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<https://www.nhl.com/jets/news/three-things-tough-bounce-in-game-3-costs-jets>

***Three things - Tough bounce in Game 3 costs Jets
Jets allow three goals in the third period on route to 5-2 loss.***

By Jamie Thomas

A tough third period cost the Winnipeg Jets on Sunday afternoon as they fell 5-2 to the Dallas Stars at American Airlines Center. The Jets trail the best of the seven series two games to one with Game 4 scheduled for Tuesday in Dallas. Kyle Connor and Nino Niederreiter scored the goals for Winnipeg, Gabriel Vilardi, Josh Morrissey and Colin Miller added assists. Connor Hellebuyck made 21 saves.

THE TURNING POINT

With the game tied at two in the third period, Dallas took the lead when Robert Petrovic put in a Mikko Rantanen rebound behind Connor Hellebuyck. The replay showed that Petrovic hit the puck with a kicking motion and after a long review of the play, the NHL Situation Room decided that the goal would stand at 3:51 for a 3-2 Stars lead.

Less than a minute later, Rantanen walked right into the slot and outwaited Hellebuyck to score his fourth goal of the series at 4:40, Wyatt Johnston closed out the scoring at 14:06.

"I don't think it got us rattled," said Scott Arniel.

"I think that we got back on our heels a little bit in that next one we gave up a rush against that top line."

CLASSIC MORRISSEY

If there was any question to the status of Josh Morrissey health wise after he returned to the lineup for Game 2 of this series, those should be put to the side. The Jets top defenceman played another sharp game with almost 25 minutes of ice time (24:55), two shots on goal and recorded an assist of the Nino Niederreiter goal that tied the game at two. Morrissey made an elite move at the blue line before spotting Nino Niederreiter off to the side and sending a perfect pass to the Jets forward who beat Jake Oettinger.

ROAD WOES

The Jets wanted to take what they did in Game 2 with them on the road in an effort to get their first road win of these playoffs and for two periods, they played an excellent game in a tough building. Ultimately, the Petrovic goal opened a door for the Stars, and they poured in two more in the third period. Winnipeg is now 0-4 on the road and have allowed at least five goals in all four of their games away from Canada Life Centre in the 2025 Stanley Cup Playoffs.

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<https://www.nhl.com/news/winnipeg-jets-dallas-stars-game-3-recap-may-11>

***Rantanen has 3 points, Stars top Jets in Game 3 to take lead in Western 2nd Round
Forward stays hot with 17 points in past 6 games, Petrovic breaks tie in 3rd for Dallas***

By Taylor Baird

DALLAS -- Mikko Rantanen had a goal and two assists, and the Dallas Stars defeated the Winnipeg Jets 5-2 in Game 3 of the Western Conference Second Round at American Airlines Center on Sunday.

Rantanen has 17 points (nine goals, eight assists) in his past six games. The forward, who was traded to the Stars by the Carolina Hurricanes on March 7, leads the Stanley Cup Playoffs with nine goals and has factored on 15 of the Stars' past 17 goals.

"It's the best performance I've got to witness, standing where I'm standing with a guy on my team for this extended period," Dallas coach Pete DeBoer said. "But you know, for me, he's just getting started. He's just warming up here. I think he's on a mission."

Dallas leads the best-of-7 series 2-1. Game 4 will be here on Tuesday (8:00 p.m. ET; ESPN, SN, TVAS, CBC).

"It's great to be on the same side, for sure," Dallas forward Mikael Granlund said of Rantanen. "We all can see what he's doing out there right now. He's such a great player, and he's playing at a really high level right now. It's great to be on the same side, and hopefully he keeps going."

Thomas Harley and Roope Hintz each had a goal and an assist, and Sam Steel and Granlund each had two assists for Dallas, which is the No. 2 seed from the Central Division. Jake Oettinger made 23 saves.

Kyle Connor and Nino Niederreiter scored for Winnipeg, which won the Presidents' Trophy as the team with the best record during the regular season. Connor Hellebuyck made 21 saves.

"I thought we played a heck of a hockey game. [I] thought we played a really strong game," Jets coach Scott Arniel said.

Alexander Petrovic gave Dallas a 3-2 lead at 3:51 of the third period when his shot from below the right face-off circle bounced in off of Hellebuyck's stick.

The goal was upheld after a video review initiated by the Situation Room for a distinct kicking motion determined that Hellebuyck propelled the puck into his own net.

It was Petrovic's second career postseason goal and first since April 20, 2016.

"We were battling in our zone a little bit, had a good breakout. I just kind of followed up the rush," Petrovic said. "Usually I'm not in that position, but just thought we had good control. Mikko made a nice pass, and I made a pass back to him. Shot on net, rebound, kind of went off my skate. It was a pretty lucky goal."

Rantanen pushed it to 4-2 just 49 seconds later at 4:40, scoring on a shot from the bottom of the left face-off circle.

"Obviously, it's a big moment," Arniel said of the review. "But at the end of the day, we have to be ready. They came out and jumped on us. We have to be ready for that next shift and we gave up that quick one. But I like a lot of what we did. I don't think it got us rattled. I think that we got back on our heels a little bit on that next one and we gave up a rush against that top line."

Wyatt Johnston made it 5-2 at 14:06 when he put in his own rebound on a shot from the slot.

"I would say first period was really good and the second [period] was theirs," Rantanen said. "They outplayed us, they outbattled us. They were on offense all the time and we were defending too much. [Oettinger] made some big saves. Third periods have been good. The games that we've won, we've really pushed in the third and didn't sit back at all. It's good to get not only the one-goal lead, the final minutes a three-goal lead basically. That makes it easier."

Hintz gave Dallas a 1-0 lead at 2:27 of the first period, deflecting Rantanen's pass in the slot on the power play.

Connor tied it 1-1 at 9:53 on a wraparound that slid beneath Oettinger's outstretched glove hand.

"That one happened off a face-off where we were able to get to a loose puck, turn it over, and Gabe (Vilardi), even with his shot off the face-off, kind of hit [Oettinger] in the head there and created the scramble," Connor said. "The more times we put pucks to the net and make their whole team turn and kind of collapse there, it opens up a lot for us. We've got to keep putting pucks behind their [defense] and getting our forecheck going. Our forecheck is one of our best assets, being able to turn the puck over."

Harley gave Dallas a 2-1 lead at 15:12 on a shot from the high slot.

Niederreiter tied it 2-2 at 10:07 of the second period on a sharp-angled shot from the goal line.

"I think most of the guys in that room, that's a good effort," Winnipeg forward Morgan Barron said. "Obviously, for our line to give up two in the third period, that can't happen. So, it kind of starts with me and finding a better way. ... So, it's a good effort, but ultimately those little plays make a big difference. So, we'll clean that up."

<https://www.nhl.com/news/topic/playoffs/2025/series-k-news/alexander-petrovic-lucky-goal-turns-tide-for-dallas-stars-in-game-3>

***Petrovic's 'lucky' goal helps Stars turn tide in Game 3 win
Journeyman defenseman breaks tie in 3rd period for Dallas, which takes lead on
Jets in Western 2nd Round***

By Nicholas J. Cotsonika

DALLAS -- It was the third period of a tied game in a tied series between two of the top teams in the NHL. The turning point? A lucky goal by Alexander Petrovic, a 33-year-old third-pairing defenseman who has spent most of the past six seasons in the American Hockey League.

You never know what might happen in the Stanley Cup Playoffs, and you never know what might happen if you keep believing, keep grinding.

Petrovic got rewarded in the Dallas Stars' 5-2 victory against the Winnipeg Jets in Game 3 of the Western Conference Second Round at American Airlines Center on Sunday. Dallas leads the best-of-7 series 2-1 entering Game 4 here Tuesday (8 p.m. ET; ESPN, SN, TVAS, CBC).

"I think for me it was just staying ready," Petrovic said. "You never know when that opportunity will come, so whenever it does, you just want to take advantage of it and just make the most of it."

Petrovic embodies the slogan on the back of the Stars' playoff T-shirts: YOU GET WHAT YOU WORK FOR, NOT WHAT YOU WISH FOR.

He spent years working his way up from the AHL to the NHL, became a regular in the NHL and got used to the good life -- charter flights, first-class hotels. Then he ended up back in the AHL again.

From the 2014-15 season to 2018-19, he played 250 regular-season games in the NHL -- 241 for the Florida Panthers, nine for the Edmonton Oilers. He played 41 in the AHL.

Since? He has played only six regular-season games in the NHL -- one for the Stars last season, five for them this season. He has played 341 in the AHL.

"You're grinding down there, bus trips, commercial flights, everything," Petrovic said. "It's tough, but I think it humbles you a bit and kind of teaches you what's more important."

But Petrovic played seven playoff games for the Stars last season and has played 10 for them this season. He has been a mentor and partner for 20-year-old Lian Bichsel.

"I've always liked his makeup and his game, and he made a believer out of me last year in the playoffs," Stars coach Pete DeBoer said. "So, when we got to that point of the year this year when we were talking about depth up here, we brought him in, and he's an easy guy for a coach to play."

The Jets won the Presidents' Trophy as the NHL's top regular-season team. The Stars finished fifth in the NHL standings. With the series tied 1-1, the game was tied 2-2 early in the third when Petrovic joined the rush -- something he and Bichsel normally don't do.

"We know our role, just keep it simple, clear the net front, break pucks out, be physical when we can," Petrovic said. "If we just do that, then the rest kind of takes care of itself. We've got a lot of skill on this team, so we're not too worried about offense."

A rebound popped out to the left of the net, and the puck hit Petrovic's left skate just before the goal line and bounced in front. Petrovic said he thinks it deflected off the stick of Jets defenseman Dylan Samberg. It definitely hit the stick of Jets goalie Connor Hellebuyck and fluttered into the net at 3:51.

After a long video review -- so long the players skated around to stay warm, so long the loudspeakers played almost all of "Free Bird" by Lynyrd Skynyrd -- it was ruled a good goal.

"It was a pretty lucky goal," Petrovic said. "But it was a good timely goal."

It was Petrovic's second NHL playoff goal and first since April 20, 2016, when he scored for the Panthers in a 2-1 win against the New York Islanders in Game 4 of the Eastern Conference First Round at Barclays Center in Brooklyn. That was a game-winner, too.

"Long time ago," Petrovic said.

