

***Three things - Utah Hockey Club slow down Jets
Jets fall behind 3-0 and drop 4-1 decision to Utah***

By Jamie Thomas

The Winnipeg Jets fell behind 2-0 in the first period and couldn't recover falling 4-1 to the Utah Hockey Club at the Delta Center. Mark Scheifele scored the only goal for the Jets who remained four points up on Dallas (who also lost today) for first place in the Central, the Stars still have a game in hand. Connor Hellebuyck made 24 saves and missed out on tying his franchise record with his 44th win of the season. The Jets will face the red-hot St.Louis Blues on Monday at Canada Life Centre.

800 FOR 55

Mark Scheifele became the second player in franchise history to reach 800 career points when he got the Jets on the board in the third period tonight. Winnipeg had been 0-for-3 on the power play leading up to the fourth opportunity in the third period and down 3-0 to the Utah Hockey Club. Scheifele pounced on a rebound after Karel Vejmelka had made a brilliant stop on Kyle Connor, Scheifele fired the puck into an open net for his 38th of the season. The Jets forward is now just 13 points away from passing Blake Wheeler to become the franchise's all-time leading scorer. The 31-year-old is also the second player from the 2011 draft class to reach 800 career points, joining the Lightning's Nikita Kucherov.

PK OFF NIGHT

Since the Jets acquired Luke Schenn and Brandon Tanev to bolster their penalty kill and In the past seven games, they've killed penalties at a 93.3% rate (14-for-15), which is the league's best penalty kill in that span. They were a perfect 10-for-10 over the past five games. Utah's power play scored twice tonight in three chances and that certainly played a big role in the end result.

"First one we win the face-off and we don't get the puck down the ice. Next one, it's a seam play. Double seam pass that usually we have numbers and bodies there," said head coach Scott Arniel.

"It's been trending the right way, just those are two big goals that we probably don't give up normally."

NEW LOOK LINES

The Jets were missing Nikolaj Ehlers for tonight's game, so they were down two forwards in their top six forward group. So, at the start of the third period with the Jets down 3-0, Scott Arniel looking to get something going offensively for his group moved a lot of pieces around on his top three lines. Cole Perfetti moved up with Scheifele and

Connor, Brandon Tanev, Vlad Namestnikov and Alex Iafallo, Nino Niederreiter rejoined Adam Lowry and Mason Appleton.

NHL.com

<https://www.nhl.com/news/winnipeg-jets-utah-hockey-club-game-recap-april-5>

Vejmelka makes 32 saves, Utah defeats Jets Keller, Hayton, Stenlund each gets goal, assist in win

By Darrin Bauming

Karel Vejmelka made 32 saves for the Utah Hockey Club in a 4-1 win against the Winnipeg Jets at Delta Center on Saturday.

"We played rock solid," Utah coach Andre Tourigny said. "[Vejmelka], again, was really solid, but I think as a team we played really solid. I think in the third we got on our heels a little bit, but I won't let that reflect on our game because we played against a really good team and we played a [heck] of a game. I'm really proud of the guys."

Clayton Keller, Barrett Hayton and Kevin Stenlund each had a goal and an assist for Utah (35-30-12), which had lost four of its past six games. Utah sits seven points behind the Minnesota Wild for the second wild card into the Stanley Cup Playoffs with five games remaining.

"I think Keller's play, not just on the power play, at 5-on-5 he played a rock-solid game," Tourigny said. "I think the captain showed up huge in a big game."

Mark Scheifele scored for the Jets (52-21-4), who had won four of their previous five games. Connor Hellebuyck made 24 saves.

"It's just not the effort we wanted," Winnipeg forward Cole Perfetti said. "We know they come out of the gates pretty hot, they've shown it all year that they're a good first period team. We knew that going in and we just weren't ready. We talked about it this morning, they're a good rush team, a good transition team and we kind of fed into it early. They made plays and we kind of were on our heels. And then they took it to us in the first period there."

Despite the loss, the Jets maintained their four-point lead over the Dallas Stars for first in the Central Division and Western Conference. The Stars lost 5-3 against the Pittsburgh Penguins on Saturday.

