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<https://www.nhl.com/jets/news/three-things-samberg-starts-road-trip-with-ot-winner>

***Three things - Samberg starts road trip with OT winner
Samberg, Perfetti and Namestnikov all have multi-point nights in Seattle***

By Jamie Thomas

Dylan Samberg scored his first career overtime winning goal leading the Winnipeg Jets to a 3-2 victory over the Seattle Kraken at Climate Pledge Arena. Cole Perfetti (1G, 1A), Samberg (1G, 1A) and Vladislav Namestnikov (2A) had multi-point nights for the Jets (47-17-4) who opened an 11-point lead on Dallas for first place in the Central. Eric Comrie made 14 saves to improve his record to 8-8-1. Winnipeg continues their road trip Tuesday in Vancouver.

STRANGE START TO THE NIGHT

Eric Comrie got the start in Seattle, and it wasn't long before Matty Beniers accidentally bumped into the Jets goaltender who was then pulled from the game by the concussion spotter without having faced a shot. Connor Hellebuyck replaced Comrie and played for 10:10 allowing a power play goal at 9:58 to Jani Nyman. Comrie returned to the game and gave up a goal to former Jet Michael Eyssimont as the Jets fell behind 2-0 at 15:32 of the first period.

PERFETTI BEGINS THE COMEBACK

With the Jets down two goals and the first period winding down, Dylan Samberg would fire a shot from the point that Joey Daccord would stop but Cole Perfetti was in the right place at the right time to tap in his 14th of the season.

In the second period, Winnipeg would even the score thanks to a seeing eye backhanded bank pass from Morgan Barrom to a streaking Kyle Connor. Connor would stay onside and then lift a shot over Daccord's shoulder for his team leading 36th goal of the season.

FORMER ROOMIES COMBINE FOR OT WINNER

After an evenly played third period, the Jets and Kraken headed to overtime. Former roommates Perfetti and Samberg closed the night out with Perfetti spotting Samberg at the far post and the Jets defenceman made sure that Winnipeg swept the season series with his first career overtime winning goal. Winnipeg earned its eighth overtime win of the season which is tied with Pittsburgh and Ottawa for the second most among all teams. Edmonton leads the League with 11.

"Yeah, we've been talking to each other about hooking up and connecting on a goal for quite some time now," said Samberg.

"And we're fortunate enough to get two tonight."

The Athletic

<https://www.chrisd.ca/2025/03/15/winnipeg-jets-dallas-stars-game-recap-win/>

NHL owner rankings: Grading every team, from Tampa Bay to Buffalo

By James Mirtle

Editor's note: This article is part of our Rankings & Tiers series, an evaluation across sport about the key players, front offices, teams, franchises and much more.

They're not always talked about as much as star players, head coaches and general managers. And, in many cases, they're not in the limelight.

But one thing I've seen repeatedly covering the NHL the past 20 years is the value of a good owner to an organization — and the disruption that can come from having a bad one.

Owners set the tone for their franchises. They, ultimately, pick who is in charge of their most important hockey decisions, as well as the organization's key business decisions. They help build arenas. They build fan bases. And they can also help build communities through charitable endeavors and redevelopment projects.

Several months ago, we put out a call to our NHL readers to evaluate their owners. Nearly 4,000 of you — including representatives from all 32 NHL fan bases — filled out our detailed owner survey, and the results are fascinating.

We've compiled your answers in four key ownership categories — willingness to spend, organizational stability, treatment of the fan base and franchise vision — into a "Fan Score" and combined that with our own ranking that factors in objective things such as team performance in the regular season and playoffs (over the past decade) as well as ownership's general reputation and influence, according to our reporting.

The end result is our first-ever NHL ownership rankings. Keep in mind that this ranking is an amalgam of 50 percent fan perception of their teams' owners and 50 percent of our own accounting for owner performance, and in some cases, those factors don't align with one another. (In some markets, fans don't love their owner even though the franchise is successful on the ice, for example.)

Note: Survey responses have been edited for clarity and length.

14. Mark Chipman and David Thomson	
Jets WINNIPEG JETS	B
TEAM BREAKDOWN	
Majority owner since	2011
Regular season rank	11th

Playoffs wins rank	21st	
Stanley Cups	0	
FAN BASE	EVALUATION	RANK
Willingness to spend	4.12	21
Organizational stability	4.34	13
Treatment of the fan base	2.81	24
Franchise vision	3.56	17
CONFIDENCE IN OWNER, 2025 vs. 2024		
Higher	29%	14
Same	59%	—
Lower	12%	14
FINAL SCORES		
Fan Score	3.71	
The Athletic Score	3.84	
Overall	3.8	

Playoff wins have been hard to come by, and there are new grumbles in the fan base over how the attendance situation was handled a year ago, with national headlines shining on Winnipeg for a rare negative reason.

Overall, fans are appreciative that their franchise is back and owned by one of the richest men in the world. But the Jets finished 24th in treatment of the fan base, which shows where ownership still has work to do.

Putting up more wins in the spring should help, too.

Fan perspective: “Great ownership. They did take for granted that the sellouts would continue and did not serve their customers like they should have. They have admitted that mistake and are working hard to improve things.”

“Mr. Chipman took way too long to recognize that the fans must be respected at all times. He seemed to think that bringing the Jets back would be enough for us to open our wallets no matter how we’re treated or how much we’re charged. He has a long way to go but at least we can see progress on that front.”

<https://www.nytimes.com/athletic/6201299/2025/03/17/winnipeg-jets-nhl-dylan-samberg/>

What I’m seeing from the Winnipeg Jets: Dylan Samberg’s emergence, top line’s return to form

By Murat Ates

Winnipeg has won four out of five games since the trade deadline, maintaining its spot at the top of the NHL.

The Jets maintain the league's best record, best goal differential, top power play, top goaltender and four of the league's top 50 scorers, with Kyle Connor fifth in the league. Every week brings a new challenge and, despite a history of struggles at this time of year, this year's Jets are finding new ways to win games.

