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<https://www.nhl.com/jets/news/three-things-jets-lose-but-clinch-presidents-trophy>

Three things - Jets lose, but clinch Presidents' Trophy

WINNIPEG - The Winnipeg Jets lost 4-1 to the Edmonton Oilers at Canada Life Centre but in the process won their first ever Presidents' Trophy with the best record in the NHL. Alex Lafallo scored the only goal for Winnipeg who are now 55-22-4 on the season. Eric Comrie made 35 saves and took the loss as he missed out on his 10th win of the season, that would have tied a career best set back in 2021-22 with the Jets. The Jets will close out the regular season Wednesday night against the Anaheim Ducks.

ANOTHER BANNER

While the Jets were trailing 2-1 coming into the third period, the Washington Capitals lost 4-1 to the Columbus Blue Jackets meaning that Winnipeg would finish with the best regular season record in the NHL and clinched the Presidents' Trophy. Winnipeg became the first Canadian team to claim the award since Vancouver when they did so in back-to-back seasons (2011-12 & 2010-11).

SAMBERG SCARE

Back in November, Jets defenceman Dylan Samberg broke his foot blocking a Steven Stamkos shot in Nashville and missed a significant period of time. In the second period tonight, Samberg blocked an Evan Bouchard shot while on the penalty kill. Samberg couldn't get up and the Oilers eventually scored to make it 2-1 after the power play had expired, Samberg had to be helped off the ice, but Jets head coach Scott Arniel said that he expects the 26-year-old to be ok.

NOT MUCH OFFENCE

With the Central and West taken care of and home ice locked up though the first three rounds of the Stanley Cup Playoffs, Jets head coach Scott Arniel used tonight as a chance to rest some bodies.

IN: David Gustafsson, Dominic Toninato, Colin Miller, Ville Heinola and Haydn Fleury

OUT: Adam Lowry, Nikolaj Ehlers, Neal Pionk Luke Schenn and Josh Morrissey

The Jets were playing their third game in four nights and clearly were emotionally spent from clinching everything the night before. Winnipeg only mustered 18 shots in a sloppy game as the Oilers were missing a large chunk of their veteran players thanks to injuries.

"I mean it's another game. I mean, you want to go out there, you want to play your best game possible," said Nino Niederreiter.

“But obviously, knowing of an emotional win last night, knowing we won the Central, won the West and knowing that we have a chance to even win the Presidents’ Trophy.”

NHL.com

<https://www.nhl.com/news/winnipeg-jets-dallas-stars-game-recap-april-10>

Jets clinch Presidents’ Trophy despite loss to Oilers Winnipeg will finish season atop NHL standings for 1st time after Washington loss earlier Sunday

By Darrin Bauming

WINNIPEG -- The Winnipeg Jets clinched the Presidents' Trophy despite a 4-1 loss to the Edmonton Oilers at Canada Life Centre on Sunday.

“At the end of the day, it's not the trophy we're after,” Winnipeg coach Scott Arniel said. “It’s a heck of an accomplishment. Guys should be real proud of it, just what we've gone through this year, and to be right in the thick of things all year long as one of the best in the League, it's a heck of an accomplishment.”

Winnipeg (55-22-4) secured the best regular season record in the NHL for the first time in franchise history when the Washington Capitals (50-21-9) lost 4-1 to the Columbus Blue Jackets earlier on Sunday. The Jets will play their final game of the regular season against the Anaheim Ducks in Winnipeg on Wednesday.

“It’s not the trophy we are after, but it’s a nice accomplishment,” Jets defenseman Dylan DeMelo said. “It’s been a fantastic year, it really has. We’ve done a lot of good things and been really consistent. Everybody has really bought into what we’re doing here. Like I said, we’ve got our sights set on higher things. At the end of the day, it’s great. It’s great for the organization. It’s great for the city.”

Corey Perry had a goal and an assist, and Connor McDavid had two assists for the Oilers (47-28-5), who have won three straight. Stuart Skinner made 17 saves in his first start after missing the previous eight with a head injury.

“Tonight, everyone played a really solid game, whether it was the first or fourth line, all six defense,” Edmonton coach Kris Knoblauch said. “[Skinner] had a solid game. So, it was nice to see. Some key goals. [Adam] Henrique putting up a lot of points lately, Perry has just been scoring at a great rate through the entire season, so yeah, we needed that. But like I said, I thought it was a good team effort.”

Edmonton (99 points) moved within two points of the Los Angeles Kings (46-24-9, 101 points) for second place in the Pacific Division. The Oilers and Kings will play in the first round of the Stanley Cup Playoffs for the fourth year in a row and meet in Edmonton on Monday with home-ice advantage still to be determined.

"I think the sense of belief in this group is very high," Oilers forward Connor Brown said. "A couple more games here before the dance, and so (we'll) keep our habits up and keep going."

Alex Iafallo scored for the Jets, who had won three straight. Eric Comrie made 35 saves.

"[The Presidents' Trophy] will mean a lot as it is hard to win in this league and having a season like we did this year," Winnipeg forward Nino Niederreiter said. "It is a great feeling, but you want to win the Cup at the end of the day."

Brown gave the Oilers a 1-0 lead 59 seconds into the second period. McDavid stole the puck from Iafallo at Winnipeg's blue line and sent Brown in alone to score with a deke to the backhand.

"I thought we got contributions from everyone in the lineup, goaltending was great," Brown said. "Obviously, they're coming off a back-to-back (the Jets won 5-4 in a shootout at the Chicago Blackhawks on Saturday) and it's not their full lineup, so take it with a grain of salt, but (we did) a lot of good things tonight."

Iafallo tied it 1-1 on the power play at 6:16, chipping in the rebound after Skinner stopped Mark Scheifele's one-timer from the left face-off dot.

Iafallo has points in four straight (two goals, two assists) and has scored four goals in 10 games since moving to the Jets' top line in place of the injured Gabriel Vilardi.

"He's a great player," Niederreiter said of Iafallo. "We all know what he's capable of. He's a great two-way player. He always goes out there and does his best possible. Doesn't matter what line he is on. And I think he's a terrific player for us."

Henrique put the Oilers ahead 2-1 at 12:39. With Jets defenseman Dylan Samberg down on the ice in the right circle and unable to get up after blocking a shot, Henrique got position at the right post and batted in a cross-crease pass from Perry.