"Yeah, for sure it is (a missed opportunity)," Winnipeg coach Scott Arniel said. "But you know what, we've talked about it for the last three, four weeks; we're not waiting for some other team to beat Dallas. We can't sit and do that. We have to go and take care of our business. If we're going to win this division, win it by winning hockey games."

Keller gave Utah a 1-0 lead at 4:24 of the first period when Hayton set him up for a one-timer on the power play.

"I thought we had a good start," Keller said. "We played with a lot of speed. They're a great team, tough play against, they have great players. So, I was proud of the way we fought kind of the whole game. The third maybe got away from us a little bit, but [Vejmelka] was unreal as usual (and) kept us in the game, made key saves at the right times."

Hayton scored a power-play goal 57 seconds into the second period to make it 2-0 when he took Dylan Guenther's pass off his skate at the edge of the crease and batted it in on the backhand.

Utah went 2-for-3 with the man-advantage.

"Our power play produced, but more than that, they give us momentum," Tourigny said. "They attacked, they were on their toes and they played really solid."

Keller also assisted on Hayton's goal. His two points Saturday give him 500 points (192 goals, 308 assists) in the NHL.

"I honestly had no idea coming into the game, so I was a bit surprised," Keller said of the milestone. "So many people in my life sacrificed for me to get to this level, so just super thankful for everything that they've done for me. And my teammates, coaches, there's so many people that have, like I said, helped me get to where I'm at. So it's cool, and I still feel like I have a lot more to give and I'm just getting started."

Stenlund pushed it to 3-0 with a snap shot from the top of the right circle at 16:57.

"I [need to] hit the net more, but yeah, that was a good shot," Stenlund said. "It shows us how good of a team we are, when we play the right way, play our way. Yeah, it was a good game."

Scheifele cut it to 3-1 on the power play at 2:45 of the third, finding a loose puck at the left post and scoring into an open net after Ian Cole blocked Perfetti's shot in the slot.

"(The goal) was big," Scheifele said. "We talked about it in the room before the third. Get one and see what happens, and then (we) got a chance right after, could have tightened the lead even more. We had our fair share of chances. Like I said before, proud of the group for battling hard in that third period."

His 38th goal of the season was his 500th NHL point (335 goals, 465 assists).

"(It's) obviously cool, but obviously it would have been better in a win," Scheifele said.

Nick Bjugstad scored an empty-net goal for the 4-1 final at 17:19.

"I was happy for him," Stenlund said. "He deserved a goal and I'm happy he got it."

NOTES: Utah defenseman John Marino took a puck to the face 10:17 into the third period and did not return. There was no update after the game. ... Keller joins Pat LaFontaine (468 goals, 545 assists in 865 games) as the second Missouri-born player to reach the 500-point milestone. ... Keller (26 years, 250 days) became the fourth-youngest active U.S.-born player to reach 500 NHL points, behind Auston Matthews (25 years, 108 days on Jan. 3, 2023), Matthew Tkachuk (25 years, 328 days on Nov. 4, 2023) and Patrick Kane (25 years, 341 days on Oct. 26, 2014). ... Winnipeg's 52 wins remains tied for its franchise record, first set in 2017-18 and matched in 2023-24. The Jets have five games remaining.

Winnipeg Free Press

<https://www.winnipegfreepress.com/breakingnews/2025/04/05/jets-lose-to-utah-4-1>

Jets lose to Utah 4-1

Winnipeg misses chance to widen gap in Central Division, Western Conference races

By: Ken Wiebe

SALT LAKE CITY – Welcome to the land of missed opportunities.

With a valuable chance to widen the gap in the Central Division and Western Conference races, along with the Presidents' Trophy race, the Winnipeg Jets were unable to find anything close to their gold standard until it was too late as they fell 4-1 to Utah HC on Saturday at Delta Center.

"Yeah for sure it is. But you know what, we've talked about it for the last three, four weeks. We're not waiting for some other team to beat Dallas. We can't sit and do that," said Jets head coach Scott Arniel. "We have to go out and take care of our business. If we're going to win this division, win it by winning hockey games."

