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<https://www.nhl.com/jets/news/three-things-rare-off-night-defensively-for-jets>

Three things - Rare off night defensively for Jets Nikolaj Ehlers and Alex Iafallo score in loss in Vancouver

By Jamie Thomas

The Winnipeg Jets did not hit the 100-point mark for the third time in franchise history after losing to the Vancouver Canucks 6-2 at Rogers Arena. Nikolaj Ehlers and Alex Iafallo scored for the Jets who saw their record drop to 47-18-4 and thanks to Washington's win over Detroit, are tied with the Caps with 98 points atop the NHL standings. Connor Hellebuyck took the loss (39-10-3), Winnipeg will close out this road trip Thursday in Edmonton.

STRANGE NIGHT

The Jets came into the night as the best defensive team in the league facing a Canucks team that had scored only one goal in their last game, a 3-1 loss to Utah. In fact, the Canucks scoring woes were well documented having scored three goals or less in 29 of their last 32 games. Vancouver played some desperate hockey scoring three times in the opening period, Drew O'Connor opened the scoring at 4:55 before Nikolaj Ehlers tied it with his 22nd. The Canucks then got goals from Brock Boeser and Nils Hoglander 1:28 apart to lead by two after one.

TURNING POINT

Winnipeg cut the Canucks lead down to one goal in the second thanks to Alex Iafallo slamming in a rebound for his 11th of the season. The Jets then had two glorious chances to tie it, Mark Scheifele was robbed by the right pad of Kevin Lankinen and Ehlers made a glorious move to the inside off the rush and rang his shot off the bar. Vancouver took advantage of the break, with Boeser and Pius Suter scoring 46 seconds apart to give the Canucks a 5-2 lead after two periods.

HELLEBUYCK MISSES OUT ON 40TH WIN

Connor Hellebuyck's record against the Western Conference this season was 22-4-2, with a .938 save percentage and 1.66 goals against average with six shutouts. Hellebuyck (39-9-3) didn't get a lot of help from his teammates allowing five goals for just the third time this season and he missed out on becoming the second American born goaltender to have two 40-win seasons on his resume, Ryan Miller is the only American born goaltender to do so.

NHL.com

<https://www.nhl.com/news/winnipeg-jets-vancouver-canucks-game-recap-march-18>

Boeser has 2 goals, assist in Canucks win against Jets

Suter scores twice for Vancouver, which has won 3 of 4; Winnipeg had won 3 in row

By Kevin Woodley

VANCOUVER -- Brock Boeser ended a 12-game goal drought by scoring twice and adding an assist to lead the Vancouver Canucks to a 6-2 win against the Winnipeg Jets at Rogers Arena on Tuesday.

Pius Suter also scored twice, Nils Hoglander had a goal and an assist, and Quinn Hughes had two assists for the Canucks (32-25-11), who have won three of four. Kevin Lankinen made 19 saves.

"It felt really good," Boeser said. "I felt that I haven't really been much of a big help to our team lately, and I want to be a difference-maker in these games and help us win games and continue to push for that playoff spot."

Vancouver (75 points) remained tied with the St. Louis Blues, who have played one more game, for the second wild card into the Stanley Cup Playoffs from the Western Conference. The Calgary Flames are two points back of Vancouver and St. Louis.

"It's a huge win and it should give our group a lot of confidence and just show that we can beat anyone on any given night if we really focus on our details and play to our structure and work hard," Boeser said. "It's a big win for these remaining games down the stretch, and definitely a huge game to build off."

Nikolaj Ehlers and Alex Iafallo scored, and Connor Hellebuyck made 16 saves for the Jets (47-18-4), who had won three straight.

"You look at pretty much all their goals, they're first to pucks, they beat us back to the net," Winnipeg defenseman Dylan DeMelo said. "It's not a recipe for success on our group, very unlike our group, so it's going to happen over an 82-game season and we'll move on to the next one."

Drew O'Connor put the Canucks ahead 1-0 at 4:55 of the first period, one-timing a cross-ice pass from Hughes short side past Hellebuyck from the right face-off dot for his first goal in 14 games.

Ehlers tied it 1-1 at 14:50 by finishing a rush chance he started coming out his own end. He took a return pass from Vladislav Namestnikov at Vancouver's blue line and cut into the middle before firing a wrist shot past Lankinen.

Boeser put Vancouver back in front 2-1 on the power play at 18:29 by deflecting a Hughes one-timer past Hellebuyck.

"I think it was more relief," Boeser said of his fist-pump celebration that followed. "But honestly, anytime Quinn sees a lane, he shoots a puck and there's been multiple times this year where he shoots a puck and I don't get a stick on it. So, I worked on it this morning and luckily it paid off."

Hoglander made it 3-1 with three seconds left in the first period. Boeser played a give-and-go with Elias Pettersson in the high slot, then found Hoglander driving to the net for a redirection at the top of the crease.

"We gave up a lot more rush opportunities than we ever have I think in a game, and they capitalized. Then that late goal at the end of the first (was) a backbreaker," Jets coach Scott Arniel said. "But after that, second period I thought we had some great zone time, some great opportunities. Goalie made some big stops, even parts of the third there was still lots of opportunity for us to get back, but every time we made a mistake, it went in the back of our net."

Iafallo poked in a rebound at the top of the crease to bring Winnipeg to within 3-2 at 7:07 of the second period.

Boeser scored his 20th of the season to make it 4-2 at 13:57, banging a rebound through Hellebuyck's pads as he reached to cover the puck, and Suter converted a backdoor pass from Kiefer Sherwood to extend the lead to 5-2 at 14:43.

"Anytime I made a play, I was trying to get to the net, and I just saw it sitting there and took a whack and luckily it snuck by," Boeser said. "Our line overall played pretty good tonight."

Mark Scheifele was robbed by Lankinen with the left pad on a rebound at 12:05, and Ehlers hit the post on a rush at 13:08 before Boeser's goal.

"If they go in, you never know what the game could be after that," Iafallo said.

Suter scored an empty-net goal with four seconds remaining for the 6-2 final.

"Obviously, nice to have that and just close out the game," Suter said.

The Canucks have scored four or more goals in all three wins after failing to score more than three goals in any of their previous 15 games.

"It's a huge confidence boost for us," Suter said.

NOTES: Pettersson has seven points (three goals, four assists) in a five-game point streak. ... Hughes has five points (two goals, three assists) on a four-game point streak since returning from a lower-body injury that kept him out four games.

Sportsnet.ca

<https://www.sportsnet.ca/nhl/article/new-third-line-lone-bright-spot-in-jets-loss/>

New third line lone bright spot in Jets loss

By Jacob Stoller

Something had to change with that third line.

The inseparable trio of Adam Lowry, Mason Appleton and Nino Niederreiter had lost its lustre. Once lauded for shutting down opponents' top guns and sustaining offensive zone pressure, their offensive output has dwindled since the Winnipeg Jets' historic 15-1-0 start.

