

Winnipeg Free Press

<https://www.winnipegfreepress.com/breakingnews/2025/03/03/no-complacency-on-jets>

No complacency on Jets

'You want to be better than everyone else,' says assistant coach Payne

By: Ken Wiebe

NEW YORK — If you're starting to wonder if the Winnipeg Jets might be lacking motivation for the stretch run, think again.

With 21 games left in the season — including Tuesday's tilt with the New York Islanders — the Jets have no shortage of things to play for.

The Jets, currently tops in the NHL in points (88) and points percentage (.721), want to secure first in the Central Division. There are also benefits to claiming the top seed in the Western Conference and facing the second wild-card team.

Capturing the franchise's first Presidents' Trophy, which goes to the team with the best overall record in the regular season, would be a cherry on top, though it's not essential for a long playoff run.

"Well, I think any time you put the jersey on and throw the sticks out there and someone drops the puck, you want to be better than everybody else," said Jets assistant coach Davis Payne after a well-attended optional skate Monday morning. "At the same time, this group has been focused on a game-to-game basis, so nothing changes for us now."

The closest the Jets have come to first overall was in 2018, when they finished second, three points behind the Nashville Predators after recording a franchise-record 110 points.

Adding to this week's intrigue is Friday's looming NHL trade deadline. The Jets figure to be adding to what is already a well-rounded roster.

Augmenting the defence, specifically the third pairing, appears to be the top priority, though that won't prevent the Jets from pursuing a forward either.

As one of the team's core pieces since he was chosen 17th overall in the 2015 NHL Draft, left-winger Kyle Connor has a strong understanding of what general manager Kevin Cheveldayoff has done when the Jets have been a contender, but realizes that every season — and trade deadline — is different.

"That stuff will take care of itself," Connor said. "If we get someone, if we don't get someone, if we move players, whatever happens I think (there) is a good foundation in this room to be able to adapt."

"Obviously we're in a pretty good position to hopefully add here and make our team better, but you never know."

Jets forward Vladislav Namestnikov has experience when it comes to being a trade-deadline addition, having been involved in five deals, including four at the deadline.

"I haven't really talked to anyone about that, but hockey is a business and stuff happens, moves happen," Namestnikov said. "So, it's part of it and it's the way you handle it and kind of just move on, I guess. But yeah, nothing you can do, really."

The Jets are coming off consecutive 2-1 losses, including Saturday night's shootout loss against the Philadelphia Flyers.

It is the time of the season when games get tighter and goals are tougher to come by, so it's no surprise that six of the past eight outings were decided by one goal.

"You see it every year. Play only elevates and gets tougher and the space out there gets less and less and guys tighten up and the games become so much more magnified every single shift," said Connor. "But it's no excuse, though. It's only going to get harder."

Connor and others are openly talking about the importance of pushing through the challenges and building toward the Stanley Cup playoffs, recognizing some of the lessons learned during the 82-game regular season can be applied when Game 1 of the playoffs arrives and the stakes are higher.

This week's four-game swing features the Islanders and Flyers battling to stay in the race for the second wild-card berth in the Eastern Conference, and the New Jersey Devils and Carolina Hurricanes jockeying for position in the Metropolitan Division.

The Islanders and Flyers have players who are generating interest on the trade market, if those teams decide to move assets, and the Jets are believed to be one of the teams trying to see if there's a fit for either a forward or a defenceman.

In the meantime, the Jets are looking to generate a little more offence this week. Despite still being highest-scoring team in the NHL, goals have been hard to come by the last two games.

"This team has shown throughout the course of the year that we can score, and we can score in different types of ways. From top to bottom, power play, scoring off the rush, in zone," said Connor. "So I don't think we've been one-dimensional in any way. I just think that it could just be a stretch that we're going through, that you kind of see it throughout the year, and I can't remember a time throughout this year that we've had something like this, this many games in a row with this many quality chances."

"You have to stay positive. You have to take the strengths of what you've done. We're generating a lot, so build on that and keep learning and moving on."

<https://www.winnipegfreepress.com/breakingnews/2025/03/03/power-play-goals-hard-to-come-by>

***Power-play goals hard to come by
Jets' league-leading unit 0-16 in last six games***

By: Mike McIntyre

The Winnipeg Jets may still be leading the NHL in power-play efficiency, but it's fair to say consumer confidence is sagging when it comes to what assistant coach Davis Payne had hoped would be a "recession-proof" unit.

