

<https://www.nhl.com/jets/news/three-things-comeback-effort-gives-jets-central-west-titles>

***Three things - Comeback effort gives Jets Central, West titles
Cole Perfetti scores shootout winner in 5-4 victory in Chicago***

By Jamie Thomas

The Winnipeg Jets played their final road game of the regular season and left the United Center with a 5-4 shootout win, Cole Perfetti scored the shootout winner. The Jets set a franchise record with their 26th road win of the season, extended their franchise record with their 55th win and they need one point in their last two games to set a franchise record (114 in 2017-18). Josh Morrissey scored twice, Kyle Connor and Nino Niederreiter added singles for the Jets who recorded their 23rd comeback win of the season (they trailed 2-0 and 4-3), which is tied for second with Colorado and two back of Washington. Connor Hellebuyck won his 46th game of the campaign, also adding to his franchise record.

CENTRAL DIVISION AND WEST CHAMPS

It wasn't pretty but the Jets left Chicago with what they came for, two points and the Central Division championship and top spot in the Western Conference. The Jets clinched the No. 1 seed in their conference for the first time in franchise history and the No. 1 seed in their division for the second time, following 2006-07 when the Thrashers topped the Southeast Division. Winnipeg will have home ice advantage for at least the first three rounds of the Stanley Cup Playoffs. The Jets are now five points up on Washington for the Presidents' Trophy, the Capitals have a game in hand.

"Obviously, come game 83 what you did in regular season doesn't matter, but it does give us confidence that we know we're one of the top teams in the league. And it's the way we've done it this year," said Josh Morrissey.

"It hasn't just been one line or a couple guys we've done with our special teams, with our goaltending, of course, that might be the one position where you can clearly single out a Hart Trophy type season from him. But I think for us, it should just give us confidence heading into the playoffs."

TOP SHELF J-MO

The Jets saw their 3-2 third period lead slip away when Ryan Donato scored at 10:53 to tie at three and then Frank Nazar made it 4-3 at 14:05. Winnipeg didn't slow down though as Dylan DeMelo saw Josh Morrissey coming in from the left side and hit his defence partner with a perfect pass and Morrissey went top shelf on Spencer Knight and give the Jets the point they needed to clinch the Central and the West.

FETTS WITH THE FINISH

Winnipeg hasn't needed the shootout for points much this season considering how well they have played in overtime. Tonight, Connor Bedard gave Chicago the lead as the Hawks second shooter, but Kyle Connor responded with some great hands beating Knight. After Hellebuyck shut the door on Teuvo Teravainen, Cole Perfetti made a highlight reel move on Knight and got the Jets the second point going five-hole for the win.

NHL.com

<https://www.nhl.com/news/winnipeg-jets-chicago-blackhawks-game-recap-april-12>

Jets clinch No. 1 seed in Western Conference with shootout win against Blackhawks

By Bruce Miles

CHICAGO – The Winnipeg Jets clinched first place in the Central Division and the No. 1 seed in the Western Conference for the Stanley Cup Playoffs with a 5-4 shootout victory against the Chicago Blackhawks at United Center on Saturday.

The Jets earned the one point they needed to clinch once the game went past regulation. They will hold home-ice advantage through the Western Conference Final.

"It feels good, obviously," forward Adam Lowry said. "The process tonight wasn't very good. We weren't thrilled with our game. Maybe tomorrow you wake up in a better mood because it was nice we pulled that one out. Everyone (was) kind of disappointed with our start. We battled back and were able to get it.

"It wasn't a masterpiece, but it was nice to close it out and kind of solidify home ice for hopefully a long run. We haven't really accomplished anything yet. We're still focused on the goal ahead. To kind of have a small reward for the work we put in throughout the year (is) a nice little feather in our cap."

Josh Morrissey scored two third-period goals for the Jets (55-21-4), who finished first in their conference for the first time in team history. Their one previous division title came when they were the Atlanta Thrashers, winning the Southeast Division in 2006-07. Nino Niederreiter and Kyle Connor also scored, and Connor Hellebuyck made 28 saves.

