

**Winnipegjets.com**

<https://www.nhl.com/jets/news/three-things-jets-open-road-trip-with-loss-to-isles>

***Three things - Jets open road trip with loss to Isles  
Winnipeg scores twice on power play but fall 3-2 to the Islanders***

By Jamie Thomas

The Winnipeg Jets winless streak is now at three games after a 3-2 loss to the New York Islanders at UBS Arena. Josh Morrissey and Nikolaj Ehlers scored for Winnipeg who are now 42-16-4 and saw their lead in the Central Division drop to six points as the Dallas Stars won tonight. Connor Hellebuyck made 26 saves and saw his nine-game point run come to an end. Winnipeg will now head to Philadelphia to face the Flyers on Thursday.

***DROUGHT IS OVER***

The Jets power play has been under the spotlight as of coming into the night 0-16 with the man advantage in the last six games. Assistant coach Davis Payne had this to say about his group:

"Last five games I would give you two average, probably maybe a little below," said Payne on Monday.

"One not good, and two we can work with what we've seen the last two."

They had one power play in the first period tonight and were moving the puck well and finally in the second period, down 2-0, Josh Morrissey ended the drought.

Winnipeg was down two goals again in the third period, when they got another power play and Nikolaj Ehlers did some nice work in tight beating Ilya Sorokin to make it 3-2.

***EFFORT THERE, GOALS ARE NOT, YET***

For the fourth time in their last five games, the Jets scored two goals or less and are 1-2-1 in those four contests. Winnipeg had 73 shot attempts Saturday against the Flyers and 75 more against the Islanders this evening.

"We're in the funk right now when it comes to scoring goals. And, you know, teams go through these. You look around the league, a lot's happened in different spots," said Scott Arniel.

"And just got to stay with it. For us, it's making sure that we're defending well. We got to win these games 1-0, we'll have to work to do that. But at the end of the day, I like that effort.

***SCHEIFELE JOINS WHEELER AND KOVALCHUK***

Scheifele assisted on Josh Morrissey's second period power play goal and became the third player in franchise history with 200 career power-play points, joining Ilya Kovalchuk (243) and Blake Wheeler (239).

**NHL.com**

<https://www.nhl.com/news/winnipeg-jets-new-york-islanders-game-recap-march-4>

***Nelson, Islanders send Jets to 3rd straight loss  
Forward has goal, assist; Sorokin makes 26 saves in win***

By Stefen Rosner

ELMONT, N.Y. -- Brock Nelson had a goal and an assist, and the New York Islanders defeated the Winnipeg Jets 3-2 at UBS Arena on Tuesday.

Kyle Palmieri and Ryan Pulock also scored, and Ilya Sorokin made 26 saves for the Islanders (28-26-7), who had lost five of their previous seven games, including 4-0 at the New York Rangers on Monday.

"It was a great team effort," Islanders coach Patrick Roy said. "Even in our meeting, before the game, I could tell that the guys were ready for that game. We knew we were playing against a very good hockey club, and we had to come up with a solid team effort. And that's exactly what we got."

Although the Islanders are only three points behind the Rangers for the second wild card into the Stanley Cup Playoffs from the Eastern Conference, there has been speculation regarding the futures of Nelson and Palmieri with the NHL Trade Deadline approaching (Friday at 3 p.m. ET). Each forward is in the final season of his contract.

"I've had conversations with (general manager) Lou [Lamoriello] and I've been honest," Nelson said. "I really, truly, have been worried about here and playing and doing everything we can to win."

Josh Morrissey had a goal and an assist, and Kyle Connor had two assists for the Jets (42-16-4), who have lost three in a row (0-2-1), scoring a combined four goals. Connor Hellebuyck made 26 saves.

"We had a fantastic first period," Winnipeg coach Scott Arniel said. "We had a puck battle on the penalty kill, and gave up the weak-side ice and they obviously made a real nice play on [the first goal]."

"I really liked our first. I liked a lot of our game. I thought the whole game, our pace and our pressure was back to what it was when it's at its best. I thought that that's a lot of what we did tonight. And we're in the funk right now when it comes to scoring goals. And teams go through these. ... And you've just got to stay with it."

Palmieri gave New York a 1-0 lead on the power play at 16:49 of the first period. He scored with a one-timer from low in the left face-off circle off of Nelson's cross-ice pass.

Nelson extended the lead to 2-0 at 1:33 of the second period, tapping the puck in at the right post to finish a give-and-go with Maxim Tsyplakov on a 2-on-1.

Morrissey pulled the Jets within 2-1 with a power-play goal at 8:48. His shot from the point deflected in off the skate of Islanders forward Simon Holmstrom in the slot.

"We're having a little bit of a hard time putting the puck in the net right now, and that hasn't been an issue all year," Morrissey said. "So, I'm not worried about that. The goals are going to start coming. But the effort, the execution, the compete I thought was there a lot more frequently tonight and we'll have to build on that on the rest of this road trip."

Pulock gave the Islanders a 3-1 lead at 4:03 of the third period. His shot from the right point deflected off the stick of Jets forward Alex Iafallo and then Winnipeg forward Rasmus Kupari's left skate before trickling in past Hellebuyck's right pad.

"I thought we battled all year," Pulock said. "We've been through some stuff throughout the year with different injuries and different things. Obviously we're not in a position in the standings where we want to be. But I think the belief is in this locker room that we can still get on a roll here and find ourselves in the playoffs. If we can get healthy and get into the playoffs, I love our team. I love going up against anyone."

Nikolaj Ehlers' power-play goal cut it to 3-2 at 12:51. He took a pass from Connor to the left of Sorokin, turned to the front of the net and shot from the top of the crease to the blocker side.

Kupari left the game at 8:58 of the third after getting tangled up with Hudson Fasching in the neutral zone and crashing into the boards.

"We'll wait and see," Arniel said. "Obviously, he banged his head there, so we'll just wait and see what [happens] tomorrow."

"I think it's his head. I really haven't found out yet."