During that 16-game stretch, the line produced 28.27 scoring chances and 3.77 goals per 60 minutes during five-on-five play. In their last 34 games, those outputs have plummeted to 23.18 and 1.78 respectively.

Things reached a boiling point in the first period of Tuesday's 6-2 loss to the Vancouver Canucks. In just 4:34 minutes of ice time, the 'Identity Line' surrendered two goals against and didn't register any shot attempts.

Head coach Scott Arniel re-jigged his bottom-six heading into the second period and the change amounted to the lone silver lining in an otherwise forgettable night for Winnipeg.

Winnipeg may have found its new third line: Brandon Tanev, Alex Iafallo and Lowry.

On paper, it made perfect sense. Both wingers are ferocious forecheckers — Tanev leveraging his speed, Iafallo using his elite stickwork — who play the kind of simple, north-south game that maximizes Lowry's strengths.

It didn't take long for them to click.

The trio was dominant in 6:52 of ice time, outchancing Vancouver 4-0, winning the Corsi battle 9-1 and scoring a goal in the second period to cut Winnipeg's deficit to 3-2. The latter was thanks to Iafallo, who capitalized on a net-front scramble that encapsulated the type of greasy goals Arniel wants from the bottom of the lineup.

"That's what we're going to keep doing," Iafallo told reporters when asked about crashing the net. "And (we have) a big game in Edmonton to test that out."

How can you not keep this line in tact?

It's no secret how important Lowry is to this team, especially come playoff time. Lately, the players on his flanks just haven't been delivering. Niederreiter has been snake-

bitten, recording just two goals over his last 22 games. Appleton hasn't had a palpable impact on the forecheck like he did to start the year.

Meanwhile, Tanev and Lafallo — who have logged just 12:46 and 10:35 minutes of five-on-five ice time, respectively, since the deadline — have shown that they deserve more opportunity.

According to AllThreeZones.com, Lafallo ranks 13th in Forecheck Pressures per 60 minutes (10.58) among all forwards. Since arriving in Winnipeg, his on-ice impacts have been sparkling, ranking in the 96th percentile for five-on-five scoring chances against per 60 minutes (21.81). Whenever the Jets top-six needs a shake-up, Lafallo is often the first man up.

Tanev hasn't skipped a beat since returning to Manitoba's capital, recording 14 hits and plenty of other pest moments through his first six games back with the Jets. In addition to his aggressiveness, Tanev's footspeed adds a different dimension to the team's shutdown line. Neither Niederreiter nor Appleton have the type of zone entry ability that Tanev does. And as he showed back in January, when he briefly had Nikolaj Ehlers on his wing, Lowry benefits from having a puck transporter alongside him.

Start thinking of some nicknames — something more clever than their initials (paging "G-S-T") — because this line could be together for the long haul.

Stoller Says

- Morgan Barron could help inject some life into Niederreiter and Appleton's game. They need a linemate with speed to help them gain the offensive zone, and once they're there, Barron has the tools to mesh with them off the cycle.
- Arniel said he never considered pulling Connor Hellebuyck after the first two periods, despite the goaltending allowing five goals on 18 shots.

"How many games do you see him have (a poor game)?" the coach said. "This isn't on him."

The fourth and fifth goals against — just over a minute apart in the second period — were ones Hellebuyck would likely want back but his rare off-night wasn't the reason the Jets lost.

"A lot of (the goals), they were off mistakes that we made that ended up in the back of the net, whether that was coverage or off the rush," Arniel said.

- It could have been a much worse night for the Jets as Josh Morrissey went down the tunnel after blocking a shot from Kiefer Sherwood in the second period. Luckily, he returned shortly after.

Minutes later, around the midway part of the period, Dylan DeMelo crashed face-first into the boards. The collision was hard to watch and the way he grabbed his head afterward was extremely worrisome. After being tended to by Jets trainers, DeMelo remained on the bench and didn't miss a shift. I'm surprised the concussion spotters didn't pull him from the game.

Canadian Press

<https://www.sportsnet.ca/nhl/article/boeser-scores-twice-canucks-stun-nhl-leading-jets/>

West-leading Jets fall to Canucks in rare stumble

By Canadian Press

VANCOUVER — Brock Boeser scored twice and notched an assist as the Vancouver Canucks handed the league-leading Winnipeg Jets a 6-2 drubbing on Tuesday.

Pius Suter added two goals, including one into an empty net with four seconds left on the clock, while Nils Hoglander scored and had a helper for the Canucks (32-25-11).

Drew O'Connor also found the back of the net, Quinn Hughes contributed two assists, and Kevin Lankinen stopped 19 of the 21 shots he faced.

The Jets (47-18-4) got goals from Nikolaj Ehlers and Alex Iafallo as their three-game win streak came to an end.

Connor Hellebuyck made 16 saves for Winnipeg.

The result kept Vancouver clinging to the final playoff spot in the Western Conference, with the St. Louis Blues, Calgary Flames and Utah Hockey Club all close behind.

TAKEAWAYS

Canucks: Boeser's first goal of the night snapped a 12-game scoring drought. The right-winger admitted Tuesday morning that he hadn't been playing well lately, and said in order to get his offence back, he needed to shoot more and have a more positive attitude. Boeser now has 20 goals on the campaign.

Jets: The team's hallmark stingy defence faltered against the Canucks. Winnipeg came in as the stingiest in the league, allowing an average of 2.28 goals per game and just 156 in total. Tuesday's contest marked the 16th time the Jets have given up three or more goals this season.

KEY MOMENT

The Canucks closed out the first period with a big goal. Boeser collected a pass from Elias Pettersson and quickly dished off to Hoglander at the top of the crease. The

Swedish winger directed the puck up and in over Hellebuyck to make it 3-2 with three seconds left in the frame.

KEY STAT

Vancouver's special teams were key, with the Canucks scoring on their lone power play and killing off both penalties.

UP NEXT

Canucks: Open a six-game road trip on Thursday against the St. Louis Blues.

Jets: Visit the Edmonton Oilers on Thursday.

Global Winnipeg

<https://globalnews.ca/news/11088221/winnipeg-jets-vancouver-canucks-playoff-hockey/>

ANALYSIS: Jets-Canucks a glimpse into potential 1st-round matchup

By Paul Edmonds CJOB

If Tuesday night's game in Vancouver was a glimpse into what a first-round playoff matchup might look like for the Winnipeg Jets, it could be more interesting than the records would suggest.

Of course, the Canucks' 6-2 victory was crucially more important for Vancouver in their pursuit of a wild card spot in the Western Conference than the two points to the Jets at this point.

And while Vancouver's season hasn't gone according to plan or expectation, they undoubtedly got Winnipeg's attention with one of their finest performances since coming out of the 4 Nations Face-Off break.