"Just top to bottom I think everybody contributed, everybody played well tonight," Henrique said. "We played stingy when we had to, and they had a tough schedule with the back-to-back and the travel. We just tried to keep that high tempo and let our game come to us, and I thought we did a good job at it tonight."

Perry pushed it to 3-1 at 12:25 off the third, scoring his 18th goal of the season with a snap shot on a rush after Derek Ryan stole the puck from Scheifele in the neutral zone.

"It's been tremendous to have that scoring from typically a fourth line on our team, playing at most 10-13 minutes," Knoblauch said. "Lately, these last couple weeks because of the injuries, [Perry's] role has gone up, he's played more minutes, but for

somebody in that situation to get (close) to 20 goals and not be on the first unit power play, or very little this year, that's a remarkable year."

Viktor Arvidsson scored an empty-net goal for the 4-1 final at 18:40.

"I think we want to be the first Canadian team since 1993 to win the Cup," DeMelo said. "That's what we're here for."

NOTES: The Jets rested several regulars, including defensemen Josh Morrissey, Neal Pionk and Luke Schenn, forward Adam Lowry, and Connor Hellebuyck. ... Samberg did not return to the game after Henrique's goal. Arniel said he is OK and described the nature of his status as a "big time" relief. ... Oilers defenseman Troy Stecher left the game in the first period. "Hopefully it was just equipment. We'll find out more," Knoblauch said. ... The Jets are the first Canadian team to win the Presidents' Trophy since the Vancouver Canucks did in back-to-back seasons (2010-11 and 2011-12). ... McDavid has 99 points (26 goals, 73 assists) in 66 games, needing one more to become the 13th player in NHL history with five consecutive seasons with at least 100 points. Steve Yzerman is the last player to accomplish the feat, with his run of six straight seasons with at least 100 points ending in 1992-93. ... McDavid has 28 points (four goals, 24 assists) on a 16-game personal point streak, including nine assists in his past three games.

Winnipeg Free Press

<https://www.winnipegfreepress.com/breakingnews/2025/04/13/jets-clinch-presidents-trophy>

Jets clinch Presidents' Trophy Finish first overall, secure home ice throughout playoffs

By: Ken Wiebe

This was the final checkmark to hit in the regular season — even if it wasn't on the original itinerary.

On a night where the Winnipeg Jets rested several regulars and weren't operating at full capacity, a 4-1 loss to the Edmonton Oilers was a whole lot easier to sweep under the rug.

That's because the Jets have clinched the Presidents' Trophy for the first time in franchise history by virtue of the 114 points they've already put in the bank.

Coupled with the Washington Capitals loss to the Columbus Blue Jackets, the Jets have secured home-ice advantage through each four rounds of the Stanley Cup playoffs, provided they advance that far.

The Jets are the first Canadian team to win the Presidents' Trophy since the Vancouver Canucks achieved the feat in 2012.

"We want to be the first Canadian team since 1993 to win the Cup. That's what we're here for," said Jets defenceman Dylan DeMelo, referencing the Montreal Canadiens title.

On Saturday night, the Jets locked down top spot in the Central Division and Western Conference with a 5-4 shootout victory over the Chicago Blackhawks.

Jets head coach Scott Arniel admitted that finishing first overall wasn't actually on the list of goals the team established during training camp, but it's something for the organization to celebrate.

"It is definitely a great accomplishment," said Jets forward Nino Niederreiter. "After 81 games, being able to get the Presidents' Trophy is a big accomplishment, but it is only the first step as now it is the playoffs that matter most."

The Jets, who have a record of 55-22-4, wrap up the regular season on Wednesday against the Anaheim Ducks.

Let's take a closer look at this one:

THE SCARE

It's that time of year when injury news is going to be more and more difficult to uncover, as teams become more and more secretive around playoff time.

But during the past two games, the Jets have watched forward Nikolaj Ehlers and defenceman Dylan Samberg leave the game in agony.

Samberg got knocked out of Sunday's game after taking a slapshot off the left knee from Oilers captain Connor McDavid.

"He eats a lot of pucks for our team. He seems to do it every single night," said DeMelo. "And to see him take one there and be stung from it and have to lose him was unfortunate."

Arniel reported some positive news during his post-game address.

"We'll see. Checking on him (Monday). But I think he'll be okay," said Arniel, who was asked a follow-up question about whether that initial news allowed him to breathe a sigh of relief. "Oh yeah, big time."

Samberg missed time earlier this season with a broken left foot after stepping in front of a slapper from Nashville Predators forward Steven Stamkos.

Not only has Samberg posted career highs for goals (six) and points (20), he's flourished with second-pairing minutes and is a key contributor on the penalty kill to go along with his excellent work at even strength.

On Saturday, Ehlers was involved in an awkward collision with a linesman and left the game with a lower-body issue.

The severity of his injury appears to be a bit murkier.

"Everybody's day to day," said Arniel. "We're just going to kind of figure everybody out here."

THE SHUFFLE

After wrapping up the Central Division and Western Conference titles on Saturday night, Arniel opted to give a few players a rest on Sunday.

That included captain Adam Lowry and defencemen Josh Morrissey, Neal Pionk and Luke Scehnn.

Scratching those players opened the door for forward David Gustafsson and blue-liners Colin Miller, Haydn Fleury and Ville Heinola to return to the lineup.

Dominic Toninato was also recalled from the Manitoba Moose of the American Hockey League and played centre on the fourth line with Gustafsson and Jaret Anderson-Dolan.

For Heinola, it was his first game since Feb. 22 – the first game after the break for the 4 Nations Face-Off.

Heinola was on for one even-strength goal against and took 20 shifts for 17:27 of action, finishing with one shot on goal, one hit and two giveaways.

Arniel figures to dress most of his healthy regulars for the regular-season finale, though it would not be a surprise to see Elias Salomonsson make his NHL debut after a strong season with the Moose.

THE KEY PLAY

Oilers forward Corey Perry got the puck over to Adam Henrique for a goal that made it a 2-1 game and proved to be the game-winner.

THE THREE STARS

Corey Perry, Oilers, Set up the game-winner and then supplied an insurance marker.
Connor McDavid, Oilers, Recorded two assists to get to 99 points for the season.
Eric Comrie, Jets, Finished with 35 saves in his 20th start of the campaign.