**NOTES:** Jets defenseman Dylan Samberg missed the game due to a family matter but will meet the team for the second of its four-game road trip, at the Philadelphia Flyers on Thursday. ... Nelson became the ninth player in Islanders history to score 20 or more goals in nine seasons. He also passed Bobby Nystrom for the fourth-most games played with New York (901). ... Palmieri reached 20 goals for the second straight season and seventh time in his NHL career.

### **Associated Press**

<https://www.sportsnet.ca/nhl/article/jets-fall-to-islanders-for-third-straight-loss/>

### ***Jets fall to Islanders for third straight loss***

By Associated Press

NEW YORK — Brock Nelson had a goal and an assist and the New York Islanders took down the NHL-leading Winnipeg Jets 3-2 on Tuesday night.

Kyle Palmieri and Ryan Pulock also scored, and Ilya Sorokin finished with 27 saves for New York in its final game before the National Hockey League trade deadline and a three-game West Coast road trip.

Josh Morrissey and Nikolaj Ehlers scored for Winnipeg. Connor Hellebuyck made 26 saves, but the Jets dropped their third straight.

Palmieri and Nelson each scored their 20th of the season to give New York a two-goal advantage.

Morrissey scored on the power play to pull Winnipeg within a goal but Pulock and the Islanders re-established a two-goal advantage at 4:03 of the final frame.

Anthony Duclair returned to the Islanders lineup after being a healthy scratch Monday against the New York Rangers.

#### **TAKEAWAYS**

Jets: All three losses during this stretch have come against teams outside the playoff conversation.

Islanders: Palmieri and Nelson each scored in what could be their final game with the Islanders this season. Both players are on expiring contracts and could be moved at the trade deadline on Friday.

#### **KEY MOMENT**

Captains Anders Lee and Adam Lowry attempted to inspire their respective teams by dropping the gloves in the first period.

#### **KEY STAT**

Nelson has nine 20-goal seasons with the Islanders, making him the seventh player in franchise history to accomplish that feat, joining Bryan Trottier (13), Brent Sutter (10), Mike Bossy (10), John Tavares (9), Denis Potvin (9) and teammate Lee (9).

#### **UP NEXT**

Jets: Visit the Philadelphia Flyers on Thursday.

Islanders: Visit the San Jose Sharks on Saturday.

#### **Sportsnet.ca**

<https://www.sportsnet.ca/nhl/article/third-straight-loss-reinforces-jets-trade-deadline-needs/>

#### ***Third straight loss reinforces Jets' trade deadline needs***

By Jacob Stoller

Three days before the NHL trade deadline, Kevin Cheveldayoff's shopping list got a few more red circles after Tuesday's game.

The 3-2 loss to the New York Islanders, on its own, isn't changing the Winnipeg Jets GM's checklist. But that game, marking the Jets' third straight loss, sure reinforced what Winnipeg needs to solidify itself as a legitimate Stanley Cup contender.

By now, we all know what that is.

It starts with the glaring hole on the depth chart, sandwiched between Nikolaj Ehlers and Cole Perfetti. This team needs a bona fide second-line centre, preferably one with size.

Enter Brock Nelson, the crown jewel ahead of Friday's deadline.

Nelson — who registered a goal and assist to give the Islanders a 2-0 lead — is the prototype of what Winnipeg needs. The six-foot-four centre has a knack for creating offence from the middle of the slot, something Vladislav Namestnikov struggles to do. As much zone time as the second line had against the Isles, a lot of the plays were made along the perimeter — while New York deserves credit for keeping it to the outside, Winnipeg's six-foot second-line centre played a part in that, too.

Jets coach Scott Arniel often reflects on regular-season games through the lens of what they mean for the playoffs. And once the post-season gets underway, that net-front real estate is all the more coveted. Over the last three years, Nelson has generated 9.91 five-on-five scoring chances per 60 minutes — which places him in the 94th percentile among forwards. In that same span, Namestnikov clocks in at the 42nd percentile (6.78).

Now, as much as Winnipeg's need for a top-six centre comes up in barstool chats, so too does the team's lack of defensive depth.

Usually, it's in the vein of bolstering the team's top four — with a right-shot defenceman to go alongside Josh Morrissey. But even if the Jets can find that, Cheveldayoff should be in the hunt for a bottom-pairing defenceman, and Tuesday was a perfect example of why. With Dylan Samberg missing due to a family matter, Winnipeg promoted Logan Stanley to the second pair alongside Neal Pionk.

In 16:28 of five-on-five ice-time, that pairing posted a 25.7 per cent expected goals-for percentage — quite the drop-off from the Samberg-Pionk pairing (56.2 per cent). If one of the Jets' top-four defencemen misses time in the playoffs — which has happened in each of the last two years (Brenden Dillon missed two games last year, Josh Morrissey missed two games back in 2022-23) — you can't have Stanley as the next man up.

Further down Cheveldayoff's grocery list — past the meat and potatoes — is the salt: faceoff help.

Trailing 3-2 with 1:21 left in regulation, fresh off a timeout, Mark Scheifele lost a crucial offensive-zone faceoff to Nelson. It resulted in the Islanders pinning the puck up against the wall and shaving about 10 seconds off the clock before Winnipeg could set up.

Now, this may seem nitpicky — the Jets did win 50.9 per cent of the draws in a game where they went toe-to-toe with the NHL's best faceoff team — but situational faceoffs aren't Winnipeg's strong suit. Take the penalty kill as an example. Winnipeg finished the night 1-for-3 on penalty-kill draws — an area it ranks 28th in the league (42 per cent). Winnipeg's penalty kill has improved recently, but for it to become an asset, it's got to get better in the faceoff circle.

As much as Nelson is the gold standard for what the Jets need, a player like Jean-Gabriel Pageau also fits the bill as a depth addition. Sporting a 59.6 per cent faceoff-win percentage in all situations, Pageau is especially efficient on the penalty kill — where he's won 61 per cent of his faceoffs. Winnipeg's penalty kill could become above average with an ace in the dot.

Perhaps this game against the Islanders will prompt Cheveldayoff to start his shopping before Friday.