Now, there are still plenty of miles to travel down the National Hockey League highway before playoff seeding is determined. And Winnipeg, for its part, is still trying to lock up the top spot in its own division and conference in order to host the second wild card holder.

But if Tuesday was a peek into the future of a one-versus-eight encounter — in other words, Winnipeg vs. Vancouver — it could be great theatre, as the two teams are fast, physical and well-coached.

Plus, the Canadiana around the series would only add to the attraction — especially given today's geopolitical climate and nationalism at an all-time high in the country.

Sure, there are plenty of other scenarios — likely more than the Canucks have Petterssons on their roster — that could still unfold with four-plus weeks remaining on the regular-season schedule.

And that includes the final game of the season series between the Jets and Canucks in Winnipeg on March 30, which could offer an even further glimpse into what a first-round playoff meeting between the two teams might look like.

And given the fact it will also be the rubber match of the set, it just might look pretty good to hockey fans in both cities — and even more interesting than the records would suggest.

<https://globalnews.ca/news/11088049/winnipeg-jets-fall-6-2-to-desperate-vancouver-canucks-to-end-3-game-win-streak/>

Winnipeg Jets fall 6-2 to desperate Vancouver Canucks to end 3-game win streak

By Russ Hobson & Brayden Ewasko Global News

An extremely slow start proved very costly for the Winnipeg Jets on Tuesday in Vancouver.

The Canucks scored three goals in the first period, two more in the second, and salted it away with an empty netter in the third for a commanding 6-2 victory.

The loss ended the Jets' three-game win streak.

The Canucks turned the tables on the Jets after Winnipeg won their first meeting 6-1 back in January.

"We certainly made some early mistakes," said Jets head coach Scott Arniel. "Gave up a lot more rush opportunities than we ever have I think in a game.

"That late goal at the end of the first, a little bit of a backbreaker, but after that – the second period I thought we had some great zone time, some great opportunities. Goalie made some big stops."

Brock Boeser and Pius Suter each had a pair of markers in the win, while Nikolaj Ehlers and Alex Lafallo replied in the loss.

It's just the second time all season the Jets have surrendered six goals in a game, and the first since way back in October.

Connor Hellebuyck allowed five goals in a game for just the third time all season, and the first since November 16.

"This isn't on him," Arniel said. "At the end of the day, if it's 50-60 shots coming at him it's a little different thing. But a lot of them, they were mistakes that we made and ended up in the back of the net.

"We know what he's done for us all year long and we'll just get right back on the horse and he'll go back at Edmonton."

"It's not going to be perfect completely every time," said Iaffalo. "With that, we got to back him up and help him out in any situation."

Kyle Connor appeared in his 600th career NHL game in the defeat.

The Jets and Canucks started the game out slow with only one shot apiece in the first four minutes until the Canucks had a 3-on-2. Teddy Blueger passed it back to Quinn Hughes who threw it across for a one-timer which was buried by Drew O'Connor to open the scoring.

The Canucks nearly took a two-goal lead after Hellebuyck gave away the puck behind the net, but he dove back to make a miraculous stop with the paddle of his stick right on the goal line.

Ehlers tied the game off a rush, firing it in from the hash marks to make it 1-1.

But it was a disastrous final two minutes to the first for Winnipeg. A Hughes blast was tipped in by Boeser on the power play to get the lead back.

And then Nils Hoglander finished off a pretty passing play with just three seconds left in the period to make it 3-1 after one period.

The Jets climbed back to within one in the second after Iaffalo chipped in a loose puck past Kevin Lankinen to make it 3-2.

But only a few minutes later, Boeser knocked in a loose puck after Hellebuyck made the initial save for his second goal of the game.

Pius Suter scored only 46 seconds later to make it a three-goal lead.

The Jets couldn't get anything to go in during the third before Suter added an empty netter with four seconds remaining to seal the victory.

The Jets were outshot 22-21 as Hellebuyck made only 16 saves, while Lankinen finished with 19 stops.

Winnipeg will look to bounce back on Thursday when the three-game road trip concludes against the Edmonton Oilers starting at 8:00 o'clock Manitoba time.

TSN.ca

<https://www.tsn.ca/video/domino-s-that-s-hockey-do-canucks-have-a-chance-against-jets-in-playoffs%7E3099815>

Domino's That's Hockey: Do Canucks have a chance against Jets in playoffs? (VIDEO)

TSN Director of Scouting Craig Button and TSN Hockey analyst Cheryl Pounder join Domino's That's Hockey to share what chance they'd give the Canucks at knocking off the Jets in a potential first round matchup, and if they think Winnipeg's past playoff disappointments could be a concern despite the amazing season the team is having.

The Athletic

<https://www.nytimes.com/athletic/6210870/2025/03/19/winnipeg-jets-trends-perfetti-nhl-jack-adams/>

Analyzing Jets trends: The up-and-down PK, Perfetti's step forward, Arniel for Jack Adams?

By Murat Ates

Connor Hellebuyck made a month's worth of mistakes in a single night and Winnipeg's special teams failed in their attempt to bail the Jets out. Now the Jets share their No. 1 spot in the NHL standings with Washington and head to Edmonton to face a reignited Oilers offence.

Nothing about Tuesday's 6-2 loss to Vancouver — a potential first-round opponent — changes Winnipeg's status as an elite, Stanley Cup-contending team. Despite the loss, the Jets are still barreling their way toward a playoff spot and home-ice advantage. What are the trends that could influence their fate?

I'll analyze the Jets' penalty kill; dig into Dylan Samberg and Josh Morrissey's performance; evaluate Cole Perfetti, Nikolaj Ehlers and Vladislav Namestnikov's playoff readiness; and discuss a much-needed breather for Adam Lowry's shutdown line.

Is it time to give Lowry's line a break?

In the 10 games before Tuesday's game against Vancouver, the Jets' typically dominant third line of Lowry, Mason Appleton and Nino Niederreiter had been outshot 55-38 and tied 3-3 in goals scored at five-on-five. That is fine in a small sample, but Lowry's line has been the class of the NHL shutdown lines, outscoring teams 20-10 before last night's game.

Lowry's line got torched for rush goals by Logan O'Connor and Nils Högländer in the first period of Tuesday's game, looking a step behind on each play.

On the first, Niederreiter had nearly scored on a net drive, but Vancouver turned the puck up ice so quickly that it moved the puck around Lowry and Appleton's hit attempts (coach Scott Arniel said the Jets were "overaggressive" on the play). The Canucks then backed Haydn Fleury and Colin Miller off in the zone to set O'Connor up for a one-timer with Hellebuyck on the move.

On the second rush goal, Vancouver picked up a puck outside the Jets' blue line, reloaded and beat the Jets' third line with a stretch pass that broke its shape in the neutral zone. Lowry, Appleton and Niederreiter looked slow, not befitting their season-long excellence.