"I think we've shown all year we've done a good job of being able to win different ways," Morrissey said. "Our calling card has been solid 'D' and not giving up a lot of chances throughout the game. So, there's a lot more there than we would have liked. We found a way to stay in it. Sometimes those games late in the year against teams that are out of it by quite a bit with a lot of young guys can look like that."

Connor Bedard and Frank Nazar each had a goal and an assist, and Spencer Knight made 37 saves for the Blackhawks (23-46-11), who played their final home game of the season. Patrick Maroon and Alec Martinez each played his final NHL game.

"Yeah, I'm grateful for this game and grateful for all the organizations that I was a part of playing in this league and grateful for my teammates that were along the way, the trainers and everyone that was part of it," Maroon said. "Honestly, I'm foggy right now, I don't know what to say."

The Blackhawks saluted Maroon, who won the Stanley Cup three times during a 14-year career, with a video tribute.

"Really special," he said. "First, I'd like to thank the Blackhawks organization for doing that for me tonight. Made it really special, and not only for me, for (Martinez) also. And the ovation from the fans, thank you, I appreciate it. I've only spent six months here and it was a great send off, and I can't thank the Chicago Blackhawks organization for doing that. They didn't have to do anything, right? We're just players that like to play the game that we love and we're competitors every single day and we go out there and try to do everything we can to win hockey games. So, thank you."

Nick Foligno's short-handed goal gave the Blackhawks a 1-0 lead at 10:40 of the first period. Hellebuyck skated out toward a loose puck at the blue line but his clearing attempt hit Foligno, who picked up the puck and scored into an open net.

Bedard made it 2-0 with a power-play goal at 13:21. He took a pass from Sam Rinzel and scored with a one-timer from the left face-off circle.

Niederreiter's power-play goal at 11:15 of the second period brought the Jets within 2-1 when he moved in from the left point and put a wrist shot past Knight from the slot.

Connor then tied it 2-2 at 16:03, firing a wrist shot past Knight's glove from the left circle after taking a cross-ice pass from Alex Iafallo.

Morrissey put Winnipeg ahead 3-2 at 2:08 of the third period with a shot from the high slot.

Ryan Donato tied it 3-3 at 10:53 with a slap shot from the left circle.

"Today, I thought we did a lot of good things," Chicago interim coach Anders Sorensen said. "Margins are small, right? For the group we had, I think everybody battled as hard as we could. It was an emotional game in a lot of ways, but I thought everybody did their absolute best here to get the win."

Nazar put the Blackhawks ahead 4-3 at 14:05 with a one-timer from the slot, but Morrissey responded to tie it 4-4 at 16:13 when he cut down from the left point and

scored with a snap shot from the left circle off a pass from Dylan DeMelo at the right point.

"We had a good shift, a lot of zone time there," Morrissey said. "(DeMelo) made a great play. I was trying to jump behind their high forward, and he had the poise to make a great pass to me there."

The Jets finish the regular season with two home games, Sunday against the Edmonton Oilers and Wednesday against the Anaheim Ducks.

"It's taken us 80 games to get this division," coach Scott Arniel said. "It's been a grind, and I don't care how we got it, we got it. Like I said before, teams in our division don't go away as good as we've played it. To finally get that over and done with, it's a relief."

NOTES: Jets forward Nikolaj Ehlers was helped off the ice at 14:26 of the second period after getting tangled up with linesperson James Tobias and falling awkwardly. He did not return to the game. Arniel said Ehlers will be evaluated on Sunday after the Jets return to Winnipeg. ... Hellebuyck earned his 46th win of 2024-25 and tied Evgeni Nabokov (2007-08) for the fifth-most in a single season in NHL history behind Braden Holtby (48 in 2015-16), Martin Brodeur (48 in 2006-07), Bernie Parent (47 in 1973-74) and Roberto Luongo (47 in 2006-07) ... Bedard, 19, recorded his 81st NHL assist to surpass Eddie Olczyk for the most by a teenager in Blackhawks history.

The Athletic

<https://www.nytimes.com/athletic/6275260/2025/04/12/jets-nikolaj-ehlers-injury-collision-nhl-linesman/>

Winnipeg Jets' Nikolaj Ehlers injured vs. Blackhawks after collision with NHL linesman

By Mark Lazerus and Murat Ates

CHICAGO — Winnipeg Jets winger Nikolaj Ehlers collided with an NHL linesman during Saturday's second period and left the game with an apparent right leg injury. Ehlers' skate got caught underneath James Tobias' skate along the boards.