The most recent success story is Dylan Samberg, whose emergence as a top-four workhorse has given the Jets defence new dimension and confidence heading down the stretch. The 26-year-old defenceman from Hermantown, Minn. scored the game-winning goal on Sunday, teed up by his former roommate, Cole Perfetti, whose top-six success is another win for Winnipeg.

But Samberg is not alone. In this dive into Jets trends, we cover Perfetti, Samberg, Winnipeg's top line's return to form, a specific aspect of Scott Arniel's coaching, and the little things Luke Schenn is doing to help unlock Samberg's defensive game.

We also talk about Samberg's next contract, his offensive mindset, and more. Here's what we're seeing from the No. 1 Jets this week.

Inside Samberg's offensive mindset, plus a note on his next deal

Samberg jumped into a rush and onto the highlight reel during Friday night's win over Dallas, picking up Mark Scheifele's feed just inside the blue line and wiring a wrist shot past a screened Jake Oettinger.

It wasn't his biggest goal of the week.

Samberg scored Sunday's overtime winner off a nice pass from Perfetti — a bit of payback for Samberg's shot helping Perfetti get a goal earlier in the game. Samberg has three points in the two games since Neal Pionk's injury, playing a more offensive role with stay-at-home partner Schenn.

Samberg's offence may seem like a new development but it's the culmination of work he's put into developing his game from Day 1 of the season. He told The Athletic at training camp that he wanted to get better at chaining plays together. He wanted to do more than make the defensive boxout or block — he wanted to follow it with a good first pass and then follow that pass up the ice to make himself an option for Jets forwards.

"It's one of those things you're constantly working to build," Samberg said last week. "When I'm playing well, we're getting the puck out of our zone quickly (and) it allows us to create more offence."

Samberg's defensive game has been there all season — well worthy of the top-four minutes he receives. On Friday, he (along with Dylan DeMelo, Adam Lowry and Alex Iafallo) killed off the entire two minutes of Dallas' second-period power play. Samberg opened that PK by boxing out Wyatt Johnston off the faceoff, allowing Iafallo to ice the puck. He ended it with one shot block and two pass blocks which helped the Jets get out of two full minutes of grinding.

“Sammy’s been doing it all year,” Connor said on Friday. “He’s one of the best shot blockers. It’s such an underrated skill the way he’s able to predict the shots and get in the lanes.”

That underrated skill is a big part of Samberg’s emergence as a go-to top-four defenceman. Connor’s description calls Jaccob Slavin to mind. The amount of skill it takes to maintain stick and body position for a block like this one is Dominik Hasek-esque:

It looks like desperation but it’s a master class in angles, agility and hockey IQ. Slavin is the gold standard for plays like those but Samberg’s game is built on the same foundation. He reads the play, sizes up the most dangerous threat and throws his stick or body in the way as the moment dictates. It cost him a broken foot earlier in the season, necessitating the creation of a skate he calls a “transformer.”

How Schenn helps Samberg play his game

I want to draw your attention to Schenn’s work on consecutive defensive zone faceoffs against Dallas on Friday. The goal here is to illustrate how Schenn helps Samberg play offence despite a limited offensive skill set of his own.

This shift starts to Connor Hellebuyck’s left, with Samberg in the middle of the ice and Schenn lined up against Mikko Rantanen on the left wing boards. Lowry wins the draw toward Schenn on the wall, creating an opportunity for a battle that Schenn wins by boxing Rantanen out, protecting the puck and allowing Samberg to kick-start a breakout.

It takes a team effort to start a shift in the defensive zone and then to play most of it at the other end of the rink. Boxouts make for boring video but the impact of Schenn’s battle-winning should not be lost.

Here’s the very next shift — also a defensive zone draw against the Stars’ top line. This time, Morgan Barron wins the draw toward the boards where Rantanen does a better job of jumping into the circle, only to find that Schenn has fronted him this time. Watch as Schenn neatly swats the puck away, Samberg reverses it to Lafallo, and the Jets key another breakout and rush.

If you watched the clip all the way through, you saw the fourth line go to work on the forecheck, ultimately creating a breakaway for Brandon Tanev that nearly resulted in a goal. That’s a breakaway and a Grade-A scoring chance that would not have happened without winning that board battle off the draw.

“To watch him shift in and shift out, you see it,” Arniel said of Schenn. “When he uses his smarts, when he uses his hockey savvy, or he can use his body to get those pucks, that leads to puck possession. Maybe it’s a faceoff that’s a 50/50 that he leans in and gets that puck and it’s a breakout for us.”

Pionk has an offensive skill set that will be missed while he's away. His mentorship has been part of Samberg's growth. In his absence, we are getting a reminder that Samberg can drive results in a lot of different ways.

This brings us back to Slavin, who I brought up for a reason. Samberg's positive impact on offence — and dramatically positive impact on defence — mirror Slavin's impacts in Carolina. Their roles are similar, featuring nearly three PK minutes per game, while the Jets lean even harder on Samberg at five-on-five than Carolina leans on Slavin. The veteran has a higher peak and better consistency and got to his level slightly younger than Samberg did, but they're providing similar value to their teams right now.

There's a good argument to be made that the Jets would be fortunate to pay Samberg the same \$5.3 million AAV Slavin makes right now. Factor in the rising cap and Samberg would make \$6.4 million if he got the same 6.67 percent of the maximum Slavin got as an RFA in 2017.

He's 26 years old and a good bet to deliver value on his next contract — particularly if it's a long-term deal that takes him through the heart of his career.

Connor, Scheifele and Vilardi rebounding from first lull

Connor, Scheifele and Gabriel Vilardi are Winnipeg's offensive leaders. Improved defending means their overall body of work has also driven team success. At five-on-five, they're in the middle of the pack compared to top lines around the league. On the power play, they're spectacular — no longer on pace to set the NHL record for best power play of the modern era, but No. 1 by quite some distance.

Add it all up and you get Connor on pace for 103 points, Scheifele on pace for 90 and Vilardi on pace for 74. All three would be career-bests and Connor's would set a new record for most points in Jets 2.0 history. (If you care about Atlanta Thrashers records, Connor would also surpass Marian Hossa's 100 points in 2006-07.) Vilardi has already set new highs in goals (27), assists (34) and points (61).