EXTRA, EXTRA

Comrie allowed two goals or fewer in eight of his final 11 starts and in nine of 20 this season. It's the first time Comrie has started 20 NHL games and with Connor Hellebuyck expected to make the start on Wednesday, the Jets' backup will finish the campaign with a 9-10-1 record, a 2.39 goals-against average and .914 save percentage.

With both Morrissey and Pionk out of the lineup, Miller was out there with the top power play unit and recorded an assist on the Jets' lone goal from Alex Iafallo, who is up to 15 goals – which is just two shy of his career-high (which he hit twice as a member of the Los Angeles Kings).

“He did it day in, day out when he was playing in LA, so we all know what he's capable of,” Niederreiter said of Iafallo. “He's a great two-way player. He always goes out there and does his best possible (job). Doesn't matter what line he is on.”

DeMelo led all Jets skaters in ice time, logging 24 shifts for 23:20 of ice time.

Nino Niederreiter and Kyle Connor were sporting A's as alternate captains along with Mark Scheifele.

Arniel clarified that centre Rasmus Kupari remains in concussion protocol. When asked if Jets forward Gabe Vilardi had started skating yet, Arniel said no, but that it would be happening soon.

McDavid needs just one point during the final two games of the regular season to hit 100 for a fifth consecutive season and the eighth time in his NHL career.

<https://www.winnipegfreepress.com/sports/2025/04/13/jets-aiming-for-more-after-first-regular-season-hardware>

Jets aiming for more after first regular-season hardware

By: Mike McIntyre

The curse of the Presidents' Trophy? Quite the contrary, actually.

The cold, hard fact is that finishing first at the end of the NHL's regular-season gives you the best odds of sipping out of the Stanley Cup a couple months later.

Consider this: Since the league began handing out hardware to the top team at the end of every 82-game marathon back in 1985-86, the recipient has gone on to win the Stanley Cup eight times in 37 total seasons. That's more than any other individual slot in the standings.

Your next best odds would be finishing fourth-overall (six Cups), followed by second (four Cups), seventh (four Cups), third (three Cups), fifth (three Cups) or sixth (three Cups). Eighth place (two Cups) is next, with ninth, 10th, 12th and 13th each doing it once. Eleventh, 14th, 15th and 16th have never tasted the ultimate victory.

“It’s a heck of an accomplishment,” Jets coach Scott Arniel said Sunday night after his club captured its first Presidents’ Trophy in franchise history.

“Guys should be real proud of it. Just what we’ve gone through this year and to be right in the thick of things all year long, as one of the best in the league. But at the end of the day, it’s not the trophy we’re after.”

Fair enough, but statistically the Jets have just put themselves in the best position possible.

“To be able to have that ability to have home ice throughout the whole playoffs, and hopefully we can go on a long run and use that to our advantage,” said Jets defenceman Dylan DeMelo.

“It’s not the trophy we are after, but it’s a nice accomplishment. It’s been a fantastic year, it really has. We’ve done a lot of good things and been really consistent. Everybody has really bought into what we’re doing here. Like I said, we’ve got our sights set on higher things. At the end of the day, it’s great. It’s great for the organization, it’s great for the city.”

So what’s with the commonly held narrative out there by plenty of pundits and fans alike that capturing the Presidents’ Trophy is a hockey kiss of death? Perhaps this is a case of recency bias clouding the truth.

The Chicago Blackhawks were the last regular-season champions to win it all, and that happened way back in the 2012-13 season. An 11-year drought has followed, with the Boston Bruins (2014, 2020, 2023), New York Rangers (2015, 2024), Washington Capitals (2016, 2017), Nashville Predators (2018), Tampa Bay Lightning (2019), Colorado Avalanche (2021) and Florida Panthers (2022) all coming up short those years.

It should be noted, however, that Washington, Tampa, Colorado and Florida all followed up their disappointing playoff performance with a championship year (or two, in the case of the Lightning) immediately after.

“I’m happy for the group. I’m happy that a lot of the things that we talked about in training camp, we accomplished. Obviously the President’s Trophy wasn’t one of them that we talked about but I’m really proud to be a part of this team,” said Arniel.

“We’re still going to be judged on what happens from Game 83 on. There’s still lots to happen and hopefully there’s a long story to go with that and it gets to be a two-and-a-

half month long story. For me, I've been in the game a long time and know that... Be proud of the accomplishments that you have and then move on to the next challenge and that's what we're hoping to do."

It's also worth savouring the moment. Just ask the Rangers, who just became the fourth team to win the Presidents Trophy one season and then miss the playoffs the next. (The 1993 Rangers, 2008 Buffalo Sabres and 2015 Bruins are the others).

Overall, the Jets became the 19th different NHL team to win the Presidents Trophy. The Detroit Red Wings have the most, with six. Still looking for their first: The Minnesota Wild, Los Angeles Kings, Anaheim Ducks. Utah HC, Vegas Golden Knights, Seattle Kraken, New York Islanders, New Jersey Devils, Carolina Hurricanes, Toronto Maple Leafs, Montreal Canadiens, Philadelphia Flyers and Columbus Blue Jackets.

As for the seven other teams that combined a Presidents' Trophy with a Stanley Cup besides the 2013 Blackhawks, they are the 1987 Edmonton Oilers, the 1989 Calgary Flames, the 1994 Rangers, the 1999 Dallas Stars, the 2001 Avalanche, the 2002 Red Wings, the 2008 Red Wings.

Could the 2025 Jets eventually add their name to that list?

"I'm really happy that I can be a part of it. I'm really proud to be a part of this team," said Arniel, who is in his first year as head coach and has certainly made the most of his second chance behind an NHL bench.

"I don't go on the ice. I open the door, I kind of put people together, and put them out on the ice. The players are the ones that are doing most of that, almost all of the heavy lifting, and it's just fun to be a part of. This is a great group, you know, but it almost sounds like I'm having the speech at the end of the year. I'm not done yet, so I hope to talk a lot more. Hopefully this lasts a lot longer. We've done some great things and I still think we can do a lot more."

Winnipeg Sun

<https://winnipeg.sun.com/sports/hockey/nhl/winnipeg-jets/jets-claim-presidents-trophy-despite-4-1-loss-to-oilers>

Jets claim Presidents' Trophy despite 4-1 loss to Oilers

By Gordon Anderson

Despite a 4-1 loss to the Edmonton Oilers on Sunday, the Jets were crowned the league's best regular-season team.