It looked like an innocuous collision, with Ehlers unwittingly backing into the linesman at the Chicago Blackhawks' blue line as he awaited a breakout pass. But after lying prone on the ice for a minute or two, Ehlers had to be helped up by teammates Adam Lowry and Mason Appleton, who led him off the ice. Ehlers was not putting any weight on his right leg and did not return for the third period. Tobias remained in the game.

Jets coach Scott Arniel didn't have much of an update on Ehlers after the game, only saying that it was "a little bit of the injury he had before." Ehlers missed two games earlier this month with a foot injury.

Arniel and captain Adam Lowry called the play “a freak accident.” Asked if Tobias should have moved out of the way, given how slowly the collision developed, Arniel demurred.

“They just ran into each other,” he said. “It was a tough play, especially to lose him in that situation. It wasn’t a blocked shot or doing something — just a freak accident.”

Lowry said the team hadn’t been given any news on Ehlers.

“Any time you see a player, friend, teammate go down, you’re concerned,” Lowry said. “We haven’t heard anything yet, but we’re hoping for the best. He’s a warrior, he plays through a lot of things. Unfortunate collision, obviously. Just a freak accident. So we’re hoping for the best. I’m sure we’ll know more (in) the next couple of days. Like we’ve done with certain guys out all year, we’ve had other guys step up, other guys seem to fill that void. Whether he’s in or out of our lineup, that can’t change.”

What this means for Winnipeg as playoffs near

The Jets’ 5-4 shootout against Chicago locked up the top spot in the Western Conference and earned Winnipeg its first division banner in city history, so Ehlers’ injury won’t affect Winnipeg’s seeding. The Jets will play against the second wild-card team in the first round of the Stanley Cup playoffs, a spot held by the St. Louis Blues, with the Minnesota Wild another strong possibility and the Calgary Flames a distant one.

If Ehlers misses time in the playoffs, though — as he did in first-round losses to the Vegas Golden Knights in 2023 and St. Louis in 2019 — then Winnipeg has some big problems to solve. Ehlers plays a key role on the Jets’ top power play and second line. He’s having one of the best statistical seasons of his career, leading Winnipeg’s top power-play unit in points per minute. He’s behind Kyle Connor and Mark Scheifele in points per minute at five-on-five.

With Scheifele’s line getting the prime offensive minutes and Adam Lowry’s shutdown line handling checking duties, Ehlers’ line with Vladislav Namestnikov and Cole Perfetti is meant to feast on opponents’ depth lines. They’ve accomplished that feat, outscoring opponents 24-14 during the regular season. Without that edge, the Jets could go from great to merely good, and the power play would lose a dynamic scorer and one of the fastest players to retrieve loose, contested pucks. — Murat Ates, Jets beat writer

What does this mean for Ehlers’ future?

It’s no secret that Ehlers is a pending unrestricted free agent. His future in Winnipeg is up in the air, with Jets general manager Kevin Cheveldayoff saying his goal is to win a Cup with Ehlers and then let the business side take care of itself. Ehlers’ promotion to the top power-play unit helped him score 63 points in 69 games, setting the stage for a playoff performance that could catapult his UFA contract well beyond the \$6 million he earns now.

Ehlers' playoff stats are much less impressive: 14 points in 37 games. It's a weight he carries with him, and along with injury concerns, it's a question mark that could trouble Winnipeg or any team trying to sign him long-term. If he misses time in the playoffs — or plays as a lesser version of himself — then a freak accident would waste Ehlers' best opportunity to prove his critics wrong. It would be an awful way to remove a regular-season game breaker with high playoff hopes and could cost Ehlers at the bargaining table when it comes to his UFA payday. — Ates

<https://www.nytimes.com/athletic/6273681/2025/04/12/nhl-regular-season-2024-2025-disappointing-players/>

Every NHL team's most disappointing player in the 2024-25 regular season

By The Athletic NHL Staff

The NHL regular season is almost in the books, and every team had an MVP performance worth highlighting. But on the other side of the spectrum, some players have failed to impress.