Score a 5-on-4 goal? Apparently not in this current economic climate.

The Jets are stuck in a 0-for-16 rut that spans their last six games. You have to go back to Neal Pionk's second-period blast against the Carolina Hurricanes on Feb. 4 — that's now a full calendar month — to find the last time Winnipeg punished an opponent for its on-ice sins.

Naturally, the recent trend was a hot topic on Monday as Payne, the architect of the power play, spoke with media following his team's optional practice.

"We look at it as part of a process on how we're operating. There's a lot of different things that start with fundamental keys for us," Payne explained.

"Do we have the right mindset going out there? And, if so, what is the level of execution? Teams kill differently in certain situations, so we have to be ready for that and have our adjustments ready to go. At the same time, even when the puck was going in the net, there were parts of the process that aren't where they need to be."

Those warning signs have manifested themselves in the five games since the 15-day 4 Nations Face-Off break, which Payne doesn't believe played a role in bringing momentum to a screeching halt. It's clear the puck and player movement haven't been as crisp.

"A lot of teams have come out of it and done well, and other teams it's different pieces of their game, not just the power play, that are sort of misfiring," he said. "That's the challenge this time of year, because it's tough hockey out there."

Funny enough, Payne didn't like how the PP looked in wins last week over St. Louis (0-for-2), San Jose (0-for-2) and Ottawa (0-for-4 including two minutes of 5-on-3) last week but was encouraged by what he saw in the losses against Nashville (0-for-4 including 1:54 of 5-on-3) and Philadelphia (0-for-2) that have since followed.

"We can work with what we've seen the last two," he said.

"It's baseball season, so are we having good at bats? The last two games we've had good at bats. We've hit the ball at their defence. They've made the plays and they've got outs. Next time we'll hit it to the open grass if you will. Or over the fence."

The Jets will step back up to the plate on Tuesday night as they open a four-game road trip by facing the New York Islanders, who got this downward slide started back on Feb. 7 when they

went two-for-two on the penalty kill during their visit to Winnipeg in the last game before the break.

"I never put a lot of stock in puck luck," Payne said of the suggestion the Jets just aren't getting the bounces. Rather, it's more about failing to make adjustments.

"Teams are trying to take away our strengths just as we try to take away their strengths," he said.

"If their goaltender makes some saves, or if the puck doesn't go in, it's about how it looks, how we're operating and all the detail pieces that we focus on. Sometimes it's going in, sometimes it's not. Had they gone in we don't have the conversation (publicly), but at the same time we're having conversations about details, fundamentals and mindset."

The Jets have scored one goal in each of their last two games, so a timely power-play strike or two could have extended a franchise-best 11-game winning streak into something even bigger.

Winnipeg is still clicking at 30.5 per cent on the power play this year, while the Detroit Red Wings sit second-overall at 29.6 per cent. The Jets are also the third highest-scoring team in the NHL averaging 3.49 goals-per-game, trailing only the Washington Capitals and Tampa Bay Lightning in that category.

In other words, nobody will be reaching for the panic button any time soon.

"Play only elevates and gets tougher and the space out there gets less and less and guys tighten up and the games become so much more magnified every single shift," said Jets sniper Kyle Connor, who believes the lessons his group is learning along the way will prove valuable.

"It's only going to get harder. This is what it is right now. What's it going to be like Game 1 of the playoffs? We've got to build ourselves for that and that's what we keep reminding ourselves. And if we ever get into this stretch of a period or two, we can look back and, 'Hey, this is how we got out of it. We put pucks to the net, we kept it simple, we stayed positive, we leaned on each other and we got through something like this.'"

Winnipeg Sun

<https://winnipeg.sun.com/sports/hockey/nhl/winnipeg-jets/in-chevy-we-trust-jets-hit-road-unsure-of-trade-winds-blowing>

In Chevy we trust: Jets hit road unsure of trade winds blowing

By Paul Friesen

Winnipeg Jets winger Kyle Connor is usually a straight shooter, on and off the ice.

When it comes to Friday's trade deadline and what his GM might do, he's a little more reluctant to wind up and fire.

After all, if he says he expects Kevin Cheveldayoff to pull the trigger on a trade or two, and Cheveldayoff doesn't, someone may conclude he's dissatisfied.

So Connor spent a little time stickhandling on Monday.

"If we get someone, if we don't get someone, if we move players, whatever happens this is a good foundation in this room to be able to adapt," he said. "Obviously we're in a pretty good position to hopefully add here and make our team better. But you never know. Maybe it's something that we don't want to tweak. I don't want to put words out there. I don't know."

