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<https://www.winnipegfreepress.com/breakingnews/2025/03/10/up-to-arniel-to-make-pieces-fit>

Up to Arniel to make pieces fit

Jets head coach has plenty of options with deadline additions and mostly healthy lineup

By: Ken Wiebe

Now comes the fun part for Scott Arniel.

After scribbling out lines and defensive pairings — whether on the dry-erase board in his office or on napkins, sheets of paper or whatever else was available to him after the NHL trade deadline came and went, the head coach of the Winnipeg Jets can start putting his various projections into action Tuesday when the New York Rangers come to town to open a two-game homestand.

Arniel has already incorporated Brandon Tanev in the lineup for the last two games, the arrival of fellow deadline-deal pickup Luke Schenn means the head coach of the Jets figures to have all options available to him for this contest — barring something unforeseen.

Although nobody is fully healthy by Game 66, Arniel made it sound like Vladislav Namestnikov had avoided the worst-case scenario after taking a high hit from Jordan Staal in Sunday's 4-2 loss to the Carolina Hurricanes.

Although the concussion spotter pulled Namestnikov from the contest early in the third period, Arniel said the issue for his second-line centre was more related to his nose rather than any lingering symptoms that would be associated with a concussion.

That's good news for the Jets, who should also have Rasmus Kupari available (provided he gets final clearance following the morning skate) after he spent the past seven days in concussion protocol after he was on the receiving end of a hard check from New York Islanders forward Hudson Fasching and crashed awkwardly into the boards.

With Namestnikov expected to be available to suit up, Arniel will have a decision to make as it relates to his fourth-line centre.

Morgan Barron slid into the middle for the past two games.

Barron won 10 of his 18 draws (56 per cent) and showed he could be a viable option at the position.

The fourth line was on for one goal for at even strength against the New Jersey Devils and one goal against versus the Hurricanes.

Barron is a natural centre, but he's spent most of his time at left wing since joining the Jets, so there was going to be a bit of a transitional phase for him.

"Positionally, it's obviously starting to come back to me," said Barron, noting his execution wasn't quite as sharp on Sunday. "But I felt comfortable in there taking the face-offs and I think it'll just continue to improve to get a little practice time in there."

Kupari provides a right-handed option beyond Mark Scheifele when he's in the lineup and his speed element is something he can use to his advantage.

Barron plays more of a power-forward game, but he's probably more responsible defensively.

Both players are tenacious and disruptive on the forecheck — qualities that make each of them a natural fit to play with Alex Iafallo and Tanev on the fourth line.

David Gustafsson has played well when he's been in the lineup, so the Jets have multiple options to sort through during the stretch run and have some insulation in case of injury.

Tanev didn't need long to show what he's going to bring to the equation — and he's someone who can move up the depth chart onto the third line if needed.

"He's a worker bee," said Jets forward Cole Perfetti, who also appreciates the intensity Tanev plays with. "Brings a lot of legs. He's a great penalty killer. Brings a lot of energy and when gets the puck in those tight spaces, he's able to make a lot of plays."

One of the Jets' strengths is the scoring depth in the forward group.

Iafallo's six-on-five goal moved him to 10 markers for the campaign, making him the 10th player on the roster — and ninth forward to get to double digits in that category.

The high-end talent is obvious and the top-six has seen the benefits of continuity this season.

Recently, Arniel has revealed a bit of a wrinkle, giving Nikolaj Ehlers several bump-up shifts with Scheifele and Gabe Vilardi coming out of successful penalty kills.

One of those shifts resulted in a goal in the final minute of the second period against the New Jersey Devils, so it could happen a little more often, given Kyle Connor's increased minutes on the penalty kill.

When it comes to the defence, Arniel seemed encouraged Neal Pionk wasn't going to miss time after he was seen limping after Sunday's game.

Arniel said Schenn would make his Jets' debut on Tuesday, but he wasn't ready to unveil who his defence partner was going to be in that game.

Might that mean that Haydn Fleury is going to return to the lineup and slide in beside Schenn?

That answer won't fully be known until the morning skate, but it wouldn't come as a surprise.

Fleury has played only three games during the past six weeks, though his skating ability figures to be an asset alongside Schenn.

The Jets clearly value the size of Logan Stanley, but he's coming off a rough outing that saw him on the ice for a pair of even-strength goals against and he was limited to 9:06 of ice time.

Schenn also has the ability to move up the depth chart in case of injury or performance, given his skill set and experience.

"First I'm just going to let him go here, let him get in and get playing," said Arniel, who coached Schenn at a IIHF world championship in 2010. "I remember watching when he moved to Toronto there, he was playing with (Morgan) Rielly. I'm not saying he's going up to play with Josh Morrissey, but at the end of the day he's played in a lot of different scenarios in his career.

