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<https://www.winnipegfreepress.com/breakingnews/2025/05/12/finding-another-gear-against-the-stars>

Finding another gear against the Stars Jets look to make adjustments heading into Game 4

By: Mike McIntyre

DALLAS — It appears the NHL won't be offering up any further explanation for a pair of head-scratching decisions that had the Winnipeg Jets seeing red.

The first involved Dallas defenceman Alex Petrovic's controversial game-winning goal on Sunday afternoon, where the league had an interesting interpretation of its own rule which says a player can't kick a puck off a goaltender into the net.

After a marathon review, referees ultimately determined Connor Hellebuyck scored on himself while trying to make a play with the puck and that Petrovic's prior kicking action didn't ultimately matter. The Jets protested to no avail, and the incident actually made its way into the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba on Monday.

"I would be remiss if I didn't announce that today is the first-ever international 'You Can't Kick The Puck Into The Net Awareness Day,'" Manitoba Premier Wab Kinew said to a chorus of laughter and cheers from his peers.

The other incident occurred at the end of the second period, when Stars forward Mason Marchment clearly struck the shin pads of referee Graham Skilliter. Marchment was upset at what he thought was a slash from Winnipeg centre Mark Scheifele that had been missed.

Rule 40.1 states that, "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."

Yet no action was taken against Marchment, and no follow-up occurred on Monday by the league. Skilliter didn't write up an abuse of officials report and the league was seemingly content to take a no harm, no foul approach.

That would appear to be a very slippery slope, considering Marchment obviously did it out of anger. This was no accident. A source tells the Free Press Skilliter was mic'd up for the game as well, so the NHL would have the full audio of what transpired.

"I already had my comment about the league and the goal and all that, so I'm staying out of that one," Jets head coach Scott Arniel said Monday when asked about the incident.

Whether it's their Jekyll and Hyde play between home and the road or Connor Hellebuyck's well-documented playoff struggles, the Jets are quite a puzzle these days.

You can add the state of the power play to the pile as well. How does the team that led the NHL during the season with a 28.9 per cent efficiency now sit dead-last among remaining playoff teams at just 17.1 per cent — including one-for-13 so far in the first three games against Dallas?

"Obviously you're looking for goals, you're looking for results on the power play, but then you're also looking for momentum, and if you're not scoring, are you able to create chances?" said defenceman Josh Morrissey, who quarterbacks the top unit.

"I think we've done some good things. Obviously, Dallas is a very good penalty killing team, but we need to continue to make adjustments, continue to be sharper, and try and be a difference maker beyond just momentum, but actually putting up results. So (a) lot of confidence in our plan, and the guys on the ice, on both units, so just got to stick with it. And find another level of execution."

Morrissey, Mark Scheifele, Gabe Vilardi and Nikolaj Ehlers — four of the five players on the top unit — have all missed games so far these playoffs with injuries, which doesn't help the cohesion. But they're all healthy now, and finding a way to make Dallas pay for their on-ice sins would be a huge development.

"They certainly did a good job with our No. 1 unit kind of slowing us up, not allowing us in with possession. I thought our second unit did a real good job of getting in so we'll look at some things," Arniel said of trying to make adjustments to an aggressive Stars penalty kill.

It's noteworthy that Scheifele and Vilardi hit the ice on Monday to work on some net-front passing and tipping drills while the majority of their teammates took the option and stayed off their skates.

"Those are two guys that don't miss many optionals, so unless it's tough travel, especially Mark, he likes to be on the ice and touch pucks and Gabe is the same way," said Arniel.

"They don't really overload it. They go out and handle pucks and kind of stickhandle around and maybe take some shots."

The Jets and Stars have seen plenty of each other this year, with four regular-season meetings now followed by a best-of-seven playoff series.

Arniel was asked by a Dallas scribe on Monday if he's seeing a different-looking opponent these days.

"Yeah, some guy named Rantanen over there," Arniel joked about the trade deadline addition who has made a huge difference.

Rantanen had three goals in the Game 1 victory over Winnipeg, then a goal and two helpers in Sunday's triumph. The Jets did keep him off the board, along with all of his teammates, in Friday's Game 2 victory.

"You know what, I know Pete (DeBoer's) system, we've been in the Central Division and we butt heads a lot. Two teams that match up quite similarly," said Arniel.