"But obviously we trust Chevy and he's going to do the best job he can to make this team a Stanley Cup champion."

Given Cheveldayoff's history, the Jets will probably look a little different when they get back from a four-game road trip that starts on Long Island on Tuesday and ends in Carolina on Sunday.

Whether it's adding top-six forwards or just making his team deeper, he usually does something when his team has a good shot at making some noise in the playoffs.

"I could see how you say that," Connor said. "I just think the team that we've had and obviously the run that we've had, we've showed you want to make the most of every single chance that you can get. I don't know what that looks like. I don't want to assume."

Last year, Cheveldayoff traded for forward Tyler Toffoli and defenceman Colin Miller on deadline day, after picking up centre Sean Monahan a month earlier.

Two years ago it was Vlad Namestnikov on the final day, Nino Niederreiter earlier.

Namestnikov knows a thing or two about the deadline: he's been traded six times in his career, five of them in February or March.

He can relax a little more this week, having just signed a contract extension.

"I'm just glad we got something worked out and I'm happy to be in Winnipeg," he said. "I haven't really talked to anyone about that, but hockey is a business and stuff happens, moves happen."

Those moves are meant to push a team over the top.

Cheveldayoff's moves the last two years have led to first-round playoff exits.

Predicting his next one isn't something assistant coach Davis Payne was willing to tackle.

He's too busy trying to get the struggling power play back on track. It hasn't scored a single goal since the 4 Nations tournament break, going 0-for-14.

"Last five games I would give you two average, probably maybe a little below, one not good, and we can work with what we've seen the last two," is how Payne put it. "Sometimes it's going in, sometimes it's not. Had they gone in we don't have the conversation. But at the same time we're having conversations about details, fundamentals and mindset."

Payne still runs the top power play in the NHL, but not by much. Detroit is a percentage point behind.

He's not blaming puck luck, either, preferring a baseball analogy.

"I never put a lot of stock in the puck luck," Payne said. "It's baseball season, so are we having good at bats? The last two games we've had good at bats. We've hit the ball at their defence. They've made the plays and they've got outs. Next time we'll hit it to the open grass, if you will.

"Or over the fence."

You could use the same analogy for Cheveldayoff stepping up to the plate for the trade deadline.

Does he connect for a single? Hit a home run?

"It's not even as easy as predicting the weather," Payne said. "So I don't try."

<https://winnipeg.sun.com/sports/curse-be-damned-top-spot-would-add-juice-to-jets-playoff-run>

Curse be damned: Top spot would add juice to Jets playoff run

By Paul Friesen

It could be the most overlooked trophy the NHL hands out. Some even wonder if it comes with a curse.

If the Winnipeg Jets hang onto first place overall — they had a four-point lead on Washington going into the week — they'll win the Presidents' Trophy.

Big deal?

Depends on whom you ask.

Jets winger Kyle Connor figures it'd be a "pretty cool" achievement.

"It's obviously tough to do in this league," Connor said on Monday. "There's no off nights. And we take pride in every two points that we can pick up as a team. Obviously we haven't done anything yet, but to be at this point ... the chance to be able to get that, secure that spot — we know what home ice means for us."

The team that finishes on top of the standings gets home-ice advantage through every round of the playoffs. Of course, they have to go deep to fully reap those rewards.

"We love playing in front of these fans and I think we can all agree that it just adds an extra element," Connor said. "These guys in the playoffs, it's just a whole other level, and I'm sure it's intimidating and tough for the teams coming in. We feed off that energy. So to be able to capture that throughout the whole playoffs, if you're in the Stanley Cup Final you have that home ice, it could make a difference."

The problem is it just as often doesn't.

Just eight of the 38 Presidents' Trophy winners have won the Stanley Cup. An equal number have been knocked out in the first round.

The last team to win both is Chicago, 12 years ago. Hence, the theory of “the curse.”

“If you win the Presidents’ Trophy, it doesn’t really mean much,” Jets forward Vlad Namestnikov said.

In the next breath, Namestnikov acknowledged it’s a nod to all the hard work that goes into finishing on top.

The Jets have been flirting with first place all season. Landing there would be a team first.

They’ve never even finished on top of their division, although they did finish second in the Western Conference in 2017-18, behind division-rival Nashville.

“Any time you put the jersey on and throw the sticks out there and someone drops the puck, you want to be better than everybody else,” assistant coach David Payne said. “So if that’s what happens, that’s what happens.”