That's the right approach for Arniel and the Jets to take, but this was a massive chance for the Jets to pull six points ahead and they let it fall by the wayside.

"We had the door open there with the Dallas game earlier and could have put a stranglehold on it, and we really shot ourselves in the foot," said Jets forward Cole Perfetti. "We would have liked to have had this effort back."

To be frank, this game wasn't even as close as the score suggested.

At least not until a third-period comeback that fell short.

For the first two periods, the Jets were second in most races and puck battles and lost the special teams battle, allowing a pair of power play markers, while scoring once with the man-advantage in four opportunities.

“Not very good for two periods,” said Arniel. “Utah was the better team. Dominated us in all areas. Puck battles. Turnovers. They got their rush game going. We knew they were going to be good in that department. And they’re really good in the first periods. We talked about it before the game and we just weren’t ready to go.

“Dominated in the third but it’s a buck short and a day late. It is frustrating because that’s usually us dominating teams. They came out and got to their game plan fast. We just weren’t good enough.”

The Jets, who went 1-2 on the road trip, return to action on Monday at Canada Life Centre against the surging St. Louis Blues, who won a 12th consecutive game on Saturday.

“They’re hot right now. They’re playing really well, getting some good goaltending and obviously their offence, they’re scoring a lot of goals,” said Perfetti. “We’ve seen the last couple games, they’re not out of it until the game’s over, they’ve had some comeback wins in overtime, scoring late with the goalie pulled.

“Things are going right for their group. They’re a good team, we know what they’re all about. We just have to focus on our effort and if we take care of ourselves, the results should go our way.”

Let’s take a closer look at this one:

NOT-SO-SPECIAL TEAMS

The Jets had been trending upwards on the penalty kill in recent weeks, but they allowed a pair of power-play markers in this one as they fell behind 2-0.

On the first power play chance, Utah HC needed only seven seconds to get on the board as Barrett Hayton found Clayton Keller all alone.

On the power play, the Jets generated several high-danger chances, including a slot shot from Mark Scheifele in the second period that rattled off the crossbar and a point-blank opportunity from Cole Perfetti that Karel Vejmelka stopped with his blocker.

Scheifele buried a rebound at 2:45 of the third period to put the Jets on the board.

“It’s nice to get one, but it would have been nice to get one earlier and give ourselves more time to get back in the game,” said Perfetti. “We had chances. Obviously their goalie played well. We had really good looks, a couple unfortunate bounces and

unlucky plays that didn't end up in the net that could. That's just how she goes sometimes."

The Jets power play has been a weapon for them for the majority of this season, but it's been out of sync now for an extended period of time, dating back to returning from the break for the 4 Nations Face-Off.

However, after power-play goals in consecutive games, the Jets are hoping they can turn the corner here and heat up on the power play before the playoffs arrive.

THE PROMOTION

Perfetti was the most effective Jets' skater in this one, earning a promotion to the top line with Kyle Connor and Scheifele.

Arniel gave them several shifts together in the first period, then went to them for all of the third and they generated a lot of scoring chances.

"I was just kind of mixing all the lines up a little bit, just to get a spark," said Arniel. "Those three guys have skill and Cole holds onto pucks and does kind of what Scheif and 'KC' do so I felt I just wanted to get those guys out there as much as possible. They spent an awful lot of time in that end of the rink, was hoping for a little bit more but they had some real good opportunities."

Scheifele liked what he saw from Perfetti.

"He played great. He was in the right spot, he made a lot of great passes," said Scheifele. "He did a lot of good things out there, so it was fun to play with him in the third."

THE MILESTONE

Scheifele's goal was the 800th point in his NHL career, coming in his 874th game.

"Yeah, obviously cool, but obviously it would have been better in a win," said Scheifele.

Scheifele had several glorious opportunities to increase those goal and point totals, leading the Jet with six shots on goal and nine shot attempts.

Shortly after his goal, Scheifele got in alone but was unable to get his backhand chance past Karel Vejmelka.