Worth the wait, though.

The outcome of the video review jolted the Stars and deflated the Jets. Forward Mikko Rantanen gave Dallas a 4-2 lead at 4:40, and Winnipeg called a timeout to regroup. Center Wyatt Johnston iced it for Dallas at 14:06.

"It's awesome for him," Stars defenseman Thomas Harley said of Petrovic, with whom he once played with in the AHL. "He deserves it. ... He's so solid on the third pair. He plays the right way. He got rewarded tonight, and it couldn't happen to a better guy."

Remember how Petrovic said the grind in the AHL teaches you what's more important?

He and his wife, Brooke, have a family now, and he said that takes his mind off hockey away from the rink. His wife was watching Sunday. His mother, Kim, no doubt was watching on television back home in Edmonton.

"Being Mother's Day today, that's nice," he said. "Show it to my mom and Brooke, my wife. We're always just believing in ourselves and just trying to make what's best for our family, and I think [it's] just me working hard and trying to take advantage of the opportunity."

Winnipeg Free Press

<https://www.winnipegfreepress.com/breakingnews/2025/05/11/jets-fall-to-stars-5-2-as-road-woes-continue-in-game-3>

Jets fall to Stars 5-2 as road woes continue in Game 3

By: Mike McIntyre

DALLAS — The anger was palpable both inside and outside the Winnipeg Jets dressing room early Sunday evening. To put it bluntly, they felt like they got jobbed.

At issue was the controversial game-winner by the Dallas Stars, one the referees and the league spent nearly 10 puzzling, painstaking minutes reviewing before ultimately allowing. It broke a tie early in the third period and paved the way for what became a 5-2 victory by the home team and a 2-1 lead in the best-of-seven playoff series.

"That is no goal," said Jets coach Scott Arniel said as he met the media inside American Airlines Center.

There's no question Stars defenceman Alexander Petrovic kicked the puck with his left skate towards the Winnipeg net, setting in motion a chain of events which will be talked about for some time. Replays show it struck the blade of Connor Hellebuyck's stick and was deflected in.

The league's rules are pretty clear: A goal is disallowed if it's either kicked directly into the net or off the goaltender. So why did this one count?

In a nutshell, they essentially determined Hellebuyck scored on himself while trying to make a play with the puck and that Petrovic's prior kicking action didn't ultimately matter. Or, to quote the official wording in the explanation from the league after the game, he "propelled the puck into his own net."

"I haven't seen the word propelled in the rulebook," said Arniel.

The Jets couldn't believe the decision, which gave Dallas a 3-2 lead at 3:51 of the final frame. Just 49 seconds later, Mikko Rantanen made it 4-2 and the Jets were reeling. Wyatt Johnston added some insurance about 10 minutes later as the Jets — who had played a rock-solid first 40 minutes on the road — were unable to recover.

"I don't think it got away from us. We were right there in the game. One deciding goal that may or may not be a goal," said forward Kyle Connor.

In a perfect world, the NHL would make their on-ice officials available to a pool reporter following the game to field a few questions about such a pivotal play. But unlike all the other big pro leagues — the NFL, the NBA and MLB — no such transparency is offered.

"That's all I can say on it. That's what we take the rule as. That's why we thought maybe it was going to go our direction," said Arniel. "The rest of it, they made the decision. We've got to live with it and we've got to move on from it."

ADD IT TO THE PILE: There was another perplexing situation during the game involving the Stars and the men in stripes which added to Winnipeg's confusion.

Why was Dallas forward Mason Marchment not penalized for using his stick to strike the shin pad of referee Graham Skilliter at the end of the second period? Marchment was angered by what he thought was a missed slash from Jets centre Mark Scheifele.

Rule 40.1 states "Any player who deliberately applies physical force in any manner against an official, in any manner attempts to injure an official, physically demeans, or deliberately applies physical force to an official solely for the purpose of getting free of such an official during or immediately following an altercation shall receive a game misconduct penalty."

Apparently that's not as cut-and-dried as it would appear. Cameras caught Marchment appearing to apologize to Skilliter at the start of the third period.

OLD HABITS DIE HARD: After falling 3-2 in Game 1 on Wednesday night at Canada Life Centre and then storming back with an impressive 4-0 victory in Game 2 in downtown Winnipeg, the Jets were looking to make it two straight wins as the series shifted to Texas.

History was not on their side.

The Jets have now lost eight straight playoff games on the road dating back to the opener against the Vegas Golden Knights back in April 2023. Winnipeg dropped the following two games in Sin City that series, both games last year in Colorado and all three this spring in the first round against St. Louis.

The Jets are now just 3-8 in the third game of a best-of-seven series in the 2.0 era, including five consecutive defeats.

“Regardless of the circumstances, I think we have to do a better job, kind of pushing back,” said Jets forward Morgan Barron.

This one was completely up for grabs until Petrovic gave the Stars their third lead of the day. Connor had answered Roope Hintz’s opener in the first period, and then Nino Niederreiter got the Jets back on even terms when he scored midway through the second.

“I thought we played a heck of a hockey game. Thought we played a really strong game,” Arniel said of the first two periods and the start of the third.

“Man, that (review) took a long time. I’m not sure why. Obviously it’s a big moment. But at the end of the day, we have to be ready. They came out and jumped on us. We have to be ready for that next shift and we gave up that quick one. But I like a lot of what we did.”

RANTANEN RUNS WILD AGAIN: Rantanen scored all three of his team’s goals in Game 1, then was held in check in Game 2 along with the rest of his teammates. But the Finnish power forward was up to his old tricks in this one, adding three more points (1G, 2A) while also extending his own playoff record.

Rantanen’s helper on Hintz’s opening power play goal at 2:27 of the first period made it 13 straight tallies by the Stars in which he recorded a point. The previous NHL mark, held by Mario Lemieux, was nine goals.

Although it came to an end when Thomas Harley made it 2-1 for Dallas late in the first — Rantanen was on the ice but didn’t factor into the play — he got the primary assist on Petrovic’s goal before scoring the dagger on the ensuing shift coming out of the marathon NHL review, taking advantage of some spotty coverage and a poor line change by the Jets.

“A bit of a breakdown by us,” said Connor. “They scored a couple (goals) off the rush, so we need to be better at that and take a look at that. That starts with everybody. Our D is gapping up and then, forwards are coming back. It’s never too late to come back. We’ve got to be able to stop them from going East to West the way he got into the zone like that.”

Rantanen now leads the NHL in playoff scoring with 18 points (9G, 9A) in 10 games.

KEY PLAY: The controversial Petrovic goal.

THREE STARS:

1. DAL RW Mikko Rantanen: 1 goal, 2 assists

2. DAL D Thomas Harley: 1 goal, 1 assist
3. DAL C Roope Hintz: 1 goal, 1 assist

EXTRA, EXTRA: The Jets rolled with the same lineup for a second straight game, while Dallas swapped out forward Oskar Back for Colin Blackwell.

Winnipeg went 0-for-4 on the power play and is now just 1-for-13 in the series. Dallas went 1-for-2.

Hellebuyck stopped 21 of 26 shots, while Jake Oettinger turned aside 23 of 25 pucks that came his way.

The Jets will hold an optional practice on Monday afternoon to prepare for Game 4 on Tuesday night.

<https://www.winnipegfreepress.com/breakingnews/2025/05/11/jets-need-to-raise-road-game-limit-breakdowns>

Jets need to raise road game, limit breakdowns

By: Ken Wiebe

This is a prime example of a situation where the grey area in the rule book needs to be eliminated.

Trying to determine if it's a distinct kicking motion or not is too much to ask, whether in real time or after a lengthy review.

It's also an example of when it would be extremely beneficial for the NHL to make the most senior official available to members of the media to provide more than a bit of clarity.

Instead of relying on an explanation from the NHL situation room, the officials in the building could provide additional context, both in terms of what they saw on the ice and what the pictures on the iPad told them before the call on the ice ended up standing.

But, we digress.

The Winnipeg Jets didn't drop Game 3 of the Central Division final because of a controversial call that was made.

There's no doubt that contributed to the defeat, but it wasn't the primary reason the Jets came up short in a 5-2 loss to the Dallas Stars on Sunday at American Airlines Center.

The Jets dropped this outing because they gave up three goals in the third period of a tie game to a hungry team that has yet to lose consecutive games in these Stanley Cup playoffs.

As has been the case on four occasions out of four on the road in the postseason, the Jets showed some uncharacteristic qualities when pressed by the opposition in a tight game and things went off the rails — even if only momentarily.

Unravelling isn't something the Jets have shown often.

The Jets had the most road wins in the NHL this season, but have gone 0-4 against the Stars and St. Louis Blues.

Now, those are two teams that are excellent on home ice.

But the fact remains, the Jets can't win this series and advance to the Western Conference final if they don't record at least one win away from Canada Life Centre.

With the Jets still reeling after a lengthy video review to determine whether or not Alex Petrovic's goal was going to count, the Stars built on the boost by scoring 49 seconds later to extend the lead to 4-2 as none other than Mikko Rantanen scored his ninth goal of the postseason.

Let's get this out of the way immediately: Jets goalie Connor Hellebuyck didn't cost his team the game.

The breakdowns in front of him — made by the stingiest team in the NHL in each of the past two regular seasons — obviously contributed to the outcome.

What is also true is that Hellebuyck has yet to win a game on the road in four starts this spring and he gave up at least five goals for a fourth consecutive time (in one of those games, he actually surrendered six).

That's too many, even if there weren't any real softies sprinkled in here.

However, it's the fourth time in 10 games Hellebuyck has allowed a goal on the first shot on goal he's faced.

During the post-game assessment, Jets head coach Scott Arniel was asked for his evaluation of Hellebuyck's performance and he wasn't about to throw his goalie under the bus.

"He had to make some big stops. Him and (Jake) Oettinger, they were going kind of toe to toe. There's a lot of good looks both ways," said Arniel. "But we're going to be judged, our whole team, we're going to be all judged, not just Connor, by what happens on the road. We've got to win. They came into our building and took home ice away from us,

we've got to win here. And so everything that we have is going to be pushed into Game 4 here to get this thing evened up, going back into our building."

Hellebuyck received praise for his ability to buckle down in Game 7 against the St. Louis Blues, going more than 54 minutes without allowing a goal before his team won in double overtime in dramatic fashion.

