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<https://www.nhl.com/jets/news/three-points-tanev-offence-shine-in-jets-win>

***Three points - Tanev, offence shine in Jets win
Jets score six goals for the 12th time this season in 6-1 win over Devils***

By Jamie Thomas

The Winnipeg Jets celebrated the trade deadline passing Friday afternoon with a 6-1 win over the New Jersey Devils at Prudential Center. Nikolaj Ehlers had a three-point night and Kyle Connor had his third consecutive multi-point night with a goal and an assist. Alex Iafallo, Josh Morrissey, Adam Lowry and Cole Perfetti also scored for the Jets who scored six or more goals for the 12th time this season. Winnipeg is now eight points up on second place Dallas in the Central Division, the Stars do have two games in hand on the Jets. Winnipeg will close out their four-game road trip in Raleigh on Sunday afternoon against the Carolina Hurricanes.

THE (NOT SO) NEW GUY

Brandon Tanev played almost 200 regular season games in a Jets jersey so it's understandable that he would acclimate himself quickly after being acquired this afternoon and making his debut against the Devils. Tanev played with Morgan Barron and Alex Iafallo on Winnipeg's fourth line and on the second penalty kill unit. Tanev finished the night with 11:28 of ice time, one block and two hits, he also started the play that led to Winnipeg's opening goal of the night.

"He was disruptive on the forecheck. Their line got us going with the first goal," said Adam Lowry.

"Some great job on the (penalty) kills, hits and some good blocks. I think that's what we can expect from him."

MORE POINTS FOR MO

Josh Morrissey continues to add his name in the Jets/Thrashers record book and when he scored a power play goal at 3:48 of the second period, he fired home his 10th goal of the season, the fourth straight season he has reached double digits. On top of that, it was his 50th point of the campaign and the third consecutive season Morrissey has done that, a franchise record.

KC ON PACE FOR 102

Over the last two games the Jets have scored ten goals after going through a stretch where it seemed like no matter what they did, they weren't going to score. The top line has been driving the offence over the last two nights and Kyle Connor has been front and centre in that department. Connor had an assist on Morrissey's power play goal in the second and contributed his 33rd goal of the season when Winnipeg scored three goals in a five-minute span to blow the game open. Connor reached the 80-point mark

in 64 games, which is second fastest player ever to do so behind Ilya Kovalchuk's 61 GP in 2005-06.

<https://www.nhl.com/jets/news/jets-add-depth-speed-and-championship-pedigree>

***Jets add depth, speed and championship pedigree
Cheveldayoff: "We did what we felt we needed to do."***

Kevin Cheveldayoff has watched his team, the Winnipeg Jets sit near or atop the NHL standings for the majority of this season. So, the question was would that affect how he approached the trade deadline which came at 2 CT on Friday?

"We've been pretty much all in here for every single year for the last little while. We've used a lot of different capital," said Cheveldayoff on the Jets pregame show on Tuesday.

"So, some of the assets that are traditionally there, aren't there (this year). That makes it's a little more difficult when you are talking to teams, sometimes their asks, you just don't have. The assets that they want, unless they change, you have to go in different directions."

Before the deadline expired, Cheveldayoff and the Jets made two separate deals. Winnipeg brought in Luke Schenn from Pittsburgh for a 2026 second round pick and a 2027 fourth round pick. Then the Jets sent a 2027 second round pick to the Seattle Kraken for Brandon Tanev.

"I think we gave ourselves a little bit of a different dimension on the backend from a hardness perspective, penalty kill perspective, leadership perspective. I think we really got a lot in acquiring Luke (Schenn)," said Cheveldayoff.

"And then Tanev, it's always good to bring your guy back home. He was a big part of what we had going there when we went deep into the playoffs and the experience he had with this group. He's just that much more experienced as a player now. Speed-galore. Tenacity. Penalty killing. A guy that it won't take long for him to be familiar back with all the players again."

On top of adding two players that should make the Jets tougher to play against, Schenn has championship pedigree with two Stanley Cup rings on his resume.

"He's a competitor. I think as a hockey player, or as an athlete, you want a chance to compete for a championship. I really expect an exuberance from him. Because when you get a little longer in the career, you know that you don't have as many of those years left," said Cheveldayoff.

"So, I think that urgency, that desire, he'll be able to talk to the guys and say, 'You know what guys, buckle down, because it's damn well worth it.'"

A team that always seems to go big this time of year, the Tampa Bay Lightning, might have set the market back on Wednesday when they acquired Oliver Bjorkstrand and Yanni Gourde from the Kraken for two- first round picks, a second-round pick and Michael Eyssimont. Both Bjorkstrand and Gourde have been penciled in on the Lightning third line.

Winnipeg walked out of deadline with their first-round pick in 2025 intact and didn't part with any of their top prospects or roster players. That being said, do not think that the Jets were not willing to part with their first.

"I tried like heck not to. Every deadline's different," said Cheveldayoff.

"Sometimes -- were there teams asking for firsts even in situations that we've got right now? Sure. If there was a pressure point that a team can buckle under, you're always asking."

Dallas (Rantanen, Ceci and Granlund) and Colorado (Nelson, Coyle, Vesey and Lindgren) have been busy as well loading up the rosters. The Central Division will be a gauntlet especially with St. Louis and Minnesota being solid competition on top of the big three.

"You focus on what you do for your own organization. It's not an arms race. It's what works for you and what fits for you," said Cheveldayoff.

"You're not able, no one's able, to truly try and go and get everybody and anything. Those teams did what they felt they needed to do. We did what we felt we needed to do."

NHL.com

<https://www.nhl.com/news/winnipeg-jets-new-jersey-devils-game-recap-march-7>

***Ehlers has 3 points, Jets score 6 to pull away from Devils
Connor, Morrissey each has goal, assist; Dumoulin makes debut for New Jersey***

By Mike G. Morreale

NEWARK, N.J. -- Nikolaj Ehlers had a goal and two assists for the Winnipeg Jets in a 6-1 win against the New Jersey Devils at Prudential Center on Friday.

Josh Morrissey and Kyle Connor each had a goal and an assist, and Connor Hellebuyck made 22 saves for Winnipeg (44-16-4), which won its second straight following a 4-1 victory at the Philadelphia Flyers on Thursday after losing its previous three games (0-2-1).

"We didn't like our little stretch there of losing and we wanted to come on this road trip and kind of get back to our game," Morrissey said. "Last night and tonight, I thought we played really close to our game. There were little stretches like the start of the third period, where they got a little momentum. But that's what our team has done all year. Just be calm and rely on our structure and system in that situation and we played really well.

"It was a big back to back with two wins for us in tough buildings."

Dawson Mercer scored, and Jacob Markstrom made 29 saves for New Jersey (33-25-6), which has lost three in a row and is 7-8-0 in its past 15 games.

"They're a great team and they play the right way ... even at the end of the game they were doing the simple things right," Mercer said. "In saying that, I believe we're a good team too and it's disappointing for us to have that result when I think we can do better."

Alex Iafallo gave the Jets a 1-0 lead at 18:17 of the first period off a backhand on a rebound in the slot.

Morrissey extended it to 2-0 with a power-play goal at 3:48 of the second period on a snap shot from the slot.

Ehlers pushed it to 3-0 at 19:30 when he took a pass from Dylan DeMelo at the bottom of the right circle, skated to the high slot and scored on a snap shot inside the left post.

"The power play has been a strength for us all year," Morrissey said. "I don't find myself in the slot too often, but it came right out on my stick and I just had to not miss the net. It was nice to get that second goal, and then the huge third goal at the end of the second period from Ehlers that gave us some more room."

Mercer cut it to 3-1 on a one-timer from the left face-off circle 31 seconds into the third period.

"We're trying to score goals, and we need offense, but when we're going at our best, we play with the process," New Jersey coach Sheldon Keefe said. "I can't tell you how many goals we've scored where one line does the work, building momentum for our team, and they change, and a new line comes on and they reap the rewards. We need lines to build momentum."

Adam Lowry made it 4-1 at 11:56 after he stole the puck from defenseman Simon Nemec in the left circle and scored on a wrist shot.

"Obviously, you don't love the first five, six minutes of the third, but I think we were able to kind of weather their push and fortunately get a couple bounces and put that game out of reach," Lowry said.

Connor scored from the left circle at 14:21 for a 5-1 lead before Cole Perfetti scored on a shot at the right post at 16:55 for the 6-1 final.

"Goals four, five and six; the youngest player on the ice (Nemec) had a real tough night," Keefe said. "To me it's not reflective of our team and our game."

Brandon Tanev had two hits in 11:28 of ice time in his Jets debut this season after the forward was acquired in a trade with the Seattle Kraken on Friday. He played for Winnipeg previously from 2016-2019.

"I've been smiling all day," Tanev said. "It's a group I know very well, a city I know well. They've had great success this year so I'm just trying to come in and do whatever I can."

NOTES: Morrissey has four straight 10-goal seasons to tie Dustin Byfuglien (four from 2013-14 to 2016-17) for the most by a Jets/Atlanta Thrashers defenseman. ... Connor became the second-fastest player in Jets/Thrashers history to 80 points in a season (64 games) behind Ilya Kovalchuk (61 games, 2005-06). ... Brian Dumoulin had two hits in 16:17 of ice time in his Devils debut after the defenseman was acquired in a trade with the Anaheim Ducks on Thursday. ... Defenseman Johnathan Kovacevic signed a five-year, \$20 million contract with the Devils on Friday.

Sportsnet.ca

<https://www.sportsnet.ca/nhl/article/jets-fall-short-on-big-targets-settle-for-depth-at-deadline/>

Jets fall short on big targets, settle for depth at deadline

By Jacob Stoller

WINNIPEG — This deadline couldn't have unfolded worse for Kevin Cheveldayoff.

There's no other way to slice it.

Armed with an abundance in cap space, all his first-round picks and a team that sits atop the NHL's standings — the table was set for Winnipeg's general manager to make a splash.

By the time it was 2:00 p.m. ET, Cheveldayoff walked out of deadline day with just two depth additions — Brandon Tanev and Luke Schenn — to show for. No prospects were dealt.

Winnipeg held onto all their first-round picks. Not by design, though.

"I tried like heck not to," Cheveldayoff told reporters ahead of Winnipeg's tilt with New Jersey.

That may make some people roll their eyes. And while it won't subside the sting, it's important to understand what led to this flop.

For starters, they struck out on their No. 1 target — Brock Nelson.

