in the penalty box for hooking.

"We give up the one and then don't score. That's the difference," said Pionk.

The Jets generated 64 shot attempts, but only 24 of them ended up on net where Juuse Saros was razor-sharp. The other 40 were either blocked or went wide.

"They've always been a pretty good shot-blocking team," said Jets forward Kyle Connor, who led the way with seven shots on goal and 16 attempts.

"We tried to get some shots from the point and we didn't seem to find it. Their goalie is playing well over there, too. Maybe you try to be a little extra accurate and pick a spot and it doesn't happen. But obviously, no excuse. The chances were there. We could have easily had five or six (goals) in that game. It's something that we have to work on and bear down."

Jets backup goalie Eric Comrie, who entered the night on a personal three-game winning streak, took the hard-luck loss despite making 28 saves.

"Our back-to-backs haven't been great this year and he's unfortunately had to play every single one of them," said Connor. "You feel for the guy but he gives us a chance every single night."

He's been like that all year. Not happy that we couldn't get the win for him but he played strong and showed that he's more than capable of handling his own in there."

Winnipeg falls to 42-15-3 after suffering its first defeat in an incredible 38 days. Nashville improves to 21-30-7.

"We've had a few of these runs this year, I think three real good ones," said head coach Scott Arniel. "Just re-set and get going. We don't dwell too much on this game."

ABOUT THAT POWER PLAY

To be clear, nobody is hitting the panic button and the Jets felt they were a little bit crisper with the puck movement and player rotation despite the same result.

"It's what happens. You go through situations over the course of the season. You just kind of stick with it," said Arniel.

"There are some things we'll work on or just look at a little bit more but, at the end of the day, I liked it a lot. A lot better than what I saw (Wednesday) night. So there was a big, vast improvement in how we were moving it."

Connor, who leads the Jets with 72 points and is second on the team with 31 goals, believes a little more practice should help the cause. The Jets, like all other NHL teams, had a lengthy break for the 4 Nations Face-Off and have had very little time together to work on it since.

Connor also was taking a glass half-full approach.

"We did everything but score," he said.

"I liked our pace, we had an attack mindset. We were shooting pucks, getting to the net. More times than not, we got the recovery off of that. When you're crashing down and all arriving at the same time at the net. We mixed up our looks. I thought we threw some good chances at him and we've just got to dial it in a little bit more and we've just got to bury on those."

ICE BAGS, PLEASE

The Jets got a taste of playoff hockey on this quick two-game road trip — not so much in who they played, but in the style of game. Both Ottawa (29 hits) and Nashville (25 hits) were extremely physical, which Arniel said was likely by design.

"That's part of what this time of year is. We're always going to get the other team's best," he said.

Jets defenceman Josh Morrissey was on the receiving end of a huge one thrown by Nashville's Michael McCarron but managed to escape any damage. Nikolaj Ehlers also had a close call late in the second period when he appeared to take a stick to the throat area during a net-front battle.

The Jets tried to dish it out as well, throwing 24 checks on Thursday after 19 against Ottawa.

There likely were plenty of ice bags required for the charter flight home.

KEY PLAY

Failing to score on the lengthy five-on-three advantage in the second period allowed Nashville to keep the lead.

THREE STARS

1. Nashville G Juuse Saros: 23 saves
2. Winnipeg G Eric Comrie: 28 saves
3. Nashville C Tommy Novak: Game-winning goal.

TRADE TARGETS

Nashville is one of the teams to watch between now and next Friday's trade deadline, with general manager (and Dauphin native) Barry Trotz possibly looking to shake up the mix of his under-achieving club. There are a few potential players who might just check off some of the boxes that would be on Jets GM Kevin Cheveldayoff's list.

Among them: Centre Ryan O'Reilly, who won the faceoff which led directly to Filip Forsberg's game-opening goal. O'Reilly would seem to be a perfect fit for the Jets, but the biggest obstacle could be Nashville's reluctance to move him. The 34-year-old is signed for two more years at a very reasonable US\$4.5 million.

Pending UFA Gustav Nyquist could be another target. He's only one year removed from a 23 goal, 75-point season but has struggled mightily this year with just nine goals and 20 points in 57 games.

Forward Colton Sissons (one more year at US\$2.8 million) and defenceman Luke Schenn (one more year at US\$2.75 million) would bring some size and snark and the ability to kill penalties (and, in Sissons case, win some faceoffs) and are also seeing their names in the rumour mill lately.

The Jets and Predators do have a recent deadline-day history, with Winnipeg acquiring Nino Niederreiter in exchange for a second-round pick back in 2023.