"I'm not 100 per cent where I'm going with it, but at the end of the day he'll be in the lineup and we'll get him out there on the PK and do what he does best."

With 17 games left to go in the regular season, it's incumbent on Arniel and his coaching staff to see where all of the pieces fit.

Whether that be the newcomers or the guys who have been competing for ice time throughout the course of a season, the jockeying for position in the Central Division standings is merely one part of the equation.

The competition for elevated roles — and staying in the lineup, for that matter — is about to hit a crescendo.

<https://www.winnipegfreepress.com/breakingnews/2025/03/10/excited-to-join-a-first-place-team>

***Excited to join a first-place team
Jets' newest blue-liner Schenn strikes fear into opposing players***

By: Mike McIntyre

First, he was greeted at the airport late Sunday night by Mark Scheifele, who acted as chauffeur and concierge.

Next was meeting the rest of his new teammates Monday morning and taking an hourlong twirl with several of them at Canada Life Centre.

Last — and we suspect certainly least — was a personal welcome from Mother Nature in the form of an Alberta clipper that introduced him to a true Winnipeg whiteout.

So, Luke Schenn, how do you like the first few hours in your new hockey home?

“Everyone has been very welcoming, and it is exciting for the new chapter,” Schenn said as he stood before a pack of new media faces at the downtown rink. “It’s been a crazy transition but coming to a first-place team is exciting and a great group of guys.”

Schenn, who was obtained from the Pittsburgh Penguins last Friday in exchange for a pair of draft picks, is expected to make his Jets debut on Tuesday against the New York Rangers.

You’d think a 35-year-old who has played 1,057 career NHL games and won a pair of Stanley Cups has experienced just about everything the sport has to offer, but apparently that’s not the case.

“Every time I think I have got things figured out, a little stability, or where I think I can predict the future a little bit, that is when things go a little sideways,” said the married father of three young children. “It’s been a whirlwind of a week, traded twice within a day-and-a half, the whole thing has been a little overwhelming, I would say.”

Last Wednesday, Schenn was still a member of the Nashville Predators, playing a second season with what was his eighth NHL organization. Then came the deal that sent him and teammate Tommy Novak to Pittsburgh in exchange for Michael Bunting and a draft pick.

Schenn joined the Penguins on Thursday in Las Vegas, where they were scheduled to play. However, he didn’t get too comfortable after chatting with GM Kyle Dubas, who informed him a flip to another team was possible.

"The only guy I met face-to-face was (Sidney) Crosby and talked to him for a little bit in the morning," said Schenn. "You don't want to go there and shake everyone's hand and meet everyone and get your gear, but that is another story in itself that I don't need to get into right now."

A real page-turner, it sounds like. After learning he was on the move again to Winnipeg, the Jets told him to take the weekend to catch his breath, spend some time with his family (back in Nashville) and then join them in time for this week's homestand.

"For as long as I have played, and I've had a lot of teammates, I've never played with anyone from this organization," said Schenn, who is now staying with Scheifele at his home along with Brandon Tanev, who was acquired in a separate trade with Seattle last Friday.

"I know Scheifele and (Josh) Morrissey through mutual buddies. With the coaching staff I played for Scott Arniel years ago at the world championships, I had Davis Payne in Los Angeles and Dean Chynoweth in Toronto. It has been a whirlwind of a week, a crazy journey in my career and this is another unexpected chapter."

Officially this makes 10 different teams for Schenn, including his 36 hours or so in Pittsburgh. The Saskatoon native, who started his career with the Toronto Maple Leafs after they selected him fifth overall in 2008, is looking forward to helping a hungry club go on what he hopes will be a long playoff run in a hockey-crazed Canadian market.

"There are no holes in the lineup," he said. "They are a deep team, a big team, skilled and fast with unbelievable goaltending. Obviously, you just want to see where you fit in. On a personal level, I do have a bit of playoff experience and I will just try to help out wherever I can."

Schenn, a right-shot, figures to at least start on the third pair but head coach Arniel didn't rule out using him in more high-leverage situations. It's not clear who he might debut with.

Logan Stanley has been locked into the third pair on the left side for most of the year, while Haydn Fleury and Ville Heinola are other options. Colin Miller would seem to be the odd man out given that he's been on the right side of the third pairing but moving him (or Schenn) over to the left could also be an option.

"He's a warrior. A proven winner. A great piece to add to our team," Miller said Monday.

Tuesday's morning skate will be the first tell.

"I remember watching him in Toronto, he was playing with (Morgan) Rielly. I'm not saying he's going up to play with Josh Morrissey, but at the end of the day he's played in a lot of different scenarios in his career," said Arniel.