If you were writing a book about the top line's season, the main story arc would be about triumph. Recently, though, they overcame a lull.

Over the first 10 games since the 4 Nations Face-Off break, some old habits appeared to have crept back into their game. The Jets' top line was extending shifts, looking for offensive chances at inopportune times, and averaging almost one minute per shift at five-on-five. In one game against Philadelphia, the whole line averaged over a minute per shift — again, not counting the power play. They even reverted to occasional hope plays on the breakout — those familiar, but ancient problems of flying the zone before the puck was safe.

That's what made Friday's game against Dallas such a dramatic and powerful statement. The trio contributed to all three of their five-on-five goals, whether or not they

got a point on the play. It was the biggest game of Winnipeg's stretch run and the top line gave the Jets a 3-0 lead.

Against Seattle, it was a cycle play from Josh Morrissey to Connor late in the first period that kick-started Winnipeg's first great shift. Perfetti scored on the very next shift — a hustle play that saw Winnipeg's second line establish its forecheck, steal a puck and then crash the net. Perfetti's rebound goal gave the Jets hope and changed the nature of the game, keying a comeback win.

Vladislav Namestnikov's line has been playing some of its best hockey of late and its secondary scoring will be vital come playoff time. That's part of why Winnipeg tried as hard as it did to add Brock Nelson at the trade deadline — and part of what makes Perfetti's two-way play (and 50-point pace) such a welcome development.

But Winnipeg is built around its primary scorers. When Connor, Scheifele and Vilardi show up on the scoresheet — and have the dominant, two-way impact they did in marquee matchups as they did against Dallas — it's a vote of confidence in Winnipeg's ability to go toe to toe with the league's best teams come playoff time. They haven't always measured up to the Nathan MacKinnons and Jack Eichels of the world, but they're giving us reasons to believe this year could be different.

Arniel's late-game adjustments: Can Winnipeg hold a lead when the big games hit?

We've seen it all season: The Jets are up by one, the other team's goaltender is pulled, and Iafallo replaces Vilardi on the top line.

This is a defence-first move Scott Arniel employs with roughly five minutes left in the third period — a move he's gone to all season and recently modified to include Tanev as another option in Vilardi's stead. It's a move that's worked: Winnipeg has only given up one six-on-five goal this season, tying Washington and New Jersey for the best number in the NHL.

Arniel said he likes to use Iafallo and Tanev in the shutdown role because of their play along the boards.

"That's not taking anything away from Gabe ... But they're good on the walls, shot-blockers. They do a good job sort of anticipating those situations," Arniel said on Thursday. "That's what they do on the penalty kill. When they get out five-on-five, they are really responsible players. ... You just throw them in there and they're really good glue guys."

Iafallo has done the job all season; Tanev has just arrived. It's clear both players will get the task — in big regular-season games against Dallas and especially during the playoffs. It's also reminiscent of Rick Bowness' decisions last season, pulling Perfetti or Nikolaj Ehlers in key moments and replacing them with Mason Appleton. Appleton can be counted on to eat a check from a pinching defenceman and get the puck out anyway.

It's an area of the game Connor struggles with, so I asked Arniel why he keeps Connor in when he takes Vilardi out.

"I don't know. I think Kyle's been in this a lot longer," Arniel said. "He's also a penalty killer, he's got some quickness to him. His stick there defending. ... He does a good job that way. Anticipation, I don't know. He's become a real good 200-foot player for us, both ways, so that's probably the reason there."

Connor has a flawless record with the other team's goalie pulled. He wasn't on the ice for the six-on-five goal Winnipeg gave up or the six-on-four goal, either. I maintain some skepticism about his ability to take a rimmed puck, absorb a check from a pinching defenceman and get the puck out of the zone. Connor has performed when the Jets have been down a man, including on the PK. The results offer compelling evidence that the Jets' approach is working.

Schenn will be called on to play in these kinds of situations, too, and he seems ready for the task.

NHL.com

<https://www.nhl.com/news/winnipeg-jets-seattle-kraken-game-recap-march-16>

Samberg scores in OT, Jets edge Kraken for 3rd straight win Ends it at 1:47, Perfetti has goal, assist for Winnipeg

By Darren Brown

SEATTLE -- Dylan Samberg scored 1:47 into overtime for the Winnipeg Jets, who won their third straight game with a 3-2 victory against the Seattle Kraken at Climate Pledge Arena on Sunday.

"I don't get to play overtime very often, but that was fun, and it ended up working out," Samberg said.

Samberg took a cross-crease pass from Cole Perfetti and scored off Joey Daccord's right arm from the bottom of the left circle.

"It was just a jumbled mess there right on the dot, and I just looked up and there were three Kraken guys right in front of me," Samberg said. "I was like, 'Backdoor is wide open,' and [Perfetti] was like, 'I'm glad you went to the backdoor, because that's what I was hoping you were going to do.'"

Perfetti had a goal and an assist, and Kyle Connor also scored for the Jets (47-17-4), who have won five of their past six. Eric Comrie made 14 saves but was temporarily replaced in goal by Connor Hellebuyck after a collision with Seattle forward Matty

Beniers in the first period. Hellebuyck allowed one goal on six shots in relief in 10:10 of ice time before Comrie returned with 6:45 left in the first.

"Our No. 1's going in cold, you're always worried about that, and then you're hoping that 'Coms' was OK," Winnipeg coach Scott Arniel said. "It kind of got us unrattled a little bit, but then we got ourselves back going in the second period."

Jani Nyman scored for the second time in three NHL games, and Michael Eyssimont also had a goal for the Kraken (29-34-5), who had won three of their previous four. Daccord made 23 saves.

"They're the best team in the League with their record, and each one of the games we've played them [this season], two in overtime and one with a goal [against] in the last minute, and they beat us with that," Seattle coach Dan Bylsma said. "They're a benchmark team right now. ... We're right there with them."

Nyman made it 1-0 with a power-play goal at 9:58 of the first, one-timing Jordan Eberle's feed from below the goal line past Hellebuyck's glove from the slot.