*Stoller Says*

- The Jets have scored just four goals over their last three games — an uncharacteristic lull for the NHL's third-best offence (3.47 goals per game).

"You know, I think there's part of it where it's executions, and there's parts of it where maybe some fatigue in the Nashville game, and Philly, I just think there were areas in decision-making as opposed to execution that weren't very good," Jets captain Adam Lowry told reporters post-game. "And then tonight, I thought the effort, the compete, the decision-making, the directness was there. It was just a couple plays where the puck rolled off the end of our sticks, a couple plays we missed chances."

- Lowry has been shot out of a cannon since returning to the lineup on Feb 22. The Jets captain may be scoreless over the last six games, but he's won 54 per cent of his draws and posted team highs in hits (14), drawn penalties (five) and fights (two). His second tilt came against Isles captain Anders Lee, a few shifts after Lowry was looking for blood following Alexander Romanov's bone-crushing (clean) hit on Mason Appleton.

"It was one of those ones where I thought we were having a good first, kind of wanted to set the tone early," Lowry told reporters. "I don't love the hit. There's nothing wrong with the hit, either. It's a clean, hard hit, but you want to stand up for your teammates. That's what I felt like I was doing."

- Rasmus Kupari left the game after an awkward collision midway through the third period. At first glance, it looked like his leg got tangled up — which it did — but upon further review, it's clear his head also hit the boards.

"I think it's his head. I really haven't found out yet," Arniel told reporters after the game.

The Jets are off Wednesday, so we won't have an update until Thursday's morning skate.

- Judging by how emotional Nelson was in a rinkside interview post-game, there's little doubt he'll be moved by Friday. While it'd sting to swing and miss on him, it would add salt to the wound if a divisional foe — Dallas, Colorado, Minnesota — picks him up. He's a handful to match up against in the playoffs.

## **Global Winnipeg**

<https://globalnews.ca/news/11066337/winnipeg-jets-drop-third-straight-game-falling-to-the-islanders-3-2/>

### ***Winnipeg Jets drop third straight game, falling to the Islanders 3-2***

By Christian Aumell & Russ Hobson Global News

There's just something about the New York Islanders that the Winnipeg Jets struggle with.

The Jets fell again to the Isles 3-2 Tuesday night on Long Island, their fifth straight road loss to New York and ninth in their last eleven meetings overall.

The Jets never had a lead as they suffered their third straight defeat to start the four-game road trip.

"I thought we were right there," said Jets captain Adam Lowry. "Had a lot of chances, liked the compete. It's just one of those ones, they played well, they were desperate."

"Watch the tape tomorrow and get ready for the Flyers."

Josh Morrissey and Nikolaj Ehlers scored for Winnipeg in the loss.

Both of the Jets goals came on the man advantage as they ended an 0-for-19 power play drought, but with no goals at even strength, their goal scoring woes continued as they've only notched four markers during their current losing skid.

"We're having a little bit of a hard time putting the puck in the net right now," said Jets defenceman Josh Morrissey. "That hasn't been an issue all year, so I'm not worried about that. The goals are going to start coming, but the effort, the execution, compete, I thought was there a lot more frequently tonight and we'll have to build on that on the rest of this roadie."

Winnipeg was badly outshooting the Islanders in the early going with a 10-3 advantage in shots on goal, but the Isles recorded the final 14 straight shots of the opening period. The Jets outshot the Isles in the middle frame and the shots finished 29-28 in favour of New York.

"I liked a lot of our game," said Jets head coach Scott Arniel. "I thought the whole game our pace and our pressure is back to when it's at it's best. I thought that's a lot of what we did tonight and we're in a funk right now when it comes to scoring goals. And teams go through these."

"Just got to stay with it."

It's the first time in two months that the Jets have gone three straight games without a win.

Jets forward Rasmus Kupari left the game in the third period after taking an awkward looking tumble, hitting his head into the boards.

"We'll wait and see," Arniel said. "Obviously banged his head there, so we'll just wait and see when we get to tomorrow."

The Jets played without defenceman Dylan Samberg who missed the game due to family issues. Haydn Fleury dressed instead.

Winnipeg looked to be the better team out of the gate. They also had the game's first power play and while they did not convert, it was a solid effort by the Jets who began the night mired in a season-long drought when it came to power play success.

However, over the final 8:32 of the period, New York outshot the Jets by a whopping margin of 14-0, leading to the game's opening goal.

With the Jets shorthanded, the Islanders won a puck battle along the boards, resulting in a couple of penalty killers having to chase the play. The puck went across the ice to Brock Nelson, who sent it back across the ice to a wide-open Kyle Palmieri for a one-timer that Connor Hellebuyck had no chance of stopping.

New York carried that lead into the second and doubled it on the first shot of the period. A breakdown in the neutral zone allowed Nelson to skate the puck deep into Winnipeg's end all while Maxim Tsyplovskiy skated towards the net unchecked. The two Islanders executed a perfect give-and-go that resulted in a Nelson tap-in that made it 2-0 just 1:33 into the middle frame.

Winnipeg got on the board at the 8:48 mark as their lagging power play finally caught a break. A Morrissey point shot banked off the skate of Simon Holmstrom and past Ilya Sorokin, snapping an 0-for-19 stretch for the Jets' power play.

The Jets were the better team for most of the second, outshooting the Islanders 13-7 in the period but New York remained in front 2-1 after 40 minutes.

They regained their two-goal lead just over four minutes into the third. Logan Stanley gave the puck away below his goal line and the Islanders cycled it back to the point where Dauphin native Ryan Pulock blasted a knuckler that skimmed along the ice, off the skate of Kupari and into the net to make it 3-1.

Winnipeg earned their third power play of the night with 8:37 remaining and they made good on the opportunity to make it a one-goal game. The Islanders won the first face-off after the penalty and cleared the puck but after Winnipeg regained the zone, they kept the puck in for almost 90 seconds before Ehlers found the back of the net.

Kyle Connor sent the puck down low for Ehlers, who started the play with his back to the net but quickly swung around to his forehand and beat Sorokin to the blocker-side, making it a one-goal game with 7:09 to go.