That wouldn't have happened without Hellebuyck slamming the door shut.

In Game 1 of this series, Hellebuyck gave up three goals but he did his job, making the saves he was supposed to.

It took an extraordinary redirection and a Rantanen pass banking in off his own defenceman for Hellebuyck to take a hard-luck loss in the 3-2 defeat.

Then in Game 2, Hellebuyck pitched a 21-save shutout, his first since Game 2 of the 2021 series with the Edmonton Oilers.

It looked — and sounded — like Hellebuyck was back, based on both the saves he made and the words he spoke in his post-game session with reporters.

He was structurally sound, mixing in an athletic push across the crease to stop a one-timer from Evgenii Dadonov.

Then in Game 3, Hellebuyck wasn't quite as sharp.

There were multiple stops on Grade A opportunities, but Hellebuyck didn't look quite as settled in his crease and his angles weren't as precise as usual.

The disputed goal is a prime example of that.

While the degree of difficulty of trying to follow the bouncing puck that goes in after it contacts the skate of Stars defenceman Alex Petrovic is remarkably high, the way Hellebuyck swings his stick to try and bat it out of trouble isn't something we've seen from him before.

It's an unfortunate bounce for Hellebuyck, there's no doubt about that, as it appears to hit both the blade and the paddle of the goal stick before crossing the line for what proved to be the game-winner.

But if he's hugging the post on the play, there isn't really a place for the puck to go in after it's kicked off the right skate of Petrovic.

On the Stars' fourth goal, Rantanen has far too much time as he cuts to the middle but Hellebuyck appears to go down a touch early.

He's a big goalie who made himself smaller than usual in that moment.

Even on the insurance marker, Hellebuyck makes two excellent saves to start the sequence, including one off the one-timer, but his momentum takes him too far out of the crease to get back in time to prevent Wyatt Johnston from banging home his own rebound.

It's been said already during the course of the past three weeks, but it's worth repeating: Hellebuyck doesn't need to do it all by himself.

He just needs to be himself, which means making the difficult saves look routine and playing well enough to give his team a chance to win.

Allowing 21 goals in four road playoff games isn't a recipe for success, no matter how you slice it.

Expecting the Jets to score more than five goals a night on the road simply isn't realistic.

That means the team needs to buckle down and limit the breakdowns in front of Hellebuyck and for the Hart Trophy candidate to raise his road game a bit.

He's shown the ability to be the best goalie on the planet when he's on his game and this is the time of year when reputations and legacies are cemented.

It's not uncommon for a team to rally from a 2-1 series deficit, even against an excellent opponent.

Following the blueprint for 60 minutes — and maybe more — on the road on Tuesday would give the Jets their best chance to avoid being pushed to the brink of elimination.

"We need to get one on the road here," said Jets left-winger Kyle Connor, who recorded his first point of the series with a first-period goal. "That next one is the best chance we've got."

Sportsnet.ca

<https://www.sportsnet.ca/nhl/article/stars-marchment-hits-referee-with-stick-in-frustration/>

Stars' Marchment escapes discipline for stick tap on referee

By Sportsnet Staff

Dallas Stars forward Mason Marchment will not face punishment for making contact with referee Graham Skilliter, Sportsnet's Elliotte Friedman has learned.

The incident occurred during Game 3 of the Stars' second-round series against the Winnipeg Jets on Sunday.

Acting out of clear frustration, stemming from what he believed were two missed penalties against him, Marchment used his stick to tap Skilliter's shin pads.

Marchment's action immediately followed being whacked to the side by Jets forward Mark Scheifele, which received no call.

According to Friedman, the league discusses the incident, but it was the on-ice official's call whether it qualified as an abuse of officials violation. The on-ice officials said it did not, so no further action would be taken.

Marchment received no discipline in-game for the action, even though Rule 40.1 in the NHL's official rule book states: "Any player who deliberately applies physical force in any manner against an official, in any manner attempts to injure an official, physically demeans, or deliberately applies physical force to an official solely for the purpose of getting free of such an official during or immediately following an altercation shall receive a game misconduct penalty."

"You can't make contact with an official under any circumstances," Sportsnet's Kelly Hrudey said on the Hockey Central panel during the second intermission.

"You can be as frustrated as humanly possible, but you can't contact them."

At the start of the third period, it appeared that Marchment apologized to Skilliter.

Dallas won the game 5-2 to take a 2-1 series lead.

Watch Game 4 live Tuesday on Sportsnet and Sportsnet+ starting at 8 p.m. ET / 7 p.m. CT.

<https://www.sportsnet.ca/nhl/article/jets-cant-blame-loss-on-controversial-goal/>

Jets can't blame loss on controversial goal

By Iain MacIntyre

DALLAS — The biggest soccer game in the world on Sunday was played in Spain, where Barcelona beat archrivals Real Madrid 4-3 in the "El Clasico" to all but secure the league title. The game was a beauty.

The biggest soccer play in North America was on a sheet of ice, as Alex Petrovic's kick-in goal was allowed to stand. It was ugly, but tilted momentum to the Dallas Stars in what became a 5-2 victory over the Winnipeg Jets.

The delay for the review on Petrovic's winning goal at 3:51 of the third period took longer than treaty negotiations, was argued post-game by head coaches Scott Arniel and Pete DeBoer — shockingly, the losing coach was against the decision, while the winning coach was all for it — outraged Jets fans and fueled media coverage.

It was a big moment.

But the Jets handled it poorly.

On the next shift, 49 seconds of running time after the contentious goal, Mikko Rantanen made it 4-2 for the Stars at 4:40 when the Jets were unable to defend a three-on-three rush. And a couple more coverage mistakes by Winnipeg allowed Wyatt Johnston to make it 5-2 at 14:06 as Dallas completed its impressive rebound from Friday's 4-0 loss in Game 2.

American Airlines Center echoed late in the game with chants that "Otter's better!" mocking Jets goalie Connor Hellebuyck for a performance inferior to Stars starter Jake Oettinger.

At least, Hellebuyck did not get hooked and made it to the end of a road game for the first time in four tries these playoffs.

Hellebuyck was actually pretty good, but unlucky when he paddled the puck into his own net from Petrovic's kick, causing the long delay and a ruling that, technically, seemed to contradict Rule 49.2(i) of the National Hockey League's rules tome.

But he still wasn't good enough, and neither was his team in the final period.

If the Jets are to prove themselves the better team, then they're going to have to find a way to stop the Stars' best player because Rantanen, who finished with three points on Sunday, has been involved in 14 of Dallas' last 16 goals over five games stretching back to the first round of the Stanley Cup Playoffs.

And they are going to have to be mentally stronger and execute better than they did in the final 16 minutes.

Argue all you want about the legality of Petrovic's winning goal, but the path to victory for Winnipeg still revolves around Hellebuyck and Rantanen.

"Well, it's the best performance I've got to witness, standing where I'm standing with a guy on my team, for this extended period," DeBoer said of Rantanen's run. "But, you know, for me, he's just getting started. He's just warming up here. I think he's on a mission."

Maybe the Jets will intensify their mission if they genuinely think they lost Sunday due to an officiating injustice.

Game 4 is Tuesday night in Dallas.

"The rule states that if the puck gets kicked, if it hits a body or a stick of anybody else other than the goaltender, it counts as a goal," Arniel said in his post-game press conference. "It hit our goaltender's stick and went in the net. That is no goal. So they said that Helly propelled the puck in, and I haven't seen the word 'propelled' in the rulebook."

In his cross-examination, DeBoer told reporters: "I'm not sure that's how the rule reads. I think the rule reads that if, I believe, the goalie is making a play on the puck, that it's a goal. So that's the difference. Is it just deflected off him, or is he trying to make a play with the puck? And I think they got it right."

After making an excellent initial save on Rantanen's deflected shot, Hellebuyck tried to steer away the puck booted back at him by Petrovic, but accidentally bumped into his own net. Hellebuyck acted like he knew he'd just scored an own-goal, lying on his back in the crease and slapping his gloves together.

What's inarguable is that the Jets got some things wrong after the goal.

"Either way, there's no excuses," Winnipeg sniper Kyle Connor said. "We had to be ready to play whether (the review) was short or long. Obviously, a big momentum changer. They were able to get that one, and they scored on the next shift there. That's something that, obviously, momentum swings happen in a game, and we try to turn more into our favour. But it's just the way it happened, and they were able to gain chances off that."

Rantanen said the favourable review "obviously gave us energy. But I think no matter which way it goes, we are pretty good at keeping it even keel and just keep working. I think we had a pretty good third before that even, so I think we would have still played well. But who knows what happens after that?"

The Jets, who had rallied from 1-0 and 2-1 deficits, ran out of answers in the third period when they managed just eight shots on Oettinger and struggled to generate much on a late six-on-four power play.

"I thought we played a heck of a hockey game," Arniel said. "We played a really good game. Man, that (review) took a long time. I'm not sure why. Obviously, it's a big moment. But at the end of the day, we have to be ready. They came out and jumped on us. We have to be ready for that next shift, and we gave up that quick one. But I like a lot of what we did."

On Hellebuyck, who surrendered the five goals on 26 shots, Arniel said: "He had to make some big stops. Him and Oettinger, they were going kind of toe to toe. There's a lot of good looks both ways. But we're going to be judged — our whole team we're going to be judged, not just Connor — by what happens on the road. We've got to win. They came into our building and took home ice away from us (in Game 1); we've got to win here. And so everything that we have is going to be pushed into Game 4 here to get this thing evened up going back into our building."

The Stars are 4-0 in the playoffs after a loss.

"It was big, it was a response," DeBoer said. "I talked to our group today; it's the best response team that I've coached in my time here. It's one of the reasons why we haven't had extended losing streaks around here.

"There's an honesty to the group and the leadership in the group. They're willing to accept hard coaching. You don't have to sugarcoat it with them, which is nice. Some teams, some coaches. . . you have to be careful not to hurt feelings and things like that. I don't have to worry about that with our group. If (Stars captain) Jamie Benn is the first guy in line to accept criticism, then everyone else kind of falls in line. They're willing to go there without pushback, and I think that's always a part of fixing what's wrong."

No excuses.

