

## **Winnipeg Free Press**

<https://www.winnipegfreepress.com/breakingnews/2025/02/28/can-chevy-work-his-magic-once-again>

### ***Can Chevy work his magic once again? GM looks to improve league-leading Jets as trade deadline looms***

By: Ken Wiebe and Mike McIntyre

The annual game of chicken is about to hit a crescendo for Kevin Cheveldayoff and the rest of the NHL general managers who wish to get involved in the annual swap meet.

The Winnipeg Jets enter the weekend atop the standings and are now less than a week away from next Friday's trade deadline. Continuity has been a major theme for a team that has already rattled off winning streaks of eight, seven and 11 games before the arrival of the final quarter of the NHL season.

How might that alter Cheveldayoff's approach during the coming days?

The Jets host the Philadelphia Flyers on Saturday before heading out on the road for a four-game trip, so while the work behind the scenes continues in earnest, decisions are on the horizon.

There's been plenty of discussion and debate surrounding which way Cheveldayoff and company will go when it comes to roster augmentation.

#### ***DUMP & CHASE***

A weekly lap around the NHL by Free Press hockey writers Mike McIntyre and Ken Wiebe

While it's clear the Jets have a good thing going when it comes to chemistry and cohesion, trying to win four rounds and 16 games during the Stanley Cup playoffs is a battle of attrition and at the very least, adding depth and talent would be welcome.

Whether it's a big swing, bolstering the depth around the edges or somewhere in the middle, history has shown Cheveldayoff has made a habit of trying to improve his roster when the team looks like a contender.

Before we dive into some of the names that could be on the Jets' wish list, one other subject that should be prominent is about whether or not players will be interested in coming to Winnipeg, whether they have trade protection or not. If you look at recent years, things have tended to work out pretty well for rental players that were acquired at the deadline.

Paul Stastny is often pointed to as the most impactful deadline acquisition in the 2018 playoff run for the Jets and there's no denying his fit on the second line with Nikolaj Ehlers and Patrik Laine. He delivered the game-winning goal in Game 7 against the Nashville Predators in the second round and finished with six goals and 15 points in 17 playoff outings.

The Jets narrowly missed keeping Stastny in the fold and he earned a three-year deal worth US\$19.50 million with Vegas.

Sean Monahan was a great fit for the Jets last spring, even if he wasn't as productive in the post-season. The Jets were interested in re-upping Monahan as well, but he ended up with a lucrative five-year deal worth US\$27.5 million with Columbus.

Kevin Hayes didn't have the same success as Stastny or Monahan, but that didn't prevent him from signing a seven-year deal worth US\$50 million with Philadelphia. Even Tyler Toffoli, who didn't work out as planned either, inked a four-year deal with the San Jose Sharks worth US\$24 million.

So, if you're an agent looking to help raise the value of a client who needs a new contract, joining the Jets for several months could end up being quite profitable.

Back to the issue at hand, which is trying to decipher which way the Jets might lean when it comes to acquisitions.

*KEN SAYS:* Last season, after the Jets picked up Monahan, it looked like the organization was going to prioritize a defenceman — with former Manitoba Moose blue-liner Chris Tanev looking like a top target before he ended up going to the Dallas Stars.

With Cole Perfetti in the midst of an offensive funk that ultimately reached 23 games without a goal (and two assists during that span), the Jets chose to pivot and traded for Toffoli before adding Colin Miller to essentially be the seventh D-man.

Not taking a bigger swing on D ending up being a misstep, especially after Brenden Dillon was injured at the end of Game 3.

How do things compare right now?

Perfetti is playing some of the most consistent hockey of his career and is currently sixth in team scoring. There are no concerns about needing to replace him when the games get tougher.

Vladislav Namestnikov has done an admirable job of handling the second-line centre role and could continue to do so, but the Jets would become an even more dangerous team if they acquired someone to do that job and move the versatile Namestnikov down to the third or fourth line.

Adding a middle-six forward who could provide complementary scoring is an item on the to-do list, but the priority would be to upgrade the defence.