Hellebuyck went to the bench for an extra attacker with 1:34 on the clock but the Isles survived a late flurry from the Jets to get a much-needed win as they look to stick around in the Eastern Conference playoff race.

Hellebuyck stopped 26 shots in defeat, while Sorokin made 27 saves for the victory.

Winnipeg will look to snap their three-game winless skid when they visit the Flyers on Thursday. Pregame coverage on 680 CJOB begins at 4 p.m. with the puck dropping just after 6 p.m.

<https://globalnews.ca/news/11066792/analysis-winnipeg-jets-trade-deadline-cheveldayoff/>

### ***ANALYSIS: With trade deadline days away, Jets have interesting options***

By Paul Edmonds CJOB

We are only a few days away from the NHL's trade deadline, one of the most anticipated annual dates in the world of hockey. It's an exciting time for any team involved, especially those that add to their roster — be it a high-priced key piece or even a depth acquisition.

Leading up to Friday at 2 p.m., when the horse-trading ceases, the Winnipeg Jets are expected to be a suitor.

We know this because GM Kevin Cheveldayoff has delivered in this scenario plenty of times in the past, taking big swings to help his team. Some have worked out exceptionally well, like Paul Stastny. Others have not, like Kevin Hayes.



Of course, in the cyclical game of hockey, when you have a first-place team and there are only 20 games to go before the playoffs start, it's expected that moves will be made to shore up areas of perceived deficiency.

Now, the Jets are not your average team when it comes to easily facilitating said moves, even with their standing atop the league, as nearly everyone available has Winnipeg on their no-trade list — a huge hurdle in consummating a deal.

Moreover, from what we can gather, the hard cost of this year's available stock is ambitiously priced, further complicating matters.

But also understand this: with no second-round draft pick available this coming summer, the Jets have little interest in dealing their current first-round pick. And they're also not keen on parting with an asset like Brad Lambert either.

Sure, the argument for that is it could be the cost of doing business, but the counter is that giving up too much might end up being bad for your business long-term.

The NHL trade deadline is just days away — an exciting time, no doubt, with the Jets likely to be involved in something, but when the horse trading concludes on Friday, it just might not be the thoroughbred everyone is expecting to gallop into Winnipeg.

### **Winnipeg Free Press**

<https://www.winnipegfreepress.com/breakingnews/2025/03/04/rejuvenated-power-play-not-enough>

#### ***Rejuvenated power play not enough***

#### ***Jets look for positives as winless streak stretches to three with loss to Islanders***

By: Ken Wiebe

ELMONT, N.Y. — Adam Lowry wasn't trying to paint an inaccurate picture or grasp at straws looking through rose-coloured glasses.

As the captain of the Winnipeg Jets stood in front of reporters following Tuesday's 3-2 loss to the New York Islanders at UBS Arena, he told it like he saw it.

For the fourth time in five games, the Jets were held to two goals or fewer, though it wasn't due to a shortage of dangerous scoring chances generated.

The Jets had a much better start and controlled a good chunk of the play in the first period, building a decisive 10-2 edge in shots on goal before the game momentarily got turned on its head and the Islanders built a 2-0 lead.

Defensively, there were a few breakdowns that led directly to goals — one came shorthanded and another required a bounce off the stick of their own player.

This is not a team that's fallen into bad habits or has abandoned its structure.

The Jets are now winless in three games (0-2-1) and working through what constitutes as a bump in the road for a team that recently rattled off an 11-game winning streak and still sits atop the NHL standings.

“The effort, the compete, the decision-making, the directness was there,” said Lowry. “This one, we look at as a whole and you take some positives. Obviously there’s no moral victories here, but it’s a step in the right direction, it’s a step closer to how we want our game to look.”

Jets head coach Scott Arniel shared the enthusiasm of his captain.

“Our pace and our pressure was back to what it was when it’s at its best,” said Arniel. “We’re in the funk right now when it comes to scoring goals. And teams go through these. You look around the league, a lot’s happened in different spots.

“For us, it’s (about) making sure that we’re defending well. If we’ve got to win these games 1-0 we’ll have to work to do that. But at the end of the day, I like that effort.”

The Jets, who slipped to 42-16-4, are back in action Thursday against the Philadelphia Flyers as they continue a four-game road trip.

Let’s take a closer look at this one:

#### *THE DROUGHT ENDS*

The Jets were encouraged by the puck movement and quality of the scoring chances with the man advantage during the previous two games — despite seeing their drought reach a season-high six games — and the power play finally struck on its second opportunity on Tuesday.

With Anders Lee serving a high-sticking minor, the Jets snapped the puck around before defenceman Josh Morrissey unloaded a slapshot that changed direction off the stick of Islanders forward Simon Holmstrom and fooled goalie Ilya Sorokin.

“Obviously, we were on a bit of a cold streak there,” said Morrissey. “For us just getting back to the details of what’s made us a good unit. For both units, really. The details and the execution. The tendency can be when it’s not going in to over pass and look for the perfect opportunity.

“We attacked their net a bunch of times and you wear them down, keep it in, win battles, puck recovery was great. So, we need to keep that tempo and build off that for the rest of the year.”

The goal was Morrissey’s ninth of the campaign and snapped a zero-for-17 slump with the man-advantage for the Jets, who added a second power-play marker from Nikolaj Ehlers to finish the evening two-for-three.

“Our power play was tremendous because of the fact we shot the puck,” said Arniel. “I’m not talking about just go out and shoot the puck blindly, we set ourselves up to throw pucks in there quickly and like we’ve talked about all year, those rebounds, it creates chaos and it allows us to get into our game.”

#### *THE ABSENCE*

Jets defenceman Dylan Samberg was not available as he dealt with a family matter, which opened the door for Haydn Fleury to return to the lineup for the second time in a month.

Arniel said Samberg was scheduled to meet the team in Philadelphia on Wednesday, so he is expected to be in the lineup on Thursday.

Fleury was used on the third pairing with Colin Miller and had one shot on goal and four shot attempts in just under 14 minutes of ice time.