On paper, it seemed like a perfect match — Nelson could chase a Cup, the Jets would get their missing puzzle piece. Winnipeg's interest in Nelson was no secret and even Scott Arniel admitted that he was excited about the possibility of where the six-foot-four centre could've slotted into his lineup.

"It's unfortunate, but at the end of the day we like our group, we really do. It didn't happen, didn't materialize. But we like what we have," Arniel told reporters.

Cheveldayoff made it seem like they did everything they could to acquire Nelson.

"When decisions are made that are out of your control, that's the way it is," Cheveldayoff said.

A reporter asked him if part of the issue was Nelson, who has a 16-team no-trade list, refusing to waive his clause to come to Winnipeg.

"I'm not going to get into anything specific as far as what the different situations were. But again, we put a real strong foot forward and that's where we're at," he said.

Ultimately, whether or not Nelson wanted to come here didn't matter. Winnipeg wouldn't have been able to outbid what Nelson was ultimately acquired for — a blue-chip prospect in Calum Ritchie plus a first-round and third-round pick in 2026.

But that won't ease the sting for this fanbase. Especially given how much better their divisional rivals got.

The Colorado Avalanche, of all teams, were the ones who snagged Nelson. They also splurged on Charlie Coyle, adding even more skill and size down the middle below Nathan MacKinnon. Mind you, Coyle also had partial no-trade protection.

The Dallas Stars landed Mikko Rantanen in a blockbuster sign-and-trade, a move that came on the heels of them adding Mikael Granlund and Cody Ceci weeks prior.

The problem for Winnipeg, though, was that they couldn't seamlessly pivot to a Plan B. This year's market saw exorbitant price tags placed on players that, for Winnipeg, would only be a marginal upgrade on Vladislav Namestnikov.

Toronto traded a first-round pick and Nikita Grebenkin for Scott Laughton, a bottom-six centre.

St. Louis was asking for premium assets in exchange for Brayden Schenn, a declining 33-year-old centre who is signed to a \$6.5 million AAV until through the 2027-28 season.

Beyond that, there weren't many quality centres available. Ryan O'Reilly didn't have trade protection but Nashville allowed him to choose his destiny (even if he were up for grabs with no strings attached, Winnipeg likely wouldn't have won a bidding war).

After Nelson, there was really no Plan B.

"You know, it was a really interesting deadline. Much different than a lot of other ones," Cheveldayoff said. "There were things that you thought were real and then all of the sudden weren't real. There was lots of players that maybe were in play that then got pulled out. Usually, you see guys get added in as the days go on. This was a unique trade deadline in that respect. We were in on things that we felt we could be in on and anything that was available to us, we took a good hard look at."

It's natural to turn your attention to the backend, where the Jets could've really used another top-four addition. But there were slim pickings there, too.

Rasmus Ristolainen, who we listed as a potential trade target, wasn't as available as many believed. Flyers GM Danny Briere was firm in his asking price — a first-round pick + type of package similar to the Laughton return — and several league sources indicated to Sportsnet.ca that they didn't believe Briere was serious about trading Ristolainen in the first place.

The Jets probably would've paid a premium for Brandon Carlo — who was traded to Toronto for prospect Fraser Minten, a 2026 first-round pick and a 2025 fourth-round pick — but keep in mind the 28-year-old has a 10-team no trade list.

Beyond those two, where were the Jets going to find a top-four, right-handed defenceman?

Love it or hate it, Chevy's hands were tied.

You probably don't want to hear about how Tanev and Schenn are good fits for this roster.

But in a vacuum, these are the right depth additions for Winnipeg.

Jets fans are familiar with Tanev's abilities as a speedy, aggressive pest that can kill penalties and forecheck hard. He's expected to slot in alongside Alex Iafallo — and one

of David Gustafsson or Rasmus Kupari — on the fourth line. I could see him and Lafallo feeding off one another well and creating havoc for opponents.

Schenn, 35, is a two-time Stanley Cup winner with 1,057 regular season games under his belt. As a stay-at-home physical defender, he'll provide the Jets third pairing with more sandpaper and will help clear bodies in front of Connor Hellebuyck. Given the acquisition cost to get him, he'll likely replace Colin Miller on the third pairing to start. Although it's no slam-dunk he's in a regular come playoff time.

Both players embody Winnipeg's identity as a hard-nosed, defensively sound team.

"We have more speed. I think as you get into the playoffs that's important. We have a hardness element that we didn't have before. We have a champion in the room that has experience that will be a voice that will help our leadership group immensely," Cheveldayoff said.

<https://www.sportsnet.ca/nhl/article/trade-deadline-winners-and-losers-we-all-benefit-from-non-stop-day-of-deals/>

Trade Deadline Winners and Losers: We all benefit from non-stop day of deals

By Ryan Dixon

How crazy was the 2025 trade deadline season?

One team that traded Mikko Rantanen away is somehow about to be listed here as a deadline winner; a second squad that sent Rantanen packing is a loser and the buried lede in all of that is the simple fact one of the very best skaters in the world was swapped twice in six weeks.

Oh, by the way, there's a decent chance the Dallas Stars — Rantanen's current team — will face the Colorado Avalanche — Rantanen's first team — in the opening round of the playoffs.

Beyond an elite winger criss-crossing the continent, we also had Atlantic Division rivals swapping locked-up, still-young No. 2 centres; the Avalanche — who won the Cup less than three years ago — rendering their lineup utterly unrecognizable from the one they iced on opening night and, in a pro wrestling-style team-up, Brad freakin' Marchand joining the rat pack known as the Florida Panthers for their title defence.

Given all that, the annual task of identifying trade season winners and losers — an equally perilous and fun adventure — has a little extra juice this March.

Let's dive right in.

WINNERS

Dallas Stars

When the smoke cleared, and the double deal had actually happened, Rantanen was on the Stars and armed with a new eight-year, \$96-million extension. Remember, in addition to their new six-foot-four winger, the Stars also landed forward Mikael Granlund and right-shot defenceman Cody Ceci from the San Jose Sharks on Feb. 1.

Dallas gave up a fantastic young player in Logan Stankoven to get Rantanen from Carolina, but GM Jim Nill also locked up 21-year Wyatt Johnston to a five-year contract extension on Friday.

What a day in Dallas.

Colorado Avalanche

Since the end of January, the Avs have added six meaningful pieces to their lineup. And that's without even mentioning a full battery change in the crease before Christmas, with Scott Wedgewood and Mackenzie Blackwood replacing Alexandar Georgiev and Justus Annunen.

The overall calculus is pretty simple: Colorado moved on from one elite stud in Rantanen to spread the love around and fill multiple holes. They now have Martin Necas on the top line for basically half of what Rantanen's cap hit will be in Dallas next year (which likely would have been even higher in a place with state income tax), Brock Nelson filling a glaring need as a 2C, Charlie Coyle coming in to be an overqualified third-line pivot and Ryan Lindgren banging bodies on the back end.

It's odd to contemplate the idea of Colorado improving its 2025 Cup chances by moving on from Rantanen, but that just might be what happened.

Florida Panthers

The buzzer-beater to get Brad Marchand — even with all the other excitement around the league — was the biggest “Holy Bleep!” moment of deadline day. Marchand, Matthew Tkachuk and Sam Bennett in the same lineup? That's more heel than a cobbler sees in lifetime of work.

Of course, the most meaningful add the Cats made was getting Seth Jones to patrol the right side of the ice in the top 4 of the blueline.

Obviously Tkachuk's health is a big question mark, but the Cats aren't losing the Cup without a fight.

Toronto Maple Leafs

It went down to the wire, but the Leafs got their guys. Had the day ended with third-line centre Scott Laughton being the Buds' big prize, it probably would have felt like a slight disappointment given everything else that went on directly around them in the division. But grabbing Brandon Carlo right before 3 p.m. ET made this a strong deadline for GM

Brad Treliving. Laughton is under contract for another spring, Carlo is inked for another two and both come with lighter cap hits thanks to salary retention.

Carlo, as a huge, right-shot blue-liner, should really help Toronto's defencemen fill roles they're best suited for.

Ottawa Senators

Dylan Cozens was widely coveted around the league despite underwhelming counting stats ever since a 68-point breakout in the 2022-23 season. Cozens is a big, right-shot centre who just turned 24. The Sens may be giving up the better goal-scorer in Josh Norris, but his spotty health history makes this one a no-brainer for Ottawa. And if Cozens reaches his ceiling in Canada's capital, it could go down as a really meaningful day for a Sens club trying to not only make the playoffs, but do something significant once there.

It's sort of reminiscent of Ottawa snagging Kyle Turris from Arizona once upon a time.

The Sens also grabbed Fabian Zetterlund from San Jose. He's a 25-year-old winger on pace for a second consecutive 20-goal season and an RFA at season's end.

Tampa Bay Lightning

It might seem like small potatoes given what the Leafs and, in particular, the Panthers, just pulled off, but Tampa's lineup got a lot longer with old friend Yanni Gourde and fellow third-liner Oliver Bjorkstrand coming aboard. And, remember, Tampa was red-hot before this move.

Okay, that's finally it for the Atlantic ... at least in the winners category.

Seattle Kraken

You can like a deal from both sides and while we've got Tampa down as a winner for acquiring Gourde and Bjorkstrand, the Kraken exit that swap with two first-round picks and a second. That's a nice asset haul for GM Ron Francis, who also grabbed a 2027 second from the Jets for Brandon Tanev.

Columbus Blue Jackets

Good on the Jackets, who removed potentially the most consequential rental player (non-Rantanen division) from the market when GM Don Waddell stated they would not be trading pending UFA defenceman Ivan Provorov despite the lack of a new deal.

Ride with what you've got and if Provorov walks, he walks.

Also, the Jackets are just four points behind the Devils (with a game in hand) for third place in the Metropolitan Division and if they can overcome a New Jersey squad that didn't do much of anything — possibly in part because it's tough to buy right after you lose a player like Jack Hughes to injury for the year — they'll draw a Hurricanes team in the first round that has to be hurting a little at the end of this Rantanen affair.

New York Islanders

Landing a prospect like Calum Ritchie — even if it meant saying good-bye to franchise mainstay like Brock Nelson — has to be marked as a ‘W.’

And finally ... US!

Wow, what rush! Deadline day itself often tends to fall a little flat because teams get their heavy lifting done ahead of time. But we saw big-time swaps today, with A-list players, prospects and league personalities on the move. Well done, suits.