Before we turn the page to the playoffs for some teams and the offseason for others at the end of next week, The Athletic asked its NHL staff for the player who emerged as most disappointing on each team this season.

Here's who our writers picked.

Winnipeg Jets

Logan Stanley, LHD

Winnipeg hasn't had a lot of disappointments this season. The Jets have been at or near the top of the standings all season and are only 2 points away from surpassing the team record of 114 points set in 2017-18. So, in a world where even the "most disappointing" Jets player is not all that disappointing, who fits the bill? Dylan DeMelo's play has taken a gentle step back. Haydn Fleury started well but struggled in top-four minutes. Ultimately, Stanley wins this unwanted prize by virtue of his 17 minor penalties while being out-chanced and outscored at five-on-five despite a largely sheltered third-pairing role. — Murat Ates

Associated Press

<https://www.sportsnet.ca/nhl/article/jets-clinch-top-seed-in-western-conference-with-win-vs-blackhawks/>

Jets clinch top seed in Western Conference with win vs. Blackhawks

By Associated Press

CHICAGO — Kyle Connor and Cole Perfetti scored in the shootout, and the Winnipeg Jets clinched the franchise's first Central Division title and the No. 1 seed for the Western Conference playoffs with a wild 5-4 victory over the Chicago Blackhawks on Saturday night.

Winnipeg won for the fourth time in five games. It went 26-15-0 on the road this season, setting a franchise record for road wins.

Josh Morrissey had two third-period goals for the Jets, who trailed 2-0 after one. Connor had a goal and an assist in regulation, and Nino Niederreiter also scored.

Winnipeg forward Nikolaj Ehlers departed after he backed into an official in the second period. Ehlers, who has 24 goals and 39 assists in 69 games, had to be helped off the ice after he got hurt with 5:34 left.

Frank Nazar and Connor Bedard each had a goal and an assist for Chicago in its home finale. Ryan Donato also scored, and captain Nick Foligno had a short-handed goal.

Blackhawks forward Pat Maroon and defenceman Alec Martinez each played in their last NHL game. The team saluted Maroon with a highlight video in the first period and did the same for Martinez in the third.

When it was over, the Jets stayed on the ice for a handshake line with Maroon and Martinez.

Winnipeg grabbed a 3-2 lead when Morrissey converted a long slap shot for his 13th goal at 2:08 of the third. But Donato responded for Chicago with 9:07 left, extending his career high with his 31st goal.

Takeaways

Jets: The Ehlers injury is a concern so close to the end of the regular season.

Blackhawks: It was one of Chicago's better all-around games, but a shaky stretch in the second period proved costly.

Key moment

Nazar came up empty on a prime scoring opportunity in the final seconds of regulation.

Key stat

Winnipeg had 28 hits, compared to 16 for Chicago.

Up next

Winnipeg hosts Edmonton on Sunday night. Chicago visits Montreal on Monday night.

Winnipeg Free Press

<https://www.winnipegfreepress.com/breakingnews/2025/04/12/jets-make-franchise-history-with-5-4-shootout-win-over-blackhawks>

Jets make franchise history with 5-4 shootout win over Blackhawks

By: Mike McIntyre

CHICAGO — The class of the Central. The best in the West. The Winnipeg Jets have soared to historic new heights.

A dramatic 5-4 shootout victory for the Jets on Saturday night here in Chicago wrapped up both their division and conference for the first time ever, including all the way back to the 1.0 era.

Go figure – a club that plenty of hockey pundits thought last fall might not even make the playoffs or, at best, would be in a wildcard position, could accurately say “We’re Number One.”

“As an organization, as a city, a province, everybody is excited. And they should be because we’ve got a hell of a hockey team,” Jets head coach Scott Arniel told the Free Press outside the team’s locker room at United Center, while their road victory song, Johnny Cash’s I’ve Been Everywhere, was blaring over the speakers.

“We’ve done a lot of good things this year. Hopefully this lasts a couple more months.”

Indeed, the Jets won’t be taking any victory laps despite crossing the finish line in first place at the end of the marathon that is the 82-game regular season. They know the real test begins next weekend when their record, and that of the other 15 teams in the hunt for the Stanley Cup, resets to 0-0-0.