“It is definitely a great accomplishment,” Jets forward Nino Niederreiter said. “After 81 games, being able to get the Presidents’ Trophy is a big accomplishment, but it is only the first step as now it is the playoffs that matter most.”

Winnipeg won the Presidents’ Trophy after the Washington Capitals lost 4-1 to the Columbus Blue Jackets on Sunday night. The 2012-13 Chicago Blackhawks were the last team to win the Stanley Cup and the Presidents’ Trophy in the same season.

The Jets received hearty applause from the crowd when the accomplishment was announced during a third-period stoppage.

“It’s really appreciated,” head coach Scott Arniel said. “They’ve been great fans. Real loud and supporting us all the way. Believe me, it’s felt. At the end of the day, it’s a great accomplishment and for the fans to show their support and appreciation is special.”

Dylan Samberg blocked a shot, more like inadvertently blocked a shot, during an Oilers second period power play. Edmonton scored while Samberg was lying on the ice in the left faceoff circle. He was favouring his left leg as he was getting assistance off the ice. He did not return. Samberg played 14:23 over a dozen shifts.

“He seems to do it every single night,” Dylan DeMelo said. “And to see him take one there and be stung from it and have to lose him was unfortunate. But hopefully he is okay.”

Alex Iafallo scored for the Jets (55-22-4). Nikolaj Ehlers was scratched. The Jets forward was hurt during the second period on Saturday night in Chicago after colliding with a linesman at the Blackhawks blueline. Neal Pionk, Josh Morrissey and Adam Lowry were also scratches.

The loss stopped a four-game home winning streak for the home side. Winnipeg is 29-7-4 at home with one game remaining in the regular season. The team has seven losses at home, and in six of those games they scored one goal. The exception was a 6-4 defeat to Toronto on Oct. 28.

The Jets finished the season series winning two of three against Edmonton. The Jets won 5-0 and 4-3 in overtime in the previous games.

Eric Comrie (9-10-1) got the nod in the net and stopped 35 shots. Chris Driedger was called for backup duty. Connor Hellebuyck was a healthy scratch.

Connor Brown, Adam Henrique, Corey Perry and Viktor Arvidsson scored for the Oilers (49-26-5). Leon Draisaitl was a healthy scratch. Connor McDavid picked up two assists. He is one point away from the 100-point mark for the fifth consecutive season. The Oilers snapped a two-game road losing skid and improved to 22-16-2 on the road.

Stuart Skinner (25-18-4) stopped 17 shots. The Edmonton number one was making his first appearance since March 26. Skinner missed eight games with a head injury after Mikko Rantanen collided with him in Dallas. The Oilers went 5-3-0 in his absence.

The Jets close out the regular season on Wednesday night against the Anaheim Ducks. Puck drop is scheduled for 6 p.m.

Canadian Press

<https://www.chrisd.ca/2025/04/13/winnipeg-jets-presidents-trophy-win-regular-season/>

Winnipeg Jets Aiming for More Than the Franchise's First Presidents' Trophy

By Judy Owen, The Canadian Press

Dylan DeMelo wants to bring Canadian hockey fans more than a Presidents' Trophy.

The Winnipeg Jets clinched the franchise's first Presidents' Trophy Sunday for most points in the NHL regular season even though they lost 4-1 to the Edmonton Oilers.

The achievement gives the Jets home-ice advantage throughout the Stanley Cup playoffs.

The last Canadian team to win the Presidents' Trophy was the Vancouver Canucks in 2011-12, who also won it the previous season.

DeMelo, who hails from London, Ont., was asked if he felt more pride in ending that drought.

"No, not really, to be honest," he said. "I think we want to be the first Canadian team since '93 to win the Cup. That's what we're here for."

The Montreal Canadiens are the last club to claim the Cup in 1992-93.

"To be able to have that ability to have home ice throughout the whole playoffs, and hopefully we can go on a long run and use that to our advantage," DeMelo said. "It's not the trophy we are after, but it's a nice accomplishment."

The Jets captured the Trophy after Washington lost 4-1 to the Columbus Blue Jackets earlier in the night and can't catch them in points.

The Capitals (50-21-9) have 109 points and two games left to play. Winnipeg is at 114 points (55-21-4) and has one match left Wednesday at home against the Anaheim Ducks.

When the Trophy news was announced, 15,225 fans at Canada Life Centre gave the team a standing ovation. It was Winnipeg's seventh consecutive full house and 15th of the season.

"It is definitely a great accomplishment," Jets forward Nino Niederreiter said. "After 81 games, being able to get the Presidents' Trophy is a big accomplishment, but it is only the first step as now it is the playoffs that matter most."

Winnipeg's first-round opponent isn't known yet. The Oilers will take on the Los Angeles Kings in their opening round.

Connor Brown, Adam Henrique, Corey Perry and Viktor Arvidsson, into an empty net, scored for Edmonton (47-28-5), which has won three in a row. Connor McDavid had two assists.

Stuart Skinner made 17 saves for the Oilers, who host the Kings on Monday before finishing the regular season Wednesday in San Jose against the Sharks.

Alex Iafallo scored for the Jets, who had a three-game win streak snapped.

Backup goalie Eric Comrie made 35 saves for Winnipeg, which also ended a four-game win run at home.

Winnipeg already clinched top spot in the Western Conference and Central Division for the first time in Jets/Atlanta Thrashers' history. The Thrashers did win the Southeast Division in 2006-07.

Jets head coach Scott Arniel said the conference and division top spots were on the team's to-do list this season, but not the Presidents' Trophy.

"No, never," Arniel said. "Certainly, it jumped on there over the last month or so. At the end of the day, it's a heck of an accomplishment. Guys should be real proud of it."

"Just what we've gone through this year and to be right in the thick of things all year long, as one of the best in the league, it's a heck of an accomplishment. But at the end of the day, it's not the trophy we're after."

Brown flipped a backhand past Comrie 59 seconds into the second period for his 13th goal of the season and a 1-0 lead, extending his goal streak to four in three games.

Iafallo scored on the power play five minutes later. Henrique made it 2-1 at 12:39, seven seconds after an Edmonton power play ended and with the Jets extra defenceless.

Forward Morgan Barron had lost his stick and defenceman Dylan Samberg was lying on the ice grimacing in pain after a hard McDavid shot hit his left leg. He was helped off the ice and went to the dressing room.

Arniel said Samberg should be OK.

Perry and Arvidsson scored in the third period.