LOSERS

Carolina Hurricanes

No format offers less wiggle room than winners/losers and — unlike the games themselves — it can take a long time for us to learn the ultimate results of transactions.

But, as any fourth-liner jumping over the boards to get his nose dirty and possibly a little broken can tell you, the job is the job, and we live in a binary sports world that demands declaring victory or defeat.

You had to love the Canes’ all-in play to get Rantanen from Colorado after a couple years of coming up short in the playoffs. That he isn’t staying in Raleigh for the next nine springs is an obvious disappointment.

On the bright side, Logan Stankoven — with his skill and crazy motor — almost seems born to be a Cane. Still, this is a tough one right now for Carolina.

Boston Bruins

If you want to zag — and, pulling back in the curtain a bit, I almost did — and call the B’s winners, you laud them for picking a lane and hammering the accelerator. There was no hemming or hawing from GM Don Sweeney, who, to the surprise of many, ushered in a new phase of team-building in Boston by moving out some central-core pieces.

Selling pending UFAs like Trent Frederic and Justin Brazeau is one thing, but moving your captain, Brad Marchand, is another, and dealing away important players with term left on their deals like Charlie Coyle and Brandon Carlo can only be interpreted as a major shift in approach for Boston.

The team wasn’t going anywhere this year, but we didn’t enter deadline day prepared to do a real re-evaluation of what Boston’s next two or three seasons look like.

Winnipeg Jets

The Jets made solid, if unspectacular, additions in edgy bottom-sixer Brandon Tanev and hefty right-shot defenceman Luke Schenn. But that second-line centre spot remains

a question mark and you can't be a Jets fan and feel good about the gains made by division rivals in Dallas and Colorado.

Buffalo Sabres

If Josh Norris stays healthy and scores the way he can, Western New Yorkers can calm down a little. But this is a big bet by the Sabres given the player's extensive injury history. Buffalo was bent on getting players back who can help right now if it was going to move somebody like Dylan Cozens and that's fair enough. But did Sabres GM Kevyn Adams try to match the pieces too perfectly by acquiring another middleman who's basically signed to the same contract as Cozens?

Also, it's one thing to make a trade the blows up in your face — it's another to make it with a team you're, in theory, competing for a wild-card spot with year after year.

Sabres fans, on behalf of the entire hockey world — minus Sens supporters — I hope I'm wrong.

The second round of the playoffs

The fact we can say, right now, it's very likely two of Toronto, Tampa, Florida, Dallas and Colorado will be gone in Round 1 is a slight bummer. All five of those clubs pushed in chips and, assuming the Avs can catch the Minnesota Wild down the stretch, the 2 vs. 3 matchups in the Central and Atlantic are going to feature four of these clubs.

Of course, that means Round 1 could be two weeks' worth of the fun we had today.

<https://www.sportsnet.ca/nhl/video/which-canadian-teams-stood-out-most-at-trade-deadline/>

Which Canadian teams stood out most at trade deadline? (VIDEO)

Elliotte Friedman and Kyle Bukauskas break down what the Canadian teams did at the deadline, including Toronto filling their need for a right-shot defenceman, and the Jets dealing with no-trade clauses despite taking a lot of swings.

<https://www.sportsnet.ca/nhl/video/how-brandon-tanevs-intensity-will-fuel-the-jets-in-the-playoffs/>

How Brandon Tanev's intensity will fuel the Jets in the playoffs (VIDEO)

The Hockey Central panel discusses the Winnipeg Jets acquiring Brandon Tanev from the Seattle Kraken in exchange for a second-round draft pick, and how he, along with recent acquisition Luke Schenn, could form a dynamic duo on the penalty kill.

<https://www.sportsnet.ca/nhl/video/winnipeg-lands-schenn-how-veteran-defenceman-fits-with-jets-d-group/>

Winnipeg lands Schenn: How veteran defenceman fits with Jets D group (VIDEO)

Watch as Elliott Friedman and Kyle Bukauskas break news of Luke Schenn getting traded to Winnipeg, and the Hockey Central panel discusses his fit with the Jets as they push for a Stanley Cup run.

Global Winnipeg

<https://globalnews.ca/news/11072658/winnipeg-jets-crush-devils-6-1-to-remain-on-top-of-nhl/>

Winnipeg Jets crush Devils 6-1 to remain on top of NHL

By Brayden Ewasko Global News

For the first time all season, the Winnipeg Jets won both games in a back-to-back situation, defeating the New Jersey Devils 6-1 Friday night.

The Jets improved to 44-16-4 on the season which keeps them in first place in the NHL as they outshot the Devils 35-23, with six different players scoring a goal.

Nikolaj Ehlers led the charge with a goal and two assists, while Josh Morrissey and Kyle Connor each had multi-point efforts.

“We played really close to our game,” said Jets defenceman Josh Morrissey. “Obviously, there was little stretches there, start of the third period where they got a little momentum, but that’s what our team has done all year is just be calm, rely on our structure and system in that situation and we played really well.”

The Jets had a three-goal lead after two periods. Dawson Mercer scored for the Devils just 31 seconds into the final frame, but the Jets scored three more times in the final eight minutes to secure another win.

After being acquired earlier in the day just ahead of the trade deadline, forward Brandon Tanev was in the lineup for the Jets already. He was a plus-one, with two hits in 11:28 of ice time.

“It’s an easy team to come to when there’s so many good players and they make things easier for you,” Tanev said. “Obviously it’s a tough day in terms of getting here, getting acclimated, but I mean, when you go out there, you put a familiar jersey on that you’re so used to – you’re excited to play.

“I’ve had a big smile on my face all day.”

The Jets have scored at least six goals in a game 12 times this season, which is the most in the NHL.

It's just the second time in seven tries this season the Jets have won the second half of a back-to-back.

"We wanted to make sure that we were simply being a back-to-back," said Jets head coach Scott Arniel. "That first period was real good, a real solid group."

Both teams looked fast and aggressive to start the game, and the Jets got an early key save but not from a likely source as a puck slipped by Connor Hellebuyck but not the goal line as forward Morgan Barron made the save.

The Jets headed back up the ice and Alex Lafallo potted his ninth of the year, pocketing a backhand with assists from Logan Stanley and Colin Miller.

Winnipeg then got their first powerplay of the game and just couldn't get things set up at first but when they did, it was Morrissey putting home his tenth of the season.

Late in the second period, Dylan DeMelo swung the puck down low to Nikolaj Ehlers and he came up the side wall to the middle and pocketed his 21st of the season with 31 seconds left in the middle frame.

The Devils responded early in the third period when Mercer got one past Hellebuyck on a one-timer in the first minute of the period.

And then the Jets put the game away with 8:04 remaining in the third period as Adam Lowry capitalized on a turnover and tucked in his 13th of the season.

Only two and a half minutes later, Connor made sure he wasn't forgotten as he buried a Mark Scheifele feed for his 33rd goal of the year.

Next up for the Jets is a game against the Carolina Hurricanes on Sunday in Raleigh, North Carolina. Puck drop is just after 4 p.m.

Associated Press

<https://www.sportsnet.ca/nhl/article/ehlers-scores-again-as-jets-pound-devils-in-tanevs-return-to-team/>

Ehlers scores again as Jets pound Devils in Tanev's return to team

By Associated Press

NEWARK, N.J. — Nikolaj Ehlers scored for the third consecutive game and had two assists, Kyle Connor added his 33rd goal of the season, and the Winnipeg Jets beat the New Jersey Devils 6-1 on Friday night.

Ehlers connected on a wrist shot with 30 seconds left in the second period, putting the Jets up 3-0. Ehlers had an assist on Josh Morrissey's power-play goal earlier in the second and Cole Perfetti's goal in the third, giving him five points in his last three games.

Alex Iafallo and Adam Lowry also scored for the Jets, who have won back-to-back games after dropping three in a row. Connor Hellebuyck stopped 22 shots for his NHL-leading 37th victory.

Dawson Mercer scored for the Devils with a slap shot in the opening minute of the third to make it 3-1, but it wasn't enough to prevent a third consecutive loss.

Brandon Tanev, acquired by the Jets earlier in the day from the Seattle Kraken in exchange for a second-round pick, played 11:28 and recorded one blocked shot and two hits.

The 33-year-old began his career in Winnipeg before moving to Pittsburgh and Seattle.

Takeaways

Jets: Ehlers now has 56 points in 55 games, putting him on pace for his most efficient season in his 10th year with Winnipeg.

Devils: Despite allowing at least five goals twice in its last five games, New Jersey remains securely in third place in the Metropolitan Division.

Key moment

With the Devils starting to find a little momentum to start the third, Lowry scored unassisted for his second goal in two games after going seven games without a point.

Key stat

The Jets haven't squandered a three-goal lead since 2022.

Up next

Jets play at Carolina on Sunday, and Devils visit Philadelphia.

The Athletic

<https://www.nytimes.com/athletic/6185913/2025/03/08/winnipeg-jets-trade-deadline-failure/>

The Winnipeg Jets' trade deadline was a missed opportunity. The playoffs don't have to be

By Murat Ates

NEWARK, N.J. — The Winnipeg Jets tried to trade for Brock Nelson. There were times when they thought they were going to acquire him. At one point, Jets head coach Scott Arniel had lines drawn up as if Nelson were part of the team.

It didn't happen.

There is an element of mystery as to the reasoning. The simplest explanation is that Winnipeg made New York a competitive offer but Islanders general manager Lou Lamoriello preferred Colorado's package. It is also possible that Nelson declined to waive his no-trade clause — either before Colorado's involvement or afterward. Jets GM Kevin Cheveldayoff did not clarify the details at Prudential Center on Friday, saying only that decisions were made that were not within Winnipeg's control.

"I'm not going to get into anything specific as far as what the different situations were," Cheveldayoff said. "We put a real strong foot forward, and that's where we're at."

Cheveldayoff succeeded in acquiring two depth players — Brandon Tanev and Luke Schenn — and the gap between their quality and that of Nelson and Mikko Rantanen created a lot of angst in Winnipeg on Friday. What if the Jets started their day as the favourites to emerge from the West and ended it as underdogs against the Avalanche or Dallas Stars? What gap existed has shrunk, with the Stars taking the top spot in The Athletic's Stanley Cup odds.

So no, the Jets' trade deadline was not a success. They named a target, lost that target, then watched as their rivals made major upgrades. That's not the same thing as saying Winnipeg's season has not been a success — or can't be a playoff success — because the Jets are well built. It's still a disappointing result, particularly amid an arms race in the Central Division.