Schenn brings plenty of qualities the Jets were looking for — size, physicality, shot-blocking and penalty-killing experience and championship pedigree, having won it all in 2020 and 2021 while a member of the Tampa Bay Lightning.

“Winning two Cups and getting the experiences that he’s gotten, that’s stuff that we need,” said Arniel. “He’s a team-first guy that brings it every night and brings it hard. He has an edge to him. A penalty killer, does a lot of the grunt work that those type of players bring, and that’s what we’re looking forward to.”

Arniel said Schenn is also the type of player that some opponents will balk at going to the front of the net because they know it’s going to be painful.

“He’s got a reputation of being kind of mean in that area,” he said.

Schenn has 47 career playoff games on his resume and is excited to start adding to that total, especially with a Jets team that has enjoyed plenty of regular-season success but hasn’t been able to duplicate it in the post-season.

It’s not going to be easy.

“Teams are so wound up in the first round and you look how good the Central division is right now. There are no weaknesses,” said Schenn.

“When it comes down to the playoffs, there’s a lot of things that go into it. Mentally, it’s probably the biggest part of it and it turns into a man’s game out there. That’s the biggest thing and it’s all about defending and that’s how you win. That’s how you win in this league and every battle counts. Every, puck play counts and it’s just, there’s a lot of things that go into it.”

Schenn has traditionally worn No. 2 in his career, but Dylan DeMelo already owns that in Winnipeg. No. 22 is also taken by Mason Appleton, so Schenn elected to go with No. 5, which he wore in junior with the Kelowna Rockets.

“I jokingly texted Brenden Dillon. He’s a buddy, and I asked for his blessing to wear his old number. He was good with it,” he said.

Schenn shouldn’t take long to make himself at home, noting he’s had plenty of experience meeting new teammates and likes to take the initiative by organizing dinners and bonding sessions while on the road.

“You’re getting all the guys together off the ice and not even talking hockey sometimes. Just kind of getting together and having some laughs. I’ve always thought that’s been really important,” he said.

“It’s getting to know the personalities and the stories shared and that’s one of the biggest things for me. And the closer you get to one another, the more you get tighter on the ice. You want to do whatever it takes for the guy next to you in that room.”

Winnipeg Sun

<https://winnipegsun.com/sports/hockey/nhl/winnipeg-jets/kind-of-mean-luke-schenn-a-nasty-net-front-presence-for-the-jets>

'Kind of mean:' Luke Schenn a nasty net-front presence for the Jets

By Gordon Anderson

There can be little debate Luke Schenn was acquired to provide experience, grit and a physical presence, for what the Jets hope is a long playoff run into June sometime.

The Saskatoon resident met with his new teammates on Monday at the downtown rink.

“It’s all about defending and that’s how you win,” Schenn said. “That’s how you win in this league and every battle counts. Every puck play counts and it’s just, there’s a lot of things that go into it. Mentally, it’s probably the biggest part of it and it turns into a man’s game out there.”

The Jets acquired the middle Canada mucker from the Pittsburgh Penguins for a second-round pick in the 2026 draft and a fourth-round pick in the '27 draft.

Heading into Tuesday’s game against the New York Rangers, Schenn has played 1,057 regular-season games and 47 post-season contests. He won back-to-back Stanley Cup’s with Tampa Bay, starting in 2019-20.

“He’s a warrior,” Colin Miller said. “A proven winner. A great piece to add to our team. Great guy. I’m sure it will be a really welcome addition.”

The 35-year-old spent a couple of days with his kinfolk prior to meeting up with his new mates. Monday’s optional skate gave him the opportunity to rub off the blade rust. His last game was March 4 against the Bruins.

Mark Scheifele played the role of chauffeur and concierge, picking up Schenn at the airport. Both Schenn and Brandon Tanev, another deadline acquisition, are billeting with the Jets leading goal-getter with 35 markers.

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The Jets hope Schenn’s feisty on-ice attitude will be a deterrent to players who get paid to stand near the goaltender and buzz the tower.

"I think that just his history in the league, running into a lot of these players over the years, there's certain guys that they take the long way to get to that net-front, that's what you hope, because they may not want to go into that area because he's got a reputation of being kind of mean," head coach Scott Arniel said.

Schenn will see his first action on Tuesday.

Arniel wasn't 100 per cent sure what Schenn's assigned role would be versus the Broadway Blueshirts, as that will likely be determined closer to the 7 p.m. puck drop.

"I'm not saying he's going up to play with Josh Morrissey, but at the end of the day he's played in a lot of different scenarios in his career," Arniel said. "We'll just start out Tuesday, I'm not 100 per cent where I'm going with it, but at the end of the day he'll be in the lineup, and we'll get him out there on the PK and do what he does best."

Schenn was in Las Vegas when he had an inkling something was up, though he was in contact with Pens GM Kyle Dubas prior to the deal getting finalized.