That doesn't necessarily mean bringing in a top-four guy, but rather adding someone who can help the third pairing while also having the ability to move up the depth chart if necessary. Penalty-killing prowess and championship pedigree would be a bonus.

*MIKE SAYS:* I find myself at a bit of a crossroads when it comes to what I think the Jets should do.

On one hand, the championship window may never be more open than it is right now and they have ample cap space to weaponize. Go big or go home, right? Names such as Mikko Rantanen, Elias Pettersson, Dylan Cozens, Brock Nelson, Alex Tuch and Brayden Schenn, among others, are floating out there and would fit the bill up front. Same with Colton Parayko and Seth Jones on the blueline.

On the other hand, I think there's merit to the idea of not messing too much with the chemistry of a talented and tight-knit group — one that has accumulated some calluses from recent playoff wounds of the last few years and seems eager to try to right the previous wrongs. I recently did a deep dive into the last 10 Cup winners and found the majority didn't take home run swings at the deadline, instead opting for mostly solid singles. Less is often more, it would appear.

It's a little easier to discuss what parts of an already solid foundation could use a bit of shoring up. I think a big, strong, physical defenceman (who is also mobile) is key. The Jets could use some more muscle, and the way the Ottawa Senators and Nashville Predators threw the body around against Winnipeg this week suggests that's an area opponents may try to exploit especially in a playoff series.

Up front, you can never have enough secondary scoring, so a skater or two who could chip in while also helping with penalty killing and faceoffs would be welcome.

Winnipeg Jets trade deadline primer

Current cap space: \$9,872,292

Projected cap space: \$11,517,674

Draft capital:

2025: 1, 3, 5, 6, 7

2026: 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7

*Twelve intriguing candidates*

*D Colton Parayko, St. Louis Blues*

Age: 31

59GP, 14G, 19A, 33P, 8PIM, 23:57TOI

Contract status: US\$6.5 million AAV through 2029-30 with a full no-trade clause

The skinny: This would be a home run. He could slide in beside Team Canada 4 Nations partner Josh Morrissey on the top pair and give Winnipeg incredible depth at D. Imagine the Dylan's — Samberg and DeMelo — as the second pair, with Neal Pionk on the third. Checks off every box: Big, mobile, mean, can help the PP and PK, championship pedigree. A perfect fit.

*D Brandon Carlo, Boston Bruins*

Age: 28

59GP, 1G, 8A, 9P, 22PIM, 18:41TOI

Contract status: US\$4.1 million AAV through 2026-27 , has a modified no-trade clause

The skinny: A defence-first defender, Carlo would bring size (6-5, 220 pounds) and tenacity to a back end looking for more of it. Carlo has recorded 100-plus hits in five of his eight previous NHL seasons. He's playing for an organization that prides itself on the winning culture it has built, but with the team looking for a bit of a reset, the term on his deal makes him very appealing for a team like the Jets.

*D Jamie Oleksiak, Seattle Kraken*

Age: 32

60GP, 4G, 9A, 13P, 14PIM, 19:01TOI  
Contract status: US\$4.6 million AAV through 2025-26.

The skinny: The Jets have coveted this player in the past and there remains big interest. The 6-7, 252-pound left-shot from Toronto needs a fresh start and would represent a big upgrade in a third pairing role and help with the PK.

*D Rasmus Ristolainen, Philadelphia Flyers*  
Age: 30  
57GP, 4G, 15A, 19P, 12PIM, 20:31TOI  
Contract status: US\$5.1 million AAV through 2027-28.

The skinny: Like Oleksiak, someone the Jets have had previous interest and it helps that the eighth-round pick from 2013 is a right-shot signed for two more years. His offence has trended down in recent years, but he appears to have discovered his strong defensive game this year.

*D Luke Schenn, Nashville Predators*  
Age: 35  
58GP, 1G, 4A, 5P, 41PIM, 15:30TOI  
Contract status: US\$2.75 million AAV through 2025-26.

The skinny: Schenn checks a lot of boxes. He would upgrade the right side and bring a physical presence. He also has the ability to block shots and keep the front of the net clear and won two Stanley Cups with the Tampa Bay Lightning. Can take on a heavier load if necessary, much like he did when playing nearly 18 minutes against the Jets on Thursday when Roman Josi was out due to injury.