"If I get it up a little more, I'd probably have a better chance," said Scheifele, who is up to 38 goals and 83 points in 77 games. "he made a good save."

THE RACE

Sidney Crosby recorded a hat trick as the Pittsburgh Penguins defeated the Dallas Stars on Saturday afternoon, providing a massive opportunity for the Jets to create

some valuable breathing room in the chase for top spot in the Central Division standings.

Instead, the cushion sits at four points – with five games left for the Jets and six for the Stars.

The Stars, whose seven-game winning streak was snapped, are back in action on Sunday afternoon against the Minnesota Wild, with a chance to pull within two points of the Jets.

It's been mentioned multiple times of late, but the final head-to-head battle of the regular season between the Jets and Stars on Thursday is looming large for both clubs with aspirations of finishing first in the Central.

THE KEY PLAY

Dylan Guenther found Barrett Hayton on the backdoor for a power play goal that extended the lead to 2-0 and ended up being the game-winner.

THE THREE STARS

Karel Vejmelka, Utah HC, finished with 31 saves while making his 20th consecutive start.

Barrett Hayton, Utah HC, scored a power-play goal and set up the game-winner.

Cole Perfetti, Jets, tenacious play continued and he had three shots on goal and six shot attempts.

EXTRA, EXTRA

Jets goalie Connor Hellebuyck made his 58th start and 59th appearance, finishing with 24 saves. He did his best to keep his team within striking distance, including a pad save off Nick Schmaltz.

Jets forward Nikolaj Ehlers missed Saturday's game with a foot injury he sustained on Thursday after blocking a shot from Golden Knights defenceman Nic Hague. Ehlers was fortunate the injury wasn't more serious and he's considered day-to-day.

The absence of Ehlers opened the door for David Gustafsson to return to the lineup after he was a healthy scratch on Thursday. He skated on the fourth line with Morgan Barron and Jaret Anderson-Dolan.

The healthy scratches for the Jets on Saturday were defencemen Haydn Fleury and Ville Heinola and goalie Chris Driedger.

Winnipeg Sun

<https://winnipeg.sun.com/sports/it-wasnt-our-night-jets-lose-to-the-utah-hockey-club-once-again>

'It wasn't our night': Jets lose to the Utah Hockey Club once again

By Gordon Anderson

The second trip to Utah wasn't much better than the first as the Jets lost 4-1 to the Hockey Club on Saturday night.

The Jets last played in Salt Lake City back in January and lost 5-2, on what was quite possibly their poorest road performance of the season.

This game wasn't much better on the 'like' scale. A rather putrid one said Mark Scheifele.

"That was a stinky one tonight," Scheifele told reporters in Salt Lake City. "We have a big game coming Monday, so we have to learn from tonight."

The Jets play host the St. Louis Blues on Monday at 6:30 p.m. The Blues come to town having won 12 consecutive games. St. Louis beat the Colorado Avalanche 5-3 on Saturday night.

Scheifele scored for the Jets (52-21-4). The Jets forward reached the 800-point mark with his third-period goal.

Perfetti's goal-scoring streak was snapped at three games. Perfetti has 18 goals this season, one short of his career high of 19.

"It wasn't our night," Perfetti said. "We would like to have this effort back."

Nikolaj Ehlers was a scratch. The Jets are one win away from setting a franchise record for wins with 53. The Jets dropped to 2-15-1 when trailing after 40 minutes.

Connor Hellebuyck (43-12-3) turned aside 25 shots in defeat. The Jets number one is one win shy of his personal best of 44 wins, set during the 2017-18 season.

Clayton Keller, Barrett Hayton, Kevin Stenlund and Nick Bjugstad scored for Utah (35-30-12). Keller hit the 500-point mark for his NHL career with a goal and an assist.

Karel Vejmelka (24-21-7) made his 20th consecutive start and picked up the win, stopping 31 shots.

The Jets finished 1-2-0 on their final extended road trip of the regular season. The club has a short two-gamer against Dallas and Chicago next week.

The Stars lost 5-3 to the Pittsburgh Penguins on Saturday afternoon. The Stars are four points behind the Jets for first in the Central Division. Dallas has one game in-hand.