"I'm feeling good, power play is working," Nyman said. "But it's so close to a win today."

Eyssimont pushed it to 2-0 at 15:23 of the first, looking off Tye Kartye on a 2-on-1 rush and slipping a shot through Comrie's five-hole.

"Just worked my way down the ice and put it five-hole," Eyssimont said.

Perfetti cut the lead to 2-1 at 19:43 of the first, getting to the rebound of Samberg's shot at the top of the crease and slapping it into an open net behind Daccord.

"The craziness that happened with our goaltenders there kind of got us a little bit behind the eight ball," Arniel said. "But that was a big goal at the end of the period. Obviously, going into the second down one instead of two makes a big difference."

Connor tied it 2-2 at 11:42 of the second period. After Morgan Barron sprung him for a breakaway, Connor scored with a shot from the hash marks that bounced in off Daccord's left shoulder.

NOTES: Winnipeg earned its eighth overtime win of the season, which is tied with Pittsburgh and Ottawa for the second-most among all teams. Edmonton leads the League with 11. ... Nyman joined Beniers (two goals in 2021-22) as the second player in Kraken history to score at least two goals through his first three NHL games.

Things we know and think we know about division-leading Jets

By Jacob Stoller

WINNIPEG — Time for a temperature check.

As we approach the final month of the regular season, let's take a step back and examine the things we know and things (we think) we know about these Winnipeg Jets.

Things we know: Following Friday's 4-1 win over Dallas, Winnipeg has a 10-point lead on the Stars for first in the Central.

According to MoneyPuck.com, the Jets have an 89.1 per cent chance of winning the division.

But while the odds are certainly in Winnipeg's favour, Dallas has two games in hand and a more favourable schedule. Ten of Dallas' final 17 games are against non-playoff opponents. That includes eight matchups with teams already out of contention: Anaheim, Philadelphia, Seattle (twice), Nashville (twice), Pittsburgh and Detroit.

Winnipeg will face nine playoff-bound opponents — plus two teams right on the wild-card bubble in Utah and St. Louis — in its final 15 games.

Things (we think) we know: Winnipeg will face Colorado or Dallas if (or when) it advances to the second round.

It might be premature to look two rounds ahead, but it's fair to think the Jets should be able to put away Vancouver, Calgary, St. Louis or Utah in a first-round series.

So, pick your poison: Dallas or Colorado? You can chalk it up to recency bias, but I'd say Dallas.

While we'd love to see a slaying-of-the-dragon moment against Colorado, the Avs are a matchup nightmare for Winnipeg. It all comes down to speed. If you thought Colorado's quickness was overwhelming last spring, wait until you see how much quicker it's become since adding Martin Necas.

Dallas may be deeper than Colorado on paper but if I'm choosing between facing a balanced top nine in Dallas, or a team where Nathan MacKinnon and Cale Makar will be on the ice for over a third of the game, I'm going with the former.

Friday was a perfect example of some of Dallas' shortcomings, namely its defensive zone coverage and entry defence. I think Winnipeg's top line would exploit that over the course of a seven-game series. That said, the Stars' league-best penalty kill could take the wind out of the sails of Winnipeg's power play.

Things we know: Adam Lowry's line has lost its offensive punch.

Lowry, Nino Niederreiter and Mason Appleton remain solid defensively, but their offensive output has dipped since reuniting after the 4 Nations break.

Things (we think) we know: That third line will likely stay intact.

Aside from the odd in-game adjustment or an injury forcing his hand, head coach Scott Arniel doesn't do much line juggling.

According to MoneyPuck.com, the team's top line of Kyle Connor, Mark Scheifele and Gabriel Vilardi has logged the most minutes among all forward lines this year (854.4 minutes) by a significant margin. Nikolaj Ehlers, Vladislav Namestnikov and Cole Perfetti rank ninth (494.3), while Lowry's line trails them narrowly and sits 10th (481.5).

This team has talked a lot about wanting to be coached like a contender and build championship habits. If you want to be an elite team, you need to be able to adapt. Sometimes, you may have to bring the 'ol line blender out. Given the leeway the Jets have, you'd think Arniel would want to try a few different bottom-six combinations. Better now as opposed to when your backs are against the wall in a playoff series.

Brandon Tanev would sure look good alongside Lowry. Maybe swap him with Niederreiter?

Things we know: Each core player has taken massive steps this year.

Connor Hellebuyck is playing at a Hart-calibre level, boasting a .927 save percentage and six shutouts through 51 games.

Connor and Scheifele are scoring at 100- and 90-point paces, respectively. Both Ehlers and Vilardi are on pace to eclipse 70 points for the first time in their careers.

Josh Morrissey was phenomenal on the world's biggest stage at the 4 Nations Face-Off. He keeps unlocking new levels to his game.

Dylan Samberg has developed from a third-pairing project into an impactful top-four defenceman.

Things (we think) we know: Winnipeg's special teams are shaping up to be an asset, not a liability, come playoff time.

As Adjusted Hockey's Paul Pidutti pointed out on X, each team that lost the special-teams battle in the first round wound up losing the series — including the Jets.

Fast forward to this year and the Jets have the best power play in the league and a penalty kill that's on the upswing.

In adding a shot-blocking wizard in Luke Schenn and an energizer bunny in Tanev, the PK has a few more layers now, too.

Associated Press

<https://www.sportsnet.ca/nhl/article/samberg-nets-overtime-winner-to-lift-jets-over-kraken/>

Samberg nets overtime winner to lift Jets over Kraken

By Associated Press

SEATTLE — Dylan Samberg scored 1:47 into overtime and the Winnipeg Jets rallied from two goals down to beat the Seattle Kraken 3-2 on Sunday night.

Cole Perfetti had a goal and an assist, and Kyle Connor also scored for Winnipeg and Vladislav Namestnikov had two assists. Eric Comrie had 14 saves for the win.

Comrie left the game after he was run into early the first period. Connor Hellebuyck came on and played 10:10 while stopping five of the six shots he faced before Comrie returned.

Jani Nyman and Michael Eyssimont scored for Seattle, and Joey Daccord finished with 23 saves.