“We know that at the end of the day, we’re going to get judged by what happens from Game 83 on,” said Arniel.

“But we’ve been trying to build our game all season long, that it gets us prepared for the playoffs. Whether that’s getting into big games and big moments, going through difficult stretches, playing in situations that resemble playoff games. Those are all the learning lessons and those are the scars that you get over the course of the year. This group is

confident right now and they should be. We know that if we play our game and get to our game, we're a tough out."

The Jets entered the game needing just a single point over their final three contests to sew up the top spot in the Western Conference. That shouldn't have been a problem against the league's second-worst team, right?

Not so fast.

Winnipeg fell behind 2-0 in the first period, rallied to take a 3-2 lead early in the third, surrendered two quick goals later in the frame and then tied it up with just under four minutes left in regulation. Cole Perfetti then ended the roller-coaster ride by scoring a beautiful shootout goal to grab the victory.

"It feels good. Obviously, the process tonight wasn't very good. We weren't thrilled with our game," said Jets captain Adam Lowry.

"It wasn't a masterpiece, but it was nice to close it out and solidify home ice, for hopefully a long run. We haven't really accomplished anything yet. We are still focused on the goal ahead but to have a small reward for the work we have put in throughout the year is a nice little feather in our cap."

Winnipeg is now 55-21-4 as they tied a franchise record for points in a season with 114. They have two home games left to try and set a new benchmark.

They have won three straight overall and are now five points ahead of Washington in the race for the Presidents' Trophy. The Capitals have three games remaining and will need to win them all to have any chance to pass the Jets.

"It's taken us 80 games to get this division. It's been a grind and I don't care how we got it. We got it," said Arniel. "Teams in our division don't go away, as good as we've played. Finally, to get that over and done with, it's a relief."

Let's break this one down a bit further:

A COSTLY WIN?

It wasn't all good news for the Jets as forward Nikolaj Ehlers left the game in the second period in obvious pain after a bizarre collision with a linesman. The Jets forward, who just returned on Thursday in Dallas after missing two straight games with a lower-body injury, backed into the official and fell awkwardly to the ice.

Ehlers needed help to eventually get off the ice and didn't return to the game.

"We'll see when we get home," was Arniel's initial update. When asked if he had a great level of concern, Arniel sounded a bit more optimistic.

“No. We’ll just see where he’s at. It’s just a little bit of the injury that he had before,” he said.

Ehlers, 29, has 63 points (24G, 39A) in 69 games, just one short of his career high. He’s a pending unrestricted free agent and the Jets can’t afford to be without him, especially with another top forward in Gabe Vilardi missing a 13th straight game on Saturday with an upper-body injury and with no set date to return.

BACK AND FORTH THEY WENT

The Jets were coming off two straight dominant outings against St. Louis and Dallas in which they outscored them 7-1 and gave up very little in the way of chances. There was very little of that type of play to be found in this one despite facing a Chicago team that had accumulated only 56 points this season, which was 56 fewer points than Winnipeg.

“Sometimes those games late in the year against teams are out of it quite a bit with a lot of young guys can look like that,” said defenceman Josh Morrissey.

The Blackhawks are playing fast and loose and jumped on the Jets early. Nick Foligno opened the scoring with a shorthanded goal midway through the first, taking advantage of a puck-handling blunder by Connor Hellebuyck. Connor Bedard then beat Hellebuyck through the five-hole on an ensuing power play to give the home team a 2-0 lead.

Winnipeg began the comeback just past the midway mark of the game as Nino Niederreiter fired a rocket just under the crossbar with his team on the power play to cut the deficit in half. Then Kyle Connor tied it up later in the middle frame, scoring his team-leading 41st after linemate Alex Lafallo intercepted a clearing attempt and sprung him.

Morrissey gave the Jets their first lead at 2:08 of the third, firing a shot through traffic that eluded Chicago’s Spencer Knight. Just when you thought that might be it, the Blackhawks roared back.

Ryan Donato’s shot may have tipped off the stick of Jets forward Brandon Tanev to beat a surprised Hellebuyck at 10:53 of the final frame, and then rookie Frank Nazar made it 4-3 with 5:55 left in regulation following a Jets turnover in their own zone.