Utah assumed a 1-0 lead at 4:24 of the first when Keller scored just seven seconds into Utah's first power play. The goal was Keller's 26th of the season. The goal snapped a streak of 10 straight kills for the Jets.

The Hockey Club enjoyed three power plays in the first period.

Utah doubled the lead at 57 seconds of the second period with a power-play goal as Hayton jammed the puck under the left leg of Hellebuyck for his 19th goal.

"Yeah, we knew their first periods were good," Perfetti said. "They skate well, they make a lot of plays through their neutral zone, and in turnovers they make you pay. Obviously, it wasn't our best the first two periods, but proud of the way we came out in the third and worked hard."

The Shots were 11-7 for Utah in the first period. Final shots favoured the Jets 32-28.

Stenlund pushed the lead to 3-0 at 16:57 of the second period. The goal was his 13th.

"(The effort) was not very good for two periods," head coach Scott Arniel said. "Utah was the better team, dominated us in all areas. They got their rush game going and we knew they were going to be good in that department."

The Jets got on the board with a power-play goal at 2:45 of the third period, Scheifele cleaning up a rebound near the right-side post. The goal was his 38th of the season.

Bjugstad scored an empty-net goal at 17:19. The goal was his sixth of the season.

The teams split the season series two games each.

Sportsnet.ca

<https://www.sportsnet.ca/nhl/article/jets-look-lost-without-pending-free-agent-nikolaj-ehlers/>

Jets look lost without pending free agent Nikolaj Ehlers

By Jacob Stoller

Life without Nikolaj Ehlers stings for the Winnipeg Jets.

Saturday's 4-1 loss to the Utah Hockey Club on Hockey Night in Canada was a prime example of that.

Beyond Mark Scheifele, Kyle Connor and Cole Perfetti — three players that were placed on a line together at various points — the Jets struggled to counter a hungry, youthful Utah team that thrives in transition.

Sure, you could argue that you hardly see Utah's run-and-gun style in the playoffs but speed and transition efficiency are always valuable, no matter the time of year.

Saturday's game as a not-so-subtle reminder of how diluted Winnipeg's second wave of attack is without The Great Dane, who was hurt Thursday after blocking two shots against Vegas.

The worst part of it all? This may be Winnipeg's new normal. Not the one-off loss to Utah. But life without Ehlers.

It's a topic we've hardly explored, given Winnipeg's success this year and the 29-year-old's hesitancy to discuss his uncertain future. But the closer your player gets to free agency, the less likely you are to retain him. Especially when said player was reportedly open to a change of scenery last summer, according to The Fourth Period.

Should Ehlers walk, Jets GM Kevin Cheveldayoff will have his work cut out for him.

Replacing a four-time 60-point scorer is hard for any team, let alone one that's not a prime destination for free agents and is constrained by no-movement clauses.

Cheveldayoff could parlay a first-round pick in exchange for a play-driving, top-six forward, although it's too early to identify who could be available — or if the Jets' late first-rounder would even suffice.

Perhaps the Jets roll the dice, aiming to fill the void internally.

Nikita Chibrikov fared well in a four-game stint when Ehlers was hurt back in the fall, recording two goals and three points in four games. But expecting the 22-year-old winger to produce anywhere near Ehlers' level, right off the hop, is ambitious. His 2024-25 season came to a premature end after suffering a lower-body injury in January.

Brad Lambert also got a five-game audition around the same time as Chibrikov, recording one assist in five games. Stylistically, the 21-year-old — a beautiful skater who can make plays at top speed — is similar to Ehlers, although his game is still quite raw. Even if his game takes a giant step forward next fall, it's hard to envision him bringing anything close to what Ehlers does.

Neither Chibrikov or Lambert would be able to replicate what Ehlers brings to the table next season. Same goes for an external top-six forward upgrade.

That's because there is only one Ehlers.

Even with his unflattering playoff production, or the head-scratching decisions with the puck he makes from time to time, Ehlers is an electrifying talent that puts opposing teams on notice every time he touches the ice.