"You have an agent, but when you have played this game this long, you have relationships, and sometimes you just talk face to face and man to man about what the situation is," Schenn said. "Their intention was to keep me, but when the teams came in with offers, obviously it made sense from their standpoint to (trade me) based on where they are as a team right now."

The Penguins acquired Schenn from the Nashville Predators just two days prior to trading him to Winnipeg. He didn't play a game for the Pens.

Schenn's main priority is to get acclimatized to his new surroundings. The ex-Kelowna Rocket played for Arniel at the world championships in 2011. He was in Los Angeles when Davis Payne was employed by the Kings and worked with Dean Chynoweth in Toronto.

Needless to say, he's excited and ready to go.

"There are no holes in the lineup, they are a deep team, a big team, skilled and fast with unbelievable goaltending," Schenn said of the Jets. "Obviously, you just want to see where you fit in. On a personal level I do have a bit of playoff experience and I will just try to help wherever I can, and I think before you talk playoffs I want to get situated here, fit in, in the first couple of games and transition."

The Jets (44-17-4) are fresh off a four-game roadie where they went 2-2-0, the trip capped off in a 4-2 loss to the Hurricanes on Sunday.

Here come the Blueshirts

The Rangers (31-27-6) come to town in the midst of a three-game losing streak. They lost 7-3 at home to the Blue Jackets on Sunday.

Miller expects a spirited effort from the visitors, who are currently embroiled in the thick of the wild-card chase in the Eastern Conference. Heading into league action on Monday night, the Rangers are one point behind the Ottawa Senators for the second wildcard and two points in arrears of Columbus for the first wildcard position.

New York is 5-3-2 in its last 10 and 14-16-3 away from home.

“Every team is fighting for points now,” Miller said. “Everybody’s a little bit extra desperate because of the time of the year, so you’re going to get everybody’s best, and you’ve got to make sure that you’re ready to go yourselves.”

The Athletic

<https://www.nytimes.com/athletic/6190771/2025/03/11/nhl-trade-deadline-stanley-cup-contenders/>

NHL trade deadline aftermath: New Stanley Cup favorites emerge as dust settles

By Dom Luszczyszyn

The trade deadline is in the rearview and once again it featured an epic escalation of deals across the contending class. Now, it’s time to sort through the aftermath.

The top teams operate under a ‘keeping up with Joneses’ mentality, which led to many of the league’s best teams shoring up considerably at big prices. It was either pay up or be left behind.

Every year we take stock in the Stanley Cup race after the deadline dust settles. It’s a natural point in the season to assess what each team has done to date, what they’ve added to help with that, and where they land relative to the field.

We don’t know which moves will work and which ones won’t. Nor do we know how each player will fit. But we can always make an educated guess based on how each team looks on paper.

Here’s how the Stanley Cup field looks, separated into five categories.

Data as of March 10. All ratings are to the nearest whole number.

The contenders

The biggest threats to the favorites: 8 percent to 12 percent

Winnipeg Jets

Stanley Cup chances: 9 percent

The Jets had a disappointing deadline, one that didn't move the needle at all. Given what every other contender did, Winnipeg's Cup chances took a small hit post-deadline. The Jets entered deadline day as one of the favorites to win this year, thanks to a deep roster headlined by the best goalie in the world. They exited it as the eighth-best team.

The Jets still have the fourth-best Stanley Cup odds, but that's only because of their sizeable lead in the Central Division which they have an 80 percent chance of winning. Avoiding the dreaded 2 vs. 3 matchup is important, but the good news stops there.

Looking at the lineup above shows two clear needs for Winnipeg: 2C and the third pair. Neither were properly addressed.

Vladislav Namestnikov is a fine player, but he's miscast for his current role, a vulnerability that could be seriously exposed come playoff time. Had the Jets been able to pick up Brock Nelson, they'd be in the favorites tier right now. They did nothing instead. As for the third pair, I'm skeptical that Luke Schenn is much of an upgrade over what they already have, which is not ideal given the struggles of the third pair. Not upgrading on Logan Stanley, in particular, may prove costly.

It's a deadline of what could have been for Winnipeg, but at the end of the day, the Jets are still a contender. This is still a great team made elite by the otherworldly ability of Connor Hellebuyck, a team that will be extremely difficult to knock off this season. The rejuvenation of Mark Scheifele and Kyle Connor's games have not gone unnoticed, nor has the strength of the top four anchored by Josh Morrissey. Dylan Samberg has been a revelation.

The Jets are not just Hellebuyck and friends anymore — they're an elite team that can win it all. But in a year where that's finally possible, it's disheartening that they weren't able to do more to address their needs. As the rest of the powers in the West loaded up, the Jets got left behind. We'll see if the roster they already had will be good enough.