Samberg is a key on the penalty kill and the Jets gave up a power-play marker that opened the scoring.

With Dylan DeMelo engaged with an Islanders forward along the boards, the Jets got a little aggressive trying to retrieve the puck and it led to a coverage breakdown.

Thanks to some strong puck movement, Brock Nelson found Kyle Palmieri for a one-timer at 16:49 of the first period.

#### *THE KEY PLAY*

Grandview product Ryan Pulock takes advantage of a defensive-zone turnover and blasts a shot through traffic that changes direction off the stick of Alex Lafallo for the game-winner.

#### *THE THREE STARS*

Ilya Sorokin, Islanders, made 26 saves.

Brock Nelson, Islanders, scored a goal and added an assist.

Josh Morrissey, Jets, scored a goal and added an assist in 25:45 of ice time.

#### *THE TARGET?*

Nelson was also involved as the Islanders extended the lead, converting a pass from Maxim Tsyplov just 1:33 into the second period.

It was a milestone night for Nelson as he moved past Islanders legend Bobby Nystrom for fourth place in career games played for the Islanders (901).

Nelson is a player of interest for many contenders looking for a second-line centre and this game provided another example of why he's on the wish list of many general managers.

A pending unrestricted free agent, Nelson could play a similar role as Paul Stastny and Sean Monahan after they were acquired by the Jets at the 2018 and 2023 NHL trade deadlines.

Nelson, who played college hockey at the University of North Dakota and hails from Warroad, Minn., is a smart player that can be used in all situations.

Although he's not a bruising hitter, Nelson is strong on the puck and is both a great distributor and a strong finisher who has been north of 30 goals in each of the three previous seasons — including a career-high 37 in 2021-22.

The fly in the ointment is it's still uncertain if the Islanders are going to sell off their UFAs like Nelson or Palmieri or continue to try to climb up the Eastern Conference standings to try and grab a wild-card berth.

#### *EXTRA, EXTRA*

With just over 11 minutes to go in the third period, Jets centre Rasmus Kupari left the contest after he was on the receiving end of a hit from Islanders forward Hudson Fasching. Kupari's

legs got tangled up as he went into the boards and his head also appeared to make contact with the boards as well.

Jets goalie Connor Hellebuyck made his 47th start of the season and finished with 26 saves.

The Jets healthy scratches were defenceman Ville Heinola and forward David Gustafsson.

<https://www.winnipegfreepress.com/breakingnews/2025/03/04/lessons-learned-from-drought>

### ***Lessons learned from drought***

### ***Scoring slump taught Perfetti to impact game in other ways***

By: Ken Wiebe

ELMONT, N.Y. — The drought was one Cole Perfetti had little interest in enduring as it unfolded, though, now a year later, he acknowledges it provided some vital learning lessons.

At this time last season, the Winnipeg Jets forward was in the midst of the coldest stretch in his young NHL career and the inability to score was clearly bothering him.

It seemed like the harder he tried, the worse it got.

“When I got to 10, 11 games (without a goal), I was pressing and (thinking) ‘Am I ever going to score again?’” Perfetti recalled before the Jets faced the New York Islanders Tuesday night to open a four-game road trip. “And then it just keeps compounding and you get in your own head and then you play a game that you should not be playing because you’re trying to force it so much. When you force it, it doesn’t come.”

During the 23-game goal-scoring slump — which included only two assists — Perfetti’s confidence was shaken as he dealt with being a healthy scratch on multiple occasions during the team’s stretch run and in four of the five playoff contests.

The dry spell extended through the NHL trade deadline and, with Perfetti trying to find his way, the Jets brought in Tyler Toffoli in a trade with the New Jersey Devils.

Toffoli eventually replaced Perfetti on the Jets’ second line with Nikolaj Ehlers and Sean Monahan.

Before the regular season came to an end, Perfetti regained his scoring touch, producing four goals and six points during the final five games.

Perfetti came to important conclusion when he reflected on the challenging stretch during the off-season.

“If you’re not impacting the scoreboard, you’re impacting (the game) in other ways, whether it’s on the forecheck, blocking shots. Whatever it is, just adapt,” said Perfetti. “It’s not easy to go through, no matter how old you are. But it makes you a better player, a better person on the other side.”

“One thing that I really learned is the more pressure you put on yourself, the more you start gripping your stick a little bit more, the more you want it so bad, the further you get from it. If you just play the right way and not focus on scoring or getting points, they’re going to come.”

Perfetti also realizes even the most consistent goal scorers in the NHL occasionally have trouble lighting the lamp with regularity.

“Everyone goes through it. Even superstars. (Filip) Forsberg went (16) games without a goal, even (Steven) Stamkos has gone 13 (games),” said Perfetti. “You try to learn from that. Being consistent with it every day, coming to the rink and not putting that pressure on yourself.”

Sometimes, that is easier said than done.

Having the ability to stay positive when things aren’t going smoothly is part of the maturation process and that’s an area Perfetti has taken some important strides in this season.

“He’s not so hard on himself. That’s one of the biggest areas for me,” said Jets head coach Scott Arniel. “That would start between the ears. Just being one year older, he recognized that (the frustration) doesn’t help his cause.

“Every shift, he goes out and he’s competitive and he wants to win his puck battles. His compete level is really good and then, (it’s) just the confidence that you see. He’s not afraid to make plays and he’s a smart, heady kid and he knows that when he uses his skillset, that he can have success.”

That skillset has been on display frequently and Perfetti is playing some of the best hockey of his budding career.

Although he had to work through a 14-game stretch without recording a point, Perfetti snapped out of that offensive funk with the first hat trick of his career.

In between, he found other ways to contribute.

“I went through a stretch again this year when the points weren’t coming, but I still felt like I was playing good hockey during that time,” said Perfetti, who had 12 goals and 37 points in 61 games going into Tuesday’s action. “Eventually, if you keep playing and you keep consistent, the puck luck is going to switch. As of late, it has. So, that’s something that I learned last year that I think I had a little bit better time dealing with this year.”