In the extra period, Perfetti skated wide around the right side and drove toward the net before passing across the crease to Samberg, who beat Daccord on the blocker side.

Nyman scored a power-play just short of the midpoint of the first period, and Eyssimont pushed the Kraken's lead to 2-0 with 4:37 remaining in the period.

Perfetti got the Jets on the scoreboard with 17 seconds to go in the first, and Connor tied it 2-2 with his 36th goal of the season with 8:18 remaining in the second.

Takeaways

Jets: Winnipeg won for the fifth time in six games and moved two points ahead of Washington for the most points in the league.

Kraken: Seattle fell to 4-5-1 in its last 10 games to fall 10 points out of a wild card in the Western Conference.

Key moment

With the Kraken leading 2-1 in the second period, Seattle defenseman Ryker Evans, who already had an assist in the game, had his shot from the point blocked by the Jets' Morgan Barron. Barron sent the puck ahead to Connor, who skated in alone on Daccord and put a forehand shot in for the tying goal.

Key stat

Winnipeg finished with a 37-21 advantage on hits.

Up next

Jets play at Vancouver on Tuesday night, and Kraken visit Chicago to open a four-game trip.

TSN.ca

<https://www.tsn.ca/nhl/video/the-better-team-is-going-to-find-a-way-to-win-boudreau-on-the-jets-resilience%7E3099060>

'The better team is going to find a way to win': Boudreau on the Jets' resilience (VIDEO)


The Winnipeg Jets erased a two-goal deficit to beat the Seattle Kraken in overtime Sunday night for their third straight win. TSN Hockey analyst Bruce Boudreau joins SportsCentre to discuss the Jets finding ways to win despite not having their best game, and how they can balance their pursuit for the Presidents' Trophy and being ready for the playoffs.

Global Winnipeg

<https://globalnews.ca/news/11084761/winnipeg-jets-statement-game-analysis/>

ANALYSIS: More statement games in the cards for Winnipeg Jets

By Kelly Moore CJOB

ANALYSIS: More statement games in the cards for Winnipeg Jets - 

Friday's massive 4-1 win over Dallas would certainly rate as a statement game of sorts for the Winnipeg Jets. And there are a couple of other matchups on the immediate horizon that would fit into that category.

Go ahead and try, but there is little or no chance you'll get any player or coach from inside the Jets dressing room to agree — at least publicly — that a message was sent in front of the ninth sellout crowd of the season at Canada Life Centre on Friday night.

But there was an admission going into Sunday night's game in Seattle that mustering the same kind of intensity would be a challenge. And it was, as the NHL leaders had to rally from an early 2-0 deficit for the 3-2 overtime win.

And that certainly plays into the remainder of this Pacific Division swing.

With the Canucks currently holding down the eighth and final playoff spot in the West, the storyline for Tuesday night in Vancouver is a potential first-round playoff preview.

You can bet both dressing rooms will want to send messages for that one.

And a somewhat similar scenario comes into play Thursday night in Edmonton. Opening night may have been five-and-a-half months ago, but you can bet the Oilers have not forgotten about that embarrassing 6-0 loss to Winnipeg in front of their fans.

It's also another opportunity for the "something to prove" Jets, in a head-to-head battle versus one of the four Western Conference teams ahead of them on the Stanley Cup tote board.

Again, good luck in getting any Winnipeg player to admit lack of respect is a motivating factor. But after what the Jets have accomplished to date, how can it not be?

Winnipeg Free Press

<https://www.winnipegfreepress.com/breakingnews/2025/03/17/samberg-plays-hero-in-seattle>

Samberg plays hero in Seattle

Defenceman's sixth goal of the year moves Jets closer to 100-point mark

By: Mike McIntyre

SEATTLE — The legend of Dylan Samberg continues to grow.

No longer just a stay-at-home defenceman, the pending restricted free agent is showing he's got some offensive chops in him as well — along with a flair for the dramatic.

Samberg's career-high sixth goal of the year was the overtime game-winner Sunday night as the Winnipeg Jets downed the Seattle Kraken 3-2 inside Climate Pledge Arena.

With plenty of open ice during the three-on-three session, a pinching Samberg wisely found an open spot to the right of Kraken goaltender Joey Daccord and took a sharp pass from good friend and former roommate Cole Perfetti.

He buried his shot at 1:47 of the three-on-three session.

"I don't know if he's ever been out in the overtime like that but the old two roommates there, him and Fetts tagging up. Nice to see," said Jets coach Scott Arniel. "He logged a lot of minutes and he can be a horse for us when he plays like that."

Turnabout was fair play, since Samberg assisted on Perfetti's first-period goal which helped the Jets start to crawl out of an early 2-0 deficit.

"We've been talking to each other about hooking up and connecting on a goal for quite some time now, and we're fortunate enough to get two tonight," said Samberg.

"I don't get to play overtime very often. It was fun and ended up working out."

He is starting to light the lamp with more frequency, however. Samberg opened the scoring in Friday night's massive 4-1 victory over the Dallas Stars that put the Jets in the driver's seat of the Central Division playoff race.

He's also formed an effective shutdown pairing with newcomer Luke Schenn, who moved up to fill the role of Samberg's usual partner, Neal Pionk, who has now missed two straight games with a lower-body injury.

"I'm always trying to build. I'm known for my defensive game, so I've tried to build the offensive side more," said Samberg.

"And obviously, when I'm going to play more minutes, it'll come with time. Just more experience and getting more confident definitely helps.

The Jets have now won three straight games to improve to an NHL-best 47-17-4. Seattle, which had won two straight games entering play, falls to 29-34-5.

Goalie Shuffle

This was supposed to be a night off for Connor Hellebuyck, a chance to put his feet up and relax following a big victory over Dallas 48 hours earlier and to prepare for a pair of Western Conference playoff opponents in Vancouver and Edmonton to finish out this three-game trip.

But the No. 1 netminder saw the bat signal go off in the sky when backup Eric Comrie, making just his 17th start of the season, was bowled over in the opening minute by Seattle forward Matty Beniers. Comrie was slow to get up, shaking his head a few times, but stayed in the game until he didn't have a choice.