*D Mario Ferraro, San Jose Sharks*  
Age: 26  
60GP, 5G, 6A, 11P, 32PIM, 20:52TOI  
Contract status: US\$3.25 million AAV through 2025-26.

The skinny: A hard-nosed blue-liner who brings some additional puck-moving ability. His willingness to compete and battle was on display on Monday when the Sharks were in Winnipeg. He's emerged as a leader with the Sharks and could benefit from a change of scenery. Similar to when Tyler Myers arrived from the Buffalo Sabres after enduring a lot of losing, Ferraro would likely feel rejuvenated by joining a contender. He's been leaned on heavily, with nearly 64 per cent of his shifts starting in the defensive zone.

*LW Brad Marchand, Boston Bruins*  
Age: 36  
60GP, 21G, 26A, 47P, 62PIM  
Contract status: US\$6.125 million with modified no-trade clause (eight team no-trade list), pending UFA

The skinny: The captain of the Bruins has made it known he prefers to stay put and an extension is still possible, but perhaps the organization chooses to move him for assets and Marchand returns to Beantown in the summer as a UFA. This would represent a big swing for the Jets and Marchand showed recently at the 4 Nations Face-Off that he's still able to elevate his game when the stakes are high. He's ultra-competitive, productive and knows how to win.

*C Ryan O'Reilly, Nashville Predators*

Age: 34

55GP, 14G, 21A, 35P, 11PIM, 18:53TOI

Contract status: US\$4.5 million AAV through 2026-27.

The skinny: A prime candidate for the 2C role, O'Reilly is a Selke Trophy winner for his defensive awareness and won the Conn Smythe Trophy in 2019 when the St. Louis Blues won the Stanley Cup. He's incredibly smart, outstanding in the faceoff circle, does the little things right, goes to the hard areas and can be used in all situations. This would be a home run like acquiring Stastny was — perhaps more so because he has term left on his deal.

*RW Oliver Bjorkstrand, Seattle Kraken*

Age: 29

59GP, 15G, 20A, 35P, 14PIM, 15:27TOI

Contract status: US\$5.4 million AAV through 2025-26.

The skinny: This one is intriguing for a couple reasons. He's got a ton of skill and would be a nice fit in the middle six of the lineup, especially as a right-shot. He's also a good friend of Nikolaj Ehlers and signed for another year.

*F Yannick Gourde, Seattle Kraken*

Age: 33

35GP, 6G, 10A, 16P, 36PIM, 15:34TOI

Contract status: US\$5.167 million, pending UFA

The skinny: Being on long-term injured-reserve complicates any deal for Gourde, as it's unclear whether he will return to action before the playoffs arrive. He's a Stanley Cup champion from his time with the Lightning and he's the type of versatile player that has been able to thrive with the Jets. He can play centre or wing and comfortably move up and down the lineup. A dogged penalty killer who plays incredibly hard and has shown the ability to deliver in big moments.

*LW Brandon Tanev, Seattle Kraken*

Age: 33

58GP, 9G, 8A, 17P, 8PIM, 14:02TOI

Contract status: US\$3.5 million, pending UFA

The skinny: We've come to the reunion part of our list. A fan favourite from his previous stint here, Tanev brings speed and grit and energy and physicality while eating pucks for breakfast. He'd also bring back some serious 2018 playoff vibes which can't hurt, right?

*RW Joel Armia, Montreal Canadiens*

Age: 31

59GP, 10G, 14A, 24P, 16PIM, 14:38TOI

Contract status: US\$3.4 million, pending UFA

The skinny: Similar to Tanev, he would be a huge help on the PK and is a known commodity to the organization, which previously acquired him from Buffalo in the Evander Kane trade nearly a decade ago.

## **Winnipeg Sun**

<https://winnipeg.sun.com/sports/hockey/nhl/winnipeg-jets/the-streak-continues-jets-host-the-philadelphia-flyers-on-saturday-night>

### ***Jets look to keep home win streak intact against the Flyers on Saturday night***

By Gordon Anderson

The best thing about the end of a winning streak is the opportunity to cradle the rebound and start a new one.