Sometimes I wonder if they need to be split up — even for a week or two — to give them a break from the heavy lifting they do night in and night out. Niederreiter has one assist in 13 games since the 4 Nations Face-Off break; Appleton has one goal and one assist in the same timeframe. Arniel ran Lowry between Brandon Tanev and Alex Iafallo to start the second period against Vancouver and got a goal from Iafallo for his troubles.

It would make sense if we see that look again soon. Tanev and Iafallo have more going on for them over the last several games than Appleton and Niederreiter do.

Morrissey joins the PK and shows promise; Samberg is the goods

Samberg's goals against Dallas and Seattle have given his importance a national spotlight this week. Hit the scoresheet, it seems, and suddenly everyone recognizes all the other ways you've helped all season long. When you take a deeper look at the changing nature of Winnipeg's penalty kill, Samberg's importance is made clearer.

This is a 10-game rolling average of the Jets' PK success rate.

The overall trend for the season is a slight improvement with the team's best work beginning at the top of 2025. But consider these events:

- Samberg breaks his foot against Nashville in Game 21.
- Samberg returned from that injury against Los Angeles in Game 43.

Remember that we're looking at a 10-game rolling average. The data point for Game 43 — Samberg's first game back — also includes Winnipeg's performance in the nine games before his return. By Game 52, all 10 games in the data point include Samberg in the lineup — and, as it turns out, this corresponds with the Jets' peak PK performance all season long. More Samberg, more success.

It's also true that goals are a volatile measure of performance. A team can give up a ton of quality scoring chances for a while and get away with it with the right combination of big saves, good bounces and misfired shot attempts. The opposite also is true: Sometimes a PK does everything in its power on a given shift but the power play makes a perfect shot or gets just the right combination of bounces to get a goal.

This seems like a good time to mention a new data point: Josh Morrissey is averaging 45 seconds per game on the penalty kill this season after just six seconds per game last season and 20 seconds the season before that.

Part of the magic behind Morrissey's offensive explosion in the Rick Bowness and Scott Arniel era has been the result of careful management of his minutes. With Samberg and Brenden Dillon available, the Jets were able to spare Morrissey the heavy lift of the team's short-handed work.

The combination of Dillon's New Jersey Devils departure and Samberg's broken foot changed Winnipeg's plans. Logan Stanley's PK workload went up when he was in the lineup and Fleury has played a big role, too. Morrissey also is too good at hockey to leave aside in this context. His minutes have had two spikes: first, when Samberg was injured, and second, a seven- or eight-game stretch following 4 Nations wherein Morrissey took Stanley's minutes as the Jets sought a different look.

The first thing to note is that only Samberg, Dylan DeMelo and Neal Pionk have played over 100 minutes in this situation. When small sample sizes are involved, you get oddities like Luke Schenn somehow being on the ice for just over half of the Jets' average for shot attempts — but twice the amount of real goals against — per minute.

The second is that Samberg and DeMelo have been Winnipeg's first option over the boards at the start of a penalty kill, meaning a higher percentage of their minutes have come against top power-play units.

So is Samberg a goal-preventing freak of nature? Is Stanley a disproportionate problem?

It is true, based on video analysis, that opposing teams found success isolating Stanley down low and taking advantage of his slower first step, but his expected goals numbers are not as concerning as Fleury's. Pionk also comes off well in terms of expected goals despite criticisms of his five-on-five defending.

Then there is Morrissey, whose expected goals numbers are no better than the Jets' average but whose results in terms of real goals are almost as good as it gets. Samberg isn't all magic, all the time — his presence on the ice wasn't enough to stop Brock Boeser from making a perfect deflection on Tuesday — but his long-term results have been quality.

What else explains these metrics?

I tend to believe forwards have more of an impact on the other team's shot volume, as far as penalty killing goes, while defencemen have more of an impact on shot quality — as measured by distance from goal. A power play will shoot once it's found a lane it wants. This takes puck movement such that the penalty-killing forwards are not in the initial shooting lane.

From there, rebounds and other chances from close to the net are about boxouts, stick tie-ups and battles won in the slot. This isn't a hard and fast rule, of course — lots of teams run plays that start down low and result in shots only if they beat the defencemen down low.

Even in those situations — for a Jets example, consider Gabriel Vilardi stepping across the net from beside it — the resulting shot comes from closer to the net. This shows up in terms of shot quality: Distance from goal is the No. 1 factor influencing public measures like expected goals or high-danger scoring chances. If a defenceman is going to stop a play like that — or its ensuing rebound attempt — then they need to make a good read, have great stick positioning, tie up a net-front forward, or some combination of the three.

Morrissey's quickness and reads are as good as it gets, even if he gives up strength in some of his net-front battles. DeMelo's reads are good but his size is lacking. Stanley's reads (or his feet) are the slowest of the bunch. We'll see how Schenn's performance develops but I've come to trust his reads and battles to the point of believing his startling goals-against number will trend better as the sample size grows.

Samberg combines reads, physicality, net-front success and shot blocks. His good health, combined with Schenn's arrival, gives the Jets top options on the left and the right. Pionk and DeMelo also will factor into the playoff equation, meaning there's only one question mark left: Who slots in behind Samberg on the left side?

I think the Jets are going to take a long look at using Morrissey in that role, adding to his already impressive body of work at five-on-five and the power play. We talk about his year-over-year improvements and credit his offensive explosion. I think Morrissey is still developing new ways to help the Jets win hockey games. Sign Samberg to a long-term deal this summer and Winnipeg's left side is golden for years to come.

In the meantime, the 15th-ranked PK needs to maintain its upward trajectory to prove it's not a liability come playoff time.

We should be talking about Arniel for Jack Adams Award

I tend to think of the Jack Adams Award as the NHL's way of celebrating coaches on teams that dramatically outperformed expectations. A quick look at the front-runners for this year's award — Spencer Carbery in Washington and Dean Evason in Columbus — implies the NHL is taking the same approach with its thinking for 2025.

Whether you look at Vegas odds or our staff predictions, Carbery is the prohibitive favourite, Evason is next, and everybody else is a great distance behind. I think that dramatically undersells Scott Arniel's success in Winnipeg.

When this season began, I believed the power play would take a step forward, the five-on-five play would take a step back, and the Jets would be a playoff team even if last

year's 110 points were tough to match. The Jets (47-18-4, 98 points) are tied with Washington atop the NHL standings and on pace for 116 points. Forget about a modest step forward — Davis Payne's power play has been spectacular — and forget about a modest step back: Winnipeg's five-on-five play is even better than it was last season.

Arniel isn't responsible for everything that's gone well in Winnipeg. His decision to hire Payne for the power play has been the biggest part of the Jets' Presidents' Trophy run. He's also built upon a foundation he helped establish with Rick Bowness at the helm and benefitted from a quality roster built by Kevin Cheveldayoff.