The NHL's concussion spotter perched above in the press box made the call to pull him for further evaluation, which included removing all his equipment and answering a series of questions.

“More just jammed my neck. My head was fine. It was more me trying to get my neck and back loosened up,” said Comrie, who had no issue with the protocol.

“I understand what they are doing, just trying to keep safety in the league and they do a great job of making sure we have a safe playing field out there and keep everybody healthy.”

While this was happening, in came an ice-cold Hellebuyck who was beaten once on four shots over nearly 10 minutes of game time before Comrie got the all-clear.

“I feel bad about that,” said Comrie.

It would appear all of this threw the Jets out of sorts a bit, as they seemed to be stuck in neutral for the opening 20 minutes.

Rookie Jani Nyman opened the scoring at 9:58 with the Kraken on the power play, and then former Jets winger Mikey Eyssimont made it 2-0 at 15:23 — shortly after Comrie returned to the crease. He walked right through Winnipeg defenceman Colin Miller and beat Comrie through the five-hole.

Comrie ended up with 16 saves on 17 shots as he improved his personal record to 8-8-1.

Momentum swings

While a two-goal hole wasn't ideal, there was no sense of panic from the visitors.

The Jets got a momentum boost with just 17 seconds left in the first as Perfetti pounced on a rebound and scored his 14th of the year. Perfetti and Vlad Namestnikov had done a good job on the forecheck, winning a puck battle and getting it back to Samberg whose shot was stopped by Daccord.

“The craziness that happened with our goaltenders there kind of got us a little bit behind the eight-ball. But that was a big goal at the end of the period,” said Arniel.

“Obviously going into the second down one instead of down two makes a big difference. And it allowed us in the second to get up and running. I think we did a great job of hemming Seattle in in that second period.”

Indeed, the Jets looked a lot more settled in the middle frame and were rewarded with the tying goal off the stick of Kyle Connor. His 36th of the year was aptly set-up by No. 36, Morgan Barron, who made a perfect backhanded bank pass off the boards to send him in on a breakaway.

“The biggest thing that (Barron) gets the accolades for was the blocked shot. (The Kraken) got a great look coming right down the middle. He blocks a shot and if he doesn't do that, maybe it ends up in the back of our net,” said Arniel.

“Then to be ready to do what he did, that was a really heads up play – and again, another big goal for us in that second period.”

Mood swings

Jets forward Brandon Tanev, facing a Kraken team which he spent nearly four years playing for only to be traded nine days ago, experienced quite an emotional roller-coaster.

He got a rousing ovation as he was introduced in the starting lineup, with plenty of Kraken fans in attendance still sporting his name on the back of his jersey.

Just moments later, he became Public Enemy No. 1 after a massive hit on very recent teammate Shane Wright, who was sent flying the boards. That drew a crowd and the ire of another former Kraken buddy, Tye Kartye, who came to Wright's defence and exchanged shoves and swats with Tanev, who was met with a chorus of boos.

Tanev, who went out for dinner on Saturday night with several Seattle players, had said following the morning skate that it would be “business as usual” once the puck drops. He wasn't kidding.

“It's just him. Playing against when he was here (in Seattle, against) his old teammates, it doesn't matter. He just plays one way and he plays hard. He's a ball of energy and he disrupts people and that's what he's good at,” said Arniel.

However, the villain became a hockey hero once again when, during the final television timeout in the eventful opening frame, the Seattle game production crew rolled the tribute video they'd prepared for Tanev and he was once again greeted with a huge roar of support.

Scoreboard watching

While Jets players were having their pre-game nap on Sunday afternoon, a Central Division game was going down in Denver with significant implications.

Dallas jumped out to an early 1-0 lead against Colorado, gave up three straight tallies before the second period was over, rallied with two goals in 20 seconds with just under six minutes left in regulation, then watched as Cale Makar quickly ended it for the Avalanche in overtime.

The Stars are now 11 points back of the Jets the race for top spot in both the Central Division and Western Conference while the third-place Avalanche are 13 behind. Winnipeg and Colorado have 14 games left, while Dallas has 16.

“At the end of the day, we've talked about it – take care of your own business. Let those guys kind of do what they have to do,” said Arniel.

“You don’t pick your poison, you don’t worry about wanting one (team) over the other. Don’t worry about what’s going on down there.”

Key play

Dylan Samberg’s overtime winner was a beauty.

Three Stars:

1. WPG D Dylan Samberg: Game-winning goal
2. WPG LW Cole Perfetti: 1 goal, 1 assist
3. SEA G Joey Daccord: 23 saves

Extra, extra

The Jets went with the same skaters for a second straight game, meaning defencemen Logan Stanley and Ville Heinola and forwards David Gustafsson and Rasmus Kupari were the healthy scratches.

Pionk remains week-to-week but is on this road trip, with Arniel joking that he “snuck on the plane” and was going to act as the “social convener.”

Winnipeg went 0-for-2 on the power play, both in the third period when the game was tied, and 1-for-2 on the penalty kill.

The Jets flew to Vancouver following the game and will practice there on Monday before facing the Canucks on Tuesday in a possible first-round playoff preview.

<https://www.winnipegfreepress.com/breakingnews/2025/03/16/tanev-anything-but-rusty>

Tanev anything but rusty

Former Jet picks up where he left off as a grinder for the club

By: Mike McIntyre

SEATTLE — It’s been said that the sequel is never as good as the original. Just don’t tell that to Brandon Tanev, who is already drawing rave reviews early in his second stint with the Winnipeg Jets.

The man nicknamed “Rusty” has been anything but since his return on the March 7 trade deadline, looking very much like the same player who became a fan favourite after signing as a college free agent in 2016 and spending parts of four seasons in River City.

Tanev’s first four games prior to facing the Seattle Kraken on Sunday are a perfect summary of the various ways he can make an impact: 10 hits. Four shot blocks. One assist. One goalie interference penalty. One puck to the face. Tenacious checking. Strong penalty killing work. Multiple pushes and shoves and chirps and wild-eyed faces at opposing players.