It doesn’t sound like it would change anything down the stretch, though.

Whether they’re within reach of the Presidents’ Trophy or not, the Jets will probably do what they need to do, and rest the people they need to rest to be best prepared for Game 1 of the playoffs — not because of an unfounded superstition.

“I don’t know what the stats are,” Connor said. “But we’re not dropping Game 81 and 82 because there’s a curse.”

Get used to it

Six of the Jets’ last eight games have been decided by a single goal, something they don’t expect will change as teams tighten up down the stretch.

“You see it every year,” Connor said. “Play only elevates and gets tougher and the space out there gets less and less ... you see that teams are pushing for their lives right now, on the bubble, and so are we. We’re pushing. We want to be the best team we can and collect as many points as we can and secure that first spot in the West.”

The Jets have an eight-point cushion on second-place Dallas in the conference.

While their next five games are against the East, they still have 10 against Western Conference teams that were either in a playoff position or within two points of one going into the week.

“It’s only going to get harder,” Connor said. “This is what it is right now. What’s it going to be like Game 1 of the playoffs? We’ve got to build ourselves for that. And that’s what we keep reminding ourselves.”

Sportsnet.ca

<https://www.sportsnet.ca/nhl/article/scouts-analysis-looking-at-picks-prospects-jets-could-offer-in-trade/>

Scout's Analysis: Looking at picks, prospects Jets could offer in trade

By Jason Bukala

The Winnipeg Jets started the year 15-1-0 and haven't looked back since. Their 11-3-1 record, over their last 15-game segment, has included an 11-game winning streak sandwiched between back-to-back losses.

At the beginning of February, I wrote an article outlining the strengths and potential weaknesses on the Jets roster. Winnipeg doesn't have any glaring holes in their lineup, but the two areas that continue to stand out for me are their results in the face-off circle and their success rate on the penalty-kill, so I expect them to try to address those needs before the trade deadline this week.

If the Jets are looking to upgrade their lineup, it will cost them some draft capital and prospects. Here's a look at what Winnipeg has to offer teams in trade:

PROSPECTS

The Jets have some intriguing prospects in their system. It's difficult to imagine anyone being untouchable if the team feels they are acquiring significant upgrades in a middle-six forward or middle/bottom pairing defender, but it would certainly leave a future void if they included any of these names in a deal this week.

Elias Salomonsson, D, 6-foot-2, 185 pounds

Salomonsson is a rookie who is developing in the AHL with the Manitoba Moose. The Jets selected Salomonsson in the second round (55th overall) at the 2022 draft in Montreal. He's being deployed in all situations with the Moose and averaging over 20 minutes per game ice time

Salomonsson is a two-way defenceman and solid skater who possesses secondary offensive upside. He has a quick and accurate release from long range and has produced three goals and 16 assists so far this year. I appreciate his agility when walking the offensive blue line to open up shooting or passing lanes.

He's adjusting to the smaller ice surface in North America, compared to Europe, and providing generally reliable defensive detail. I would like to see him gap up and play more physical at times, or use his long reach to kill more zone entries and contain opponents to the perimeter, but it takes time to develop and he's still very young. Salomonsson doesn't turn 21 until August.

Right shot defencemen are highly coveted assets. I'm positive teams will be inquiring about Salomonsson in trade discussions. He has significant upside and could end up a top four NHL defenceman for several years.

NHL Projection: A potential top four, two-way defenceman who can be used in all situations and provide secondary offence.

Latest list

Brayden Yager, F, 6-foot, 170 pounds

The Jets did well to acquire Yager from the Pittsburgh Penguins in an off-season trade that sent former Jets first-round pick Rutger McGroarty to the Pens. Yager was originally selected 14th overall by Pittsburgh in 2023.

Yager's game has evolved over the course of his four-year career in the WHL. When he first entered the league, I viewed him as more of a shooter than playmaker or play driver. He was named the WHL, and CHL, rookie of the year in 2022 after producing 34 goals and 25 assists. The following year he flipped the script offensively, producing more assists than goals (28 goals, 50 assists) and continues to display a knack for distributing the puck and driving play in transition. So far this year he has contributed 24 goals and 41 assists split between Moose Jaw and Lethbridge.

Yager was the captain of Team Canada at the World Juniors in Ottawa. The tournament didn't produce the result Canadian fans were hoping for but Yager, in my opinion, was one of the more consistent forwards for Canada. He was tasked with matching up against top six forwards and used in a primary penalty-killing role. He chipped in three assists in five games.