But he's also been at the helm of perhaps the single-best season in Jets history. He has a hand in the power play, personnel decisions and five-on-five success. I'd also argue Washington's stunning turnaround has more to do with management than Winnipeg's does; the Capitals bought low on Pierre-Luc Dubois and picked up Logan Thompson to be their starting goaltender for a pair of third-round picks, among other moves, while the Jets largely stood pat in the offseason.

The Jets' biggest change was letting Dillon go and promoting Samberg in his place. Go back further, of course, and Cheveldayoff's work on the Andrew Copp, Dubois to Los Angeles, Niederreiter and Namestnikov trades — as well as the Hellebuyck and Mark Scheifele extensions — puts his fingerprints all over the team's success. Looking at this particular season, though, and if there's an award for which the Capitals should be a mortal lock, it's the Jim Gregory General Manager of the Year award and not the Jack Adams.

That's not to say Carbery doesn't deserve credit or to diminish Evason's remarkable work on Columbus. I just see Arniel as an obvious companion for them in the top three despite a lack of league-wide acclaim and voted as such in our latest predictions piece.

Perfetti looks playoff-ready, but what about rest of second line?

I reject the premise that Cole Perfetti's step forward directly coincides with his comments about wanting to become "a prick" to play against.

When we detailed the how of Perfetti's battle-winning — highlighting the way he initiates contact, getting into the hands of his opponent to win the puck with small-area quickness — it was based on a one-on-one conversation with Perfetti from early January. Despite starting 2025 with two assists in 10 games, Perfetti had taken a step forward in his all-around play — one that depended on the eye test as opposed to the box score.

Perfetti is fourth in team scoring in Winnipeg's last 20 games with seven goals and 10 assists since Jan. 24, marking a top-six arrival during a high-stakes time of year wherein critics say he's not supposed to be able to produce. I've been arguing that this is a realistic trajectory for Perfetti's career since the offseason, and I continue to project him as a top-six forward with No. 1 power-play potential through the heart of his career.

(He's already Nikolaj Ehlers' replacement whenever Ehlers has been unavailable on the Jets' top unit and has been productive in that role.)

Even in Vancouver, Arniel appreciated the trio's work.

"Perfetti's line was outstanding," he said, naming the line by its left wing. But what does it mean for Winnipeg's playoff push?

The Jets will depend on Kyle Connor, Scheifele and Vilardi — Nos. 1, 2 and 3 in team scoring — to drive results while giving Lowry the shutdown assignment against opposing top lines. Scheifele's been the most consistent playoff performer by far with 38 points in 42 games compared to 32 points in 45 games for Connor and eight points in 12 games for Vilardi.

Perfetti was limited to a single game against Colorado last season, while Ehlers' 14 points in 37 playoff games and Namestnikov's 14 points in 57 playoff games leaves every member of Winnipeg's second line with a lot to prove. They're supposed to struggle to get to the middle of the ice as the quality of competition ramps up. They've also created a pile of scoring chances and won their minutes down the stretch.

Continued success from Perfetti's line would tilt matchups against most opponents firmly in Winnipeg's favour. The degree to which Perfetti, 23, can limit his playoff growing pains could be the determining factor in his line's performance.

Winnipeg Free Press

<https://www.winnipegfreepress.com/breakingnews/2025/03/19/jets-cant-keep-up-with-canucks-in-6-2-loss>

Jets can't keep up in 6-2 loss to Canucks

By: Mike McIntyre

VANCOUVER — Winnipeg Jets head coach Scott Arniel was asked prior to puck drop Tuesday night for his thoughts on facing a team that was fighting for its playoff life.

"I like it," he began. "It keeps us sharp, too, that we're going against a team like this that's going to be putting everything on the line."

Sharp, you say? His club was anything but, failing to match the desperation of the Vancouver Canucks in a 6-2 stinker that easily ranks as one of the worst outings of the season.

"It's a tough, tough loss tonight. We knew they were going to come blazing, so we weren't ready in some situations," said forward Alex Iafallo.

“We’re gonna get everything’s best from here on out and we have to be ready for that.”

Go up and down the lineup of the NHL’s No. 1 club and you’ll find plenty of rough performances.

Goaltender Connor Hellebuyck fought the puck all night long and stopped just 16 of 21 shots. Captain Adam Lowry’s usually reliable shutdown line got shredded and was broken up after an ugly opening frame. Even Winnipeg’s potent power play looked out of sorts, whiffing on two opportunities which included a brief 5-on-3 where they didn’t even record a shot.

In summary, the Jets looked like a team that began the night feeling comfortable thanks to a huge lead on top of both the Central Division and Western Conference and weren’t able to match the energy and execution of a Canucks team essentially treating this as a must-win.

“I think you look at pretty much all of their goals, they were first to pucks, they beat us back to the net. It’s not a recipe for success from our group,” said defenceman Dylan DeMelo.

“It’s very unlike our group. It’s going to happen over an 82 game season and we’ll move on to the next one.”

Ultimately no real harm if it’s just a blip. A bigger concern if it morphs into something more.

Winnipeg saw its three-game winning streak snapped and drop to 47-18-4. They are now nine points up on the Dallas Stars, who rallied from a third-period deficit to beat the Anaheim Ducks in overtime.

Vancouver improves to 32-25-11 which keeps them tied with the St. Louis Blues for the final wildcard spot, two points ahead of the Calgary Flames and four up on Utah HC.

Let’s dig into this one a little deeper:

FIRST WAS THE WORST

First, the good news: The Jets had gone 68 games this year without surrendering more than two goals in the opening period. That is remarkable, really, and a sign of a team ready to play.

The bad news? They couldn’t extend that streak to 69. A sloppy and, at times, sleepy first resulted in a 3-1 deficit

“We certainly made some early mistakes, gave up a lot more rush opportunities than we ever have, I think, in a game, and they capitalized,” is how Arniel described the first 20 minutes.

“We got caught at times maybe being a little over-aggressive, got in situations where we didn’t have our numbers against their numbers and they got up the ice in a hurry. They were desperate, and you know what, we just made some mistakes and they capitalized.”

Drew O’Connor beat Hellebuyck with a one-timer at 4:55, Brock Boeser snapped a 12-game scoring drought with his power-play tally at 18:29 and then Nils Hoglander buried a feed from Boeser with just three seconds left after Vancouver took advantage of a Nino Niederreiter turnover in the neutral zone.

“That late goal at the end of the first was a bit of a back breaker,” said Arniel.

Nikolaj Ehlers had scored his 22nd of the year with just over five minutes left in the first to tie it 1-1, but the momentum would be short-lived.

SECOND CHANCES

To be fair, the Jets started the middle frame with a better effort as some line tweaks made by Arniel seemed to light a spark.

Lowry and fourth-line centre Morgan Barron were switched, and the new-look trio of Lowry, Iafallo and Brandon Tanev brought the visitors within a goal at 7:07.

Luke Schenn’s point shot was tipped by Tanev, and Iafallo pounced on the rebound given up by Kevin Lankinen to score his 11th.