Enjoy him while you can.

Stoller Says

- Colin Miller put on a shooting gallery against Utah, registering eight five-on-five shot attempts — three of which being scoring chances, according to NaturalStatTrick.com. Food for thought: Why not audition him on the left side once Neal Pionk returns? While much of the conversation surrounding the Jets' optimal playoff lineup is centred around which of Logan Stanley or Haydn Fleury will skate alongside Luke Schenn on the third pair, Miller may be the best option. Even if he's not a left-shot. Miller has one of the hardest shots in the league and is an asset on the second power-play unit.

- Jarret Anderson-Dolan has caught my eye over these last two games. The 25-year-old has recorded seven hits — all but one of those came against Vegas on Thursday — and he's fit in seamlessly alongside Morgan Barron and David Gustafsson. If it weren't for a broken foot in the pre-season, Anderson-Dolan could've certainly won a roster spot this past fall. If the Jets find themselves a forward short in the playoffs, I wouldn't be surprised to see Anderson-Dolan get the nod over Gustafsson. He's got a mix of tenacity and high hockey IQ that's hard to find.

- Speaking of physical players, Brandon Tanev finished the contest with eight (!!) hits in just 11:27 of ice time. Since arriving in Winnipeg, Tanev has tallied 34 hits — tying him for 35th in the NHL through that span.

- Scheifele's power-play goal marked his 800th career point.

Associated Press

<https://www.sportsnet.ca/nhl/article/keller-hayton-lead-utah-to-win-over-jets/>

Keller, Hayton lead Utah to win over league-leading Jets

By Associated Press

SALT LAKE CITY — Clayton Keller and Barrett Hayton each had a goal and an assist, and the Utah Hockey Club beat the NHL-leading Winnipeg Jets 4-1 on Saturday night.

Kevin Stenlund also had a goal and an assist, and Nick Bjugstad also scored for Utah, and Karel Vejmelka stopped 32 shots to get his third win in four games and improve to 24-21-7 this season.

Mark Scheifele scored for the Jets, and Connor Hellebuyck finished with 24 saves.

Keller gave Utah a 1-0 lead with a power-play goal 4:24 into the game as he redirected Hayton's cross-ice pass past Hellebuyck from the right circle.

Hayton doubled the lead 57 seconds into the second with Utah's second with the man advantage, backhanding the puck past Hellebuyck after getting a pass from Dylan Guenther. Keller also had an assist on the play to give him 500 points for his career.

Stenlund scored from the top of the right circle with 3:03 remaining in the middle period to make it 3-0.

Scheifele got the Jets on the scoreboard with a power-play goal at 2:45 of the third, but Bjugstad sealed it with an empty-netter with 2:41 to go.

Takeaways

Jets: Winnipeg lost for just the fourth time in 12 games, remaining four points ahead of Dallas atop the Central Division and one point ahead of East-leading Washington in the Presidents' Trophy race.

Utah: Utah pulled seven points behind Minnesota for the second wild card in Western Conference.

Key moment

After Hellebuyck made a handful of elite saves to keep the game in reach, Stenlund beat him clean off the rush to give Utah a 3-0 lead late in the second period.

Key stat

Scheifele's goal gave him 800 points for his career. He trails only former teammate Blake Wheeler (812) on the franchise list.

Up next

Jets host St. Louis on Monday, and Utah hosts Seattle on Tuesday.

Salt Lake City Tribune

<https://www.sltrib.com/sports/utah-hockey-club/2025/04/05/utah-hockey-club-beats-winnipeg/>

Utah Hockey Club beats the best team in the NHL: 'It's a step in the right direction'

By Belle Fraser

André Tourigny called Saturday's game against the Winnipeg Jets a "measuring stick" hours before the puck had dropped.

Utah Hockey Club was set to face the No. 1 team in the NHL, which is widely known as a Stanley Cup contender.

To the Delta Center crowd's delight, Utah put forth a 4-1 win over the Jets, etching its season-long progress with a cohesive and commanding performance.