I value the trajectory of Yager's overall game. His skating is more powerful than it has ever been and his three-zone commitment is sound. He needs to add more weight and strength for the NHL game and will need a year in the AHL to adjust to the pro game, but I project Yager as a solution to the middle six / second line center position the Jets are searching for.

NHL Projection: A potential top-six forward who can be a shooter and a distributor while playing in all situations.

Brad Lambert, F, 6-foot, 183 pounds

The Jets selected Lambert with the 30th pick of the first round at the 2022 draft. His speed and skill have always stood out amongst his peer group but his development encountered some hurdles in North America. Lambert was challenged to round out his game by the Jets organization and sent to the WHL's Seattle Thunderbirds during his rookie campaign at the AHL level with the Moose. He made the move to full-time center and it has agreed with him. The freedom of having the entire length, and width, of the ice to manoeuvre fits his skill set.

The Moose have had a tough season. They currently sit last in the Central Division with a record of 18-30-1-2. Predictably, Lambert has taken a step back offensively this year compared to last. He produced 21 goals and 34 assists last season but so far this year he has contributed just four goals and 21 assists in 42 AHL games. Lambert has one assist in five NHL games this season.

The good news is Lambert has one goal and five assists in his most recent 10-game segment in the AHL. He's averaging just shy of 17 minutes per game ice time. All of his shifts come at either even strength or on the power-play.

NHL Projection: A potential middle-six forward who could get some time on the power play.

Colby Barlow, F, 6-foot-1, 194 pounds

Winnipeg selected Barlow 18th overall in 2023. He's a power style goal scorer who's currently playing for the Oshawa Generals in the OHL.

Barlow is a player that seemed to physically mature before most of his peer group. He's been a goal scorer at the OHL level since he entered the league. He's contributed 30 goals and 24 assists this season and averages over 21 minutes per game. Barlow is deployed in all situations with the Generals, including on five-on-three penalty-killing. Over the course of his junior career he has posted 146 goals in 222 games played.

Barlow's skating is an area that I have been monitoring closely. He's deceptive in open ice and gets from point A to point B on time. Here's a clip displaying his edge work and explosiveness. Most times the puck ends up in the back of the net when Barlow creates this kind of scoring chance. What impresses me is the fact that he is turning and exploding from his weak side in the sequence. He's worked hard to improve his turns and overall agility.

NHL Projection: A potential middle six goal scorer who has the IQ to be deployed in a variety of roles.

DRAFT CAPITAL

Winnipeg has always strategized building their organization through a "draft and develop" model. They prefer home-grown talent over competing for players via free agency or trying to convince a player to waive his no trade clause to come to Winnipeg. The Jets have worked hard to build a culture on and off the ice in Winnipeg. It's an "all for one and one for all" environment.

Here's a look at Winnipeg's draft board for the next three cycles:

The Jets currently sit atop the NHL standings with a 42-15-4 record. Their 2025 first-round pick could end up being the last pick in the first-round if all goes according to plan this spring. The depth of the upcoming draft class isn't elite. It's solid but not exceptional. If there was ever a time to sacrifice a first-round pick in a trade that assists with improving the small holes on the current roster, it's this year.

<https://www.sportsnet.ca/nhl/article/which-buyers-have-the-most-cap-space-heading-into-the-2025-trade-deadline/>

Which buyers have the most cap space heading into the 2025 trade deadline?

By Sonny Sachdeva

Just a few days remain before the NHL's 2025 trade deadline. And we've seen plenty of business handled by general managers around the league already.

On Saturday, a trio of trades sent a few veteran defenders on to new chapters. Earlier moves saw one of the game's best wingers switch jerseys, and a bona fide contender land a new starting goalie. Even so, a number of marquee names could still find themselves repping different clubs by the end of March 7, and plenty of organizations head toward the deadline with enough cap space to make things interesting.

That in mind, let's take a look at a few buyers who have meaningful cap space to work with as deadline day looms:

Winnipeg Jets

Deadline cap space: \$12.4 million

Flying high as the league's No. 1 club in the lead-up to the deadline, the Jets find themselves in a similar spot as the Capitals — all-in on trying to turn this momentum into a meaningful Cup run, but wary of tinkering with the chemistry of a winning squad. As Friedman pointed out in Monday's episode, even if this is a season in which it seems worth taking a big swing and moving out a first-round pick to land a key piece, there doesn't seem an obvious option that makes sense for these Jets. Even so, reports have GM Kevin Cheveldayoff scanning the market to assess those options, seeking out a worthy big swing.