"I think the adjustments do happen game to game. We made some adjustments after one, they made some adjustments after two, and we're going to have to make some adjustments after that night. That's just part of the game within the game. I think that's one thing we see in playoffs. In all the series going on right now, you can't just stay status quo. It's a case of us making sure we're ready."

Morrissey was otherwise occupied on Sunday afternoon but heard second-hand that an old friend was weighing in on the action unfolding at American Airlines Center.

That would be former Jets captain Blake Wheeler, who was a guest panelist on the Sportsnet broadcast of the Jets vs. Stars game.

"You know what? I was trying to look online last night to see him up there but I couldn't really find anything," Morrissey said of trying to find video after the fact.

"I texted with him a little bit. He said he really enjoyed it, and yeah. He's definitely a very smart hockey guy. The way he saw the game, the way that he was able to make plays throughout his entire career, I think that bodes well for somebody watching the game from his vision and standpoint. He said he had a good time with it and I'm sure he was great."

<https://www.winnipegfreepress.com/breakingnews/2025/05/12/switch-from-road-warriors-to-road-worriers-puzzling>

***Switch from road warriors to road worriers puzzling
Jets must come up with solutions to gain back home-ice advantage***

By: Mike McIntyre

DALLAS — It's the question likely keeping head coach Scott Arniel tossing and turning in his hotel room bed: Why have the Winnipeg Jets become perpetual playoff roadkill?

Failing to find an answer — and fast — could mean a long summer of sleepless nights ahead.

“Without going too deep, the biggest thing a head coach once told me, and I’ve told our group, is there isn’t a home or a road way to play. There’s only a right way,” Arniel said Monday following his team’s optional practice at American Airlines Center.

“We have a certain style that we’re accustomed to playing and how we play and we’ve been doing it all year long. We’ve got to get back to being that road team that we were through 82 games. The playoffs haven’t been good.”

They certainly have not, with an 0-4 record this season in enemy territory including Sunday’s 5-2 loss to the Dallas Stars which puts the Jets in a 2-1 deficit in the best-of-seven series. Overall, Winnipeg has lost eight straight road playoff games dating back to 2023, getting outscored 42-13 in that nightmarish span by Vegas, Colorado, St. Louis and now Dallas.

The Jets led the NHL with 26 wins away from home during the regular season, which makes this sudden switch from road warriors to road worriers so puzzling.

“I don’t think it is a lack of preparation or a lack of effort. I think it is just, when the games get going, from the first puck drop we have to have the attention to detail and come out guns blazing and have that attitude that we do going into the second and third of all these games,” said forward Cole Perfetti.

“In a lot of these games we have fallen behind the eight ball to start and the hardest thing to do when you are down on the road in the playoffs, early in games, it is hard to come back.”

Winnipeg has given up the first goal in three of its four road games this spring, including just 2:27 into Sunday’s contest. They have held a lead for just 5:39 of the 240 total minutes played, which adds a lot of extra stress in what is already a hostile environment.

They’ve also had a tendency to give up goals in bunches, such as the two in 49 seconds during Game 3 against the Stars which turned a 2-2 game into a 4-2 deficit early in the third.

“Obviously, we can look at some of those moments in games where something doesn’t go our way and maybe it compounds a little bit and be better able to handle that in the future,” defenceman Josh Morrissey said of struggling with adversity.

Whether it’s emotional fragility or immaturity or something else, a Jets team with championship dreams must come up with solutions starting with Tuesday’s massive Game 4 in Dallas. A loss puts Winnipeg on the brink of elimination, needing to win three

straight games. A victory turns this into a best-of-three with the Jets back to enjoying home-ice advantage.

“We want to go on a long run and we are going to have to deal with adversity and have to go through things. Every team does in order to win a Stanley Cup,” said Perfetti.

From left: Winnipeg Jets forward Cole Perfetti, head coach Scott Arniel and assistant coach Davis Payne. Perfetti said the Jets need to play a full 60 minutes on the road in the playoffs.

“It is not going to be an easy route. We are going to have to deal with opposition, the refs or the unlucky bounces. It is part of the game of hockey. We have had a few of them in this post-season and have had little collapses in a few of the games and we have to make sure that when that does happen, when we do get thrown a gut punch we are able to respond.”

The latest blow was the controversial game-winning goal by Dallas defenceman Alex Petrovic which referees ruled was deliberately kicked towards Winnipeg’s net but still counted because goaltender Connor Hellebuyck was deemed to have scored on himself.