Marchment Madness

The third-period talking point overshadowed a remarkable second-period incident that saw Dallas forward Mason Marchment, angry about a non-call after he was cross-checked behind the play by Mark Scheifele, reach out with his stick and lightly rap referee Graham Skilliter on the leg as the Jet skated to the bench. Skilliter chose to ignore the incident rather than eject Marchment with an "abuse-of-officials" call.

"I saw the interaction," DeBoer said. "I saw him give him a tap on the shin pads. I didn't understand, I don't know, the context of what happened. You know, is it a friendly tap. . . or was he just acknowledging that he was there? I don't know."

<https://www.sportsnet.ca/nhl/article/why-stars-game-3-winner-vs-jets-counted-after-kicking-review/>

Why Stars' Game 3 winner vs. Jets counted after kicking review

By Sportsnet Staff

If you're a Winnipeg Jets fan, you might feel a bit cheated with how Game 3 was decided.

The Dallas Stars broke a third-period tie on Sunday with a goal by Alexander Petrovic and there was some disagreement as to whether or not the marker should have counted.

Petrovic scored the goal just four minutes into the final frame as he was driving to the net on a Stars rush play. The defenceman was at the goal line and used his foot to direct the puck in the direction of the Winnipeg net.

The play was called a goal on ice but was looked at by the league. It ultimately held up after a lengthy review.

According to Sportsnet's Elliotte Friedman, the on-ice officials felt strongly that the puck was not illegally kicked.

"They felt it was a directed puck, not a kicked puck. That's one issue," Friedman reported after the game. "The other thing here is they feel (Connor) Hellebuyck doesn't deflect it into the net — he propels it into the net. So even if it was a kicked puck, they felt very strongly that it wasn't directed in, it was propelled in, and that's why they decided to count it as a goal."

The on-ice official told fans in Dallas that the "Winnipeg goalie put the puck into his own net after a kick. It's a good goal."

NHL rule No. 37.4 states that plays that involve a puck entering the net as the direct result of a "distinct kicking motion" shall be ruled NO GOAL. A "distinct kicking motion" must be made clear by video that an attacking player has deliberately propelled the puck with the kick of his foot or skate and the puck subsequently enters the net.

The rule goes on to clarify that a goal scored by a distinct kicking motion should not count even if the puck then deflects off another player, including the goaltender.

Friedman also reported that the league's explanation for the length of the review was to accommodate all the requests for replays. The review lasted approximately eight minutes.

Speaking to reporters after the game, Jets head coach Scott Arniel was unhappy with the decision and the explanation given to him from officials.

"The rule states that if a puck gets kicked, hits a body or a stick of anybody else other than a goaltender, it counts as a goal. It hit our goaltender's stick and went in the net. That is no goal," Arniel said. "They said that Helle propelled the puck in. I haven't seen the word propel in the rule book.

"They made the decision, we've got to live with it."

Though the Stars went on to score two more goals after Petrovic, his marker stood as the game-winner and served as the momentum-changer that Dallas needed to put this game to bed.

You can watch the series continue on Tuesday on Sportsnet and Sportsnet+, with Game 4 in Dallas scheduled for Tuesday at 8 p.m. ET / 5 p.m. PT.

<https://www.sportsnet.ca/nhl/video/do-jets-need-to-seriously-consider-benching-hellebuyck-against-stars/>

Do Jets need to seriously consider benching Hellebuyck against Stars? (VIDEO)

Frank Seravalli joins Sportsnet Central to discuss the shaky play of Winnipeg Jets goalie Connor Hellebuyck, and whether the Jets need to consider turning to Eric Comrie to have a chance of coming back against the Dallas Stars.

<https://www.sportsnet.ca/nhl/video/was-video-review-of-big-jets-stars-goal-too-long/>

Was video review of big Jets-Stars goal too long? (VIDEO)

Frank Seravalli joins Ken Reid and Evanka Osmak to discuss the lengthy video review that eventually earned the Dallas Stars the go-ahead goal in Game 3 against the Winnipeg Jets, and whether the length of the review damaged the flow of the game.

<https://www.sportsnet.ca/nhl/video/breaking-down-why-stars-kicked-goal-in-third-period-was-deemed-clean/>

Breaking down why Stars' kicked goal in third period was deemed clean (VIDEO)

Sportsnet's Elliotte Friedman breaks down the NHL's ruling on Alexander Petrovic's goal for the Dallas Stars that resulted in a lengthy review in the third period before being deemed a clean goal.

Global Winnipeg

<https://globalnews.ca/news/11174826/2-goals-in-49-seconds-sink-winnipeg-jets-in-controversial-game-3-loss-to-stars/>

2 goals in 49 seconds sink Winnipeg Jets in controversial Game 3 loss to Stars

By Russ Hobson Global News

The Dallas Stars scored three times in the third period for a 5-2 Game 3 victory over the Winnipeg Jets on Sunday in Dallas.

It was a controversial game-winning goal that was awarded to the Stars after a lengthy seven-minute video review as Dallas took a 2-1 lead in the best-of-seven series.

It appeared Alexander Petrovic scored the go ahead goal on a kicking motion with the game tied 2-2 in the final frame. The puck went off his skate, and deflected in off the goal stick of Connor Hellebuyck, and it was eventually ruled a good goal. The Stars scored again just 49 seconds later and added one more for the three-goal win.

According to Jets head coach Scott Arniel, the officials told him the goal was allowed to count because Hellebuyck directed the kicked puck into the net.

“The rule states that if the puck gets kicked, if it hits a body, or a stick of anybody else other than the goaltender, it counts as a goal,” said Arniel. “It hit our goaltenders stick and went into the net. That is no goal. So they said Helly propelled the puck in. I haven’t seen the word propel in the rule book.

“That’s what we take the rule as. That’s what we thought. The situation, that’s why we thought maybe it was gonna go our direction. The rest of it, they made the decision. We got to live with it and we got to move on from it.”

The Jets weren’t making any excuses for not being ready to go after the lengthy delay as the Stars quickly scored again to all but seal up the win.

“There’s no excuses,” said Kyle Connor. “We have to be ready to play whether it’s short or long. And obviously, big momentum changer. They were able to get that one and then they scored the next shift there.

“Obviously momentum swings happen in a game and we try to turn more into our favour, but it’s just the way it happened.”

The Jets called a timeout after the second goal in less than a minute after it appeared the game had gotten away from them.

“For our line to give up two in the third period – that can’t happen,” said Jets forward Morgan Barron. “So it kinda starts with me and finding a better way. Obviously, it’s unacceptable, regardless of how they go in or the calls around it.”

The Jets still haven’t won a road game yet in the playoffs, now with eight straight post-season losses away from home. They’ve been outscored 22-7 in their four road defeats.

Mikko Rantanen had a goal and two assists for the Stars, while Roope Hintz, Thomas Harley, and Wyatt Johnston had the other markers in the victory.

Kyle Connor and Nino Niederreiter replied for the Jets in the loss.

The shots finished 26-25 in the Stars' favour and the Jets were hanging in there until the defensive lapse in the third.

"I thought we played a heck of a hockey game," said Arniel. "I thought we played a really strong game, played a really good game.

"I like a lot of what we did. I don't think it got us rattled. I think that we got back on our heals a little bit in that next one. We gave up a rush against that top line."

Hellebuyck allowed five goals on 26 shots and has given up at least five goals in all of their first four playoff games on the road.

"He had to make some big stops," Arniel said. "Him and (Jake) Oettinger they were going kinda toe-to-toe. There's a lot of good looks both ways, but we're gonna be judged our whole team. We're gonna be all judged, not just Connor, by what happens on the road."

Oettinger made 23 saves for Dallas.

The Jets will again look for their first road victory of the playoffs in what will be a pivotal Game 4 on Tuesday in Dallas starting at 7:00 p.m.

Canadian Press

<https://globalnews.ca/news/11175215/winnipeg-jets-road-losses-continue/>

Road Woes: Jets still winless on road in playoffs after 5-2 loss to Stars in Game 3

By Gregory Strong The Canadian Press

Just when it looked like Jets goalie Connor Hellebuyck was back in top form again on the road, an unusual own-goal proved to be his undoing.

The Winnipeg Jets never recovered in a 5-2 loss to Dallas on Sunday that gave the Stars a 2-1 lead in the best-of-seven, second-round series.

A back-and-forth game flipped when Alexander Petrovic scored early in the third period. The puck went off his skate and then bounced off Hellebuyck's stick before crossing the line.

Officials needed a long review to determine if there was a kicking motion and if the puck made contact with Petrovic's stick. The NHL Situation Room ruled that Hellebuyck propelled the puck into his own net.

“The rule states that if the puck gets kicked, if it hits a body or a stick of anybody else other than the goaltender, it counts as a goal,” Jets coach Scott Arniel said. “It hit our goaltender’s stick and went in the net. That is no goal.

“So they said that (Hellebuyck) propelled the puck in, and I haven’t seen the word propelled in the rulebook.”

Add the play to the long list of road woes for a Winnipeg team that has yet to win away from Canada Life Center this post-season.

Hellebuyck was left laying on his back after the goal, the offending stick resting over him and the vocal American Airlines Center crowd loving it all.

Mikko Rantanen scored a minute later and suddenly the St. Louis vibes that haunted Hellebuyck in the first round — he was pulled in all three road losses against the Blues — felt like they moved south with him to the Lone Star State.

Wyatt Johnson tacked on an insurance goal for the Stars, who are brimming with confidence ahead of Tuesday’s Game 4.

“I thought we had a lot more guys look a lot more dangerous tonight up and down the lineup than we did the other night and that’s a credit to our group,” said Dallas coach Pete DeBoer.

Dallas won the series opener 3-2 at Canada Life Centre but the Jets responded with a 4-0 shutout win in Game 2 with Hellebuyck making 21 saves.

A nominee for both the Vezina and Hart trophies, the veteran netminder remains snake-bitten on the road in the playoffs. He has a .772 save percentage over four road losses along with a bloated 6.65 goals-against average.

“We’re going to be all judged — not just Connor — by what happens on the road,” Arniel said. “We’ve got to win. They came into our building and took home ice away from us, we’ve got to win here.

“And so everything that we have is going to be pushed into Game 4 here to get this thing evened up going back into our building.”

Hellebuyck gave up a goal on the Stars’ first shot as Roope Hintz redirected a point shot for a power-play marker.