The Jets 11-game win streak was snapped with a 2-1 loss to the Predators in Nashville on Thursday night.

Speaking of winning streaks, the Jets have won five straight at home, dating back to Jan. 24 when they host the Philadelphia Flyers on Saturday evening,

"I mean, we've had a few of these runs this year, I think three good ones," head coach Scott Arniel told reporters in Nashville. "We (won't) dwell too much on this game. We'll look at the video and see where we can make improvements, but it's (about getting) ready for Philadelphia next."

The Jets opened the season with an eight-game heater, lost to the Maple Leafs, and then put together a seven-game streak, to blast the season into the stratosphere. And they've been at a comfortable cruising altitude ever since.

The Jets have won eight of 10 at the downtown rink and have the best home record in the NHL at 23-5-2.

The Flyers are 26-26-8 overall and 11-13-7 on the road. The Jets are 13-4-0 against teams at or below the break-even mark.

Puck drop is 6 p.m.

#### ***PP punch***

There is a natural default mechanism when analyzing why the ultimate result wasn't attained. The lack of power-play success in Nashville wasn't an overriding issue beforehand, because the team was winning games.

On Thursday night the team went 0-4 on the power play. The Jets haven't scored a power-play goal in five games, going 0-14. In the now completed win streak, the club went 8-31.

"We were shooting pucks, getting to the net," Connor said. "More times than not, we got the recovery off that. When you're crashing down and all arriving at the same time at the net. We mixed up our looks. Obviously, two five-on-three's in a row in back-to-back games. We talked about the last one and tonight, I thought we threw some good chances, and we've just got to dial it in a little bit more and we've just got to bury on those."

Connor had his point streak snapped at four games. Connor has five goals and eight assists in his last 10 games.

Perhaps, the club's best chance on the PP was a 1:54 two-man advantage in the second period that went for naught. They also had an opportunity late in the second period when Filip Forsberg went to the sin bin for tripping at 19:02.

"Yeah, a little bit of a funk, just not connecting, not firing all cylinders," defenceman Neal Pionk said about the PP. "But I think we get the day off tomorrow, morning skate (Saturday) we'll sharpen up."

The Jets have the best power-play rate in the league at 30.9 heading into league action on Friday night. Obviously, Thursday night in Smashville wasn't their best, but sometimes you must give kudos to the opposition.

"We changed some things around, but we had some great looks," Arniel said. "Saros made some big stops. It's what happens. You go through situations over the course of the season. You just kind of stick with it. 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."

For the sake of reference, in the 4-1 victory over the Sens on Wednesday night the Jets went 0-4, including a 1:36 five-on-three in the second period, as Connor briefly talked about.

#### *Your turn*

The Jets currently suffer from an embarrassment of riches as they have a full complement of d-men at the ready. Arniel has mentioned on a few occasions he would rotate d-men in and out of the lineup, minus mainstays like Dylan Samberg, Josh Morrissey, Neal Pionk, Dylan DeMelo and Logan Stanley.

On Thursday, it was Haydn Fleury's chance. The Carlisle, Sask., resident played 9:33 at even strength.

Fleury has played in 30 games this season. The 28-year-old has found his way onto the score sheet with six assists this season.

"It's hard when these guys sit too long, so back-to-back was hoping he'd give us a little spark," Arniel said of Fleury. "I thought he was good. I thought he moved well and used his size."

#### *Ice chips*

Jets forward Rasmus Kupari has the second highest speed burst in the NHL this season at 24.47 miles per hour. Martin Necas is first with 24.49 mph. Connor McDavid is ninth at 23.97 ... Connor Hellebuyck has faced 1,230 shots this season and turned aside 1,139. Andrei Vasilevskiy of the Lightning has faced the most shots at 1,283. The Tampa Bay keeper has also stopped the most shots at 1,184, heading into league action on Friday evening ... As a team, the Jets have skated 2,755.06 miles this season. The Penguins are first at 2,8801.10 miles this season.