Edmonton was without injured defenceman Mattias Ekholm and forward Zach Hyman. Ryan Nugent-Hopkins was ill.


“Tonight everyone played a really solid game,” Edmonton head coach Kris Knoblauch said. “Whether it was the first or fourth line, all six defence. Obviously, (Skinner) had a solid game. So it was nice to see.”

Global Winnipeg

<https://winnipeg.sun.com/sports/hockey/nhl/winnipeg-jets/not-going-to-be-as-pretty-anymore-jets-niederreiter-goes-for-ugly>

ANALYSIS: Wild week for Winnipeg Jets culminates in first-place finish

By Kelly Moore Global News

ANALYSIS: Wild week for Winnipeg Jets culminates in first-place finish - 

With one regular season game remaining for the Winnipeg Jets, maybe it's only fitting that there is an extra day for fans to savour what their team has accomplished before the stress of the playoffs kicks in later in the week.

Just think, for a moment, of these past seven days for the Jets.

It began last Monday with a dominant, 'get back in the driver's seat of the Central Division race' 3-1 victory over St. Louis. The win was not only a response to a subpar performance in Utah the game before, it also ended the Blues' 12-game winning streak — and sent a message to a potential first-round playoff opponent.

Twenty-four hours later, Dallas suffered a historic collapse in an overtime loss to Vancouver, which brought us to Thursday and that epic 4-0 beatdown of the Stars in Texas — all but mathematically ending any chance for the defending division champs to repeat.

Saturday in Chicago set the stage for a predictable letdown against the last place Hawks, but like they have done for a great part of this season, the Jets found a way to succeed on a night when they clearly did not have their best stuff.

On this occasion, the reward was the first-ever division and conference title in Winnipeg's NHL history.

That set the table for Sunday night at Canada Life Centre in the somewhat meaningless 4-1 loss to Edmonton. The 15th sellout crowd of the season honoured the Jets in the third period with a standing ovation for winning the Presidents' Trophy as the NHL's best regular season team — a result of Washington's 4-1 loss to Columbus.

As head coach Scott Arniel confirmed afterwards, capturing that piece of hardware was not on the team's list of goals at the start of the season.

But, if finishing at the top of the 32-team, 82-game tournament becomes part of what matters in about two months from now, it will be a nice addition to the collection.

Sportsnet.ca

<https://www.sportsnet.ca/nhl/article/we-still-have-more-to-give-jets-not-coasting-after-presidents-trophy-win/>

'We still have more to give': Jets not coasting after Presidents' Trophy win

By Jacob Stoller

WINNIPEG — Dylan DeMelo couldn't beat around the bush any longer.

After alluding to it when asked about the Winnipeg Jets winning the Presidents' Trophy, DeMelo eventually spelled out the ultimate goal.

The 32-year-old was asked if there was a sense of pride in the Jets becoming the first Canadian team to win the Presidents' Trophy since the 2011-12 Vancouver Canucks.

"No, not really, to be honest," he said after Sunday's 4-1 loss to the Edmonton Oilers. "I think we want to be the first Canadian team since '93 to win the Cup. That's what we're here for."

Those matter-of-fact comments represent what has been the engine of their league-best regular season.

All year long, the Jets' internal benchmark has extended beyond regular-season success. Or winning a single playoff round.

After back-to-back years ending in first-round exits despite strong regular seasons, Winnipeg has focused daily on developing a style of play that gives it the best chance to win a Stanley Cup.

"Right from the very beginning, we have just bought into the way we have to play. Maturity of the group, just growing together and understanding that we can get success by playing good defence. While maybe in the past, we were trading chances and being

a little more run-and-gun and realizing when it mattered the most, it wasn't working for us," DeMelo said. "But we've got a good handle on it now and we're comfortable in situations, (those) tight games. We're not beating ourselves often. It's just been a totality of all those things and we're still building. We're not a finished product. We still have more to give, and we're going to have to give more in order to get to where we want to get to."

The last two years were about rebranding the way the Jets played. This year, it's about executing it at the highest level. The training wheels are off. And nobody's shying away from it.

The latest episode of Runway, — team-produced documentary series — is aptly titled, "We want the Stanley Cup."

When a team strives toward Game 83 all year, fans take notice. And that's why those inside Canada Life Centre gave a rousing standing ovation when it was announced the team had clinched the Presidents' Trophy despite past playoff disappointments.

"We're still going to be judged on what happens from Game 83 on," Jets coach Scott Arniel said. "There's still lots to happen and hopefully there's a long story to go with that and it gets to be a two-and-a-half-month-long story."

And for all the bad-luck vibes that surround the award — with no Presidents' Trophy winner hoisting a Stanley Cup since the 2012-13 Chicago Blackhawks — there's undeniable perks.

"If and when we get to the Stanley Cup Finals, we get home-ice advantage as well," Arniel said. "There is something to it."

Crisis averted?

Arniel said Dylan Samberg is "OK" after a Connor McDavid slapshot to the knee forced him to exit the game.

Had the update on Samberg been less encouraging, it would've swept the Presidents' Trophy under the rug.

Being without Samberg would force the Jets to play either Logan Stanley or Haydn Fleury in a top-four role — a situation that'd make any coaching staff uneasy, considering how they each fared alongside Neal Pionk when Samberg broke his foot in November.

'AL' day

Alex Iafallo has filled in admirably since filling in for Gabriel Vilardi on the first line and top power-play unit.

lafallo, who teammates affectionately refer to as "Al," has seven points in 10 games since his promotion and has averaged 18:05 minutes a night in that span. For context, he averaged 12:31 minutes a night in his first 71 games.

Granted, lafallo is no stranger to top-six deployment.

"He did it day in, day out when he was playing in L.A.," Jets forward Nino Niederreiter said of lafallo, who was a top-six staple for the Kings before arriving in Winnipeg. "So, I mean, we all know what he's capable of. He's a great two-way player. He always goes out there and does his best possible (job). Doesn't matter what line he is on. And I think he's a terrific player for us."

Stoller says

- A lot of fans online were enraged with the referees for not blowing the whistle as Samberg winced in pain for nearly 20 seconds before Edmonton scored to make it 2-1. According to the NHL rulebook, the play is stopped in those situations — when a player is injured and cannot play or go to the bench — only when the injured player's team has possession. The Jets never had possession.

"It's a tough one because if we're sitting on the other side and it's a really big game, big moment and you have the puck and you're standing in the slot with it ... exactly that, you want him to not blow the whistle," Arniel said.