That ability to deal with whatever comes his way is also beneficial in a week like this one.

With the NHL trade deadline coming up on Friday, Perfetti is taking things in stride on that front as well.

Although the Jets are thrilled with his development, when a team battling for the Presidents’ Trophy is looking for an upgrade, you can be sure that many organizations are wondering if Perfetti could be included in the return of a potential deal.

“You don’t really want to spend too much time focusing on that because I don’t want to waste energy on something I have no control over,” said Perfetti. “Just show up every day ready to go

and you never know what's going to happen with this week coming up. But at the same time, we have a job to do."

Perfetti's ability to do his job well and round out his overall game is part of the reason he looks to be entrenched in the Jets' top-six forward group and on the second power-play unit beyond Friday and well into the future.

### **The Athletic**

<https://www.nytimes.com/athletic/6176395/2025/03/05/jets-trade-deadline-cheveldayoff-brock-nelson-islanders/>

### ***NHL trade deadline is a seller's market, but Jets' GM Kevin Cheveldayoff needs to buy***

By Murat Ates

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

NEW YORK — Winnipeg arrived in Long Island with the opportunity to bury the Islanders' playoff hopes. Brock Nelson made sure New York stayed in the race, scoring a highlight-reel goal and adding an assist to earn first-star honors and pull the Islanders within 3 points of a playoff spot.

If Lou Lamoriello decides they're close enough to keep pushing, then Winnipeg lost more than a hockey game on Tuesday night. It cost itself an opportunity to add Nelson to upgrade their forward group at the trade deadline. How perfect would it have been if Winnipeg had been able to repeat its 2018 acquisition of Paul Stastny — perhaps the best deadline pickup in Jets 2.0 history — who was only available because the Jets beat St. Louis the Friday before the deadline?

Not so fast. The Jets are still in the mix to upgrade their group before this year's deadline passes on Friday — and I think Nelson remains a viable option.

The Islanders need to pass Boston, Montreal, Ottawa, Detroit and the New York Rangers, who beat them at Madison Square Garden on Monday. Those are low odds, similar to the ones Winnipeg had when it shipped Andrew Copp to the Rangers in 2022. I'm not perturbed by Nelson's 16-team no-trade clause, either. Nelson grew up in Warroad, Minn., while his uncle Dave Christian played for the NHL's original Jets. I'm not convinced he wouldn't waive his no-trade clause — if asked to do so — for a playoff run with Winnipeg.

What's the holdup, then? Why isn't Nelson on his way to Philadelphia with the rest of the Jets on this trip?

Consider the sheer number of teams who are after centres. Winnipeg is joined by the Toronto Maple Leafs, Minnesota Wild, New Jersey Devils and several others in search of an upgrade. Nelson is the top center available, unless Nashville decides to part with Ryan O'Reilly, and there aren't too many top-six upgrades available after them. Brayden Schenn has a no-trade clause and a \$6.5 million AAV contract with term on it. Scott Laughton is drawing a ton of interest in Philadelphia — including from the Jets — but it seems as though the Flyers could get their asking price of a first-round pick.

It seems reasonable that players like Nelson and Laughton could cost way more, relative to their quality than Sean Monahan did a year ago — and we know how that ended for Winnipeg. Monahan helped, particularly on the power play, and then left despite the Jets' efforts to retain him.

Despite the difficulty, I still expect Winnipeg to be a buyer between now and Friday.

Whether Jets GM Kevin Cheveldayoff wins the bidding war for Nelson or not, I think he is well aware that this Jets team has the right combination of quality, cap space, and flaws to warrant a buying tack. There are players for whom no-trade clauses will pose an issue but Winnipeg has made big swings in all of its best years: 2018 with Stastny, 2019 with Kevin Hayes, and last season with Monahan, Tyler Toffoli and Colin Miller.

Cheveldayoff didn't arrive at the deadline with nearly \$12 million of cap space, Connor Hellebuyck playing Hart Trophy-caliber hockey, and a team of tremendous depth just to sit on his hands now that Winnipeg is exceeding expectations.

It's also obvious Winnipeg has clear roster holes to fill. Dylan Samberg missed Tuesday's game against the Islanders to attend to a family matter. Logan Stanley was outshot 15-7 at five-on-five in Samberg's spot and gave the puck away in the buildup to Ryan Pullock's game-winning goal. This is the norm for Stanley; despite viable offensive instincts, his slow first step and occasional defensive missteps contribute to too many scoring chances against.

It's not supposed to be the norm for Dylan DeMelo, whose arrival in Winnipeg was called "coaches' porn" by Paul Maurice and whose partnership with Josh Morrissey has helped the Jets to tremendous results over the past three seasons. DeMelo was beaten on the boards en route to Kyle Palmieri's opening power-play goal and in the middle of the ice during Nelson's rush goal to start the second period. He had steadied his game after a poor start to the season, but Winnipeg already needed more size when he was at the top of his game.

That's what makes right-hander Rasmus Ristolainen particularly appealing. No, he's not the third-pairing left defenceman who would take Stanley's spot — if you're looking for that player, consider Carson Soucy or Mario Ferraro — but Ristolainen's game has enough size, strength and effectiveness to dramatically upgrade Winnipeg's third pair. He boxes out well, wins his battles and ties up sticks well enough to take DeMelo's spot on occasional defensive-zone shifts, too. Winnipeg could run Ristolainen on its third pair for large chunks of the game and then bump him up to Morrissey's pair in high-leverage, end-of-game situations with the Jets up a goal and the other team's net empty.

I think Winnipeg wanted a player like that anyway, based on the types of goals the Colorado Avalanche scored last year. The Jets are a great defensive team but they don't win all of their plays in traffic, getting beat on rebounds, deflections and battles as opposed to systemic failures. That's a credit to them but leaves room for improvement — and I think the Jets are looking for it on the trade market.