The Jets vehemently disagreed with the ruling but had turned the page on Monday, wanting to focus on the road ahead and not what was now in the rear-view mirror.

Arniel wouldn’t tip his hand as to whether any lineup changes could be in the works. Dallas hasn’t ruled out a return of top defenceman Miro Heiskanen, who has been out since late January with a knee injury.

“Obviously he’s an elite, elite player, obviously, and hopefully he takes a little bit more time to make sure he’s (ready),” Arniel joked.

“But no, we can’t worry about somebody that’s not here. If (all) of a sudden we show up in the warmup and he’s out there, then yeah, we certainly have to recognize him if he’s there, but we can’t really worry about who’s here and who isn’t.”

Mark Scheifele and Gabe Vilardi were among the handful of regulars who skated Monday, joining the healthy scratches on the ice. The Jets spent plenty of time going through video as they now look to follow up a loss with a win for the second time this series, just as they did back in Winnipeg last week.

“Obviously we know that on the road we have to be better. We have to be more consistent and that area obviously hasn’t been good. But at the end of the day, this group all year long has been able to respond,” said Arniel.

“We have good leadership and guys recognize that there’s areas that we have to be more consistent with. We have to improve on, build on some areas that we were good

at. The one thing about the playoffs, it's the next game. It really is. You can love what you did if you win, you hate what you did if you lose, but it really is all about the next step. We have to win in this building obviously. They took Game 1 from us, so we have to win in this building."

Perfetti said the belief within the room remains strong despite their checkered playoff history.

"We have been the best team in the league all year and that gives us all the confidence in the world," he said.

"Yeah, our record is not great with the road playoff games so far, but we were great on the road during the regular season and it was because we played our style and didn't give the opposition anything and that is how we are going to have to play. We haven't gotten to our game and, honestly, we haven't played a full 60 on the road yet and that is on us. We have played great games at home and now we just have to do it on the road."

Globe and Mail

<https://www.theglobeandmail.com/sports/hockey/article-the-stars-jets-kicking-goal-proves-video-replay-does-not-work-in/>

The Stars-Jets kicking goal proves video replay does not work in hockey

By Cathal Kelly

The NHL has a lot of fiddly little rules, so they can be forgiven for forgetting some of them now and then. Making them up as they go along is another thing.

That's what happened after a video review during Sunday's Winnipeg-Dallas game. In a third-period attack, Dallas' Alexander Petrovic kicked the puck toward the net. It hit Winnipeg goalie Connor Hellebuyck's swinging stick and went in. That was the winning goal in a 5-2 Jets loss.

This play was hard to see in real time – but blindingly obvious on replay. Still, officials stopped the game for eight minutes to think about it.

If you went to the movies and they cut the film for eight minutes in the third act to change a reel, you probably wouldn't go to that theatre again. But the NHL seems to think this kind of thing is normal. That's its first problem.

Their second problem is that, even after all that, they got it aggressively wrong.

The relevant passage in the rulebook: "A kicked puck that deflects off the stick of any player (excluding the goalkeeper's stick) shall be ruled a good goal."

The puck was undoubtedly kicked. That already should have negated everything that followed. It equally undoubtedly deflected off the goalkeeper's stick and in.

Still, some people will see this differently. They'll argue that Petrovic's wasn't a "distinct kicking motion," per the rulebook. That we can still be arguing that after watching the replay proves how ineffective replay is.

In a statement, the NHL supported the official call, saying, "video review supported the Referee's call on the ice that Connor Hellebuyck propelled the puck into his own net."

This notion of "propelling" is new law. It's like a judge deciding in the middle of a murder trial that it's okay to stab someone as long as you're swinging upward.

The ostensible reason to institute video replay in sports was so that no call need ever be wrong again. That's proven to be a pipe dream.

Which is okay, because the real reason was that replay is good theatre. Everyone got a look at how much chatter it created in early adopters such as tennis and they loved what they saw. Where before there had only been a reason to scream at the TV, video replay provided an opportunity for sports fans to yell at each other.

How often do you stumble upon a revolutionary interactive feature that costs you nothing to implement, since you're already filming the game? Just this once.

It works in tennis because their version is binary. The ball is in or out, and the computer can tell the difference. There's no arguing about it, which isn't fun, but it is right.