“Have to do something,” Arniel said of the swap. “They went out and scored a goal. Sometimes you just want to get a spark. I loved the other two lines. (Mark Scheifele’s) line had great zone time, (Cole) Perfetti’s line was outstanding. There was a lot of looks and a lot of chances. And their goaltender made some big stops as well.”

Winnipeg came within an inch or two of tying it moments later, with Scheifele robbed by Lankinen and then Ehlers rattling a shot off the crossbar.

However, the Canucks got back to their speed game and burned Winnipeg twice more. Boeser scored his second at 13:57, beating Hellebuyck to a loose puck before he could freeze it — and the Pius Suter put it to bed with a relatively easy tap-in that once again came off the rush.

“Diving in, D are joining, we get caught at the end of a long shift, we go East/West, can’t get enough guys off, they’re fresh and coming on guns a’blazing and they just kind of beat us to areas,” was DeMelo’s summary.

Added Arniel: “Every time we made a mistake, it went in the back of our net.”

WHAT THE HELLY?

You have to go all the way back to Nov. 16 to find the last time Hellebuyck had given up a season-high five goals in a game. And you wondered if Arniel might give his No. 1 netminder — who was making his NHL-leading 52nd start — the rest of the night off when the Jets came out to start the third.

“This isn’t on him. You know what, at the end of the day, if it’s 50, 60 shots coming at him, it’s a little different thing,” Arniel said of letting Hellebuyck see this one through to the painful finish.

“But like I said, a lot of (the goals), they were off mistakes that we made that ended up in the back of the net, whether that was coverage or off the rush. We know what he’s done for us all year long. Let’s get right on the horse and he’ll go back (against) Edmonton.”

Hellebuyck was seeking his 40th win of the year and remains the runaway favourite to win a third Vezina Trophy.

“He’s had an unbelievable season. And every (game) it’s not gonna be perfect completely every time. So with that, we’ve got to back him up and help him out,” said Lafallo.

The Jets actually dominated the third period, no doubt aided by the fact the Canucks were in full control. Shot attempts ended up a whopping 31-9 in the final frame (after being 41-35 in favour of Vancouver through the first two periods). But the Jets couldn’t get anything else past Lankinen, who finished with 19 saves.

Suter scored into an empty net with three seconds left to round out the scoring.

INJURY SCARES

There were a couple of hold-your-breath moments for the Jets, who are already without defenceman Neal Pionk (lower-body, week-to-week).

First, Josh Morrissey blocked a shot in the second period and hobbled off the ice, limping down the tunnel to try and walk it off. Then top-pairing defence partner DeMelo crashed face-first into the boards during an awkward collision and looked to be hurt. He was eventually helped off the ice but remained on the bench and never missed a shift.

“I’m good. Neck’s sore. Boys were saying it looked as bad as it probably felt but I’m doing alright,” said DeMelo.

Arniel and company were breathing a sigh of relief having dodged a potential disaster.

“They want to do everything they can to keep pucks out of the net, do whatever it takes to not give up scoring chances. And that’s just our group,” said Arniel. “They’re determined to play hard and you don’t like to see those guys leave, obviously. But I’m glad to see both of them come back.”

KEY PLAY: Hoglander's buzzer beat at the end of the first period left a mark.

THREE STARS:

1. VAN RW Brock Boeser: 2 goals, 1 assist
2. VAN D Quinn Hughes: 2 assists
3. VAN LW Nils Hoglander: 1 goal, 1 assist

EXTRA, EXTRA

There were a combined 55 hits in the game — 28 by Vancouver and 27 by Winnipeg — but a pair of players might need some extra ice bags. Schenn and Canucks forward Dakota Joshua each had eight to lead their teams.

Winnipeg went 0-for-2 on the power play, while Vancouver scored on its only opportunity.

Kyle Connor played in his 600th career game.

Winnipeg's healthy scratches were defencemen Logan Stanley and Ville Heinola and forwards David Gustafsson and Rasmus Kupari.

The Jets stay overnight in Vancouver and are flying to Edmonton on Wednesday where they will wrap up this three-game road trip against the Oilers. After that it's home for four straight games beginning Sunday afternoon against Buffalo.

"We'll soak this one in, look at the video and use what we need to use. And then we've got to go against an Edmonton team that, our opening game against them we know what we did, they know what we did," said Arniel, a reference to the 6-0 victory by the Jets way back in October.

"So we have to make sure that we're at our best."

<https://www.winnipegfreepress.com/breakingnews/2025/03/18/fancy-footwork-2>

Fancy footwork

Edge work has become the king of skills in the NHL, making the game 'faster than ever'

By: Mike McIntyre

VANCOUVER — Josh Morrissey is on edge. So is Quinn Hughes, whose Vancouver Canucks face off against the Winnipeg Jets on Tuesday night. In fact, go up and down any NHL roster and you'll find some very edgy players.

To be clear, we're not talking about their personalities but about how they play the game — specifically when it comes to skating techniques that allow them to stand out from many of their peers and illustrate how much the game has changed over the years.

Tune into a broadcast these days and you're likely to hear mention of edge work as you watch the likes of Morrissey and Hughes turn on a dime, spin out of trouble and pivot their way into defensive zone exits and offensive zone entries. There will also be reference to the game being "faster than ever," which is a testament to how players are using their feet.

"I would have loved to have somebody show me that," said Jets head coach Scott Arniel, who broke into the league as a player in the early 1980s.

"These guys now are coming in polished out of junior and college. They're doing that stuff at a very young age. There's specialists where that's all they work on, guys will hire them in the summer. Which I think is such a great idea. Why wouldn't you? Those elite players, their edge work is just amazing some nights."

Morrissey recently sat down with the Free Press to detail what he called his skating evolution, one he credits his late father, Tom, for getting in motion.

"When I was a kid, I think he was a little ahead of the curve in terms of the importance of skating," said Morrissey, who recalls a community centre near their Calgary home that they'd attend multiple evenings a week for about three years starting when he was five.

"They had this leisure skating rink, almost like a frozen lazy river, like a course. But also an open area where you could do figure skating. No sticks were allowed. My dad would get my brother and I doing all these turns. At first, I couldn't skate backwards. It was all edge work. Crossovers, pivots, that kind of stuff."

Morrissey eventually started working with Deanna Curran, a popular Calgary skating coach.

"I probably skated with her over 200 times as a kid. And then my Dad would run these camps throughout my teenage years, and edge work was a big part of it as well," he said.

Barb Underhill is one of those skating coaches who is on off-season speed dial. The former Canadian Olympic figure skater has spent nearly two decades working with NHL players. That would include Hughes, who she's known since he was a little kid living in Toronto and playing on the same minor team as her son, Scotty.

Quinn and his brothers, Jack and Luke, who now play for the New Jersey Devils, would often come and skate at the huge backyard rink Underhill and her family had in Ontario.