Kyle Connor answered by beating an outstretched Jake Oettinger on a wraparound midway through the first period. Mikael Granlund later made a nice pass from his knees while behind the net to Thomas Harley, who beat Hellebuyck to make it 2-1.

The Stars were winning puck battles in the opening stanza and forcing the Jets out wide. Winnipeg responded with a stronger second period highlighted by a Nino Niederreiter goal after a cross-ice pass from Josh Morrissey.

Hellebuyck, meanwhile, had settled in and was starting to look like the player who was a rock in the regular season. When Cody Ceci fired a wrist shot from inside the faceoff circle, the netminder whipped out his glove hand to make a highlight-reel stop.

A few more great saves followed ahead of the second intermission before things unravelled in the third. Petrovic said Rantanen fed him a nice pass that led to the game-winning goal.

"I made a pass back to him, shot on net, rebound, kind of went off my skate," he said. "It was a pretty lucky goal."

The home fans got in on the action, pumping their goalie's tires while teasing Hellebuyck with "Otter's Better!" chants.

"Obviously they got some momentum from the goal, but it's still a one-goal game at that point," said Jets forward Morgan Barron. "Regardless of the circumstances, I think we have to do a better job kind of pushing back."

NHL teams with a 2-1 lead in a best-of-seven series have advanced 68.8 per cent of the time.

"At the end of the day, hopefully some of the stuff we did, the offence we created, the chances that we had, help us feel good about what we can do in Game 4," Arniel said.

"And that's what we're going to have to do."

The series will return to Winnipeg for Game 5 on Thursday.

TSN.ca

<https://www.tsn.ca/nhl/video/how-can-the-jets-slow-rantanen-down%7E3131745>

How can the Jets slow Rantanen down? (VIDEO)

TSN Jets reporter John Lu joins SportsCentre to discuss the Jets reaction to the controversial go-ahead goal awarded to the Stars in the third period of Game 3, and what Winnipeg can do to slow down Mikko Rantanen, who is having an incredible run so far in these playoffs.

<https://www.tsn.ca/nhl/video/did-the-league-get-it-right-on-controversial-go-ahead-goal-for-stars%7E3131747>

Did the league get it right on controversial go-ahead goal for Stars? (VIDEO)

Game 3 between the Jets and Stars was mired in controversy as Alex Petrovic was awarded a go-ahead goal by the situation room in the third period, and Dallas went on to win the game. The TSN Hockey panel shared their thoughts on the ruling, and more from the contest.

ESPN.com

https://www.espn.com/nhl/story/_/id/45103790/controversial-goal-helps-give-stars-victory-2-1-series-lead

Jets dispute Hellebuyck 'propelled' puck into net in Game 3

By Greg Wyshynski

DALLAS -- Winnipeg Jets coach Scott Arniel believes the game-winning goal should not have counted in their 5-2 loss to the Dallas Stars in Game 3 on Sunday night that put them down 2-1 in their Western Conference playoff series.

"That is no goal," Arniel said.

It took eight minutes for the on-ice officials and the NHL Situation Room to allow Dallas defenseman Alexander Petrovic's third-period tiebreaking goal, which he directed toward the net with his skate. Referee Graham Skilliter announced that "after video review, the Winnipeg goalie puts the puck into his own net after a kick" and that it was a "good goal."

Jets goaltender Connor Hellebuyck had saved the puck directly to Petrovic, who angled it off his skate toward the crease 3:51 into the period. The puck appeared to be headed through the Winnipeg goal crease when Hellebuyck put his stick on the ice, the puck deflecting off the blade and into the net.

The NHL Situation Room signaled to the on-ice officials that it was reviewing the play.

"The Situation Room initiated a video review to further examine if Alexander Petrovic kicked the puck into the Winnipeg net. Video was then used to determine if the puck made contact with Petrovic's stick prior to it entering the net," the NHL said in a statement. "After looking at all available replays, video review supported the Referee's call on the ice that Connor Hellebuyck propelled the puck into his own net."

The NHL rulebook defines a distinct kicking motion, for the purposes of video review, as a play in which an attacking player "has deliberately propelled the puck with a kick of his foot or skate and the puck subsequently enters the net." A player can direct a puck into the net with his skate as long as he doesn't kick it."

With the referee announcing that Petrovic kicked the puck, the fact that it deflected off Hellebuyck's stick into the net made the review complicated because of a carveout for goalies in the kicked-puck rule. Rule 49 states that "a kicked puck that deflects off the stick of any player (excluding the goalkeeper's stick) shall be ruled a good goal."

Based on that rule, and what the on-ice officials told him about the play, Arniel believes the goal should not have counted.

"The rule states that if a puck gets kicked, it hits a body or a stick of anybody else other than a goaltender, it counts as a goal. It hit our goaltender's stick and went in the net. That is no goal. So, they said that Helly propelled the puck in. I haven't seen the word 'propel' in the rulebook," Arniel said.

Dallas coach Pete DeBoer disagreed with Arniel's assessment. "I believe the rule reads that if [Hellebuyck is] making a play on the puck, that it's a goal. So, that's the difference. Does it just deflect it off him or is he trying to make a play with the puck? I think they got it right," he said.

Rule 78.4 states that "a goal shall be scored if the puck is shot into the goal by a player of the defending side. The player of the attacking side who last touched the puck shall be credited with the goal but no assist shall be awarded. A goal shall be scored if the puck is put into the goal in any other manner by a player of the defending side."

So, perhaps the interpretation that Hellebuyck played the puck into his own goal after the kick -- rather than having it deflect off his stick and in -- is the determining factor for it being allowed in Game 3.

Petrovic's goal sparked the Dallas offense. Mikko Rantanen scored 49 seconds later, his playoff-leading ninth, to make it 4-2.

Winnipeg players were frustrated by the decision.

"Obviously, a big momentum-changer. They were able to get that one and they scored on the next shift there," winger Kyle Connor said. "Obviously, momentum swings happen in a game, and we try to turn more of them into our favor. But they were able to gain chances off that."

"I would have liked to see it come off the board, obviously," forward Morgan Barron said.

The Jets face a critical Game 4 in Dallas on Tuesday. It's also a critical game for Hellebuyck, who dropped to 0-4 on the road in the playoffs and has lost eight of his past nine road games in the postseason.

Dallas took a 1-0 lead on a power-play goal by Roope Hintz just 2:27 into the game, a deflection that fluttered past Hellebuyck. The Stars took the lead again with less than five minutes remaining in the first and the score tied 1-1. Mikael Granlund was tripped

behind the Winnipeg net, resulting in a delayed penalty. While on the ice, Granlund sent a pass to the slot that defenseman Thomas Harley snapped behind Hellebuyck to make it 2-1.

Hellebuyck, who had a shutout win in Game 2, has a .772 save percentage and a 6.65 goals-against average on the road in this postseason. The winner of the Vezina Trophy as the league's best goaltender last season, he's a finalist for that award again this year as well as the Hart Trophy for NHL MVP.

"We're going to be judged, not just Connor, by what happens on the road," Arniel said. "We've got to win. They came into our building and took home ice away from us. We've got to win here. And so everything that we have is going to be pushed into Game 4 here to get this thing evened up going back into our building."

The Athletic

<https://www.nytimes.com/athletic/6348903/2025/05/12/nhl-jets-stars-playoffs-rantanen-scheifele/>

Jets' top players must quickly find a way to outplay Mikko Rantanen and the Stars

By Murat Ates

There is a simple reason the Dallas Stars will take a 2-1 series lead into Tuesday's Game 4, and there's very little controversy in it.

In the battle of Winnipeg's best players vs. Dallas' best players, one skater stands alone. Mikko Rantanen has six points in three games. Mark Scheifele, Kyle Connor and Gabriel Vilardi have six points combined. And now that the Stars have last change on home ice, coach Pete DeBoer is getting Rantanen away from Adam Lowry's shutdown line and playing him head-to-head with Connor, Scheifele and Vilardi.

The Stars want a power vs. power matchup. The Jets' stars should be capable of handling it better than they did on Sunday.

And they're going to have their hands full all over again in Game 4, so they'll need to tighten up in a hurry, lest the Jets go home on the brink of elimination.

Rantanen dominated Sunday's head-to-head matchup, scoring the 4-2 goal that put Game 3 out of reach. Winnipeg's top line fell behind Rantanen on the long three-on-two rush, unable to provide backpressure, and watched him cut across the Jets' zone with time to burn.

"It's never too late to come back," Connor said. "We've got to be able to stop them from going east to west the way he got into the zone like that."

If any line can drag the Jets back to Winnipeg tied in the series, it's Connor, Scheifele and Vilardi, but they've strayed from the defensive quality that saw each player post career-best two-way numbers this season. In Game 3, Natural Stat Trick credits Rantanen with a 7-1 lead in scoring chances against the Jets trio and 87 percent of expected goals.

And it's not just that Rantanen is making brilliant plays. The Jets' top line has slipped into some bad habits trying to create offence at the other end of the rink.

The Jets top line is flying the zone again, getting caught looking for offence before it's there. Their low support on breakouts has wavered, keeping them hemmed in their own zone as opposed to moving them toward the attacking zone. Long before Rantanen's dagger of a 4-2 goal, there were moments where Connor, Scheifele and Vilardi were above the puck in the Jets' zone before it was saved. In one case, a Neal Pionk giveaway led to a dangerous moment for Rantanen and Roope Hintz with the Jets' forwards caught at the blue line.

Rantanen has an advantage on this goal, given Vilardi has just come onto the ice, and he exploits the rest of Winnipeg's coverage to maximum effect.

"A bit of a breakdown by us," Connor said. "They scored a couple (goals) off the rush, so we need to be better at that and take a look at that."

Not one of Scheifele, Connor or Vilardi needs to be Rantanen's equal. The three of them combined must find a way to keep Winnipeg in the game — and especially should have less than a minute after the controversial Alex Petrovic goal.

So, what comes next?

Looking forward requires looking back. Here's Connor after Winnipeg's Game 7 win against St. Louis. He'd been a factor on two Blues goals, losing position on one and giving the puck away on the other.

"How are you going to respond? How are you going to come back? You're not just going to sit there and sulk. You have to do anything you can to help the team push forward."