Before Thursday night's Nelson disappointment, Cheveldayoff had been on a torrid run as Jets GM, going as far back as the Andrew Copp trade in 2022, a deal that ultimately yielded Morgan Barron, Brad Lambert, Elias Salomonsson and Thomas Milic. Since that time, Cheveldayoff's work acquiring — and retaining — Nino Niederreiter and Vladislav Namestnikov has cemented Winnipeg's middle-six forward group. His Pierre-Luc Dubois trade brought back Gabriel Vilardi, Alex Iafallo and Rasmus Kupari. He opened his

playbook to Connor Hellebuyck and Mark Scheifele, detailing his plans for the Jets to stay competitive if they stayed, then signed them to matching seven-year extensions.

Cheveldayoff's fastidiousness is part of what got Winnipeg to the top of the NHL standings with \$12 million worth of cap space to work with on Friday. (There's a lens through which the Jets earned the opportunity to be disappointed by Friday's missed opportunity by being the NHL's top team in the first place.) The Jets are a great team with roster holes — holes they acknowledged by shopping for Nelson in the first place — and leaving cap space unspent probably wasn't part of the plan when the week began.

So, what now?

The Jets' players answered part of that question with a 6-1 drubbing of the New Jersey Devils on Friday night. Tanev was part of that, getting under Paul Cotter's skin at one point as Winnipeg rallied around its new (and former) teammate.

We can do our part by acknowledging the reasons for the Jets to acquire Tanev and Schenn and by thinking critically about what played out this week. They're both tenacious, competitive players with no cheat in their game. They both play hockey with a sense of "F— you for being here" level of abrasion toward their opponents that the Jets mostly lack. They also came at high prices — a 2026 second-round NHL Draft pick and 2027 fourth-round draft pick for Schenn and a 2027 second-round draft pick for Tanev — that underscore this year's trade deadline as a seller's market.

Winnipeg's players will be glad to have them, even as Jets management set its sights higher and missed.

There are unique challenges facing management that also need to be acknowledged. Winnipeg makes frequent appearances on players' no-trade clauses. Whereas one current Jets player recently shared a story about flying to Winnipeg with his wife for the first time and the feeling of relief it brought, many NHL players have limited perspectives on Winnipeg as a city. You saw that in our anonymous NHL players' poll.

I asked Adam Lowry if it was all the more vindicating to win a decisive game after a week full of trade rumours and speculation that Winnipeg needed big upgrades. Lowry was candid in his response and proud of his teammates.

"The Brock Nelson deal hits, and anytime a big-name player is involved, you kind of hope he stays in the Eastern Conference or he doesn't go within the division. And obviously, he goes to a divisional rival, a great team in Colorado. And then you hear the rumours about Rantanen going to Dallas. ...

"I think what's been so great about our group this year, regardless of the circumstances surrounding us, whether it's back-to-back (games) or the outside stuff, we just go out

there, put our heads down, put in the work, and the results seem to follow more often than not.”

The Jets could have let the trade deadline distract them from closing off their back-to-back games as effectively as they did. Lowry did his part to make sure Winnipeg's players didn't allow it, stealing a puck from Simon Nemec for a goal, winning nine of his 17 faceoffs, and helping the PK to a perfect night. It was a workmanlike effort that reflects Winnipeg as a city and has reflected the 2024-25 Jets for the overwhelming majority of the season.

“The way I look at how our team is made up, the way we play structurally, the way we can defend, we like our chances against any team,” Lowry said after the game. “We know it's going to be a dogfight. If you want to win the Stanley Cup, you've got to beat four very good teams.”

If I were asked to set Stanley Cup odds, I would base my rankings on a team's total quality, not just the quality of players added at the trade deadline. Hellebuyck still plays for the Jets, and his value doesn't somehow diminish because the Jets drafted him in 2012 instead of trading for him this week. You can see this approach in the playoff probabilities, which continue to give Winnipeg the best odds of winning the Presidents' Trophy and the fifth-best odds of winning the Stanley Cup. (Adding Nelson would improve Winnipeg to third-best Cup odds.)

Put another way: Winnipeg missed its second-line centre target but remains a top team. The Jets are still Stanley Cup contenders because of everything they got done before this week. Tanev and Schenn will bring feistiness and physicality. They won't bring Nelson's or Rantanen's quality. They won't necessarily have to, and that's part of what makes Winnipeg a great team.

Winnipeg's trade deadline result was, in no small part, a failure. The Jets named a need and missed out on filling it.

But Winnipeg's playoffs don't have to be a failure. Here's a thought for the die-hard Manitobans: How delightfully Winnipeg would it be if these Jets — the ones who've chosen Winnipeg — banded together and went deep in the playoffs despite the shorter winters of Dallas and Denver?

Whether that's a storyline you cheer for or not, the Jets' deadline was an underwhelming chapter in an otherwise spectacular season.

<https://www.nytimes.com/athletic/6174590/2025/03/07/winnipeg-jets-trade-deadline-report-card/>

Winnipeg Jets trade deadline report card: Tanev, Schenn not enough to keep up in Central

By Murat Ates

Movement since Jan. 24

In: Brandon Tanev, Luke Schenn, Chris Driedger

Out: Kaapo Kahkonen, second-round pick (2026), second-round pick (2027), fourth-round pick (2027)

Grade: D

Winnipeg's trade deadline will ultimately be remembered for what it didn't get done. They made small steps forward by adding well-liked depth players Luke Schenn and Brandon Tanev, but the Jets paid prices that reflect a seller's market — and they didn't get a high-end upgrade, like Brock Nelson, despite their efforts. Schenn and Tanev are competitive depth players who kill penalties, block shots, and — in Schenn's case — throw a ton of bodychecks. Schenn represents much-needed depth on the blue line, where the Jets' recent deployment implies they're an injury away from using Logan Stanley in the top four. Neither player drives play — that's fine, Winnipeg needed depth — but it's wildly underwhelming compared to work done by Colorado and Dallas. The Jets began the day as the favourite to emerge from the West and end it as underdogs against the Avalanche or Stars in a seven-game series. Yes, Winnipeg is still good, but deadline day was not an obvious success — and they also left cap space unused.

What it means for the lineup

Winnipeg's biggest strengths compared to its competition are Connor Hellebuyck, the power play, the quality of the Jets' middle-six forward group, and the success of defence pairings anchored by Josh Morrissey and Dylan Samberg. Mark Scheifele, Kyle Connor, and Gabriel Vilardi are a quality top line but give ground to Nathan MacKinnon, Connor McDavid, Jack Eichel, and company.

Brock Nelson would have been an upgrade to Vladislav Namestnikov on the second line (and Namestnikov would have been an upgrade to Rasmus Kupari on the fourth line by way of a ripple effect).

Instead, we're left to assume Tanev takes a fourth-line job at left wing and Schenn slots in on the Jets' third pair. The Jets may bump Morgan Barron to the press box to make way for Tanev instead of slotting Barron at centre as we've done here. If so, then Kupari (concussion) has the edge on David Gustafsson for the fourth line centre job. The pairing of Schenn and Stanley we've projected is shy on footspeed and could be a risk to spend a lot of time in its own zone. Winnipeg might look to Haydn Fleury alongside Schenn to compensate for his slow pace but they have shown a lot of faith in Stanley to this point in the season.

Trade grades

Jets get: Defenseman Luke Schenn

Penguins get: 2026 second-round draft pick, 2027 fourth-round draft pick

Murat Ates' grade: C+

Winnipeg needed defensive depth. They needed more depth on the left side, but Schenn does check off a lot of boxes for the type of depth player Winnipeg could use on defence. He's big, strong, wins his battles, blocks shots, kills penalties, and a two-time Stanley Cup champion — the only Cup champ on the team. The 35-year-old's footspeed is an issue, reducing his overall impact on the game despite the effectiveness of his physicality. The acquisition is sensible, the price is high, and I won't fault Winnipeg for making this trade so much as not making a similar one on the left side.

Jets get: Forward Brandon Tanev

Kraken get: 2027 second-round draft pick

Murat Ates' grade: C+

Brandon Tanev is a popular piece of Jets 2.0 history. He was an energetic part of the Jets' "TLC" line with Adam Lowry and Andrew Copp and played a big role on the 2018 club that went to the Western Conference final. He's also full of energy on and off the ice, making him easy for teammates to cheer for. His penalty killing metrics don't mesh with the minutes he gets in that discipline — his teams have often been outshot and outscored more with him than with other options — but Tanev will do anything for his team. Again, it's a great "vibes" pick, a sensible depth addition, but it comes at a high price for a fourth line forward who is a pending UFA.

What they're saying

Coach Scott Arniel

Did he allow himself to get excited about the possibility of acquiring Brock Nelson?

Yeah. You're sitting there, now you're sort of moving lines around, looking at different people. Yeah, that was a thing. I got to sit in on most of the meetings here. We were in on all these conversations that were going on, and we were trying to give our best offer and those type of things. It's unfortunate, but at the end of the day we like our group, we really do. It didn't happen, didn't materialize. But we like what we have.

On acquiring Luke Schenn, now the team's only Cup winner

I talked to him today about (his Cup winning experience.) He knows what it takes to play that time of year. He's had the experience of being in Tampa, winning twice. If he has knowledge, we want to hear it. To be around the guys when the heat gets turned up at that time of year, he's one of those guys that can help calm the room and get us through those moments.

On the Central Division competition

Little bit of an arms race going on ... We feel like we all have good teams that have a chance to win. They've made their moves, we've done stuff in different ways and it'll really come down to the playoffs.

GM Kevin Cheveldayoff

On the unique and ever-shifting nature of this year's deadline

It was a really interesting deadline. Much different than a lot of other ones. There was things that you thought were real and then all of the sudden weren't real. There was lots of players that maybe were in play that then got pulled out. Usually, you see guys get added in as the days go on. This was a unique trade deadline in that respect. We were in on things that we felt we could be in on and anything that was available to us, we took a good hard look at.

Could Brock Nelson have become a Jet?

It's one of those things where we were in it from a perspective of doing everything we possibly could to look at all the different angles. When decisions are made that are out of your control, that's the way it is.

Was playing in Winnipeg the issue that held up a Nelson deal?

I'm not going to get into anything specific as far as what the different situations were. But again, we put a real strong foot forward.