## **The Athletic**

<https://www.nytimes.com/athletic/6100820/2025/03/01/winnipeg-jets-trade-deadline-nhl-targets/>

### ***Winnipeg Jets trade targets: 6 under-the-radar players they could add at the deadline***

By Murat Ates

There's been a major tonal shift in the way NHL insiders have discussed the Winnipeg Jets' trade deadline aspirations as of late.

It has been echoed by what I'm hearing from league sources as well.

The shift has been away from big fish and toward smaller, subtler additions, and the reasons are twofold.

First, the NHL seems to be a seller's market. The wild-card race is competitive in both conferences: In the East, five teams are within 6 points of the Columbus Blue Jackets for the final wild-card spot. In the West, three teams are within 3 points of Vancouver. A lot of teams that are "supposed to be" sellers simply aren't — at least not yet — and this puts a premium on top targets such as Brock Nelson, Rasmus Ristolainen, Scott Laughton or Brayden Schenn.

The second factor has more to do with Winnipeg. Take second-line centre, for example. Nelson has a no-trade clause. Schenn has a no-trade clause. Nashville's Ryan O'Reilly, whom I view as the ideal upgrade for Winnipeg, is being treated as if he has a no-trade clause. The Jets have done well retaining players who have experience in the city — current second-line centre Vladislav Namestnikov is the most recent example — but Winnipeg can be a tough sell for players who don't have local experience.

The Jets will keep exploring the market to push for upgrades. They're preparing themselves for what they hope to be a deep run — and that takes more than 12 forwards and six defencemen to pull off. I'd expect an addition on defence and at least one addition up front, too. I'd expect those additions to address the penalty kill, playoff experience, physicality and two-way play where possible.

And I might expect the Jets to be in play for some familiar faces. Today, we look at a number of "under the radar" targets for Winnipeg, from fourth-line upgrades to a pair of penalty-killing forwards, multiple familiar faces and a couple of defencemen we haven't discussed as of yet.

Also in this series: [Forward trade targets](#) | [Defence trade targets](#) | [10 new options](#)

***Joel Armia, RW, Canadiens***

Age: 31

Contract: \$3.4 million AAV, UFA 2025

Usage: Third and fourth line at five-on-five, first-unit penalty kill

Production: 10 goals, 14 assists, 24 points in 59 games played

If you read Pierre LeBrun's latest rumblings, you knew this was coming. Joel Armia is a former Jets right wing who made so many desperate solo rushes to kill time on the PK that fans named him "One-man Armi-a." Winnipeg packaged Armia and Steve Mason to the Montreal Canadiens



in search of cap space during summer 2018, where Armia continues to kill penalties while playing in the Canadiens' bottom six. He's still big, fast and effective on the PK: He has three short-handed goals this season (and scored two against the Jets in Game 3 of Montreal's 2021 sweep).

Is that enough to convince Winnipeg to acquire him?

Maybe. The Jets could use the short-handed help, but their forward lines are set. Armia isn't going to take Mason Appleton's job on Adam Lowry's line. His penalty-killing prowess might make it worth trying an Alex Lafallo-Rasmus Kupari-Armia fourth line, displacing Morgan Barron in the name of PK help. If Winnipeg makes this type of addition, consider it a bet on what the Jets already have to work with and an acknowledgment that it takes more than 12 quality forwards to go deep in the playoffs.

*Jake Evans, C, Canadiens*

Age: 28

Contract: \$1.7 million, UFA 2025

Usage: Third line at five-on-five, first-unit penalty kill

Production: 11 goals, 16 assists, 27 points in 59 games played

Arpon Basu has reported that Montreal would like to package Armia with centre Jake Evans to get a better return. The Canadiens hope to get a first-round pick in exchange for the penalty-killing duo.

It's hard to say who deserves more credit for their success, but Montreal's PK gives up fewer shots and fewer goals against with Evans/Armia than the Jets do with Lowry, Lafallo, Barron and Kupari. Evans and Armia each have scored more points (and more points per minute) than Barron, Kupari, Lafallo and David Gustafsson have, so I understand Montreal's pitch: take them both, upgrade your PK, round out your bottom six.