- The Jets' first-round playoff opponent is still to be determined. It could be sorted out Tuesday if the following scenario occurs: Calgary loses in regulation, St. Louis wins in regulation and Minnesota gets at least a point. If Calgary wins on Tuesday, it'll have to wait until Thursday, when the Flames play their final game, to find out how the Western Conference wild-card spots shake out.

<https://www.sportsnet.ca/nhl/article/oilers-patchwork-lineup-continues-to-come-through-in-win-vs-jets/>

Oilers' patchwork lineup continues to come through in win vs. Jets

By Mark Spector

It was a semi-meaningless game, with scads of regulars out of the two lineups. Which meant that the Edmonton Oilers had a clear advantage over the Winnipeg Jets.

You see, the Oilers have been playing with a patchwork lineup for a few weeks now, and they're getting pretty good at it, with six wins in their past eight games.

Edmonton took the ice on Sunday, minus injured players Leon Draisaitl, Zach Hyman, Ryan Nugent-Hopkins (illness), Trent Frederic, Jake Walman, and Mattias Ekholm, whose season is possibly over.

Meanwhile, the Jets clinched the Central Division only the day before in Chicago. So, they rested players like Josh Morrissey, Connor Hellebuyck, Adam Lowry, Neal Pionk, and still managed to clinch the Presidents' Trophy Sunday when the Washington Capitals lost to the Columbus Blue Jackets.

On the ice at the Canada Life Centre, however, one team looked hungry and the other a tad disinterested, as the Oilers outshot the Jets 39-18 and outscored them 4-1 in a one-sided game that meant absolutely nothing in comparison to the next time they should meet this season.

"Everybody contributed. Everybody played well tonight," said centre Adam Henrique, who has five points in his last four games. "We played stingy when we had to, and we knew they had the tough schedule — the back to back travel — so we just tried to keep that high tempo."

With a combined age of 112 years, the line of Henrique (35) between Corey Perry (39) and Derek Ryan (38) is the oldest collection of forwards to form a line in the National Hockey League this season. Likely, the oldest line in Oilers history.

That they put together two of the team's four goals in the win is a testimony to how the Oilers have to win these days, with so many key players not even on the trip.

"The good teams just plug guys in and continue to roll. If there's more asked from guys, the guys always step up," Henrique said. "Maybe it's a different role or different position guys are playing, but guys do a great job there as well."

"I thought from Stu (Skinner) on out tonight, it was a full team effort."

Again, the Jets were disinterested, to be sure.

But with all their injuries, the Oilers' depth players have put together a substantial run here, with the kind of play they'll need to get past the Los Angeles Kings in Rd. 1.

"When we get our full lineup, we're such a deep club. It complements the best two players in the world," said Connor Brown, who has four goals in his past three games. "The sense of belief in this group is very high. A couple more games here before the dance, so keep our habits up and keep playing well."

The only concern: defenceman Troy Stecher took a hard hit with 15 minutes left in the third period and did not play another shift.

So you're saying there's a chance...

Edmonton will wake up Monday just two points back of Los Angeles with two games to play — one of them Monday night against the Kings. L.A. has three games left.

So an Oilers win in regulation at home on Monday, and a win at San Jose in game No. 82 on Wednesday, would give Edmonton 103 points. The Kings currently have 101 points and win the tie-breaker over Edmonton.

Should they lose to Edmonton, the Kings would require just two points in any fashion in their final two games — Tuesday in Seattle, Thursday at home to Calgary — to secure second place in the Pacific and host Edmonton in a series we're hearing will start on Sunday, with Game 2 going on Wednesday.

Skinner returns

Another regular returned to the lineup when Stuart Skinner made his first start in goal since taking a knee to the head nine games ago from Dallas Stars' Mikko Rantanen.

And he was nearly perfect, allowing only one rebound goal on the 18 shots he faced. The Oilers' defensive effort was immaculate, the perfect way to break in a guy who hasn't played since March 26.

"He looked so poised out there," marvelled Brown. "He just really looked calm, square to everything, wasn't scrambling at all. He kind of made it look easy."

Calvin Pickard will almost certainly get the start versus L.A. on Monday, and we'd wager that Skinner starts the season finale in San Jose. If he plays well again, he'll almost certainly get the nod for Game 1 against the Kings.

"We defended really well in front of him," said head coach Kris Knoblauch. "The goal that he led in — absolutely no chance, The rest of the night he kept everything out, so I was very happy with his performance."

TSN.ca

<https://www.tsn.ca/nhl/video/will-things-be-different-this-year-for-the-jets-in-the-playoffs%7E3114942>

Will things be different this year for the Jets in the playoffs? (VIDEO)

TSN Hockey analyst Frankie Corrado joins SportsCentre to discuss how impressive the fight Calgary has shown as he been to keep its playoff hopes alive, and whether or not he believes the playoffs will be different this year for the Jets, who won the first Presidents' Trophy in franchise history.

The Athletic

<https://www.nytimes.com/athletic/6275280/2025/04/14/winnipeg-jets-presidents-trophy-nhl-playoffs/>

How the Winnipeg Jets built the best regular-season team in the NHL

By Murat Ates

WINNIPEG — The Winnipeg Jets weren't supposed to be nearly this good.

The Jets were embarrassed by their five-game playoff performance against the Colorado Avalanche last spring but began 2024-25 with virtually the same roster. They tried to sign Sean Monahan but couldn't, Tyler Toffoli was never interested, and they kept Dylan DeMelo but let Brenden Dillon go. Then, after promising no stone would go unturned in their coaching search, they promoted Scott Arniel from within. Some outlets wondered: Would Winnipeg even make the playoffs?

The Jets have now clinched the 2025 Presidents' Trophy, cementing their status as the best regular-season team in the NHL.

Three-quarters of our pundits picked the Jets to make the playoffs in The Athletic's preseason poll, giving them the seventh-best playoff odds in the West. Jets fans are fond of pointing me to a Sportsnet panel wherein Winnipeg was picked to miss the playoffs altogether while Edmonton was picked to win the Stanley Cup. My preseason prognostication was that Winnipeg was a playoff team but last year's 110 points were likely out of reach. The power play would get better, I reasoned, but Arniel would be in tough to inspire last year's quality at five-on-five. And how could Connor Hellebuyck get any better than the best in the world after winning the 2024 Vezina Trophy?