Are high prices to blame for the Jets exiting deadline day with cap space, despite the desire to add?

Prices really didn't factor into any of our decisions as far as acquiring or not acquiring players. Like, that wasn't a factor. We weren't going in saying, "We weren't going to do this, we weren't going to do that, we are going to do this, we are going to do that." We were prepared and ready to do whatever it took if there was fits. Unless there's not a fit, then you have to be judicious and try to do things that you do think help your lineup.

Goalie Eric Comrie

On Brandon Tanev

Tanny's a really hardworking player. He works really hard. He skates really hard. He's a funny guy in the room. He's one of the best guys in the room. He's always a leader of the conversation.

He's loud and funny and boisterous and I think he just adds a lot to the team dynamic. I remember when he was here, the line they had was unbelievable. A solid, solid checking line. He can score but he can also play great defence and he moves really well.

<https://www.nytimes.com/athletic/6175461/2025/03/08/nhl-trade-deadline-2025-team-grades/>

2025 NHL trade deadline report cards: Grading every team's moves (or lack thereof)

By The Athletic NHL Staff

The start of the NHL's 2025 trade deadline featured everything from major moves that saw the rich get richer to reunions to big names in new uniforms before, predictably, a flurry of moves Friday.

Which teams accomplished their goals, and which left their fan bases fuming? The Athletic asked its NHL staff to assign a grade to every club on their moves (or lack thereof) ahead of the deadline — in context of how successfully they improved their situation — whether they're rebuilding, trying to make the playoffs or pushing to win the Stanley Cup.

We had to define "ahead of" somehow, so we decided on everything including and after the Mikko Rantanen trade to the Hurricanes on Jan. 24. Any moves made before that are excluded.

Winnipeg Jets: D

Winnipeg's trade deadline will ultimately be remembered for what it didn't get done. The Jets made small steps forward by adding well-liked depth players Luke Schenn and Brandon Tanev, but the Jets paid prices that reflect a seller's market — and they didn't get a high-end upgrade, like Brock Nelson, despite their efforts. Schenn and Tanev are highly competitive depth players who kill penalties, block shots, and — in Schenn's case — throw a ton of bodychecks. Tanev gives Winnipeg a lot of speed and energy on the fourth line, albeit at the cost of Morgan Barron or David Gustafsson's minutes. Schenn represents much-needed depth on the blue line where the Jets' recent deployment implies they're an injury away from using Logan Stanley in the top four. Neither player drives play — that's fine, Winnipeg needed depth — but it's wildly underwhelming compared to work done by Colorado and Dallas. The Jets began the day as the favorite to emerge from the West. They're still in the mix but it isn't fair to call them favorites anymore. — Murat Ates

<https://www.nytimes.com/athletic/6184100/2025/03/07/nhl-trade-grades-luke-schenn-brandon-tanev-penguins-kraken-jets/>

Penguins, Kraken soak up sellers' market in 2 deals with Jets: Trade grades

By James Mirtle and Sean Gentille

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

The trades

Winnipeg Jets get: Defenseman Luke Schenn

Pittsburgh Penguins get: 2026 second-round draft pick, 2027 fourth-round draft pick

Winnipeg Jets get: Forward Brandon Tanev

Seattle Kraken get: 2027 second-round draft pick

James Mirtle: I had a front-row (press box) seat when the Maple Leafs acquired Luke Schenn at the trade deadline two years ago for a third-round pick.

At the time, it felt like he would be simply a bit part, depth addition to a contending Toronto team. Instead, he stepped into a top-four role alongside Morgan Rielly and was one of the Leafs' best players as they finally made it out of the first round of the playoffs.

And Toronto tried to bring him back in the offseason, only to get outbid on the generous three-year deal Schenn landed in Nashville.

Schenn, 35, is two years older than during that postseason with the Leafs, and what he brings isn't flashy. But he also won't be expected to do as much with the Jets, filling primarily a third-pair slot and penalty-killing duties.

His game is a perfect fit for the postseason and this team, given he brings size and physicality, not to mention the experience of two deep playoff runs with the Lightning in 2020 and 2021. And his underrated ability to make a nice, no-nonsense play to break out of his zone has been a big part of his late-career resurgence over the past few years.

The only downside for the Jets is that they didn't get any of the deal retained, as \$2.75 million is a hair high to pay for another year beyond this one. Credit to the Penguins, meanwhile, for flipping Schenn for a better pick outlay than what the Canucks got for him two years ago.

I'm less bullish on the Tanev addition, if only because the Jets really could have used a higher level add up front. They were in hard on some of the bigger fish, such as Brock Nelson, and Tanev is certainly not that.

What he is, however, is an incredibly hard worker who brings a strong checking game and elite penalty-killing – something the Jets need to upgrade given they sit 15th. His underlying numbers at even strength have taken a dip as he's aged, but some of that has been the challenging environment in Seattle the past few seasons.

Tanev started his career in Winnipeg and was part of their big playoff run in 2018, so the fit in that respect should be seamless. And it feels possible this turns into more than just a rental situation, too, which would boost this grade.

Jets grade: B
Penguins grade: A-
Kraken grade: A-

Sean Gentile: Way back on Wednesday night, when the Penguins acquired Tommy Novak from Nashville for Michael Bunting, Luke Schenn's involvement in the deal screamed "quick flip."

Contenders will always make room for big, tough, high-character Cup-winners. The Penguins, as they've laid plain over the last few months, are no contenders. And for as much as Kyle Dubas gassed up Schenn in a round of post-trade emails with Pittsburgh media, smart money should've always been on Schenn winding up somewhere else.

"(We) feel that having Luke's defensive play, character, leadership, toughness and spirit is something we need here to help push our program through this phase and preserve our culture and standards as we work to return to contention," Dubas said.

They'll miss out on that, it seems, while adding two draft picks to their cache. Dubas, should he desire, can now select 10 players in the first round of the next three drafts. This market favors sellers, and he's taking full advantage.

Schenn, meanwhile, re-surfaces on one of the best teams in the league. The Jets got a physical right-shot defenseman who can kill penalties and clear the net-front. In a vacuum, that's fine — it's certainly a player profile that they can use. Given how the Western Conference is shaping up, he should help the Jets along the way.

Still, they need to be careful about how much they put on Schenn's plate. He's 35 years old now and was never going to win any foot races in the first place.

You could say something similar about Tanev. He can still skate and still seems like a player who can be a factor over the course of a playoff run, but his overall game has dipped over the past two years. Seattle's defensive numbers are worse with him on the ice. I'm not sure that's how Winnipeg, in a perfect world, would've spent a second-round pick, though the state of the market might say otherwise. If this is what it takes for a true Cup contender to get better, what other choice do they have?

Jets grade: C-
Penguins grade: A
Kraken grade: A

<https://www.nytimes.com/athletic/6184585/2025/03/07/nhl-trade-deadline-winners-losers-rantanen-marchand/>

NHL trade deadline winners and losers: Mikko Rantanen, Brad Marchand reshape Stanley Cup race

By Mark Lazerus

What the 2025 NHL trade deadline lacked in quantity, it made up for in quality. After all, it's not often we have a prolonged drama like the Mikko Rantanen saga, which took several twists and turns before ending deep in the heart of Texas. And the Panthers' stunning acquisition of Brad Marchand is one of the great buzzer-beaters in deadline history.

Now that the dust has settled — and knowing full well that the true winners and losers won't be known until mid-June — let's take a look at who improved the most, who took the biggest chances and who fell flat on their face on deadline day.

Winner: Florida Panthers

Imagine going up against a line with both Brad Marchand and Matthew Tkachuk on it. Good luck with that. Panthers GM Bill Zito made the most of the cap space Tkachuk's groin injury opened up, snagging Marchand at the very last minute after adding Seth Jones earlier in the week.

Marchand might not be the 100-point player he was six years ago, but he's still an excellent all-around player and one of the game's all-time great pests. You can count on The Rat being showered with fake rats after a big win in South Florida at some point this spring. Both Marchand and Tkachuk are hurt right now, but both are expected back for the postseason, which is all that matters in Florida. And while Jones was overpaid as the Blackhawks' No. 1 defenseman, he can be an outstanding No. 3 in Florida (and potential No. 2 going forward as Aaron Ekblad hits unrestricted free agency this summer), and at a more manageable \$7 million cap hit with Chicago retaining \$2.5 million for the next five seasons.

Winner: Mikko Rantanen

Rantanen was a member of the Carolina Hurricanes for about six weeks. He spent his first week on the road. He spent the next two weeks with Team Finland in Montreal and Boston. He had all of six home games in Raleigh. It's entirely reasonable that he wasn't ready to commit the next eight years of his life to a franchise and a city he barely knows. And that he was pushing for a nine-figure deal, complicating matters further.

Then Rantanen went and signed an eight-year deal with Dallas, a team for which he's never played, a city in which he's never lived. And for \$96 million, less than Carolina reportedly offered. As if there were any doubt that teams in tax-free states had an inherent advantage over the rest of the league.

Rantanen had total control of his situation, so he must be happy with the deal or it wouldn't have happened. While it would have been fun to see what someone like Rantanen could have gotten on the open market — players like him so rarely get to that point — he's joining one of the best and best-run teams in the league, and he's earning generational wealth to do so. How could you look at that as anything but a win?

Winner: Dallas Stars

Jim Nill has painted himself into something of a corner, handing \$96 million to Rantanen with Tyler Seguin coming off long-term injured reserve (LTIR) and Jason Robertson, Wyatt Johnston and Thomas Harley all due significant raises in the next two years. Then there's captain Jamie Benn, who is a pending unrestricted free agent. Whatever. He'll get to that eventually, and given Nill's history, he'll surely make it all work. What matters is that this is now the Stanley Cup favorite, the best team in the NHL. Getting Rantanen — at significantly less than he'd get on the open market — is a massive coup for the Stars. The NHL's center of gravity continues to shift south.

Loser: Carolina Hurricanes

There's no spinning this as a positive for the Hurricanes. GM Eric Tulsky did well enough to salvage something tangible out of it — and if you go all the way back to the initial deal with Colorado, it might even be a net gain — but it's a bad beat all the same. The Hurricanes gave up a premium talent with another year on a team-friendly contract in Martin Necas to acquire Rantanen, got 13 measly games out of him (won only seven of them), and then flipped him to Dallas for Logan Stankoven and two late first-round picks. Stankoven is an exciting young player, but will he even be at Necas' level, let alone Rantanen's? The fact is, this might have been Carolina's best chance to break through in a wide-open Eastern Conference. Instead, they're further from contention than they've been in years.