Tennis remains the industry leader in video replay because they've removed the human element. Nothing requires interpretation. This is as close to fairness as it is possible to get.

Football is fuzzier. Did the receiver's foot land entirely on grass, or was a millimetre of heel touching chalk? Humans have replaced computers here, so it's impossible to say with assurance. That doesn't stop them from trying, and people still enjoy getting angry about their decisions. It gives the drama a heightened sense of justice/injustice.

Soccer is ambiguous. They do that replay where players' bodies are recreated in 3-D images to determine whose protruding shinbone was ahead of whose pulled-in rear end, and you still can't say if it's offside. We have entered the realm of the technological occult.

Hockey is ridiculous. Half these replays are watching to see if someone's shoulder twitched an inch just as one guy collided with another at 30 kilometres an hour. Nobody in the NHL is paying for 3-D video modelling. Everything's moving so fast, the action is

still blurred in super slo-mo. This doesn't begin to take intention into account, which no camera can make clear.

They had one of these on Sunday night in Sunrise, Fla., as they do most evenings in the postseason. Toronto's Oliver Ekman-Larsson went hard into Florida's Evan Rodrigues, who went down like he'd been shot. The play was initially missed.

Then they gave Ekman-Larsson a five-minute major, mostly so they could review what they hadn't seen in real time. After staring at it for a couple of minutes, they decided it was a two-minute interference penalty. Why? Who knows? They don't bother explaining these things.

Even after watching a million angles, none of them good, it was difficult to say if Ekman-Larsson's shoulder had come into contact with Rodrigues' head – and impossible to say if he'd meant to do that.

So what's the point of the replay? It adds a lustre of officialdom to a process that remains as amateur as it was a hundred years ago. These are human beings standing in the midst of pandemonium, seeing most of it in overlapping two dimensions, trying to figure out what's going on. A lot of the time, they don't know.

So just accept that.

Replay in hockey doesn't work often or reliably enough to justify its existence. On too many occasions, it frustrates logic. In some cases – like the Petrovic goal – it's making things up as it goes along.

The worse it gets, the more inclined the officials are to start working off their gut instead of the rulebook – and the more determined the NHL is to support them in that. No backsliding will be tolerated.

You can and should continue to use video evidence postfacto to determine penalties for dangerous play. That process is lengthier, more involved and more likely to end well.

But it's not working in real time. The nature of hockey isn't suited to it, and the NHL isn't good at it.

You don't have to rely on every new technology that comes along. Sometimes the old ways are the best ways, even if they are flawed.

Instead, the NHL wants to pretend that it's getting everything right, especially when it's getting things spectacularly wrong. In fairness, it is fun to argue about, right up until your team loses.

Winnipeg Sun

<https://winnipeg.sun.com/sports/hockey/nhl/winnipeg-jets/jets-power-play-may-13-2025>

Lacking power behind the punch: Jets power play looking to get in the air against the Stars

By Gordon Anderson

As it stands, there is little 'power' behind the Winnipeg Jets' power-play punch, just a series of rhetorical questions.

The Jets are 1-13 on the power play through three games of their second-round playoff series against the Dallas Stars. Game 4 is Tuesday night in big 'D.' The Stars lead the best-of-seven series 2-1.

"You're looking for goals (on the power play), but you're also looking for results, but then you're also looking for momentum, and if you're not scoring, are you able to create chances?" said Jets point man Josh Morrissey. "Are you able to, the next group on the ice, to build off what you just did?"

Overall, the Jets have netted six man-advantage goals on 35 chances in the post-season, which equates to a 17.1 per cent conversion rate, which is last among the teams remaining in the NHL playoffs.

Morrissey picked up an assist in Game 3 when Nino Niederreiter converted his scintillating cross-ice pass at 10:07 of the second period. Morrissey led the Jets defencemen in ice time with 24:55.

Kyle Connor also scored for the Jets, his wraparound goal at 9:53 of the first period cancelling out an early Dallas power-play goal when Roope Hintz scored on his club's first shot on net at 2:27.

With the game deadlocked at two each, the Jets had a chance to take the lead when Mikko Rantanen went off for tripping Dylan DeMelo at 15:09 of the middle period.

Nada. Nothing. Not happening.

And with Wyatt Johnson in the box for high-sticking Neal Pionk late in the third period, the Jets registered two shots on net, none of them overly challenging for Dallas goaltender Jake Oettinger.