The boy's dad, Jim, who was working at the time for the Toronto Marlies of the AHL, tapped into Underhill's unique background.

"He was really ahead of the curve," she said. "The game was desperate for people who understood how to teach skating, but in a hockey way."

Underhill's husband, a former college hockey player, had purchased an ownership stake in the Guelph Storm of the Ontario Hockey League in the fall of 2006 and she began going to games, eventually working with the young players at the request of the head coach.

"Because I was a skater, I would study the game in a different way than everyone else. I studied how they moved. I became obsessed with figuring it out, like the science of it all," she said.

"I knew from my years of training that they could be better. They could be more efficient."

Why is being good on your edges so important?

"There's times in a game where you have to go in a straight line, but the game isn't played in a straight line," Underhill explained.

"You have to be constantly shifting your weight and changing your angles. It's not a straight-line game anymore. Strong edges are the foundation of every single transition. If you want to take a tight turn or a quick stop or a spin or a pivot, you have to be on the right part of your edge to be able to do that quickly."

That's where the NHL's player data really comes in handy, thanks to trackers now worn by all players in their equipment (and also inside pucks).

Colorado Avalanche forward Nathan MacKinnon leads all skaters with 74 bursts this year of 22 m.p.h. (35 km/h) or faster. Edmonton Oilers superstar Connor McDavid is second with 70. To put that in perspective, that's an average of only about one per game — and they are the runaway leaders. Martin Necas of the Avalanche is third with just 43.

Necas has the highest recorded speed burst this year at 24.49 m.p.h. (39.41 km/h). Right behind him is Winnipeg's Rasmus Kupari at 24.47 m.p.h (39.38 km/h). The fact Kupari is now having trouble getting into a healthy and deep Winnipeg lineup — he's been a healthy scratch for seven straight games — illustrates just being able to get from Point A to Point B really fast isn't enough.

"When you sit in the stands right it might look like there's all this room on the ice. But there's not a lot of space. There's not a lot of opportunity to actually be going full speed," said Morrissey.

“That’s where I think the edge work — getting away from players, as a D-man breaking it out, getting in the offensive zone, being elusive up top, in the corner for forwards escaping and creating off the cycle — it shows up everywhere.”

“Getting a player on the right part of their blade in a balanced position is the No. 1 thing you can do to improve a player’s skating.”

– Barb Underhill, former Canadian Olympic figure skater and skating coach

Morrissey said it’s also made him a better defender, with active feet and the ability to turn quickly being critical. Of course, not every hockey player can excel on their edges.

“In figure skating, it’s everything,” said Underhill. “Getting a player on the right part of their blade in a balanced position is the No. 1 thing you can do to improve a player’s skating. Every time I start with a new player, that’s what it’s all about — getting them in a balanced position over their skates.”

If they can find the “sweet spot” and are committed to putting in the work, you might get something that resembles a Hughes or Morrissey.

“Kids have now started it now from the time they were small. The newest generation, this is normal. They’ve been doing edge work since they were on their skates,” said Underhill.

“It used to be like OK, this is the way they move. Nowadays, we’re constantly searching for new ways of being better, of being more efficient and quicker. I feel like there’s more freedom in the game to find new things and to explore.”

As slick as he is now, Morrissey said it will always be a work-in-progress. He began utilizing the services of former NHLer Adam Oates as a skills coach a few years ago and learned some valuable lessons.

One involved going to a shorter stick, which freed him up to be better on his edges and not get “jammed up” the way he used to with a longer twig.

“The last four or five years, we also work on where the puck is in relation to your body so you can move more freely and don’t get tied up,” said Morrissey.

“For me, I think the edge work was there without the puck. Where it’s grown is the edge work with the puck.”

There’s also an element of trying to keep up with the new kids on the block. Now 29, Morrissey marvels at what he sees entering the league including rookies like Lane Hutson of the Montreal Canadiens and Macklin Celebrini of the San Jose Sharks.

"There's more emphasis on skill and edge work and speed in today's NHL than even 10 years ago when I broke into the league," he said.

"It's definitely a premium more than ever. And I think guys like Hughes and (Cale) Makar, the way they use their edges to create offence from the back-end has really changed the game. Even though I'm older than those guys, I think I've learned a lot from watching them."

Winnipeg Sun

<https://winnipegsun.com/sports/hockey/nhl/winnipeg-jets/very-unlike-our-group-jets-give-up-half-a-dozen-in-loss-to-canucks>

'Very unlike our group': Jets give up half a dozen in loss to Canucks

By Paul Friesen

If Tuesday's game was a first-round playoff preview, the Winnipeg Jets gave the Vancouver Canucks a shot of belief.

The Canucks scored three first-period goals and poured six in overall against the NHL's stingiest team, winning 6-2 and holding their spot in the chase for the second wildcard spot in the Western Conference.

The first-place Jets, meanwhile, saw the door slam on a three-game win streak in what may have been a case of the more desperate team digging deeper.

"I think so," defenceman Dylan DeMelo told reporters on scene. "You look at pretty much all of their goals, they were first to pucks, they beat us back to the net... it's not a recipe for success from our group. It's very unlike our group. If it was more frequent, it would be more of a concern.

"We can all look in the mirror and know that was a lot of self-inflicted wounds and not the style of play that we want."

Nik Ehlers and Alex Iafallo scored the only goals as Winnipeg fell to 47-18-4, still well in control of top spot in the conference.

The Jets had enough chances to make it closer, but Canucks goalie Kevin Lankinen got the better of them.

At the other end, Connor Hellebuyck had an off night, giving up five goals for the first time since mid-November. Vancouver added a late empty-netter, improving to 32-25-11.

Final shots favoured the Canucks, 22-21.

"We certainly made some early mistakes, gave up a lot more rush opportunities than we ever have, I think, in a game," Jets head coach Scott Arniel said. "And they capitalized."

The Canucks beat Hellebuyck on their second shot of the game, Drew O'Connor cashing in a three-on-two just five minutes in.

Kyle Connor came close to tying it two minutes later, but fired the puck into Lankinen instead of the open half-net he had on a rebound chance.

Vancouver had an even better chance to make it 2-0 when Hellebuyck went behind his net and gave the puck away to Jonathan Lekkerimaki, only to recover just in time to get his stick on Lekkerimaki's backhand wraparound.

Ehlers tied it with some five minutes left in the first, cutting to the middle and beating Lankinen with his patented wrist shot for goal No. 22 on the season.

But Winnipeg gave up two more goals within 90 seconds: Brock Boeser's tip on a Vancouver power play and Nils Hoglander's finish of a rush that was far too easy with just three seconds left in the period.

"A bit of a back-breaker," Arniel called it. "We got caught at times maybe being a little over-aggressive... and they got up the ice in a hurry."

With his third line slumping, Arniel mixed up his bottom six in the second period and it paid dividends right away.