There is one obvious concern. Evans is best known in Winnipeg as the player whose empty net goal attempt led to Mark Scheifele's four-game suspension during the 2021 playoffs. Whatever a fan's view of Scheifele's hit might have been, Evans was concussed on the play and might not maintain fond memories of the Jets star. Hockey players are more likely to look past those things in the name of a Cup hunt than their fans tend to be.

Is a penalty-killing duo worth a first-round pick? Do the Jets need to upgrade their already good fourth line?

It's hard to imagine the reaction if Winnipeg sent out a first-round pick without getting a second-line centre or top-four defenceman in return ... and yet, it makes sense to me that the Jets have checked in.

The Jets' first line is set, their middle six is perhaps their biggest strength, and the defence could use an upgrade but could probably get away with a veteran third-pairing left-handed defenceman to bump Logan Stanley out of the top six. If you're projecting a deep run, the PK is probably all you're worried about.

*Brandon Carlo, RD, Bruins*

Age: 28

Contract: \$4.1 million AAV, eight-team no-trade clause, UFA 2027

Usage: Third pair at five-on-five, first-unit penalty kill  
Production: 1 goal, 8 assists, 9 points in 59 games played

The Boston Bruins are hanging around in the playoff race, Charlie McAvoy's injury has thrust Brandon Carlo into big minutes, and Carlo has an eight-team no-trade clause. I include him in this "under the radar" list because the 6-foot-5, 220-pound right-shot defenceman has the net-front talent, penalty-killing chops, and size Winnipeg would ideally like to add to its defence corps. He's struggled against elite competition when pushed up the lineup but tends to crush the bottom-six forwards he plays against in a more sheltered role.

He's a good archetype for our purposes, though — a more impactful version of the player Joel Edmundson was for the 2019 Cup champion St. Louis Blues.

*Josh Anderson, RW, Canadiens*

Age: 30

Contract: \$5.5 million, five-team no-trade clause, UFA 2027

Usage: Third line at five-on-five, second-unit penalty kill

Production: 9 goals, 10 assists, 19 points in 59 games played

Josh Anderson isn't the star power forward people dreamed he'd become back when he scored 27 goals and 20 assists as a 24-year-old in Columbus. Back then, he was too big and fast for teams to handle and bulldozed his way to the net for roughly three shots per game. Now he's shooting half as often, playing further down the lineup for Montreal than he did for Columbus. His impact has been variously reduced by injuries, a reduction in role and a bit of tunnel vision in terms of how he attacks up the wing. Anderson has had a mild renaissance in Montreal this year, though, and the 6-foot-3, 226-pound forward remains tough to handle on his best day.

If I trusted his defensive impact, I'd put someone like Anderson towards the top of the "functional size" category of Winnipeg's needs. The Jets' best players get to the middle of the ice via speed and skill as opposed to toughness and tenacity. The best version of Anderson would give Winnipeg — someone whose net-front truculence resembles Nino Niederreiter's and who could open up space for other players. Niederreiter's excellence comes from his 200-foot impact, though, and Anderson couldn't match that. I include him here because the Jets have shown interest in the past and because he represents an archetype the Jets could use — if they got the right one.

*Brandon Tanev, LW, Kraken*

Age: 33

Contract: \$3.5 million AAV, 10-team no-trade clause, UFA 2025

Usage: Fourth line at five-on-five, first-unit penalty kill

Production: 9 goals, 8 assists, 17 points in 58 games played

Brandon Tanev was one of the most popular Jets during his Winnipeg tenure. He seemed to get a thrill out of doing the difficult things — blocking shots, taking hits and chasing down pucks with elite speed. His underlying numbers soared alongside Lowry and Andrew Copp and otherwise suffered, and the Jets PK tended to give up a lot of shots with him on the ice despite his tenacity.

This seems to be the case for him with the Seattle Kraken, too — he's trusted to play big minutes on a penalty kill that gets buried in terms of shots and goals against when he's out

there. (Admittedly, it's tough to assume a player's numbers stay the same when moved from one team to another; in this case, those numbers have been a hallmark of the player's career.)