Perhaps the outcome was fait accompli at that point in the game, but power play confidence is fleeting and always worth fighting for, even in small measures.

The Jets went 0-4 with the man advantage on Sunday.

"I think we've done some good things," Morrissey said. "Obviously, Dallas is a very good penalty-killing team, but we need to continue to make adjustments, and continue to be sharper, and try to be a difference-maker beyond just momentum but putting up results."

Dallas is second in the playoffs in PK percentage at 88.6. The Stars have allowed only four goals on 35 chances.

Speaking of 'adjustments,' Jets head coach Scott Arniel wasn't too forthcoming with his tinkering for Tuesday evening.

"I'm not going to really tell you our adjustments, but they certainly did a good job with our No. 1 unit, slowing us up, not allowing us in with possession," Arniel said. "I thought our second unit did a good job of getting in, so we'll look at some things."

Overall, it seems Arniel wants his squad to polish up the quality of their entries with Dallas harrying the puck carrier in all quadrants. But that is just one of three things where the coach needs to witness vast improvement.

"The Stars know what we can do once we are in zone," Arniel said. "We've got to make sure that those entries, that we're doing a better job, but it also starts on faceoffs. It is those 50-50 pucks that happen, not allowing Dallas to get those clears, that's an area also where we're usually pretty good. (We will) start there and then be a little bit cleaner on how we enter."

Obviously, the power play would be best served by accomplishing the details Arniel has on his wish list for the swing game in the series. Ultimately, success with adjustments comes down to the sharpshooters on the ice.

"We have a lot of confidence in our plan," Morrissey said. "We have got to stick with it and find another level of execution."

<https://winnipegssun.com/sports/hockey/nhl/winnipeg-jets/jets-need-a-road-win-may-13-2025>

'We haven't played a full 60': Jets need a road win against the Dallas Stars in Game 4

By Gordon Anderson

Losing games away from home is unsettling news that continues unabated for the Winnipeg Jets and their legion of fans.

The Jets haven't won a road game so far this post-season, heading into Game 4 of their second-round playoff series against the Dallas Stars on Tuesday evening in Texas.

The locals dropped three roadies to the St. Louis Blues before losing 5-2 to the Stars in Game 3 on Sunday afternoon.

"We know we have to be better,' Jets head coach Scott Arniel said about the team's current road woes. "We have to be more consistent, and that area obviously hasn't been good. This group has been able to respond."

Jets winger Cole Perfetti doubled down on the consistency theme laid down by his head coach.

"We haven't gotten to our game and, honestly, we haven't played a full 60 on the road yet and that is on us," he said.

The Jets have allowed 22 goals against in the four road losses. The club has seven goals in that span. Goaltender Connor Hellebuyck has given up at least four goals in every road game this post-season. He also was chased from the starter's net on three occasions against the Blues.

"Our road record is not great so far, but we were great on the road during the regular season, and it was because we played our style and didn't give the opposition anything and that is how we are going to have to play," Perfetti said.

Further piling on the misery, the club hasn't won a playoff road game in its last three series, an eight-game slide dating back two years.

The long road of futility must end at some point, or all the work done this season all goes for naught. Arniel said it himself months ago, the success of this season will be judged by playoff performance.

"We have to win in this building," Arniel said. "All our energies are pushed towards Game 4 on Tuesday night ... We've got to make sure we're a lot better than we were on Sunday."

The head coach wouldn't commit fully to what needs tinkering for a reversal of fortune to occur, but there is a list as long as the average arm.

"I'm not tipping my hand on everything, but there are areas where consistency on some of the things we have to do as a group, it might be individuals, might be whether it's special teams, our D-Zone coverage, our rush coverage, those different things," he said.

Perhaps one area the Jets could further improve upon is their reaction to adversity. Their latest brush with conflict occurred in the third period on the controversial kicking motion goal by Alexander Petrovic at 3:51.

The club didn't handle the setback in the immediate aftermath, Mikko Rantanen cutting a broad swath through the Jets defence before lifting a shot over the right shoulder of

Hellebuyck at 4:40 for his ninth goal of the post-season and fourth in this series. Wyatt Johnston scored at 14:06 to ice the game.

“We want to go on a long run, and we are going to have to deal with adversity and have to go through things,” Perfetti said. “Every team does in order to win a Stanley Cup. It is not going to be an easy route, we are going to have to deal with opposition, the refs or the unlucky bounces, whatever it is, it is part of the game of hockey.”