Let the Jets fanatics and die-hards have their laugh, then. It won't be their first — and the way Winnipeg gets undersold, it won't be their last. The Jets' Presidents' Trophy win, even in a 4-1 loss to Edmonton, neatly bookends a season that began with a 6-0 win against the Oilers on Oct. 9. Whatever happens against Anaheim on Wednesday's "fan appreciation night" will be about joy — a victory lap to celebrate the fans, with one eye on good health and the playoffs ahead — and not about Winnipeg's place in the standings.

The Jets are No. 1 in their division, their conference and their league. They've made history, winning the city's first division title while winning the first-ever conference and league banners in either city or franchise history.

But how did Winnipeg go from being embarrassed by Colorado to the class of the NHL?

This is a story that starts long before the pond hockey Winnipeg and Edmonton played on Sunday night.

“We have levels that we need to find this offseason. I hope it stings for all of us into the summer and we use it as motivation.”

That was Josh Morrissey, speaking shortly after the Game 5 loss to Colorado. It was the first in a series of self-aware statements by Jets leadership. Winnipeg had put together a quality regular season for the second straight year but, despite its progress, had been pushed out of the first round just as easily. In the days that followed, Morrissey’s teammates would add to his urgency.

“Every one of us has to take a look in the mirror. We have to have better. It’s unacceptable,” Kyle Connor said.

“What am I doing to get better at the game? What am I doing to try to get 10 percent better this summer?” is how Mark Scheifele put it.

To be present in the room as those words were spoken, especially from a Morrissey still drenched in playoff sweat, was to understand that they were more than platitudes. I’ve covered this team since 2017-18. Every group of Jets has made some form of exit interview statement about getting better next season. In a league where 31 of 32 teams fall short of their goal every year, it doesn’t take long to get used to platitudes.

We understood Winnipeg’s progress in real time. On the night of Winnipeg’s Game 5 loss, I wrote: “Colorado’s five-game dismantling does not undo Winnipeg’s progress. It reveals how much further the Jets still need to go.”

And following the Jets’ exit interviews: “If you ask me, it’s about time Winnipeg’s leadership group talked like this ... Despite everything the Jets accomplished during a glittering regular season, the level they’re at and the one they need to get to are worlds away. As an organization, the Jets have shied away from ‘I’m the problem. It’s me.’ As someone who believes he can decipher between platitudes and earnest calls to action, Morrissey’s words were a refreshing approach to a devastating moment.”

Morrissey has now completed his third straight 60-point season while continuing to grow as an all-around player. Connor went from surprising us with board-rattling play against Colorado to being the standard-bearer for “5 to 10 percent better,” setting a new career high in points while dramatically outperforming his past self defensively and winning his minutes by 21 goals. Dylan Samberg caused great fright when he left Sunday’s game after blocking a Connor McDavid one-timer, and the scale of fans’ fear was directly proportionate to the growth of his game. Hellebuyck hasn’t regressed from “best in the world” — he’s improved. He leads all goaltenders in wins, shutouts, save percentage, goals-against average and goals saved above expected.

These are some of the individual hallmarks that result from a summer spent soul-searching and a season spent practicing improved habits. The team has shown more consistency and a higher level of overall play — even when compared to its eight-game

win streak at the end of last season. What we seem to have underestimated is not the truth in Winnipeg's call to action but the size of the Jets' response to it.

Rick Bowness said last year we would recognize Winnipeg's growth by the scale of its effort when games were on the line. He said it would start in the regular season — that we would know it by the Jets' second and third efforts in close games against all opponents.

“But when it counts the most, in the playoffs, and the other team has cranked up the speed, the pace, the intensity, you have to be able to respond,” he concluded. “And I think that sounds to me like the players understand that now.”

The Jets have won more games than anyone else in the NHL this season. They've given up the fewest goals. And, perhaps closer to Bowness' ideal, the Jets have the second-best winning percentage in one-goal games this season — while also leading the league in games won by three goals or more.

“Right from the very beginning, we have bought into the way we have to play,” Dylan DeMelo said on Sunday. “Maturity of the group, just growing together and understanding that we can get success by playing good defence. While maybe in the past we were trading chances and being a little more run-and-gun and realizing when it mattered the most it wasn't working for us, we've got a good handle on it now and we're comfortable in situations, tight games. We're not beating ourselves often. It's just been a totality of all those things and we're still building.”

The Presidents' Trophy is also a testament to the sheer quality of players assembled on the Winnipeg roster.

For that, you can point to the Jets' courage of their convictions in naming Mark Scheifele their first-ever draft pick of the 2.0 era. You can reflect on Tavis MacMillan's scouting efforts in hiding all Jets logos, booking a seldom-used hotel and sneaking in the side door at the arena to get another look at a Tier II goaltender named Connor Hellebuyck leading up to the 2012 draft. There's the selection of Adam Lowry two rounds after Scheifele in 2011 — a captain whose leadership impact has been everything the Jets hoped for when he inherited the “C” from Blake Wheeler.

Count Morrissey and Nikolaj Ehlers among the other scouting wins. Count Samberg, taken in the second round in 2017, and Cole Perfetti, whose breakthrough this season gives Winnipeg a 2020 first-round win. Count backup goaltender Eric Comrie (“I always come back,” he likes to joke) and Mason Appleton among the late-round wins and add college-free-agent-signee-turned-comeback-story Brandon Tanev, reacquired at the deadline.

If you ask me, though, the Jets' roster construction has made an important breakthrough via a Kevin Cheveldayoff hot streak running from 2022 through this season.

Back then, the Jets desperately needed more 200-foot players who could compete in all areas of the ice. They were heading toward a devastating playoffs miss when Cheveldayoff traded pending UFA Andrew Copp — a good 200-foot player in his own right — for Morgan Barron and the draft picks that became Elias Salomonsson, Brad Lambert and Thomas Milic. In 2023, Cheveldayoff dramatically upgraded his team's tenacity by acquiring Nino Niederreiter and Vladislav Namestnikov before getting Gabriel Vilardi, Alex Lafallo and Rasmus Kupari for Pierre-Luc Dubois.

Now all four Jets lines have at least one pain in the pants to play against, be it Lafallo in Vilardi's spot up top, Niederreiter, Namestnikov, Barron or Tanev.