The Hurricanes broke from team tradition last year by getting Jake Guentzel as a rental, only to watch him leave for Tampa (another team in a tax-free state!). That apparently spooked Carolina enough that Rantanen's ambivalence about Raleigh as a long-term home prompted this rather drastic course of action. It's a shame. Rantanen's production was subpar (six points in 13 games), but he was generating a massive amount of scoring chances. The goals were going to come, and Rantanen is a monster in the playoffs. Carolina could have gone for it, consequences be damned. Instead, the Hurricanes hedged and were left trying to make the best of a bad situation.

Winner: Mitch Marner

With Rantanen off the board, guess who's the belle of the ball this summer in free agency? Get that bag, Mitch.

Winner: Colorado Avalanche

The trade deadline is typically an imperfect tool for filing holes, with teams scrambling and often settling to add something, anything, as the clock ticks down. There's rarely a perfect fit out there for a team, and it's even more rare for such a trade to happen. But

Brock Nelson was the perfect fit for the Avalanche, giving them the second-line center they so clearly needed.

The price was high (a first-rounder and top prospect Calum Ritchie), and the Islanders can feel just as good about this deal as Colorado can. But the Avalanche can win the Stanley Cup this season. Nelson makes them that much better. Swapping Casey Mittelstadt for Charlie Coyle only helps. You won't hear anyone complaining about the Avalanche's lack of centers anymore.

Loser: Colorado Avalanche

Eight years, \$96 million for Rantanen? That's pretty much what the Avalanche reportedly offered him before they sent him to Carolina. There's the tax-free aspect, obviously, but if Rantanen never wanted to leave and Colorado was willing to hit the same number, that initial trade to Carolina looks premature in hindsight.

Winner: Chicago Blackhawks

Trading Jones makes the Blackhawks worse; there's no way around that fact. Yet again, it could get even worse before it gets better in Chicago. But Spencer Knight's 41-save debut has Chicago fans feeling hope for the first time since the 2023 draft lottery, and it's an undeniable victory for Kyle Davidson to only have to retain \$2.5 million on Jones' contract for the next five seasons.

With Jones forcing the issue and Chicago having no leverage, it seemed like a cap dump for futures with high retention was all the Blackhawks could hope for. Instead, they got a potential No. 1 goalie and a first-rounder, without an onerous retention. Unloading Petr Mrázek and landing a young, controllable, former first-rounder in Joe Veleno is a nice bonus that not only moves out a bad contract but averts an awkward three-goalie situation. Nice work by Davidson.

Loser: Chicago Blackhawks

Davidson, flush with cap space and desperate for a difference-maker up front, had his eye on Rantanen as an ideal linemate for Connor Bedard. Now that Rantanen is off the board, Davidson can only hope that Toronto doesn't strike a deal with Marner — and that Marner's up for a fixer-upper.

Winner: Tampa Bay Lightning

Some day, there will be a reckoning for Julien BriseBois and the Lightning, a day on which all their core players suddenly are tumbling down the aging curve and the cupboard is completely bare. But that day is not today.

Tampa has won 10 of its last 11 games and has muscled its way back into the true contender tier of the NHL. And when you have a chance to win, you go for it. BriseBois' utter disregard for draft picks is almost comical at this point — Tampa has had one first-round pick in the last five drafts and has dealt away its 2025, 2026 and 2027 first-rounders (the last two with top-10 protection) — but it's also absolutely the right attitude for a perennial contender.

Neither Yannick Gourde nor Oliver Bjorkstrand is a franchise-changing needle-mover, but the Lightning know as well as anybody that it's those second-tier depth additions that often make the difference in the postseason.

Every hockey fan should want their team's GM to think this way.

Loser: Buffalo Sabres

As they hurtle toward a 14th straight spring without a playoff appearance, the Sabres had to do something. And they did something. But they did something that doesn't really change anything.

At best, swapping Dylan Cozens (and depth defenseman Dennis Gilbert) for Josh Norris (and depth defenseman Jacob Bernard-Docker) is a wash. At worst, it's selling low on a player with a very high ceiling. That the Sabres sent a second-rounder to Ottawa for the privilege is baffling.

Instead of getting aggressive and truly remaking a talented but continually underperforming roster by dealing away the likes of Jason Zucker or even Alex Tuch, the Sabres are stuck running in place. And that place is last.

They are in the same position after the trade deadline as they were before the trade deadline — lost.

Winner: Toronto Maple Leafs

The Leafs didn't have the splashiest deadline — at one point in the day, while chaos swirled, you wanted to poke Brad Treliving with a stick and see if he was still awake. But Scott Laughton and Brandon Carlo are sneaky good gets who make Toronto a better defensive team, first and foremost.

Laughton's certainly an upgrade over Max Domi, who can shift to the wing. With the Flyers retaining half of Laughton's salary, the Leafs get a reliable two-way, third-line center for two playoff runs at just a \$1.5 million cap hit. And it didn't cost them any of their top prospects or young players. Even the 2027 first-rounder is top-10 protected.

Laughton is good on the ice and great in the room. It's not the most exciting move, but for a team that's been done in by its lack of forward depth in previous postseasons, it's a savvy one.

Loser: Vancouver Canucks

It sounds like there could be progress toward a Brock Boeser extension, but what are these Canucks? They're not going for it, having traded J.T. Miller away earlier in the season and Carson Soucy to the Rangers for a third-rounder at the deadline. They're not retooling, having held on to Boeser and Elias Pettersson. Their captain and best player is hurt, they're on the periphery of the playoffs, and they seem to be going nowhere slowly.

Winner: San Jose Sharks

For absolutely nothing, Sharks GM Mike Grier got 50 solid games from Jake Walman, a second-round pick (from Detroit as a cap-dump sweetener last summer) and a first-round pick (from Edmonton for Walman on Thursday). Steve Yzerman could never.

Loser: Edmonton Oilers

Dallas went out and added the best player available in Rantanen and locked him up long-term. Colorado went out and added the top rental available in Nelson. Edmonton added a solid second-pair defenseman in Walman and a third-line forward in Trent Frederic. If this is an arms race, Edmonton is losing. The Oilers are the defending conference champion and were the preseason favorites to win it all. Now, they look like the fifth-best team in the West. It's foolish to ever doubt Leon Draisaitl and Connor McDavid, but the Oilers have an uphill climb to get back to the Final.

Winnipeg Free Press

<https://www.winnipegfreepress.com/breakingnews/2025/03/07/jets-cast-out-the-devils>

Jets cast out the Devils

Tanev makes instant impact hours after being traded back to Winnipeg

By: Ken Wiebe

NEWARK — This was not a case of the back-to-back blues.

The Winnipeg Jets made a couple of high-character additions before the NHL trade deadline passed and followed that up by sending a reminder to the rest of the league that they're still a pretty good hockey team.

Even if they didn't add a marquee name like a couple of their Central Division opponents did.

By the time the buzzer had sounded Friday night, the Jets had earned a decisive 6-1 victory over a depleted New Jersey Devils squad that was reeling after losing Jack Hughes for the season and was also without top blue-liner Dougie Hamilton.

"The way I look at how our team is made up, the way we play structurally, the way we can defend, we like our chances against any team," said Jets captain Adam Lowry. "We know it's going to be a dog fight. If you want to win the Stanley Cup, you've got to beat four very good teams.

"Adding those guys, being able to maintain the cohesiveness and the chemistry of the expectations, of what's expected, not trying to introduce a bunch of new guys to new systems will allow us to keep rolling."

Rolling is what the Jets have done for the better part of this season and that's why they remain a legitimate contender.

After working through a three-game winless streak (0-2-1), the Jets have won consecutive games on consecutive days for the second time in seven tries this season.

During the past two games, the Jets piled up 10 goals while allowing only two.

"We didn't like our little stretch there of losing. It wasn't long, but we wanted to come on this road trip and kind of get back to our game," said Jets defenceman Josh Morrissey. "That's what our team has done all year, just be calm and rely on our structure and system in that situation and we played really well. It was a big back to back with two wins for us in tough buildings."

The Jets, who improved to 44-16-4 for the season, close out this four-game road trip against Eastern Conference opponents on Sunday against the Carolina Hurricanes.

"There's a lot going on this week and we had talked about focusing on what you can focus on and that's one area where our group is really mature," said Jets head coach Scott Arniel. "We sort of focus on the task at hand and we get on that task at hand and nothing else."

"We don't worry about things that are outside, that are out of our control. Those are two big answers (to the three-game winless stretch)."

Let's take a closer look at this one:

THE (RE)DEBUT

After being acquired from the Seattle Kraken for a second-round pick in 2027, Brandon Tanev jumped immediately into the Jets lineup and made his presence felt, recording a pair of hits in what was a not-so-subtle reminder of the style of play that made him effective after signing as a college free agent.

That's part of what made this reunion so attractive for the Jets.

"His game hasn't changed a whole lot," said Lowry. "He brings a lot of energy. Great forechecker, great PK'er, just another element of speed to our lineup."

"He was disruptive on the forecheck, their line gets us going with a big first goal and some great jobs on the kills, some nice hits and some good blocks. That's what we can expect from him. He's not the biggest guy, but he brings it every night."

Tanev was in Philadelphia with the Seattle Kraken and had a feeling he was going to be on the move.

Once he heard he was returning to the organization where things began, Tanev was thrilled, got everything in order and made his way to New Jersey, arriving just under two hours before puck drop.

"It was one of those things where you're just waiting and it comes as it is," said Tanev, who has nine goals and 17 points in 61 games this season. "I'm very happy. I've been smiling all day. It's a group I know very well, a city I know well, and they've had great success this year so I'm just trying to come in and do whatever I can."

Tanev's style of play resonated with Arniel, who inserted him onto the fourth line with Alex Iafallo and Morgan Barron, who moved into the middle.

"I knew he had some quickness to him, but you really notice that on your side, he closes quick and he's smart," said Arniel. "For a guy that we overloaded before the game, (with) video on how we like to play, he grasped it pretty quick. I really liked that line, he did a good job."

THE KEY PLAY

Nikolaj Ehlers ripped home a shot with 29.1 seconds left in the second period to extend the Jets lead to three goals.