But back came the Jets, with Morrissey jumping into the play and burying a nice pass from defence partner Dylan DeMelo to score his second of the night and 14th of the year. He also eclipsed 60 points for the third straight year.

“It’s huge. You can’t say enough about what Josh means to our team, night in and night out,” said Lowry.

“Even when he is not on the scoresheet he plays so many minutes and impacts the game in some many different ways. To see him rewarded, to take over the third, when we were pushing for a goal, that is what star players in this league do. It was nice to

take care of business ourselves. Obviously, we have preached if we take care of the games ahead of us we would put ourselves in a good spot and fortunately we were able to do that this week.”

KEY PLAY

Morrissey’s tying goal in the late stages of the third period gave the Jets the single point they needed to clinch the Central Division and the Western Conference.

THREE STARS

1. WPG D Josh Morrissey: 2 goals
2. CHI C Frank Nazar: 1 goal, 1 assist
3. WPG LW Kyle Connor: 1 goal, 1 assist

NOW WHAT?

The Jets will now play their final two regular-season games at home with nothing really on the line. They host the Edmonton Oilers on Sunday night, then close out against the Anaheim Ducks on Wednesday.

Backup goalie Eric Comrie will make his 20th start of the year against Edmonton, and we’d expect to see all of the team’s healthy scratches Sunday — defencemen Ville Heinola, Colin Miller and Hayden Fleury and forwards Rasmus Kupari and David Gustafsson — get into the lineup. That would allow for some veterans to get some rest.

The Jets could also call up a couple players from the Manitoba Moose such as defenceman Elias Salomonsson and forward Brad Lambert — although he left Saturday’s AHL game with an apparent injury.

You’d imagine most, if not all, regulars would play Wednesday against the Ducks, with the Jets trying to strike a balance between rest and rust.

“You go into these games and you don’t want the bad habits, kind of what our first period looked like tonight,” Lowry said .

“When we went into Dallas we were fast, hunting the puck quick and going through bodies. We weren’t just swinging and waving out sticks. That can creep into your game when you don’t have a whole lot to play for. It is important from the messaging coming down from leadership that we use these next two to get geared up, regardless who we play in the first round. They are tough matchups. There are a lot of good teams in this league. You want to get the rest and have some good practices so come that game we are ready to go.”

FOND FAREWELLS

It was an emotional night at United Center as a pair of veteran Blackhawks played their final NHL game. Forward Patrick Maroon and defenceman Alec Martinez are both retiring and won’t play the final two road games for Chicago.

They were given video tributes during the game, standing ovations from the crowd and rounds of applause from teammates, referees and linesmen and all members of the Jets, who lined up to shake their hands following the game.

“Obviously the hockey world is a small, small world. And you hear about guys, kind of through ex-teammates and stuff like that. And I think both Pat and Alec have always been talked about really highly from ex-teammates of theirs,” said Morrissey.

“It doesn’t always happen where a player knows when their last game is. So for two guys like that, that have had great careers, and have the respect of guys around the league for the way they played the game, and obviously, the type of people they are in their locker rooms, it was nice to be able to just do that for them and show them that respect that they deserve.”

Winnipeg Sun

<https://winnipeg.sun.com/sports/hockey/nhl/winnipeg-jets/jets-clinch-central-western-april-13-2025>

'Feather in our cap': Jets clinch Central Division and Western Conference titles

By Gordon Anderson

The Jets made franchise history on a Windy City Saturday night.

Cole Perfetti scored the winner in the shootout as the Jets beat the Chicago Blackhawks 5-4 in Chicago.

“Yeah, I mean it’s taken us 80 games to get this division,” head coach Scott Arniel told reporters in Chicago. “It’s been a grind and I don’t care how we got it. It’s finally, to get that over and done with, it’s a relief.”

Perfetti’s winner came in the third round when his shot snuck between the legs of goaltender Spencer Knight. Kyle Connor also scored in the shootout for the Jets. Mark Scheifele missed for Winnipeg.

Connor Bedard scored for the Blackhawks in the shootout. Ryan Donato and Teuvo Teravainen missed with their opportunities.

With the win, the Jets clinched both the Western Conference and Central Division titles for the first time in franchise history.