It's absurd, in a way, that Winnipeg could be the NHL's top-ranked team and maintain strong Stanley Cup odds but still appear on as many no-trade clauses as it does. If the Jets and Devils make similar offers for Nelson, as one example, it could be easier for him to choose New Jersey. He'd be closer to his wife and kids and would have less to uproot. It's still a game Cheveldayoff has to play and win, finding value where other teams may not. If it's not Nelson, maybe it's Jean-Gabriel Pageau. If it's not Laughton, maybe it's Joel Armia or Ryan Donato.

It's easy to demand change when a team is on a three-game losing skid and its top line isn't scoring (and is getting badly outshot) for the first time this season. It's easy to call for upgrades after a loss in which Samberg was absent and Stanley played more five-on-five minutes than any other Jets defenceman.

But the flaws of this excellent team are as obvious as its quality. The Jets would be wasting a unique opportunity in the prime of Hellebuyck, Mark Scheifele and Morrissey's careers if they didn't make as much use of their cap space as possible. To that end, I think Cheveldayoff is working as hard as he can to explore Plans A, B, C and beyond. Don't mistake a lack of transactions as a lack of effort. He's also built a great deal of strength via previous trades — Gabriel Vilardi, Nino Niederreiter, Vladislav Namestnikov, Alex Lafallo — and extensions for those players. A lack of an impact addition doesn't mean a lack of impact players.

It would just be so counterintuitive for Winnipeg to push this far, build this well and explore the market as much as I believe Cheveldayoff is doing only to come up short. Whether it's Nelson, Ristolainen, or players further down the list, I expect Winnipeg to make multiple additions between now and Friday.

### **Winnipeg Sun**

<https://winnipeg.sun.com/sports/hockey/nhl/winnipeg-jets/jets-winless-in-three-after-loss-to-islanders>

#### ***'We're in the funk': Jets winless in three after loss to Islanders***

By Paul Friesen

The Winnipeg Jets are officially on a slide. A modest, three-game one, but still a slide.

Tuesday's 3-2 loss against the Islanders in New York leaves the Jets winless in three, with the NHL trade deadline looming on Friday.

Falling behind 2-0, the Jets came close, thanks to a power play that finally produced two goals. But they managed nothing five-on-five and have managed just four goals, total, over the last three games.

"One bounce here or there," is how captain Adam Lowry saw it. "We were right there, had a lot of chances. I liked the compete. They played well. They're desperate."

Nik Ehlers and Josh Morrissey got the goals, as the Jets fall to 42-16-4. The Islanders, chasing a wildcard playoff spot in the East, improve to 28-25-7.

Shots on goal were 29-28, New York, as Connor Hellebuyck took his first regulation loss in his last 10 starts.

"Our pace and our pressure was back to what it was when it's at its best," head coach Scott Arniel told reporters on scene. "We're in the funk right now when it comes to scoring goals. And teams go through these. But at the end of the day, I like that effort."

"Just stick with it. Like the power play, it'll get answered."



The Jets down 3-1 in the third period, Ehlers scored a Gabe Vilardi-style power-play goal, his 19th of the season, with some seven minutes left to cut the gap to one, but that's as close as they got. The mini-skid comes after a franchise-record, 11-game winning streak.

"It was just a couple plays where the puck rolled off the end of our sticks, a couple plays we missed chances," Lowry said. "I had one in the first where I missed a wide-open net. Things like that. Out of those three games, this one we look at as a whole and you take some positives.

"Obviously there's no moral victories here, but it's a step in the right direction. A step closer to how we want our game to look."

The Jets had plenty of early pressure, jumping on a team that played the night before.

A failed power play marked the 17th consecutive time they couldn't light the lamp with the extra man.

Different story for the Isles, Kyle Palmieri scoring with Nino Niederreiter in the box.

A first-period fight involving the captains, Lowry and Anders Lee, did nothing for the Jets, as New York dominated the second half of the period and had something like 15 straight shots on goal, finishing the period with a 17-10 edge.

"Just asked if anyone wants to answer the bell," Lowry said. "Wanted to set the tone early. Unfortunately the period went the other way after that. Looking back, I'd do the same thing."

Early in the second, a Jets defensive breakdown allowed the Islanders' Brock Nelson to make it 2-zip.

Some seven minutes later, Winnipeg's power-play drought finally ended in predictable fashion: on a fluke, Morrissey's point shot going off an Islanders skate for the defenceman's ninth of the year.

"The tendency can be when it's not going in to over-pass and look for the perfect opportunity," Morrissey said. "And the mindset tonight against a pretty passive kill was just to be aggressive, take what they give us and anytime we can shoot the puck, get it there.

"You shoot the puck and good things happen once in a while, so it was nice to get that break."

By then the ice seemed tilted in the Jets' favour again, Ehlers nearly tying it minutes later.

But it stayed 2-1, New York, into the third.

A long, bouncing shot through traffic by Islanders defenceman and rural Manitoba product Ryan Pulock put the Jets down by two early in the third.

Winnipeg lost winger Rasmus Kupari with a head injury in that period.

Up next for Winnipeg, games Thursday and Friday in Philadelphia and New Jersey, respectively.

<https://winnipeg.sun.com/sports/hockey/nhl/winnipeg-jets/jets-cheveldayoff-to-set-up-trade-headquarters-in-philadelphia>

## ***Jets' Cheveldayoff to set up trade headquarters in Philadelphia***

By Paul Friesen

Jets GM Kevin Cheveldayoff is taking his trade headquarters on the road.

Cheveldayoff and his scouts are travelling with the team on its current four-game road trip through Long Island, Philadelphia, New Jersey and Carolina.

After leaving Long Island following Tuesday night's game, they were to set up shop in a Philadelphia hotel room for the better part of three days.

The Jets visit the Flyers on Thursday, after which players and coaches will fly to New Jersey for a Friday night matchup with the Devils. But the GM and his staff will stay in Philly through the Friday afternoon trade deadline.

After 2 p.m. Winnipeg time on Friday, Cheveldayoff will fly to New Jersey, where he'll talk with reporters about the deal or deals he managed to pull off, assuming there are any.

It's a different approach than other years, where he's usually held his post-deadline news conference in Winnipeg. But players say it's not really a distraction.