"I like the fact that we're not scared. We're taking it the right way," the head coach said. "We played against a really good team and we played a hell of a game. Really proud of the guys."

Clayton Keller got his team going early in the first period as Winnipeg's Dylan Samberg sat in the box for tripping. Nick Schmaltz got the puck behind the net and chipped it up to Barrett Hayton, who found the captain open in the right circle. Keller one-timed the pass in at 4:24 for the 1-0 lead and his 26th goal of the season — tying Dylan Guenther for most on the team.

Utah started the middle frame on the man advantage and converted once again — 57 seconds into the period. This time, it was Hayton. The center made space for himself around the Jets' crease and backhanded a dish from Guenther past Connor Hellebuyck to make it 2-0. The tally marked Hayton's 19th of the year and tied his career high from 2022-23.

"He's such an underrated player. He does everything so well," Keller said of Hayton. "He does all the little things, goes to the tough areas, he's in front, he wins those battles."

Keller's assist on the play was his 500th NHL point, too.

"So many people in my life sacrificed for me to get to this level. So just super grateful," Keller said. "It's cool and I still feel like I have a lot more to give and I'm just getting started."

Hayton was moved back to the first power-play unit on Thursday against the Los Angeles Kings; Logan Cooley was placed on the second unit. The change has proved to work — after going four consecutive games without a power-play goal, Utah has three in its last two contests.

(Francisco Kjolseth | The Salt Lake Tribune) Utah Hockey Club center Barrett Hayton (27) is celebrated after trying up the game 3-3 against the Toronto Maple Leafs during an NHL hockey game at the Delta Center in Salt Lake City on Monday, March 10, 2025. (Francisco Kjolseth | The Salt Lake Tribune) Utah Hockey Club center Barrett Hayton (27) is celebrated after trying up the game 3-3 against the Toronto Maple Leafs during an NHL hockey game at the Delta Center in Salt Lake City on Monday, March 10, 2025.

“Maybe the power play had been struggling a little bit but I think that’s how you get better,” Keller said. “When you struggle you learn from it, you watch the video, you break it down a little bit more and you simplify.”

Tourigny was pleased with the adjustment — and, of course, the goals — he saw.

“Our power play produced but more than that they gave us momentum,” Tourigny said. “They played, they attacked, they were on their toes.”

Kevin Stenlund — who is a former Winnipeg Jet — extended the Club’s gap at 16:57. The center picked up a cross-zone sauce from Mikhail Sergachev at the offensive blueline and sniped it off the rush for the 3-0 lift. Stenlund has two goals in three games as his fourth line with Alex Kerfoot and Nick Bjugstad continues to be a nightly difference-maker.

“It shows us how good of a team we are when we play the right way, play our way,” Stenlund said.

It wasn’t just the power play that gave Utah an edge through 40 minutes — it was the penalty kill, too. The Jets came into Saturday’s matchup with the second-best power play in the league at 29.4%. The Club went 3-for-3 on the kill — led by guys like Stenlund, Kerfoot, Sergachev, Jack McBain and Ian Cole — to protect its lead ahead of the final stanza.

“We tried to put pressure on them, stay hard and get clears too on our feet,” Stenlund said of the PK. “We did a good job there.”

The Jets finally potted one on the man advantage in the third after Olli Määttä was called for hooking. Mark Scheifele broke through with a wrist shot from the left doorstep to bring Winnipeg within two, 3-1, at 2:45. It was the only chance to beat Karel Vejmelka all night. The goaltender made 32 saves in his 20th consecutive start.

“Really proud of him,” Tourigny said. “It’s fantastic for him to go through that kind of a stretch.”

Bjugstad — who had not scored since Jan. 14 — secured the 4-1 victory with an empty-netter that he lobbed down ice from the neutral zone at 17:19.

Utah is now seven points out of the second wild-card spot in the Western Conference which, realistically, will see it miss the playoffs. But wins like Saturday show the evolution of the Club since the curtains opened on its inaugural season.

Spoiler alert — it’s a better team than when it started.

“It’s a step in the right direction,” Keller said. “We’re still learning every single game just how hard it is to win.”