Connor responded by setting up both of Cole Perfetti's goals, including the tying Game 7 buzzer-beater. His four-goal, eight-assist performance in Round 1 was instrumental in Winnipeg earning the Round 2 opportunity it has now. But his wraparound goal on Sunday was his first point of the series, and NHL Edge data shows he's spent more time in his own zone than on the attack. (He also astonishingly hasn't scored a power-play goal since December, although he is picking up assists.)

Connor led all Jets with six shots in Game 3, but none came from the low or center slot. His only slot shots at five-on-five in the series have been set up by Vilardi (1) or self-generated (2). His one attempt off a Scheifele pass into the slot was blocked.

Scheifele is still rounding into form. He's still making great plays — including the shot he scored in Game 1 after Jamie Benn's awful giveaway to Vilardi — but a lot of his passes are going awry. He's gone from a league leader in passes into the slot to being stuck in his own zone too frequently to set up shop in his office along the endboards. Connor isn't getting the chance to show how dangerous he is from the slot, partly because Scheifele isn't making as many of his signature plays.

Vilardi is the trio's points leader in the series, with a power-play goal and two assists in three games. He tends to be the most dangerous member of the power play, but the Stars penalty kill made great adjustments in Game 3. They denied more of Winnipeg's power-play zone entries than they had in the first two games while extending their aggressive pressure to Vilardi and Nikolaj Ehlers down low. The Jets' power play went 0-for-4, taking five shots, after looking excellent against the Stars in Game 2.

It's back to the drawing board, then, even if the old clichés remain true. Winnipeg can win this series if its best players outplay Dallas' best players. Rantanen is setting that bar impossibly high, but Connor, Scheifele and Vilardi can do more as a team to close the gap. Connor's attitude from Game 7 will be the key: They have to respond. They can't sit there and sulk. They have to do everything they can to help the team push forward.

This isn't a Connor/Scheifele/Vilardi hit piece. It's a recognition of the moment. There are games in the playoffs where great powers come with great responsibilities. Game 4 for Winnipeg is one of them — and it's up to the Jets' most dynamic players to take the power vs. power matchup DeBoer is feeding them and turn it on its head.

Championship teams don't sulk about unfortunate calls. They don't let collapses in one game turn into problems in the next. The Jets need a signature game from their top line — offensively and defensively — to keep them from the brink of elimination.

"We need to get one on the road here," Connor said. "That next one is the best chance we've got."

<https://www.nytimes.com/athletic/6348149/2025/05/11/nhl-playoffs-winnipeg-jets-controversial-goal/>

Winnipeg Jets lament controversial Game 3 winner: 'That is no goal'

By Murat Ates

When does a deflection turn into possession of a puck?

Kyle Connor looked, wide-eyed. He didn't know what to say. The Winnipeg Jets had just let a close Game 3 slip away and given the Dallas Stars a 2-1 lead in their series. But it was a vital question: the Stars' game-winning goal in Game 3 depended on the answer.

The Stars scored three third-period goals to break a tie and earn a 5-2 win in Game 3 and a 2-1 series lead.

Connor didn't have it. Neither did Morgan Barron, who deflected it to Jets head coach Scott Arniel. Arniel was unequivocal in his disagreement. The goal that won Game 3 never should have counted. But Alex Petrovic's goal stood as the game-winner.

"The rule states that if the puck gets kicked, if it hits a body or a stick of anybody else other than the goaltender, it counts as a goal. It hit our goaltender's stick and went in the net. That is no goal," Arniel said.

"I'm not sure that's how the rule reads," said Stars' coach Pete DeBoer. "I think the rule reads that if, I believe, the goalie is making a play on the puck, that it's a goal. So that's the difference. Is it just deflected off him or is he trying to make a play with the puck? And I think they got it right."

Petrovic scored it three minutes and 51 seconds into the third period, following up on a Dallas rush by kicking the puck toward the net. The puck struck Connor Hellebuyck's stick and deflected into the net. It was initially called a goal at ice level.

A video review initiated in Toronto started a lengthy review process — first, to determine whether or not Petrovic had kicked the puck, second, to determine whether or not the puck hit Petrovic's stick after he kicked it, and third, to determine whether or not Hellebuyck propelled the puck into his own net.

It was called a goal, with this explanation given by the NHL Situation Room:

The Situation Room initiated a video review to further examine if Alexander Petrovic kicked the puck into the Winnipeg net. Video was then used to determine if the puck made contact with Petrovic's stick prior to it entering the net. After looking at all available replays, video review supported the Referee's call on the ice that Connor Hellebuyck propelled the puck into his own net.

"They said that Helle 'propelled' the puck in. I haven't seen the word 'propelled' in the rulebook," Arniel said.

If it had been determined that Petrovic had propelled the puck into the net, then the "kicking motion" rules would come into play: The goal would have been disallowed. Instead, the ruling was that Hellebuyck propelled the puck into his net. The kicking motion rules did not apply.

Here are the kicking motion rules, which the NHL deemed inapplicable given their determination that Hellebuyck propelled the puck into his own net.

- A puck that deflects into the net off an attacking player's skate who does not use a distinct kicking motion is a legitimate goal. A puck that is directed into the net by

an attacking player's skate shall be a legitimate goal as long as no distinct kicking motion is evident. The following should clarify deflections following a kicked puck that enters the goal:

- A kicked puck that deflects off the body of any player of either team (including the goalkeeper) shall be ruled no goal.
- A kicked puck that deflects off the stick of any player (excluding the goalkeeper's stick) shall be ruled a good goal.
- A goal will be allowed when an attacking player kicks the puck and the puck deflects off his own stick and then into the net.
- A goal will be allowed when a puck enters the goal after deflecting off an attacking player's skate or deflects off his skate while he is in the process of stopping.

Arniel is right that there is no reference to a goaltender propelling the puck into his own net.

It seems clear in the video that Hellebuyck's stick does redirect the puck into the net. It's hard to view the goal as a case where Hellebuyck had enough possession to propel the puck into his net — as opposed to it deflecting off of him and in, as per No. 2 in the rules above.

Then again, if the rule states that a goal should count if the goaltender makes a play at the puck, DeBoer is right.

The NHL's determination that Hellebuyck propelled the puck into his own net appears to indicate "own goal."

Rule 79.4 states: "A goal shall be scored if the puck is shot into the goal by a player of the defending side. The player of the attacking side who last touched the puck shall be credited with the goal but no assist shall be awarded."

Ultimately, that's the decision the NHL appears to have made — although, if that's the case, then Mikko Rantanen and Sam Steel's assists should not apply.

The NHL had a lot to deal with: kicked puck, any number of deflections between Petrovic's kick and Hellebuyck's stick, and then the determination that Hellebuyck played the puck into his own net as opposed to it deflecting off of him. It makes sense that they took nearly eight minutes to come to their deliberation.

But when does a deflection turn into Hellebuyck shooting the puck into his own net? It seems like a difficult interpretation to make, by video, in slow motion.

The rest of the game played out quickly: Rantanen scored 49 seconds later, giving the Stars a two-goal lead, and Wyatt Johnston added another before the third period was done and Dallas won 5-2.

<https://www.nytimes.com/athletic/6348528/2025/05/11/nhl-playoffs-stars-jets-game-3/>

Stars, Mikko Rantanen gain upper hand on Jets with Game 3 victory: Takeaways

By Mark Lazerus and Murat Ates

DALLAS — Winnipeg Jets coach Scott Arniel chuckled when asked before Sunday's game what had worked so well against preposterously hot Mikko Rantanen in a Game 2 shutout of the Dallas Stars.

"Well, we're not done with him yet," Arniel said.

Not by a long shot. For the fifth time in his last six games, Rantanen had at least three points, chipping in a goal and two assists in Dallas' 5-2 victory over Winnipeg in Game 3 of their second-round series. Dallas now leads the series 2-1, with Game 4 set for Tuesday night.

Rantanen's goal at 4:40 of the third, 49 seconds after Alex Petrovic's go-ahead tally, broke open what had been a tight contest. The big Finn took a Roope Hintz leave, waited out Dylan Samberg and fired a rising wrister through a Neal Pionk screen past Connor Hellebuyck to make it 4-2. Rantanen also had primary assists on goals by Hintz (a power-play tally to open the scoring early in the first) and on Petrovic's goal.

The Hintz goal ran Rantanen's astounding streak to 13 consecutive Dallas goals that he either scored or assisted on. That streak was snapped when Thomas Harley scored late in the first period, but Rantanen more than made up for it in the third.

It was another dicey road outing for Hellebuyck. The Jets goalie is a lock to win his third Vezina Trophy as the league's best goaltender. But that's a regular-season award, and the Jets star followed up his Game 2 shutout at home by giving up five goals on 26 shots at American Airlines Center. And Petrovic's go-ahead goal was knocked in by Hellebuyck. At least he wasn't pulled in this one; it's the first road game of this postseason in which he made it to the end of the game. In four road games, he's given up 21 goals has a save percentage south of .800.

Ain't that a kick in the head?

It's the Year of the Own-Goal, and we got another one Sunday afternoon. Petrovic's go-ahead goal at 3:51 of the third period went in off Hellebuyck's stick — something even referee Graham Skilliter felt compelled to point out after a review.

The review lasted nearly eight full minutes, as the officials tried to determine if Petrovic kicked the puck in or not. The puck clearly went in off Petrovic's left skate, and there might even have been a distinct kicking motion. But it went through a latticework of sticks on the way, and nearly all of Lynyrd Skynyrd's "Free Bird" played as the review dragged on and on and on. Finally, the officials determined the puck was put in by Hellebuyck, rendering the kicking motion moot.

It was a big moment for Petrovic, a 33-year-old veteran who has emerged as a postseason security blanket for Stars coach Pete DeBoer. Petrovic played just five games for the Stars this year and just one last year, spending 128 games in the AHL over those two seasons. But he's played in all 10 playoff games, after playing in seven last spring.

The Jets were down 2-1 in the second period and had nothing going: no sustained offensive zone shifts, nothing working off the rush.

Josh Morrissey changed that with a head fake and a shimmy around Colin Blackwell, then wired a perfect cross-seam pass through Stars coverage to Nino Niederreiter waiting in the corner. It was Winnipeg's best and perhaps only scoring chance to that point of the period and Niederreiter made no mistake, corralling the puck and then burying it into a mostly empty net.