The Jets tried hard to acquire Brock Nelson at this year's trade deadline. They don't get everything they want. But an enormous amount of Winnipeg's accomplishment can be traced to Cheveldayoff's roster reconstruction over the past three seasons. This is not a team of superstars, despite Scheifele, Connor and Morrissey's quality. Winnipeg beats teams due to the depth and breadth of the sum of its parts.

What comes next?

Winnipeg doesn't get to take a victory lap and Arniel knows it.

"We're still going to be judged on what happens from Game 83 on," he said following Sunday's game. "Hopefully there's a long story to go with that and it gets to be a 2 1/2-month-long story."

No team has won more regular-season games than the Jets' 153 over the last three seasons. Fifteen teams have won more than the Jets' two playoff victories in that same time frame. You could hear the sense of "we haven't accomplished anything yet" from DeMelo, Niederreiter and Arniel after the game.

The Jets will open the playoffs against the second wild-card team in the West. That team will probably be St. Louis, but this isn't guaranteed. Winnipeg could play Minnesota, for example, if the Blues beat Utah on Tuesday and the Wild lose to Anaheim in regulation. There's even a chance the Jets play Calgary; the Flames could theoretically pass St. Louis, Minnesota or both if they beat Vegas on Tuesday and Los Angeles on Thursday.

We won't know the Jets' opponent until Tuesday or Thursday if the Flames make it interesting. We do know it's better to enter the playoffs as the NHL's top team than any other seed.

There's one more bit of good news: Samberg is meant to be all right following Sunday's game. Arniel said they'd look at him again on Monday to make sure but that Samberg appeared to be OK.

It's not all roses on the injury front, though. Vilaridi is meant to start skating "soon," putting his Game 1 readiness in doubt, while Ehlers' "freak accident" aggravation of his injury on Saturday may have long-term consequences. Kupari has yet to clear concussion protocol.

The Jets are built well enough, playing well enough and positioned well enough to buy time for their injured players. They're the league's top regular-season team — a feat no one predicted.

Now it's time for them to push forward, because this team was never going to be judged by its regular season.

Arniel seems to fully appreciate that fact. On Sunday, he interrupted the Presidents' Trophy discourse and pointed to the postseason in his closing remarks.

"It almost sounds like I'm having the speech at the end of the year," he said. "I'm not done yet, so I hope to talk a lot more. Hopefully, this lasts a lot longer. We've done some great things — I still think we can do a lot more."

Edmonton Journal

<https://edmontonjournal.com/sports/injury-stricken-edmonton-oilers-beat-winnipeg-jets>

Give what's left of the Edmonton Oilers credit, they're fighting hard

By Robert Tychkowski

You have to give what's left of the Edmonton Oilers a lot of credit.

This injury situation of theirs could have deteriorated into a colossal tire fire — no team stays afloat without six of its best players — but despite being hammered by misfortune for five-straight weeks they've still gone 12-6-1 in that span and won six of their last eight.

Sunday's 4-1 road decision over the Winnipeg Jets extended Edmonton's winning streak to three games and kept alive their slim hopes of stealing home ice away from the Los Angeles Kings in their first-round series.

The Oilers host the Kings Monday night in Edmonton and can move into a tie for second place with a win.

Say what you will about how badly this team is beaten up and how grim things are looking heading into the playoffs, it keeps grinding out results.

"Every team needs to go through some adversity during the season, it builds your team up and it brings everyone together," said head coach Kris Knoblauch.

“This is the most adversity we’ve had, losing the guys we’ve had for the stretch we have, but it’s been good to build our team up together and give guys opportunities to play more minutes than they typically would. You see some guys really excelling with the extra responsibilities.”

Edmonton’s support guys continue holding up their end of the bargain, with Connor Brown scoring his fourth goal in three games and Adam Henrique (two goals and three assists in his last four games) making it 2-1 in the second period Sunday.

Corey Perry added the insurance with his second goal in two games and 18th of the season and Viktor Arvidsson scored into the empty net for his fifth goal in eight games.

There isn’t much more you can ask from these players.

“It’s guys stepping in and doing the job,” said Henrique. “You have to be able to do that. The good teams just plug guys in and continue to roll. If there is more asked from guys, they step up. If it’s a different role or different position, guys do a great job there as well.”

With a black hole of injuries poised to swallow up this year’s Stanley Cup quest, this is at least something that can provide a little hope.

“It’s huge,” said Brown. “When we have our full lineup we’re such a deep club, with the best two players in the world, so the sense of belief in this group is very high.”

The Oilers went into this one missing six of their top players (Leon Draisaitl, Mattias Ekholm, Zach Hyman, Ryan Nugent-Hopkins, Trent Frederic and Jake Walman), seven if you count Evander Kane.

But it was still a fair fight because the Jets, playing the second game of a back-to-back after clinching the Central Division Saturday night, gave most of their top-end players the night off

They sat Connor Hellebuyck, Adam Lowry, Josh Morrissey, Luke Schenn and Neal Pionk, while Gabe Vilardi and Nik Ehlers missed the game with injuries.

But it wasn’t really close. Edmonton outshot Winnipeg 39-18, tightening up on defence, controlling the play and finishing their chances.

“Obviously, they were coming off a back-to-back and didn’t have their full lineup, so take it with a grain of salt,” said Brown. “But a lot of good things tonight.”

With Edmonton’s playoff goaltending situation still up in the air, all eyes were on Stuart Skinner in his first start since being knocked from the lineup with a head/neck injury nine games ago against Dallas.

There wasn't a lot of evidence on that front, though, because Edmonton had the puck most of the night, but at least he made it through the game without being re-injured, which is more than can be said for many of the injured Oilers.

Beyond that, he did exactly what was needed from him — keep the Jets from gaining any measure of momentum.

“We defended really well in front of him,” said Knoblauch. “The goal he let in he had absolutely no chance on and for the rest of the night, he kept everything out. I was very happy with his performance.”

Whatever happens to the Oilers down the stretch and in the first round remains to be seen — it's hard to tell which of the injured players will be ready and which won't — but Edmonton's supporting cast is showing remarkably well in getting this team to the finish line.

“Everyone knows about our injury problems and guys not being in the lineup,” said Knoblauch. “We're needing guys to step up and tonight I thought everyone played a really solid game, whether it was our first or fourth line, all six defence and Stu had a solid game. It was nice to see.”

Connor McDavid had two assists to give him eight points in three games since coming back from his injury and 99 points on the season.