The appeal of Tanev is his energy, familiarity with Winnipeg and acquisition cost. He's a fourth-line left wing who makes \$3.5 million — forget about a first-round pick, that's depth pick territory — and his team-first disposition makes me assume positive dressing room vibes even if Tanev were a 13th or 14th forward.

This isn't a trade I'd put at the top of my priority list but could be one Winnipeg explores at some length.

#### *Colton Parayko, RD, Blues*

Age: 31

Contract: \$6.5 million AAV, full no-movement clause, UFA 2030

Usage: First pair at five-on-five, first-unit penalty kill

Production: 14 goals, 19 assists, 33 points in 59 games played

To be clear, nothing about Josh Morrissey's Team Canada defence partner and 4 Nations Face-Off champion Colton Parayko is "under the radar."

Parayko is a 6-foot-6, 228-pound Cup champion whom the Jets know quite well. He plays exactly the roles on defence — top-pair, first-unit PK — where the Jets could use an upgrade. He has the size to tie up sticks and box out attackers in rebound situations. He seems to have positive impacts in those regards, too: St. Louis gives up more shots with him on the ice in both cases, but fewer from the right side.

It might be that Parayko's transition game is overstated and he's winning his battles while losing the flow of play.

This is supported by Corey Szajder at All Three Zones, who keeps track of microstats: Parayko makes a lot of puck retrievals and contributes a lot of successful breakout passes but fails at his exits often enough to grade out as mediocre in his success rate. He's a workhorse — this type of statistical profile makes sense to me — but it's worth keeping expectations in check.

Speaking of expectations, Parayko's no-movement clause should give us pause. His contract goes until 2030, and I would not bet on the 31-year-old to remain effective throughout the deal. Snap your fingers and make him a Jet, and I'm sure Morrissey/Parayko would be a successful short-term pairing. That's not in the cards; St. Louis remains invested in the player.

We've talked about some of the other players I expect to be on Winnipeg's radar right now.

The Jets have inquired about Scott Laughton, whom we profiled in this piece, but my understanding is that the Philadelphia Flyers want a first-round pick. We've discussed Ristolainen, Jamie Oleksiak and Carson Soucy — all three of whom offer the size and physicality missing from Winnipeg's blue line. We profiled Mario Ferraro, who blocked four shots against the Jets last week, in that same piece.

It seems to be a seller's market right now, though, which is why you've heard the insiders talk about "chemistry" — and read my piece about subtler additions earlier this week. If Winnipeg can't add a major piece, then it must sell itself on what it already has in store — not a tough task, given its place atop the NHL standings.

That's why it makes sense that Winnipeg has checked in on old friends such as Armia and Tanev. Their experience in the city inspires thoughts of a smooth transition, and Tanev's no-trade clause strikes me as less of a concern than it would for Parayko, Carlo or any other player without experience in Winnipeg.

And I must admit I find the Armia and Evans package intriguing.

<https://www.nytimes.com/athletic/6166977/2025/03/01/nhl-trade-deadline-2025-bold-predictions/>

### ***NHL trade deadline 2025: Making one bold prediction for each team***

By The Athletic NHL Staff

Could Bruins captain Brad Marchand be headed to Colorado to add some veteran leadership to the Avalanche? Will we see a surprise Lightning reunion in Tampa Bay?

This week, The Athletic asked its NHL staff for their bold predictions ahead of the March 7 trade deadline that's less than a week away, and those were just a couple of the enticing (and sometimes contradictory) scenarios we heard about in response.

Here's one pick for each team.

#### ***Winnipeg Jets***

Prediction: They will acquire both Rasmus Ristolainen and Scott Laughton from the Flyers.

Ristolainen checks off a lot of boxes as a big, strong and physical defenseman who helps Philadelphia eliminate scoring chances in front of the net. Laughton is a versatile Flyer on the ice and glue guy off of it. Acquiring both top Flyers would be bold because it would take a big package, forcing the Jets to part with a first-round pick or prospect that they otherwise would prefer to keep, while filling two of the only holes on a deep Jets team. It could also relegate 6-foot-7 defenseman Logan Stanley to the press box come playoff time; he offers some physicality but leaks scoring chances to an extent that Ristolainen does not. — Murat Ates