THE THREE STARS

- 1) Nikolaj Ehlers, Jets, scored a goal and chipped in three points, using his speed effectively throughout.
- 2) Josh Morrissey, Jets, Scored his 10th of the season and added an assist and generated four shots on goal.
- 3) Kyle Connor, Jets, notched his 33rd goal and added an assist to hit 80 points in 64 games.

STAYING HOT

For the third consecutive game, the Jets power play buried an important goal, giving them five goals during that span after the zero-for-17 drought.

This time, it was Morrissey pouncing on a rebound chance in the slot after a shot by Ehlers.

Morrissey's goal was his 10th, making him the ninth player on the roster to hit double digits.

"The power play has been a strength for us all year. The last couple games, we've gotten back to feeling it out there," said Morrissey, who eclipsed the 50-point plateau for the third consecutive season. "We had some movement. I don't find myself in the slot too often, but it came right out on my stick and I just had to not miss the net."

EXTRA, EXTRA

By scoring his 13th goal late in the third period, Jets forward Cole Perfetti tied his career high in points with 38. The Jets also got goals from Alex Iafallo and Kyle Connor

Jets goalie Connor Hellebuyck made his 48th start of the season and picked up his 37th win, lowering his goals-against average to 1.99 and raising his save percentage to .927.

Jets defenceman Luke Schenn, acquired for a second round pick in 2026 and a fourth-rounder in 2027, was in Las Vegas with the Pittsburgh Penguins after being traded there by the Nashville Predators earlier this week. Rather than rush to North Carolina, Schenn is expected to join the Jets on Monday and should make his debut on Tuesday against the New York Rangers.

<https://www.winnipegfreepress.com/breakingnews/2025/03/07/jets-add-d-man-schenn-and-tanev>

Jets add D-man Schenn and Tanev

Trade deadline sees solid players join NHL's top team for playoff run

By: Ken Wiebe

NEWARK – Winnipeg Jets general manager Kevin Cheveldayoff may not have hit it out of the park, but he didn't go down looking either.

Whether or not that was the right path won't be known for a couple of months.

After filling specific needs with a couple of experienced additions, the Winnipeg Jets know what they'll be going into battle with as they leave this edition of the NHL trade deadline in the rear-view mirror.

"Part of our success as a group is that team identity. It's one of those things where up and down, side to side, we have depth and we created a lot more there," Cheveldayoff said before the Jets faced the New Jersey Devils on Friday night. "We have more speed. I think as you get into the playoffs that's important. We have a hardness element that we didn't have before. We have a champion in the room that has experience that will be a voice that will help our leadership group immensely."

Bringing in veteran Luke Schenn should provide a boost for a blue line that was looking to add many of the qualities he brings to the table: championship pedigree and physical play, with an ability to clear the front of the net while also moving the puck efficiently enough.

Brandon Tanev is someone the Jets are quite familiar with, as the organization that signed him as a college free agent and watched him grow into someone who cashed in with a six-year deal with the Pittsburgh Penguins as an unrestricted free agent after putting up career highs on a line with Adam Lowry and Andrew Copp.

Tanev is an energetic winger who brings speed to the lineup and plays an in-your-face type of game while supplying secondary scoring.

He's also a shot-blocking machine and someone who could be comfortable playing on the fourth line but also bump up and reunite with Lowry if circumstances arose.

Tanev played an important role on the checking line as the Jets made a run to the Western Conference final in 2018, something Cheveldayoff pointed out in his meeting with members of the media.

In short, the Jets should be harder to play against with Schenn and Tanev entering the fold.

As for the prices paid to acquire the assets, they're in line with the high cost of doing business in and around the deadline.

Giving up second-round picks in 2026 and 2027 and a fourth-rounder in 2027 is a steep price, no doubt about that.

It's a worthwhile for a franchise looking to get beyond the first round of the Stanley Cup playoffs for just the second time since 2018.

Cheveldayoff made it clear the prices weren't a deterrent in his quest to upgrade the roster.

"That wasn't a factor," he said. "We weren't going in saying, 'We weren't going to do this, we weren't going to do that, we are going to do this, we are going to do that.' We were prepared and ready to do whatever it took if there was fits."

Did the Jets do enough to hold off the likes of the Dallas Stars and Colorado Avalanche, who made bigger swings, landed bigger players and addressed more needs?

The Jets definitely improved, but will it be enough to win 16 games this spring when the chips are down?

If you look at recent Stanley Cup champion history, you'll find plenty of examples of teams that made modest moves at the deadlines to complement what was already a rock-solid roster as compared to being proclaimed deadline day "winners" as a result of reeling in a big fish or two.

The Jets are no doubt banking on that type of trend continuing.

There's no doubt Cheveldayoff has taken some risk in not adding a second-line centre and that's a match he tried to find right up until the deadline.

Although he didn't mention him by name — because that would be tampering — Cheveldayoff left enough bread crumbs to suggest that they were likely one of the teams that was trying to acquire St. Louis Blues captain Brayden Schenn — either before or after the deal for Nelson fell through.

"Teams make decisions for whatever reason. They're winning, team chemistry, injuries to their team and have to pivot and change their minds," said Cheveldayoff. "You're having many, many, many conversations weeks in advance leading up to this. And conversations can go one way or another for different teams for various different reasons. You can have someone on your list and planning and talking and cultivating for a long time and those things sometimes just don't come to fruition."

There are no participation ribbons handed out for being involved in trade talks for players that land elsewhere, but there was plenty of evidence the Jets were in the Brock Nelson sweepstakes before he joined the Avalanche.

Cheveldayoff didn't want to get into the specifics of why the Jets couldn't get that deal across the finish line, but if you read between the lines, it sounded like Nelson might not have wanted to go to a team playing in Canada or been willing to waive his trade protection.

"When decisions are made that are out of your control, that's the way it is," said Cheveldayoff. "We put a real strong foot forward and that's where we're at. The deals happen behind closed doors, they're going to stay behind closed doors."

The Jets are banking on Vladislav Namestnikov handling the job the way that he has for the entire season and for the depth of the group to ensure the team continues to lean on its defensive structure and score enough.

The other thing we know is Cheveldayoff has shown his belief in this core group numerous times during his 14-season tenure and he's once again doubling down on the confidence he has in them.

There are many folks around the league who believed the Jets needed to do more to try and keep up with the Joneses.

"Little bit of an arms race going on," said Jets head coach Scott Arniel. "When the one domino falls, others start to hit. There's obviously some very, very big names going. I think that, like us, a lot of teams in the Central, we feel like we all have good teams that have a chance to win."

"They've made their moves, we've done stuff in different ways and it'll really come down to the playoffs."

Given the improvements made by the Stars (who added Mikko Rantanen after dealing for Mikael Granlund and Cody Ceci earlier) and Avalanche, it looks like finishing first in the Central Division and the Western Conference takes on more importance.

“I don’t think so, because we were talking about it in training camp. We talked about it the last couple of years, the importance of being the best in your division,” Arniel countered. “We know we have an extremely strong (division). We had a strong division before today, and it hasn’t changed.”

If the Jets are going to chip away at the narrative that’s been following them around after consecutive quick playoff exits, they’re going to have to apply some of the painful lessons learned and turn that into a longer run.

It doesn’t do them any good to wonder what the roster might have looked like with the addition of Nelson or a player like him.

There will be many observers who point to this day as a missed opportunity for the Jets, lamenting more wasn’t done to bolster their chances — especially with just over US\$6 million still available under the salary cap ceiling, according to Puck Pedia.

That’s not of concern to the 25 players currently on the Jets roster or anyone that get recalled for the ride.

This is the group that the Jets have and it’s up to them to show what they can do when the stakes are highest.

Winnipeg Sun

<https://winnipeg.sun.com/sports/friesen-jets-gm-cheveldayoff-brought-pop-gun-to-trade-deadline-arms-race>

FRIESEN: Jets GM Cheveldayoff brought a pop-gun to trade deadline arms race

By Paul Friesen

It wasn’t Kevin Cheveldayoff’s best work at the NHL trade deadline, not even close.

The Winnipeg Jets GM, in charge of the best team he’s ever iced, the one with the best chance, yet, of playing for a Stanley Cup in June, didn’t hit the home run many were expecting on Friday.

No second-line centre, such as Paul Stastny in 2018, Kevin Hayes a year later or Sean Monahan last year.

No top-four defenceman, such as the sneaky-good acquisition of Dylan DeMelo in 2020.

Too expensive?

"Prices really didn't factor into any of our decisions," Cheveldayoff told reporters in New Jersey. "We were prepared and ready to do whatever it took if there (were) fits."

He apparently couldn't make the big moves fit.

Instead he tinkered, adding players who make the Jets deeper, not necessarily better. Of course, deeper can be better, but usually it takes a long playoff run to make that point.

Coming to the Jets are 35-year-old defenceman Luke Schenn, on his ninth NHL team, and 33-year-old winger Brandon Tanev, who returns to the place he started his career.

"A little bit of a different dimension on the back end from a hardness perspective, penalty kill perspective, leadership perspective," Cheveldayoff said of Schenn. "We really got a lot in acquiring Luke. And then Tanev, it's always good to bring your guy back home. He was a big part of what we had going there when we went deep into the playoffs (2018) ... he's just that much more experienced as a player now. Speed galore, tenacity, penalty killing."

Both rugged, the pair make the Jets tougher and a little more playoff-ready. That's been one of the question marks about this team when it comes to the postseason.

But that question mark hasn't disappeared.

Meanwhile, two of Winnipeg's Central Division rivals stamped exclamation marks on their deadlines.

"A little bit of an arms race," is what head coach Scott Arniel called it. "When the one domino falls, others start to hit."

The lead domino: Mikko Rantanen, who scores anywhere between 30 and 50 goals a year, and who'll be doing that for the Stars for the next eight.

That trade-and-sign move by Dallas was the shot heard 'round the hockey world on Friday. Well, at least around the West.

The Stars' big move cost them two first-round draft picks and change.

Not to be outdone, the Avalanche added to their late-Thursday haul of No. 2 centre Brock Nelson from the Islanders with a deal for Charlie Coyle from Boston.

If this was an arms race, as Arniel said, his boss came to it with pop-guns.

The GM made it sound like more of a magic act: players available one minute, off the table the next.

“There were things that you thought were real and then all of a sudden weren’t real,” Cheveldayoff said. “There was lots of players that maybe were in play that then got pulled out.”

Cheveldayoff figures he made his team harder to play against. Hard enough to handle what Dallas and Colorado will fire at them in the playoffs, though?