A new-look line – Adam Lowry with wingers Iafallo and Brandon Tanev – created some chaos, Iafallo getting his stick on a loose puck for his 11th goal of the year.

"Have to do something," the coach said. "Sometimes you just want to get a spark."

Vancouver regained its two-goal lead on a soft one, Hellebuyck stopping a routine shot from the point but leaving the puck loose at his knees, allowing Boeser to poke it home for his second of the night.

The Canucks' Pius Suter stunned the Jets again less than a minute later, taking advantage of DeMelo's own-zone giveaway and some loose coverage in front to make it 5-2.

Not even back-to-back, late-period power plays, including a two-man advantage for 17 seconds, could give Winnipeg some life going into the third.

"We knew they were going to come blazing," Iafallo said. "So we weren't ready in some situations. We're going to get every team's best from here on out. We have to be ready for that."

The Jets got a bit of a scare in that middle period when DeMelo lost his balance while delivering a hit and crashed face-first into the boards.

On the ice for a couple of minutes, DeMelo finally made his way to the bench and back onto the ice for his next shift.

“The boys were saying it looked as bad as it probably felt,” he said. “I just had the whole self neck adjustment. I felt fine outside of being pretty sore in the neck.”

The Jets’ task won’t get an easier on Thursday when they finish their three-game trip in Edmonton.

The Oilers are on a three-game run after throttling Utah, 7-1, on Tuesday.

Vancouver Province

<https://vancouver.sun.com/sports/hockey/nhl/vancouver-canucks/jets-vs-canucks-brock-boeser-ends-scoring-slump>

Canucks 6, Jets 2: Brock Boeser finds the passion — and the net — to end scoring slump

By Ben Kuzma

Brock Boeser finally found his mojo and it couldn’t have come at a better time.

The struggling Vancouver Canucks right-winger, who spoke passionately Tuesday morning about being hard on himself to find his form and end a 12-game goal drought, did something about it.

Boeser struck for two goals and set up another in a crucial 6-2 victory over the league-leading Winnipeg Jets at Rogers Arena. It proved the winger could deliver and that the Canucks could beat the elite and top-ranked goaltender Connor Hellebuyck.

“He’s pretty big. I’m not a genius with goaltending, but he’s really good positionally and makes those saves and is good on rebounds,” Boeser said earlier in the day. “You have to have traffic.”

In an encouraging 88-second span of the opening period, Boeser tipped a Quinn Hughes power play point shot and then enthusiastically punched the air in celebration.

“It was more relief,” said Boeser. “It’s a building block.”

He then raced down the right wing, and finished off a give-and-go with Elias Pettersson by feeding Nils Hoglander at the net to provide a 3-1 lead. But he wasn’t done.

Boeser hustled at the endboards in the second period and fed the puck to the point. He then got to the net and jammed home a rebound to put the Canucks up 4-2.

"It felt really good," said Boeser, who has hit the 20-goal mark. "I haven't been much of a help to our team lately and I want to be a difference-maker in these games and help us win and push for that playoff spot. Any time I made a play, I was trying to get to the net.

"I thought our line was really connected and working hard to keep pucks in the offensive zone. It's a huge win and should give us lots of confidence to show we can beat anybody on any given night, if we focus on the details and play to our structure.

"And now we have to build off it."

It was quite the response from Boeser after a lot of soul searching.

"I just want to get back to my game," Boeser said after the morning skate. "Obviously, it's been a tough stretch and I've been really hard on myself and I've been getting frustrated too easily. You can see it on the ice. I can't have that happen.

"When I have a positive attitude and better mindset, I can get back to my game. All I want so bad is to produce and win games."

The win kept the Canucks in step with contenders for the final Western Conference wild-card position. With the Calgary Flames and St. Louis Blues also winning Tuesday, the Canucks and Blues have 75 points apiece, but the Canucks have played one less game and get the spot. The Flames have 73 points.

"It means a lot," Hughes said of the win. "Really invested and everybody brought their 'A' game. Happy to see Brock get on the board and we need him to be at his best. He's one of my closest friends and somebody I can lean on."

Canucks head coach Rick Tocchet liked the start and the manner in which the Canucks played composed in the third period to prevent the Jets from closing the gap.

"When a great team like that put pressure on us, we made plays and that was encouraging," he said. "We don't want to throw pucks away and give chances. We kept with it and those are the goals you want to see Brock score. He's one of the best tippers and gets a lot of goals in front of the net.

"He had a lot of energy and was really dialed in. Good for him. I'm proud of him."

Here's what else we learned as Drew Connor, Nils Hoglander and Pius Suter, with a pair, also scored for the Canucks, while Nikolaj Ehlers and Alex Iafallo replied for the Jets:

A fast start, a super Suter
Sometimes, it's good to have a bad memory.

Kyle Connor struck for a natural hat trick in a span of 6:38 of the opening period on Jan. 14 in Winnipeg. It powered a 6-1 thrashing of the Canucks and they vowed to make middle of the ice a no-go zone on Tuesday.

It started with the deployment of Suter between Jake DeBrusk and Kiefer Sherwood to keep the Jets' top line of Mark Scheifele, Gabriel Vilardi and Connor, who have combined for 98 goals, from striking early.

It led to O'Connor taking a cross-ice feed from Hughes and ripping a shot past Hellebuyck on the short side to open scoring. Kevin Lankinen then made a smart post-to-post move to deny Connor from a sharp angle.

A Hellebuyck adventure then nearly gave the Canucks a two-goal cushion.

The reigning Vezina Trophy winner and favourite to repeat by leading all statistical categories decided to play a puck behind his net. However, Jonathan Lekkerimaki was there to pounce on it. The rookie winger nearly scored on a wraparound attempt, but Hellebuyck dove across the crease to get his stick on the puck at the goal line.

Suter keeps proving worth
Like a Swiss Army knife, the versatile forward has many functions.

Suter is on the first pairing for a vastly improved and fifth-ranked penalty kill that's been No. 1 since February and went 2-for-2, including a 5-on-3, against the leagues top power play. He can play the middle or wing, excel in a shutdown role and do more than just score the occasional goal.

Suter scored in the second period by getting to the net and depositing a sweet cross-ice feed from Sherwood to increase the lead to 5-2. It's quite the statement from the unrestricted free agent, who was trade bait at the March 7 deadline.

He then added an empty-net goal to seal the deal for his career-high 20th goal.

"It was a huge confidence boost for us and we've just got to keep that work ethic and we'll be just fine," said Suter. "And when you get that (shutdown) task you want it and they've been scoring a lot and I take a lot of pride in it. And the penalty kill is the same thing. Just try to get through it."

Lankinen wins goalie duel

The unflappable Finn was steady and finished with 19 saves and the only goals to beat him were Ehlers moving into the high slot for a stick-side effort in the first period and Iaffalo jamming home a loose puck in the second frame.