The more worthwhile approach, without upending too much, might be simply filling more specific holes in the bottom half of the roster, adding players who can address particular needs and serve in particular roles. There's room to add to the blue line in that sense, and to potentially find a depth pivot who could bolster the Jets' lineup down the middle, too.

<https://illegalcurve.com/32-thoughts-trade-deadline-preview-winnipeg-jets/>

32 Thoughts Trade Deadline Preview | Winnipeg Jets **Kyle Bukauskas and Elliotte Friedman talk Jets ahead of Trade Deadline.**

In this edition of 32 Thoughts, Kyle Bukauskas and Elliotte Friedman tap into every team in the NHL and provide a preview of what to expect from each of them ahead of Friday's trade deadline. Starts at 1:25:55 and runs to 1:32:24

Cole's Notes:

- 1) Begins by crediting the job done by Kevin Cheveldayoff and company despite "limitations".
- 2) "I don't know if they look at it (trade deadline) and say 'there's a huge swing available to us'."
- 3) He mentions left-shot defenceman Jamie Oleksiak who has term (one year after this one).
- 4) He mentions left-shot defenceman Mario Ferraro who has term (one year after this one).
- 5) He mentions right-shot defenceman Rasmus Ristolainen who has term (two years after this one).
- 6) Jets simply want to plug holes.
- 7) "If they don't get the biggest name it's not for lack of trying"

Yahoo Sports

<https://ca.sports.yahoo.com/news/insider-unveils-asking-price-possible-162204461.html>

Insider Unveils Asking Price For Possible Jets Trade Target

By Julian Gaudio

The Winnipeg Jets have been looking at all possible options to improve their roster. Whether it's depth pieces in their bottom six or a top-six centre, the Jets are monitoring all options. Recently, Montreal Canadiens forward and Jets trade target Jake Evans had his asking price revealed by a trusted insider.

On a recent episode of TSN Insider Trading, Pierre LeBrun revealed the Canadiens' asking price for Evans.

"I don't think they're interested in getting a third-round pick or fourth-round pick for Jake Evans," LeBrun said. "That doesn't move the needle for them. They might as well just keep him and try, and stay in a playoff race... I think the low bar, the threshold, is a second-round pick at worst for Montreal on a Jake Evans deal, so teams have to step up."

The Canadiens believe they are past the beginning stages of a rebuild and want to begin pushing for a playoff spot, as they have for parts of this season. The 28-year-old centre has the qualities of a bottom-six player who could help a team on a long playoff run, and although they would like to keep him on the roster, they have run into issues when discussing a contract extension.

Evans is a pending UFA, and reports have mentioned that Evans and the Canadiens management staff are far off when discussing numbers. Losing Evans for nothing in free agency would be poor asset management, especially in a sellers' market and with a player who is considered a hot commodity.

A second-round pick can be thought of as a high asking price for a player with just 12 goals and 28 points in 60 games, but the versatility he provides boosts his value. He's become one of the most dangerous penalty killers, wins over 52% of his face-offs and is defensively responsible. He's just one goal and point away from tying his career highs and would be doing so in fewer games.

The Athletic

<https://www.nytimes.com/athletic/6170868/2025/03/03/nhl-trade-deadline-insider/>

What we're hearing about every NHL team heading into deadline week

By Chris Johnston and Pierre LeBrun

The Athletic has live coverage of the 2025 NHL trade deadline.

General managers are talking with some urgency.

Front offices are sizing up potential fits.

There seems to be a genuine desire to get down to business.

But in a season where more than two-thirds of teams are still legitimately in playoff contention, the floodgates have yet to open.

With Friday's 3 p.m. ET deadline now coming into view, here's what we're hearing about the approach being taken by each of the league's 32 teams.

Winnipeg Jets

Kevin Cheveldayoff is involved in all kinds of different trade conversations, but the veteran GM isn't expected to take a jackhammer to a roster that's racked up the NHL's best points percentage and an eye-popping plus-71 goal differential. The situation is similar to the one in Washington. Among the items on Cheveldayoff's shopping list are a depth defenseman and a bottom-six forward who has the ability to jump into the top six for a spell should an injury necessitate it. As a result, the Jets are among the teams calling on Jake Evans, Joel Armia, Ryan Donato and others.