Morrissey looked off Blackwell as he received Dylan DeMelo's pass, selling the shot before pulling the puck to himself in the middle of the ice, then picked a seam through Evgenii Dadonov and Harley to make the play.

Morrissey's virtuoso moment got the Jets to the second intermission with a tie. It was his fifth point of his injury-interrupted playoffs and his first signature moment from the offensive line.

High-event game from Winnipeg's top line

Matchups were a big story in the pregame, with the Stars having last change and Arniel talking about a "cat-and-mouse" game to check the Stars' top players. In the end, Rantanen, Hintz and Granlund went head-to-head with the Jets' top line and controlled the power-vs.-power matchup.

Kyle Connor got the Jets on the board in the first period, jumping onto a Gabriel Vilardi rebound and wrapping the puck around Jake Oettinger too quickly for the Stars goaltender to respond. After that, it was a long night for the Jets' top line.

They spent much of the second period responding to attacks from Rantanen's line and struggled to transition the puck up ice to give themselves a chance to score. Rantanen's 4-2 goal also burned them in the third period, while the trio earned roughly one-quarter of shot attempts head-to-head with Rantanen's line over the full course of the game. Some of this is about the greatness of Rantanen's line, while some is about flying the zone before the puck was safe, and Rantanen's goal was a three-on-two with limited back pressure and poor transition defense.

The Jets' stars tried to pour it on after the Stars went up 4-2, but it was too little too late.

Special teams disparity

Late in the first period, with the Jets on the power play, Morrissey entered the zone and executed a nifty give-and-go with Mark Scheifele, who left the puck for Morrissey in the low slot with an open net in front of him, as Oettinger had followed Scheifele out wide. But Wyatt Johnston, fresh off the bench, snuck up behind Morrissey and tied up his stick to break up the scoring chance.

Less than a minute later, Mikael Granlund, from his knees after being tripped by Niederreiter, found Harley in the slot for a Stars goal and a massive momentum swing.

Dallas' special teams was the difference early on. With Chris Rooney and Skilliter calling the game tightly — for the first period, at least; things got a lot looser after that — each team had two first-period power plays. Dallas got a goal from Hintz on its second power play, the center redirecting a Rantanen pass past Hellebuyck just 2:27 into the game. Dallas, meanwhile, hounded the Jets on their power plays, applying particular pressure at the blue line on entries and down low, denying the low-to-high passes. Dallas has successfully killed off 11 of 12 Jets power plays in the series and have the second-best PK in the playoffs with an 87.5 percent kill rate.

Frustration mounts for Marchment

Mason Marchment might have crossed a line in the final minute of the second period, slashing Skilliter on the ankle — not viciously, but apparently making contact — after a rather blatant Scheifele interference went uncalled. Scheifele hit Marchment well after he had sent the puck up ice, and was slow to get up. When he finally did get up from one knee, he rapped Skilliter on the leg, presumably on the shin pad.

Skilliter didn't react or respond in any way, but Marchment continued barking at him from the bench. Marchment likely can expect a call from the league after that one.

Marchment has a goal and two assists in 10 playoff games, and doesn't have a point in his last five.

Dallas Morning News

<https://www.dallasnews.com/sports/stars/2025/05/11/it-was-mikkos-day-again-in-dallas-is-the-stars-superstar-just-getting-started/>

It was Mikko's Day again in Dallas. Is the Stars' superstar just getting started? Mikko Rantanen's streak of consecutive points ended, but he was still the star of Game 3's victory.

By Tim Cowlshaw

Thirteen days and 13 periods after it began, Mikko Rantanen's record-busting scoring streak came to an end Sunday afternoon. But whether you were among the 18,532 at American Airlines Center on Sunday afternoon or just enjoying the show at home, it

would be hard to even think that was what you just witnessed when the Stars disposed of the Winnipeg Jets 5-2 in Game 3 of this second-round series.

It was a heck of a Mother's Day celebration for the home crowd because just about every day around here is Mikko's Day.

"It's the best performance I've got to witness, standing where I'm standing with a guy on my team, for this extended period," Stars coach Pete DeBoer said. "But, you know for me, he's just getting started. He's just warming up here. I think he's on a mission."

If DeBoer's correct, I'm not sure you want to start laying out the parade route just yet, but you can pencil in the Jets as another Presidents' Trophy team in real trouble. The Stars took a 2-1 lead in this series and Rantanen — despite not being part of Dallas' second goal Sunday, the one that ended his streak of scoring or assisting on goals at 13 — still skated off the ice as the first star after a goal and two assists. That's nine goals and nine assists to lead the league, and it's 17 points in six games, including one in which Dallas was shut out.

Rantanen's goal was the biggest in the game if not the most controversial. First came his pass to set up defenseman Alexander Petrovic with the rare goal that turned out to be the game winner, the first of three Dallas goals in the final period. But it took a video review of roughly seven minutes to determine that while Petrovic had turned his skate (a kicking motion) to send the puck toward the net, Connor Hellebuyck had made a play on the puck to allow the goal to stand.

Whether Hellebuyck was really making a play or it just happened to nick his stick as he was flailing mattered a lot in that moment. It mattered a lot less 49 seconds later when Rantanen entered the offensive zone, put moves on both Jets defensemen (Dylan Samberg and Neal Pionk) before firing past Hellebuyck for a 4-2 lead.

Rantanen thanked the video delay for his goal. "I guess everybody got some rest, you know, and we were fresh after that," he said.

He declined to enter into a lengthy discourse on how he's the hottest hockey player on the planet, one who is rewriting the Stanley Cup record book. Scoring or assisting on 13 straight goals broke the great Mario Lemieux's record of nine. This is his fifth game of three or more points in the last six. He has raised his career scoring average above 1.3 points per playoff game to fourth among active players, a list that includes Edmonton's megastars, Connor McDavid and Leon Draisaitl, along with Mikko's longtime linemate in Colorado, Nathan MacKinnon.

And the Avs thought MacKinnon was the one carrying Rantanen.

The victory continued the Stars' habit — a really important habit to maintain, by the way — of not losing consecutive postseason games. They only had to beat Colorado in back-to-back games once to win their first-round series, and Dallas managed it by

winning Games 2 and 3 in overtime. If they win all the odd games in this series, the Stars will add another Game 7 notch in DeBoer's belt, but maybe there's an easier way.

The really vital thing Dallas achieved Sunday was their late-afternoon deconstruction of Hellebuyck. No one has a sufficient explanation for why the game's best regular-season goaltender year after year has never been a consequential netminder in the playoffs. Beyond that, he was downright awful in the opening round in all three games at St. Louis, surrendering 16 goals on 64 shots and getting pulled in each road game.

He made it to the finish line Sunday (not counting three minutes of "pulled goalie" time) but still surrendered five goals. His postseason road record of 0-4 in which he gives up a minimum of five goals each game lives for another two days. If you're telling me that's not in some Winnipeg heads at this moment, I'm telling you that you're wrong. Goalies are quirky, even great ones, and Hellebuyck's lack of any postseason history, even for a good team trying to create some, is a legitimate issue.

For the Stars, Roope Hintz got his fifth goal of the postseason, Wyatt Johnston tossed in his fourth, two defensemen put pucks in the net (by any means necessary), and so the Mikko Show had some legitimate co-stars Sunday afternoon.

Keep that up Tuesday night, and the Jets will need an even longer victory streak against Dallas than anyone has come close to supplying so far, just to have a chance.

<https://www.dallasnews.com/sports/stars/2025/05/11/five-thoughts-from-stars-jets-game-3-dallas-responds-with-third-period-surge/>

***Five thoughts from Stars-Jets Game 3: Dallas responds with third-period surge
The Mikko magic show continued in a 5-2 victory at American Airlines Center.***

By Lia Assimakopoulos

After getting blanked in Winnipeg on Friday night, the Stars needed a big response on home ice.

The Jets had been shaky on the road last series and last playoffs, and the Stars had been far better when at American Airlines Center.

Dallas used their home-ice advantage to their favor Sunday, securing a 5-2 win over the Jets in Game 3. Forward Mikko Rantanen again led Dallas in a three-point outing, but it was third-pair defenseman Alexander Petrovic who scored the game-winning goal 3:51 into the third period.

The Stars now hold a 2-1 lead in the series and will host Game 4 on Tuesday night.

Here are five thoughts from Dallas' Game 3 win:

Rantanen's historic streak ends, but he didn't slow down

Rantanen had put the Stars on his back in their last five games, setting an NHL playoff record by scoring or assisting on 13 straight goals — the 13th of which came in the first period Sunday.

But Rantanen's streak came to an end later in that period. Mikael Granlund drew a tripping penalty on the forecheck out of a Stars' penalty kill and made a pass from his knees on the delayed penalty to find Thomas Harley in the slot to give the Stars a 2-1 lead. Sam Steel had the secondary assist.

While Rantanen was on the ice, it was the first goal the Stars scored in 13 periods of play without the superstar forward scoring or assisting. Stars coach Pete DeBoer wanted to see his other forwards become more involved, so few on the Dallas side had any complaints of new players getting involved.

But the Finnish forward continued his hot streak, finishing with a three-point night. He assisted on Roope Hintz's goal on the power play to open the scoring, Petrovic's game-winning goal and added an insurance goal of his own in the third.

Rantanen leads the NHL in points again with 18 (nine goals and nine assists), passing Edmonton's Connor McDavid, who had taken over the lead.

Alexander Petrovic's impact continues to be felt

The Stars took a risk at the start of the playoffs by calling up veteran defenseman Alexander Petrovic from the AHL and immediately inserting him into the lineup over Matt Dumba and Brendan Smith, who had been on the NHL roster all season.

Petrovic entered the lineup late in the Stars' playoff run last spring for Nils Lundkvist and delivered some solid minutes, but through 10 playoff games, he's been one of the unsung heroes for the Stars.

Related:Patience pays off for Alexander Petrovic as Stars' unlikely hero makes his mark in Game 3

The 33-year-old right-shot defenseman is averaging just shy of 14 minutes a night, and with rookie defenseman Lian Bichsel, they've been a more reliable third-pairing than Dallas has had all year.

And Petrovic was finally rewarded for his efforts Sunday, scoring the game-winning goal with a persistent follow-up on a rebound just a few minutes into the third period.

It was the first playoff goal Petrovic has scored in nine years and only the second of his career.