We suspect that if Tanev were a baseball player, his uniform would be covered in dirt by the second inning every night. Which is to say he loves being in the middle of the action, isn't afraid to muck it up and get his nose dirty and go to the hard areas of the ice such as the corners and the front of the net where a heavy price is often paid.

What's the recipe for his success?

"I guess it's probably the consistency," Tanev told the Free Press on Sunday, a few hours before puck drop.

"I've been fortunate enough to play a number of games in this league. As you get older, it's about taking care of yourself, understanding what you are and what you bring to the team. About playing the same way every night, doing whatever the team needs."

Now 33, Tanev has fit like a glove on a new-look fourth line that includes another versatile veteran winger in Alex Iafallo and Morgan Barron shifting to centre, where his size can really be used as an advantage. There's been instant chemistry for the trio, including a big insurance goal by Barron (from Tanev) last Friday night in a 4-1 victory over the Dallas Stars.

"There was obviously a little bit of an experiment with Morgan going in the middle. That's something we had talked about. But it just kind of fit real well with Brandon coming," said Jets head coach Scott Arniel.

"I've liked their energy, I like how they attack. They do sort of the yeoman's work — the wall play, the forecheck, blocking shots, a big goal for us the other night to sort of end that game. Those are the things that you want from that fourth unit."

The "TLC" line of Tanev, Adam Lowry and Andrew Copp proved to be a handful for opponents, especially during that 2017-18 season in which the Jets finished with a franchise-record 114 points, finished second-overall in the regular season standings and made it to the Western Conference Final.

Winnipeg may now have two similar versions of that — Lowry's line with Nino Niederreiter and Mason Appleton can throw a defensive blanket over the other team's best while also tilting the ice and providing some offence, and the hope is Tanev, Iafallo and Barron can do the same.

Both lines have plenty of size, speed, skill and sandpaper.

"(On Friday) there were a couple big faceoffs where I couldn't get Lows's line out against the (Mikko) Rantanen and (Jamie) Benn line, because they'd just come off, and I threw those guys out and they did a good job, they really did," said Arniel.

"That's all part of the depth that you need when you're playing really good hockey teams."

After putting up a career-high 29 points (14G, 15A) with the Jets in 2018-19, Tanev was lured away by a six-year, US\$21 million (US\$3.5 million per season) offer from the Pittsburgh Penguins that summer in free agency. As much as the Jets would have loved to have kept him, they were facing salary cap issues and had other key players to re-sign.

Tanev was then left unprotected prior to the expansion draft in the summer of 2021 and was selected by Seattle, where his style of play caught the attention of hockey's newest market. The Toronto product set new career highs in goals (16), assists (19) and points (35) in 2022-23 as the Kraken made the playoffs for the first time, upset defending champion Colorado in the first round and then fell to Dallas in game seven of the second round.

However, with Seattle now on track to miss the playoffs for a second straight year, general manager Ron Francis opted to grab some draft picks for several players at the deadline, including a second-rounder from Winnipeg in exchange for Tanev.

"It's one of those things where you're grateful for the opportunity and experience here in Seattle. Made some great friends, the organization and everyone within treated me extremely well," he said.

"I think it helped a little bit going back to a team I was familiar with and a lot of guys there that I knew pretty well and had played with in my previous time in Winnipeg. That made the transition a lot easier."

Tanev, who will be an unrestricted free agent again this summer, met up with some former Kraken teammates for dinner on Saturday night and admitted playing against them just nine days after the trade was a bit strange.

"I've never been in this (visiting dressing) room before," he said. "It's one of those things where it's nice to see some old teammates and friends, but as soon as the puck drops it's business as usual. But it's nice to be in a familiar place so soon."

His coach expected nothing less, joking that "we hope he can irritate them just as much as he does everyone else."

"When you play to your identity each and every shift it helps your linemates and it certainly helps your team game. As coaches, we love to see that," added Arniel.

Old habits do indeed die hard, which is why Tanev once again did his best "deer in headlights" pose for a new headshot taken last week by a Jets team photographer. That's kind of become his thing after similar images from Pittsburgh and then Seattle went viral.

"I've got to stick with it now," he joked. "Hockey is such a serious sport, so it's nice to laugh and smile and have some fun once in a while."

Which brings us to one final piece of hockey history Tanev hopes might also repeat itself — the buzz that was palpable in Winnipeg during the playoff run in the spring of 2018. Might they be able to re-create some of that magic starting next month?

"I think this group has done a great job so far this year, and we're excited for the rest of this season and the challenges it brings," he said.

Winnipeg Sun

<https://winnipeg.sun.com/sports/samberg-sinks-seattle-jets-rearguard-scores-in-ot-jets-win-3-2-over-the-seattle-kraken>

Samberg sinks Seattle: Jets rearguard scores in OT, Jets win 3-2 over the Seattle Kraken

By Gordon Anderson

Dylan Samberg scored the game winner in overtime and the Winnipeg Jets beat the Kraken 3-2 in Seattle on Sunday night.

Cole Perfetti was the lynchpin on the winner, dishing the puck left to right for Samberg, unmarked at the right post. The redirect squeezed between the body and right arm of Kraken keeper Joey Daccord at 1:47.

"Yeah, it was just like a jumbled mess there, right on the dot," Samberg told reporters in Seattle. "And I just looked up and there were three, three guys right in front of me, and three Kraken guys right in front of me. And I was like, back doors wide open. And Fetti's was like, I'm glad you went to the back door, because that's what I was hoping you do. So, I found some space, some soft space, and Perfetti gave me a great pass."

The goal was Samberg's first OT winner and sixth of the season.

"I don't know if he's ever been out in the overtime like that but the old two roommates there, him and Fetti tagging up," head coach Scott Arniel said. "But nice to see. He logged a lot of minutes and he can be a horse for us when he plays like that."

The Saginaw, Minn., resident played 22:49 on 29 shifts.

According to Eric Comrie, repetition and practice make perfect, not luck or good fortune.

"Samberg does a lot of goalie drills, and he does a lot of those back-door plays, and he can sneak a few in so he knows what he is doing out there, don't get me wrong,"

Comrie said. "The guys that do more goalie shooting tend to know how to squeak those ones in, and he does a lot of goalie shooting before practice."