"Chevy's been on every trip of the year, pretty much, except for maybe one or two," defenceman Dylan DeMelo said. "So he's got a pretty good pulse on what we have and what we may need. He's one of the more diligent GMs out there. He's always around us and always trying to see how he can make the team better.

"Just because it's trade deadline, it's nothing really new for us."

While the Jets aren't likely to give up any players who are regularly in the lineup, you just never know for sure.

That can still make it an anxious time of year.

"You never know what's going to happen... but we have a job to do," forward Cole Perfetti said. "I don't want to spend energy on something I don't have much control over."

While it's been a quiet week for Winnipeg so far, conference rival Edmonton made a move to get more rugged on Tuesday, acquiring forwards Trent Frederic and Max Jones from Boston.

Frederic is the player who knocked out Jets forward David Gustafsson in a fight back in December.

## **New York Post**

<https://nypost.com/2025/03/04/sports/islanders-beat-nhl-best-jets-in-potential-swan-song-for-two-vets/>

### ***Islanders beat NHL-best Jets in potential swan song for Brock Nelson, Kyle Palmieri***

By Ethan Sears

If this final game before the trade deadline doubled as the final game in Islander colors for Brock Nelson and Kyle Palmieri, then at least it was a good one.

And if it was the symbolic final game of this era of Islanders hockey, then at least the score was fitting: 3-2 over the Jets, with the Islanders holding onto a late lead, straight out of the Barry Trotz playbook, with Nelson and Palmieri both contributing goals.

It's hard to believe that will be enough for management to move away from selling between now and Friday with the Islanders still well behind in the playoff race, but the hopes of another long shot postseason trip are not entirely dead yet.

With the Red Wings and Blue Jackets both losing, the Islanders sit just three points below the cutline, though the Rangers, Senators, Canadiens and Bruins are all in between.

Giving up on their two top-six players on expiring contracts and giving up on the season, it should be noted, do not necessarily need to be one and the same — that all depends on the return and what (if any) other moves GM Lou Lamoriello makes.

Players and coach Patrick Roy claim they don't know which direction things will go, and with the secrecy under which Lamoriello operates, it's actually believable.

The air of finality around the dressing room after this one, with Nelson holding back emotion during his session with reporters, was, however, unmistakable.

"Not really," he said, asked whether he knows what will happen. "I know everything will sort itself out. I mean that. It's a lot — a lot that goes into it, a lot of different things.

"First and foremost, I've had conversations with Lou. I've been honest. I really, truly, have just been worried about here and playing. Doing everything we can to win."

It's believed that the Islanders have tried to extend Nelson, but if there's a signed contract sitting in a drawer somewhere, then No. 29 could have beaten out Adrien Brody for Best Actor.

Maybe that will change in the next three days, and maybe getting within three points of a playoff spot is enough for Lamoriello to roll the dice even if it doesn't.

That, however, was decidedly not the vibe — even if the usual clichés about believing in the group still made an appearance.

"We've been together a long time, so we understand one another pretty well and have had a great friendship," captain Anders Lee said. "Been a pleasure being his teammate and I hope it

continues that way. But just having support for him. All these guys, everybody that goes through it every year, it's the same thing."

Nelson and Palmieri had their moments early on. Nelson fed Palmieri for a power-play goal 16:49 into the first, putting the Isles up 1-0.

Then 1:33 into the second, Nelson got on the board by finishing a cross-crease feed from Max Tsyplov.

That did not portend an easy win, with Winnipeg cutting the lead to 2-1, then to 3-2 after Ryan Pulock's blast from the right point had canceled out Josh Morrissey's power play goal.

The Islanders, though, did not spiral after Nikolaj Ehlers' goal on the man advantage put the Jets back within one at 12:51 of the third. Instead, they reached into their bag and played the kind of end to the game that defined the core at its best, locking down the lead and giving up all of six shots over the final 20 minutes.

After a disastrous showing at the Garden on Monday, proving that there was still some pride and intensity left in the group was just as important as anything else.

That, at least, the Islanders did.

Whether it was enough to keep Nelson and Palmieri Islanders on Saturday morning, well, that's another question.

"I have no idea what's gonna happen at this moment," coach Patrick Roy said. "It's been a little roller coaster, so we win some, we lose some. There's days you want to buy, there's days you want to sell. But it's up to Lou to decide."

## **TSN.ca**

<https://www.tsn.ca/nhl/video/jets-offence-drying-up-over-three-game-losing-skid%7E3090739>

### ***Jets' offence drying up over three-game losing skid (VIDEO)***

The Jets only have four goals to show for over their three-game losing streak after another loss to the Islanders. Craig Button joins SportsCentre to discuss how big of a concern this is for Winnipeg.

<https://www.tsn.ca/nhl/video/insider-trading-how-will-hughes-injury-affects-devils-deadline~3091696>

### ***Insider Trading: How will Hughes' injury affects Devils' deadline (VIDEO)***

TSN's Hockey Insiders on New Jersey's deadline strategy with their star centre injured, the Jets' deadline approach, how the Trent Frederic deal gives the Oilers cap flexibility, the Leafs' centre options, Jake Evans re-signing with the Habs, and the Lightning poised to strike ahead of the deadline.

<https://illegalcurve.com/tsn-should-the-winnipeg-jets-stand-pat-or-make-a-splash/>

***Should the Winnipeg Jets stand pat, or make a splash? (VIDEO)***  
***Bruce Boudreau gives his insight as a former NHL coach.***

The Trade Deadline is approaching fast, and it's about time teams start establishing what role they will have. Some teams are clear buyers, some teams are clear sellers. What are the Winnipeg Jets? Bruce Boudreau discusses on this edition of The Talking Point.

<https://illegalcurve.com/tsn-what-trade-would-push-the-winnipeg-jets-over-the-top/>

***What trade would push the Winnipeg Jets over the top? (VIDEO)***  
***Bryan Hayes and Bruce Boudreau share their thoughts.***

Bryan Hayes and Bruce Boudreau join That's Hockey to discuss who the Jets should have at the top of their trade target list, and what goes on behind the scenes leading up to the deadline.