EXTRA, EXTRA

The Jets made one lineup change as defenceman Haydn Fleury took the spot of Colin Miller on the third pairing. The other healthy scratches were blue-liner Ville Heinola and forward Jaret Anderson-Dolan, who took the pre-game warmup but wasn't required. Winger Morgan Barron remains on injured reserve but could be an option to return any day now.

Nashville was without defenceman Roman Josi, who was hurt Tuesday night after taking a hit from behind from Florida's Sam Bennett. The full extent of his injury and potential length of absence hasn't been revealed by the Predators.

The Jets flew home after the game and will get ready to face the Philadelphia Flyers on Saturday night — the only team in the league they have yet to see at least once this season. After that it's back on the road for four more.

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Predators end Jets' win streak at 11 games

By Paul Friesen

The No. 1 team in the NHL took on No. 30 in Nashville on Thursday and proved, once again, the game isn't played on paper.

Playing on a second straight night, the Winnipeg Jets dropped a 2-1 decision to the Predators, ending their franchise-record winning streak at 11 games and falling to 42-15-3.

With a power play that's gone cold, the Jets failed to produce another miracle finish as they'd done twice over the last week.

"It was obviously a pretty fun streak to be a part of," winger Kyle Connor told reporters in the Music City. "And obviously pretty historic in this franchise. Cool to look back on. But you've got to move on. You've got to be able to fight what's next."

Defenceman Neal Pionk, who scored the only Jets goal, had his own take.

"Run into a good goalie, don't fire on special teams and that's a bad recipe," Pionk said.

Head coach Scott Arniel actually thought his team played better than it did in a 3-1 win in Ottawa the night before.

"We're always going to get the other team's best," Arniel said. "The chances were 13-6 or something like that for us, five-on-five. We had a lot of opportunities to win the hockey game. We had some good looks and some good zone time. But that's this league. You have those nights."

"We can usually score goals. We just didn't find the net."

Winnipeg missed a chance to go undefeated in February, finishing the month 6-1 and falling to 1-5 in the second game of back-to-backs.

Goalie Eric Comrie was valiant in defeat, seeing his three-game win streak come to an end.

"Our back-to-backs haven't been great this year and he's unfortunately had to play every single one of them," winger Kyle Connor said. "You feel for the guy but he gives us a chance every single night. He's been like that all year."

Shots favoured the Predators, 30-24. They also got the game's only power-play goal, going 1-for-3 while the top-ranked Jets went 0-for-4 with the extra man.

Up next, at home against Philadelphia on Saturday.

The Jets had some Grade-A chances early, especially from their top line, but it was Nashville that opened the scoring on a tic-tac-toe play right off a faceoff.

Ryan O'Reilly beat Adam Lowry on the draw, Gustav Nyquist fed Filip Forsberg and Forsberg beat Comrie before the Jets could even react.

Forsberg put the Jets on a power play soon after, but they came up empty for an 11th straight time, not even registering a shot on goal.

"A lot better than what I saw (Wednesday) night," Arniel said of the power play. "There was a big, vast improvement in how we were moving it."

Pionk got his team on the board midway through the first, his long point shot finding its way through some bodies and past Juuse Saros for Pionk's ninth of the year.

The Preds regained the lead on a first-period power play of their own, as Winnipeg's penalty-killing unit gave up chance after chance, leaving Comrie high and dry for Tommy Novak's goal.

Lowry would have been upset he lost the puck on the play.

Shots in the first favoured Nashville, 14-6.

The Jets were handed a glorious chance to tie it up in the second period, getting a five-on-three for nearly a full two minutes.

Somehow, the top unit in hockey came up empty.

Ditto for another power play to end the second and start the third.

Already on a season-high four-game run without a power-play goal, the Jets extended that streak to five.

"We were moving it well," Connor said. "We did everything but score. I liked our pace. We had an attack mindset."

The shot count in the second period was the opposite of the first, 14-6 for Winnipeg, but the Preds took their 2-1 lead into the final 20 minutes.

By all rights they should have made it 3-1 with Pionk in the penalty box early in the third, but a stretching Comrie robbed Forsberg with his toe, keeping his team in it.

Nashville wasn't likely to run away with it, as they were ranked 30th in scoring.

But the Jets' No. 2-ranked offence didn't do enough to make life miserable for Saros.

"They've always been a pretty good shot-blocking team," Connor said. "Their goalie is playing well over there, too. Maybe you try to be a little extra accurate and pick a spot and it doesn't happen. But obviously, no excuse. The chances were there. We could have easily had five or six... it's something that we have to work on and bear down."

They didn't, and what looked like a potential cakewalk on paper was anything but.

The 200 Club

Thursday marked Cole Perfetti's 200th NHL game.

The 10th-overall pick in the 2020 draft had 12 points in his previous 10 games, but was help pointless in this one.