Speaking of Comrie.

The Edmonton resident got the start but was removed from the game at 3:45 of the first period due to concussion protocol. Seattle forward Matt Berniers slid headfirst into Comrie and slammed the netminder into the back of the net, while he was fishing for the puck near his legs.

"I just jammed my neck," Comrie said. "My head was fine. It was more me trying to get my neck and back loosened up. I am not a big guy and hurts a little more when I get hit. I am not used to it I am not like those big forwards who get hit all the time."

Connor Hellebuyck entered the game and allowed one goal in 10:10 of action before Comrie returned to the net. Comrie went the rest of the way and stopped 14 of 15 shots for his eighth win.

Comrie publicly apologized to his running mate for the interruption.

"It is my job to give him a rest night," Comrie said.

Perfetti and Kyle Connor also scored for the Jets (47-17-4). The Jets won all three games against Seattle this season. In the previous games, the locals won 4-3 in overtime on Oct. 24 and 2-1 in regulation on Jan. 16.

Jani Nyman and Michael Eyssimont scored for Seattle (29-35-4). The Kraken are 16-14-5 at home. The loss snaps a two-game home win streak.

Daccord got the start and stopped 24 shots. The Seattle netminder is 1-4-0 in his last five starts.

The Jets are in Vancouver to play the Canucks on Tuesday. Puck drop is 9 p.m.

Seattle opened the scoring with a power-play goal at 9:58 of the first period when Nyman beat Hellebuyck to the glove side with a shot from the slot. The goal was his 2nd of the season.

The Kraken doubled the lead at 15:32 when Eyssimont's shot from the right faceoff circle got through Comrie. The goal was the forward's 6th of the campaign.

The Jets responded at 19:45 when Perfetti banged home a rebound off a Samberg shot from the right point. The goal was Perfetti's 14th of the season.

The Jets tied the game at 11:42 of the second period when Connor cut to the net with a head of steam and beat Daccord high to the glove side for his 36th of the season.

Morgan Barron picked up the primary assist. Barron made a blind, turnaround 360 degree pass from the defensive zone, the puck hitting the sideboards as Connor skated onto the puck and crossed the blue line in full stride.

The shots were 10-10 halfway through the game and 15-15 after two periods. The final shots were 26-21 for Winnipeg.

Ice Chips

Ville Heinola, David Gustafsson, Rasmus Kupari, Logan Stanley and Neal Pionk (lower body) were scratches for the Jets ... Cale Fleury and John Hayden were scratches for the Kraken ... Brandon Tanev, starting on a line with Alex Iafallo and Morgan Barron, was on the ice for the opening faceoff ... Winnipeg is 10-2-0 against Seattle all-time. Nine of the past 10 games between the Jets and Kraken have been decided by one goal ... The Jets have a five-game win streak against the Kraken.

<https://winnipegssun.com/sports/tanev-touches-down-jets-in-seattle-to-open-a-three-game-road-trip>

Tanev touches down: Jets in Seattle to open a three-game road trip

By Gordon Anderson

The likeable irritant makes a return to his old stomping grounds.

Brandon Tanev is back in Pacific Northwest as the Jets kick off a three-game road trip in Seattle on Sunday night. The puck drop against the Kraken is scheduled for 8 p.m.

"We are hoping he can irritate them as much as he does everyone else and do what he needs to do to help us," head coach Scott Arniel told reporters in Seattle.

Winnipeg sent a second-round pick in the 2027 draft in exchange for Tanev. The Toronto resident is in the final year of a six-year deal he signed with the Pittsburgh Penguins back on Canada Day in 2019.

"It is going to be nice to see some old teammates and some friends but when the puck drops it is business as usual," Tanev said. "But it is nice to be in a familiar place so soon (after the trade)."

Tanev has one assist in four games with the Jets.

Seattle acquired Tanev from the Penguins in the 2021 expansion draft. Tanev scored 41 goals and added 42 helpers in 238 games with the Kraken.

"I was grateful for the opportunity and experience in Seattle," Tanev said. "From the expansion draft, we were able to build something, and I had some great memories over the almost four years."

Since joining the Jets Tanev has primarily played on the fourth line with Morgan Barron and Alex Iafallo.

So far, the trio ticks off all the boxes for the bench boss.

"I like their energy, and I like how they attack," Arniel said. "They do the yeoman's work, the wall play, the forecheck and blocking shots. And they scored a big goal the other night against Dallas. Those are the things you want from the fourth unit."

Tight, taut action

The Jets (46-17-4) have won both games against Seattle (29-34-4) this season.

The locals won 4-3 in overtime on Oct. 24 and 2-1 on Jan. 16.

Mason Appleton expects nothing but a close game, and a Jets win should they put in the requisite effort.

"If we give a good effort and play the way we know we can, we should like the result," Appleton said. "At the end of the day, they are an NHL team, and they have a lot of skill, and you have to honour that (by) working your butt off."

Winnipeg is 9-2-0 against Seattle all-time. Eight of the past nine games between the Jets and Kraken have been decided by one goal. The Jets have a four-game win streak against the Kraken.

"They are a hard-working team with a good rush game, a good attack game, especially with their defence always coming," Arniel said. "In that game back in our building, I think we scored with 20 seconds left to win it. It was back and forth, a bit of a track meet at times early on, but we don't want to get into one of those."

Between the pipes

Eric Comrie gets the nod between the sticks for the Jets.

His previous start was a 4-1 victory against the Philadelphia Flyers on March 6.

Comrie has a 2.46 goals-against average and a .914 save percentage in 16 games played. Comrie is 4-1-0 since his eight-game losing skid.

"We have to be good in front of Comrie and get him some run support," Arniel said. "He has given us good goaltending and we have to make sure we do the right things, like we did the other night (against Dallas)."

Along for the ride

Neal Pionk made the trip to Seattle. He is listed as week-to-week with an undisclosed injury.

“Somehow, he snuck on the plane,” Arniel said, with a smile. “I don’t know how he did it. He is getting treatment while he is here.”