“It wasn’t a masterpiece, but it was nice to close it out and solidify home ice, for hopefully a long run,” captain Adam Lowry said. “We haven’t really accomplished anything yet. We are still focused on the goal ahead, but to have a small reward for the work we have put in throughout the year is a nice little feather in our cap.”

Josh Morrissey scored twice for the visitors. Nino Niederreiter and Connor also scored for the Jets (55-21-4). Winnipeg won all three games against Chicago this season. The Jets beat them 2-1 and 4-2 in previous games.

The Jets improved to 13-6-2 when tied after two periods of play. The club has outscored the opposition 103-73 in third period action through 80 games.

Nikolaj Ehlers collided with a linesman at the Chicago blueline in the second period before tumbling to the ice. He was helped off the surface and did not return. Ehlers played 8:01 in 11 shifts.

“Any time you see a player, friend or teammate go down you are concerned,” Lowry said. “We haven’t heard anything yet, but we are hoping for the best.”

Mason Appleton fell to the ice and crashed into the boards during the first period after Knight stopped his attempt on goal.

The Jets have earned points against the Blackhawks in 12-straight games, going 11-0-1 in that span. The streak is the longest consecutive point streak against any team in Jets/Thrashers history.

Connor Hellebuyck (46-12-3) stopped 28 shots for the win. Hellebuyck has won three straight games.

Nick Foligno, Bedard, Ryan Donato and Frank Nazar scored for the Blackhawks (23-46-11).

Knight (16-16-3) turned aside 37 shots in the loss.

The Blackhawks’ first shot on goal resulted in a short-handed marker as Foligno intercepted Hellebuyck’s clearing pass and shot the puck between the goaltender’s legs and into the back of the net.

The Jets finished the season with a 26-15-0 road record. The Jets set the previous franchise mark for road success with 25 victories last season.

Winnipeg hosts the Edmonton Oilers on Sunday evening at 6 p.m. at the downtown rink.

<https://winnipeg.sun.com/sports/hockey/nhl/winnipeg-jets/jets-lose-ehlers-to-an-injury-in-shootout-win-over-chicago>

Jets lose Ehlers to an injury in shootout win over Chicago

By Gordon Anderson

The Jets won the Central Division and Western Conference on Saturday, but at what cost?

And the cost will remain a line item until game time against the Edmonton Oilers on Sunday at 6 p.m. at the downtown rink.

Nikolaj Ehlers collided with a linesman at the Chicago Blackhawks blueline during the second period and went down hard on the ice. There was a grimace on his face, indicating pain. Ehlers was helped off the surface by two teammates and did not return. He played 8:01 in 11 shifts.

"They just ran into each other," head coach Scott Arniel told reporters in Chicago. "It was a tough play, especially to lose him in that situation. It wasn't a blocked shot or doing something. It was a freak accident."

The Jets beat the Blackhawks 5-4 in a shootout in Chicago on Saturday.

"Not ideal," Jets d-man Josh Morrissey said. "Obviously, I don't know. I haven't heard the verdict or how he's doing. But, just a weird play and fluky play, and hopefully he's okay."

Morrissey scored twice to pace the offence. The rearguard's second goal of the game tied things up late in the third period, allowing the Jets to pick up the point they needed to clinch two titles. The goal came at 16:13. The marker was his 14th of the season.

Ehlers suffered a similar lower-body injury, the result of blocking a couple of shots in the game against the Golden Knights on April 3. He missed games against the Utah Hockey Club and the St. Louis Blues last week.

Ehlers returned to the lineup prior to the Jets' game against the Dallas Stars on Thursday, a game the Jets won quite comprehensively in a 4-0 statement triumph.

Ehlers has 24 goals and 29 assists in 69 games this season.

"Any time you see a player, friend or teammate go down you are concerned," captain Adam Lowry said. "We haven't heard anything yet, but we are hoping for the best. He is a warrior and plays through a lot of things. Like we have done with certain guys out this

year, we have had other guys step up and fill that void and whether he is in or out of our lineup that can't change."

The full severity of the injury will not be known until Ehlers returns to Winnipeg for an assessment, but Arniel hinted the injury may be a reaggravation of the ailment he picked up against the Golden Knights.