Game-winning goal sparks lengthy review

After Petrovic scored the game-winning goal, it took seven minutes for officials to decide if it was a good goal.

The officials' lengthy review was to check whether there was a distinct kicking motion, as the puck bounced off Petrovic's skate before entering the net.

The officials eventually confirmed the call on the ice of a good goal, but their decision left some confusion.

The referees ruled that Jets goalie Connor Hellebuyck propelled the puck into his own net, but the NHL rulebook states, "A goal cannot be scored on a play where an attacking player propels the puck with his skate into the net [even by means of a subsequent deflection off another player] using a 'distinct kicking motion.'"

It also states, "A kicked puck that deflects off the stick of any player [excluding the goalkeeper's stick] shall be ruled a good goal."

Jets coach Scott Arniel said postgame if the officials determine it deflected only off Hellebuyck and in after a kick, it shouldn't have been a goal.

"The puck was kicked, but that Helly directed it into the net," Arniel said. "The rule states that if the puck gets kicked, if it hits a body or a stick of anybody else other than the goaltender, it counts as a goal. It hit our goaltender's stick and went in the net. That is no goal."

But Stars head coach Pete DeBoer said the officials explained to him that Hellebuyck was playing the puck at the time of the goal.

"I think the rule reads that if, I believe, the goalie is making a play on the puck, that it's a goal," DeBoer said. "So that's the difference. Is it just deflected off him or is he trying to make a play with the puck? And I think they got it right."

Connor Hellebuyck still looks shaky on the road

One big question as the series returned to Dallas was how Hellebuyck would look on the road.

After posting a 4-0 shutout at home in Game 2, many thought the Hart Trophy finalist had gained the necessary confidence to overcome his road struggles, but that didn't seem to be the case.

In the series against St. Louis, Hellebuyck had a .758 save percentage and 7.24 goals-against average in three road games. He was pulled in all three games.

While he finished Sunday's game, Hellebuyck still allowed five goals on 26 shots — more than he gave up in the first two games of this series combined.

Jake Oettinger, on the other hand, was solid for Dallas, allowing two goals on 25 shots en route to the win.

Elite defensemen step up on both sides

Winnipeg defenseman Josh Morrissey missed Game 1 of the series, but he has made a noticeable impact in his two games.

After setting up Gabriel Vilardi's first-period power-play goal in Game 2, Morrissey made a nice move on Colin Blackwell to find Nino Niederreiter for the game-tying goal in the second period Sunday afternoon.

Morrissey is considered to be Winnipeg's equivalent of Miro Heiskanen, so his return has given the Jets an automatic boost. The Stars are still awaiting Heiskanen's return.

But, like he has done all season, Harley is continuing to step up in Heiskanen's absence. He assisted on Hintz's power-play goal before scoring his own later in the first period to give Dallas the lead.

Harley ranks third on the Stars in points this playoffs with eight (three goals and five assists).

Winnipeg Sun

<https://winnipegsun.com/sports/hockey/nhl/winnipeg-jets/wacky-bounce-rattles-jets-may-12-2025>

Wacky Texas bounce rattles Jets in Game 3 loss to Stars

By Paul Friesen

A crazy third-period bounce, a long video review and a call they couldn't believe put the Winnipeg Jets behind Dallas for a third time on Sunday.

Unlike the first two deficits they faced, this one caused them to crumble.

The result, a 5-2 loss that gives the Stars a 2-1 lead in the second-round playoff series.

The teams deadlocked at 2-2 early in the third, the Stars took their third lead on a wacky bounce that needed a lengthy video review: did Alexander Petrovic make enough of a kicking motion to negate it?

It didn't matter in the end.

The replay officials determined Jets goalie Connor Hellebuyck directed the wobbling puck into his own net when he swiped at it with his paddle.

Jets coach Scott Arniel was unimpressed.

“The rule states that if the puck gets kicked, if it hits a body or a stick of anybody else other than the goaltender, it counts as a goal,” Arniel told reporters in Dallas. “It hit our goaltender’s stick and went in the net. That is no goal. So they said that Helly propelled the puck in. I haven’t seen the word propelled in the rule book.”

The NHL sent out an explanation, saying the video review upheld what the on-ice officials ruled: that Hellebuyck’s stick, and not Petrovic’s skate, is what propelled the puck over the goal line.

“We were asking about the kicking motion,” Jets forward Kyle Connor said. “There’s a deflection. The refs claimed that he played it in his own net. That was the bottom line. We were right there in the game. One deciding goal that may or may not be a goal.”

It seemed to rattle the Jets, although Arniel begged to differ.

“I don’t think it got us rattled,” he said. “We got back on our heels a little bit on that next one. We gave up a rush against that top line.”

Less than a minute after the disputed goal, Dallas star Mikko Rantanen was allowed to stickhandle his way through the Jets for his fourth goal of the series and ninth of the playoffs, creating a hole they couldn’t climb out of.

Arniel quickly called a timeout to straighten his team out, and while it helped, the Jets couldn’t narrow the gap.

Wyatt Johnston got the fifth Dallas goal with some six minutes to go and Winnipeg was well on its way to a fourth straight road loss in these playoffs.

They haven’t won a postseason road game in their last three series, an eight-game losing streak that goes back two years.

Either they stop that skid in Game 4 in Dallas on Tuesday or they’ll return to Winnipeg facing elimination in Game 5, Thursday night.

Connor and Nino Niederreiter scored Winnipeg’s goals on Sunday.

Special teams favoured Dallas, their power play striking on one of two chances, the Jets going 0-for-4.

Shots on goal were 26-25, Stars.

It was another one of those starts the Jets won’t write home about, starting with Niederreiter’s sloppy high-sticking penalty just 22 seconds in.

The Stars didn't manage a single shot on the power play, but when Josh Morrissey's tripping penalty gave them a two-man edge for a few seconds, they cashed in on Roope Hintz's deflection – right after Niederreiter got out of the box.

It was Dallas's first shot on goal, the fourth time that's happened to Hellebuyck in these playoffs.

The Jets tied it up midway through the first on Connor's wraparound goal, his first of the series, fifth of the playoffs.

They fell behind again on a delayed tripping call on Niederreiter, when Dallas defenceman Thomas Harley drifted one through traffic with less than five minutes left in the period.

Shots were 11-6, Dallas, through 20 minutes.

Winnipeg tied it for a second time halfway through the second, when Morrissey made a nifty move at the point and set up Niederreiter for a sharp-angle goal, his fourth of the postseason.

A corner board battle won by Adam Lowry started the play.

Less than four minutes into the third came the bounce that delayed, then turned the game.

"The refs were making me a little nervous," Petrovic said. "But we had seen the replay. We knew what happened. We were pretty confident."

"You want them to take as much time as they need to get it right," Stars coach Pete DeBoer said. "I don't want them to rush and not get it right. I felt fairly confident it was a goal."

Jets forward Morgan Barron was checking Petrovic and wasn't sure exactly what happened.

"Seems to hit a few things and go in," Barron said. "I know it didn't hit me, but I'm not sure what it hit after that. Those bounces are going to happen."

<https://www.winnipegfreepress.com/breakingnews/2025/05/10/winnipeg-triumphs-4-0-over-the-stars-to-even-the-series-1-1>

FRIESEN: Amber alert -- Jets must meet the moment in Dallas

By Paul Friesen

Barely a minute into Scott Arniel's postgame Q&A with the media in Dallas on Sunday, somebody's nearby device began to sound an emergency alarm.

"Oh, we've got an amber alert going," the Winnipeg Jets head coach said, managing a chuckle despite the fact his team had just suffered a 5-2 loss.

The Jets' predicament in their second-round playoff series isn't an emergency — yet. But Sunday's loss, with its controversial, third-period goal, intensifies the spotlight on Tuesday's Game 3.

Trailing 2-1 in a series is no more a deal-breaker than a call that goes against you early in a third period.

It's not the call or the series deficit, it's how you react to it.

That's the main thing the Jets should be lamenting after Sunday's loss.

The ruling itself on Alexander Petrovic's game-winning goal was anything but black-and-white. It was a coin flip. Could have gone either way.

The long video review gave the Jets all kinds of time to wrap their heads around the idea it might go against them.

How, then, to explain their next shift, where they became spectators, allowing the Stars an easy, clean breakout, an easy entry into the Winnipeg zone and an even easier time for Mikko Rantanen, of all people, to work his magic?

"There's no excuses," forward Kyle Connor said. "We had to be ready to play, whether it was short or long. Obviously a big momentum changer... and they scored on the next shift. Momentum swings happen in a game and we try to turn more into our favour."

After what the Jets have experienced in these playoffs, a deficit early in a third period should barely cause a sweat, let alone a full-scale breakdown.

"It's still a one-goal game at that point," Morgan Barron said. "Regardless of the circumstances, we have to do a better job pushing back."

The lapse was brief, but that's all it takes.

Arniel called a timeout after the Rantanen goal to reset/yell at his team, and it worked. They controlled play for the next several shifts, even if they didn't cut the two-goal deficit.

Had that response come after the controversial goal, they may have flipped the script.

There are moments that define playoff games and playoff teams, and that was one.

"We have to be ready," Arniel said. "They came out and jumped on us. We have to be ready for that next shift and we gave up that quick one. But I like a lot of what we did. It's something I've thought we've done a really good job of, trying to take that away. That was a situation they took advantage of."

Until then, this was anybody's game. Twice the Jets fell behind and twice they came back.

The third time caused the harm.

"They scored a couple off the rush," Connor said. "So we need to be better at that and take a look at that. That starts with everybody. It's never too late to come back. We've got to be able to stop them... the way he got into the zone like that."

If you're scoring at home, that's 22 goals against in four road games in these playoffs. All had moments of truth.

None have seen the Jets rise to meet them.

It didn't matter in Round 1 against St. Louis, because home is where they hung up all four wins.

But a loss in Winnipeg in this series opener took that crutch away.

Whether it's goalie Connor Hellebuyck stealing one or the Jets as a collective playing their best game, it'll have to happen away from the whiteout.

"We're going to be judged, our whole team... by what happens on the road," Arniel acknowledged. "We've got to win. They came into our building and took home ice away from us. We've got to win here. Everything that we have is going to be pushed into Game 4 here, to get this thing evened up going back into our building."

That moment arrives on Tuesday.

Fail to meet it, and that amber alert turns red.