Keep in mind not even Cheveldayoff’s big swings have propelled the Jets very deep, other than in 2018. His team will have to prove it’s been playoff-hardened from within.

Not that Schenn and Tanev won’t help with that.

“They bring a lot of stiffness to the game,” is how Arniel put it. “Both of them play hard, good penalty killers, playoff experience.”

One, Schenn, even has a Stanley Cup ring, making him an anomaly in the Jets’ dressing room.

“I talked to him about that,” Arniel said “He’s had the experience of being in Tampa, winning twice. If he has knowledge, we want to hear it. When the heat gets turned up at that time of year, he’s one of those guys that can help calm the room and get us through those moments.”

“He’ll be able to talk to the guys,” Cheveldayoff added. “And say, ‘Buckle down, because it’s damn well worth it.’”

Those moments may come before the playoffs. Don’t look now, but Dallas was just six points behind the Jets going into the weekend, with one game in hand and two more head-to-head meetings to come. If the Stars win those three, there’s a tie for first.

All of those early-season points the Jets bagged, winning 15 of their first 16 games, for instance, they’re like gold buried in the back yard now. Because holding off Dallas to finish first in the Central has become an even bigger priority than it already was. It’s either finish first or run a likely playoff gauntlet through the Stars and Avs in the first two rounds of the Stanley Cup tournament.

It’d be much better to let those two slug it out in a second-vs.-third matchup and take on what’s left of the winner.

“Those teams did what they felt they needed to do,” Cheveldayoff said. “We did what we felt we needed to do.”

Right now, it doesn’t feel like enough.

Right now doesn't really matter, though.

<https://winnipeg.sun.com/sports/pumped-about-trades-jets-pump-six-past-devils-in-new-jersey>

Pumped about deadline trades, Jets pump six past Devils in New Jersey

By Paul Friesen

The Winnipeg Jets had a better trade-deadline day than their general manager.

Hours after Kevin Cheveldayoff pulled the trigger on pair of low-impact trades, his team pulled the trigger six times in a 6-1 rout of the Devils in New Jersey on Friday.

If there was any disappointment their boss didn't make a bigger splash, the Jets didn't show it, the blowout coming on the heels of a 4-1 win in Philadelphia one night earlier.

In fact, they sounded downright pumped.

"The things both of those guys bring to the locker-room almost can't be measured as easily as goals and assists, but are vitally important for our group," Josh Morrissey said of fellow defenceman Luke Schenn and forward Brandon Tanev, his two new teammates.

Tanev is also an old teammate, having started his career with the Jets.

He made it from Philadelphia to New Jersey for Friday's game, making his annoying presence – to the opposition – felt right away.

"You saw what he does out there," Morrissey said. "Buzzes around, plays physical. He's on the kill, big blocked shots, battles on the wall. Stuff that you need all year round but especially down the stretch and into the playoffs. We know what he's all about, the heart and soul that he plays with... lots of smiles when he came into the locker room."

Adding Schenn to the blue line of the league's stingiest team had Morrissey smiling, too.

"I mean, try to get to the net on him," he said. "It's not very fun."

"Both high-character guys," captain Adam Lowry added. "They're going to fit in really well with this group. We like our chances against any team. Adding those guys... not trying to introduce a bunch of new guys to new systems will allow us to keep rolling."

They sure were against the Devils, getting goals from six different players off all four lines and one from the defence: Alex Iafallo, Nik Ehlers, Kyle Connor, Cole Perfetti, Lowry and Morrissey.

The Jets improved their record in the second half of back-to-backs to 2-5 this season, putting their recent 0-2-1 mini-skid behind them for good.

"We didn't like our little stretch there of losing," Morrissey said. "It wasn't long, but we wanted to come on this road trip and get back to our game."

Winnipeg improves to a league-best 43-16-4, with 18 games left in the regular season.

The Jets held period leads of 1-0 and 3-0, Morrissey's goal coming on a red-hot power play.

The Devils made it interesting just 31 seconds into the third, Dawson Mercer left alone to beat Connor Hellebuyck.

Lowry ended any thoughts of a comeback, stealing the puck in the Jersey zone and beating Markstrom midway through the third.

Connor and Perfetti added some salt to the wound.

Shots were 35-23, Jets, their power play going 1-for-2.

The Jets, 2-1 on this road trip, finish it in Carolina on Sunday.

Canadian Press

<https://ca.sports.yahoo.com/news/jets-acquire-defenceman-luke-schenn-181020799.html>

Jets acquire defenceman Luke Schenn, forward Brandon Tanev at deadline

By Judy Owen

WINNIPEG — Scott Arniel likes the veteran savvy the league-leading Winnipeg Jets have added.

The Jets head coach said acquiring forward Brandon Tanev in a trade with the Seattle Kraken and picking up defenceman Luke Schenn from the Pittsburgh Penguins ahead of Friday's NHL trade deadline bolsters Winnipeg's roster.

"Two real good depth guys we feel add to our group," Arniel told reporters in New Jersey before his team played the Devils on Friday night. "They bring a lot of sort of stiffness to the game.

"Both of them play hard, good penalty killers, playoff experience."

Winnipeg is sending a 2026 second-round pick and a '27 fourth-round selection to the Penguins for Schenn.

The 35-year-old Saskatoon native has 1,057 career games on his resume. He's expected to join the Jets after they wrap up their four-game road trip Sunday in Carolina against the Hurricanes.

The Jets are also sending a 2027 second-round pick to the Kraken for Tanev, 33, who began his career with Winnipeg late in the 2015-16 campaign and played 195 games over four seasons.

Tanev joined the team in New Jersey and immediately started on the fourth line against the Devils, appearing in his 534th career game. The pending unrestricted free agent had nine goals and eight assists with Seattle.

Winnipeg topped the Central Division with a 43-16-4 record heading into Friday's action, six points ahead of the Dallas Stars, who acquired star forward Mikko Rantanen. The Colorado Avalanche were 14 points behind the Jets and picked up forwards Brock Nelson and Charlie Coyle.

Did the Jets do enough to stay ahead of the pack?

"I think that, like us, a lot of teams in the Central we feel like we all have good teams that have a chance to win," Arniel said. "They've made their moves, we've done stuff in different ways and it'll really come down to the playoffs."

Winnipeg has been bounced out of the first round of the playoffs the past two seasons, both times in five games.

Fans had wanted the Jets to take a big swing before the trade deadline to try to fill needs such as a second-line centre and another defenceman to make a big post-season push.

Jets general manager Kevin Cheveldayoff described the day as "a really interesting deadline."

"Much different than a lot of other ones" the 14-year GM told reporters in New Jersey. "There was things that you thought were real and then all of the sudden weren't real."

"There was lots of players that maybe were in play that then got pulled out. Usually, you see guys get added in as the days go on. This was a unique trade deadline in that respect."

"We were in on things that we felt we could be in on and anything that was available to us, we took a good hard look at."

Money wasn't an issue.

"Prices really didn't factor into any of our decisions as far as acquiring or not acquiring players," Cheveldayoff said, adding Nelson was in the mix.

Schenn is the only player on Winnipeg's roster who's won a Stanley Cup. Arniel said he talked to him about that.

"He knows what it takes to play at that time of year," Arniel said. "He's had the experience of being in Tampa, winning twice. If he has knowledge we want to hear it.

"To be around the guys when the heat gets turned up at that time of year, he's one of those guys that can help calm the room and get us through those moments."

The Penguins flipped the six-foot-two Schenn after acquiring him and forward Tommy Novak from the Nashville Predators for Michael Bunting and a fourth-rounder on Wednesday. Schenn did not play a game with Pittsburgh and had one goal and four assists with Nashville.

Schenn has one year remaining on his contract beyond this season at a US\$2.75-million salary cap hit.

Cheveldayoff said Tanev has more experience since he was with the team when it lost the Western Conference final in 2018 to the Vegas Golden Knights in four games, and he brings speed and tenacity.

He said he believes the Jets have become harder to play against with the additions.

"We have depth and we created a lot more there," Cheveldayoff said. "We have more speed. I think as you get into the playoffs that's important.

"We have a hardness element that we didn't have before. We have a champion in the room that has experience that will be a voice that will help our leadership group immensely."

TSN.ca

<https://www.tsn.ca/nhl/video/where-do-jets-stand-as-western-teams-load-up%7E3089103>

Where do Jets stand as Western teams load up? (VIDEO)

The balance of power seems to have shifted in the mighty West and while the Jets have the best record in the league, will they still be considered the best with the Stars and Avalanche making strong moves? TSN Director of Scouting Craig Button joins Jennifer Hedger to discuss where Winnipeg stands in the West.

<https://www.tsn.ca/nhl/video/did-the-jets-do-enough-to-keep-up-with-colorado-and-dallas%7E3094212>

Did the Jets do enough to keep up with Colorado and Dallas? (VIDEO)

The Jets got tougher and grittier on trade deadline day, but did they get better when compared to the impact moves made by division opponents Dallas and Colorado? TSN's John Lu looks back at Winnipeg's moves as they look to finish atop the Central Division ahead of the playoffs.

<https://www.tsn.ca/nhl/video/big-name-moves-arms-races-and-sell-offs-headline-nhl-trade-deadline-day~3094169>

Big name moves, arms races and sell-offs headline NHL trade deadline day (VIDEO)

Trade deadline 2025 delivered, with big names like Mikko Rantanen and Brad Marchand changing addresses, the Atlantic and Central Divisions leaders bulking up, and the Bruins making moves as they changes direction. TSN's Gord Miller, Bob McKenzie, Pierre LeBrun, Darren Dreger and Chris Johnston have more.

<https://www.tsn.ca/nhl/video/tradecentre-report-cards-how-each-canadian-nhl-team-fared-at-the-deadline~3094217>

TradeCentre report cards: How each Canadian NHL team fared at the deadline (VIDEO)

TSN Director of Scouting Craig Button and TSN Hockey analyst Mike Johnson offer their grades for how each Canadian NHL team made out at the trade deadline.

<https://www.tsn.ca/nhl/video/sawyer-breaks-down-what-luke-schenn-and-brandon-tanev-brings-to-the-jets~3088637>

Sawyer breaks down what Luke Schenn and Brandon Tanev brings to the Jets (VIDEO)

Kevin Sawyer joins TradeCentre to share his initial reaction to the Winnipeg Jets acquiring Luke Schenn and Brandon Tanev, and discusses what both players will bring to the team.