Perfetti says the team remains confident despite the harrowing nature of this particular game, and what it could mean if the team finds itself on the brink of elimination come Thursday night at the downtown rink.

“Obviously, these are tough environments and if you want to win the Stanley Cup you have to win on the road,” Perfetti said. “We have to figure that out. We have all the confidence in the world as we were the best team in the league. There is a lot of confidence in our group and in that room.”

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 cliches 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/6351691/2025/05/13/jets-stars-nhl-playoffs-robertson-heiskanen-wheeler/>

Jets-Stars midseries notebook: Robertson shakes off the rust, Wheeler's TV debut and more

By Murat Ates and Mark Lazerus

DALLAS — Scott Arniel can't say exactly why the Winnipeg Jets have suddenly transformed from one of the best road teams in the NHL to a late-game collapse waiting to happen.

The Jets are the only team left in the playoffs who have yet to win a road game, despite a sterling regular-season road record. They can't get out of the second round without flipping the script of their road woes.

"The biggest thing that a head coach once told me — and I've told our group — is there isn't a home or a road way to play," Arniel said on Monday. "There's only the right way."

The Jets have the wrong way sorted out. They've been outscored 22-7 overall (and 18-4 at five-on-five) in four road games, with goaltender Connor Hellebuyck getting pulled three times. It's a stunning small-sample collapse for a team that won more road games (26) than any other team this season.

The Jets slide to 18 wins and a tie for seventh when you take out three-on-three overtime and shootouts, but there's nothing in their history that says they should be the worst road team of the playoffs. Down 2-1 in the series, there's no way for the Jets to beat Dallas in the series without beating Dallas in Dallas.

What's going on?

Some of it is Hellebuyck — particularly the three games against St. Louis wherein he appeared to get rattled as the deflections and screened goals piled up. But Dallas isn't getting in Hellebuyck's kitchen the same way the Blues did in Round 1. Some of it is big moments going against them — Cole Perfetti's disallowed goal in Game 3 against St. Louis and Alex Petrovic's goal in Game 3 against the Stars — but the Jets were down 3-0 when Perfetti "scored" and they gave up Mikko Rantanen's 4-2 goal just 49 seconds after Petrovic's was allowed to stand.

The Jets let a close game slip away thanks in part to a kicked puck that went in and held up as the game-winning goal.

A bigger issue than the moments may be how Winnipeg has responded to them. Back-to-back goals like Petrovic and Rantanen's aren't a new thing for the Jets these playoffs; they allowed four goals in just 5:23 in their last game in St. Louis.

"We can look at some of those moments in games where something doesn't go our way and maybe it compounds a little bit and be better able to handle that in the future," Josh Morrissey said.

Any team that goes on a deep playoff run must overcome adversity. Teams that follow rough patches with wins hang banners.

"We have to make sure that ... when we do get thrown a gut punch, we are able to respond in the way we know we can play," said Perfetti. "Each moment is a building (block) for the future, the next game and the next time the adversity comes."

There's also the matter of the home coach getting last change. The Stars' Rantanen line controlled the flow of play against Mark Scheifele, Kyle Connor and Gabriel Vilardi, carrying a 7-1 lead in scoring chances and 87 percent of expected goals, according to Natural Stat Trick. In speaking to Arniel on Monday, the Jets appear to be more interested in cleaning up transition defense as a team than trying desperately to avoid the Scheifele/Hintz matchup.

Overall, Winnipeg is banking on taking the positive aspects from Game 3 — most of it contained within the game's first 40 minutes — and stretching them out into a 60-minute effort.

"We have been the best team in the league all year and that gives us all the confidence in the world. Yeah, our record is not great with the road playoff games so far, but we were great on the road during the regular season," Perfetti said. "It was because we played our style and didn't give the opposition anything and that is how we are going to have to play."

Waiting on Miro

It seems as if Miro Heiskanen has been on the verge of returning to the Stars lineup since the playoffs began more than three weeks ago. He skated on his own, then he skated during optional practices, then he joined morning skates, then he rotated in with the power play during practices. But through it all, he's remained sidelined since undergoing knee surgery on Feb. 4.

Could he be back for Game 4? Alex Petrovic sure made it sound like it. When asked about the job the Dallas blue line has done in Heiskanen's absence, the veteran Petrovic quickly pivoted to his impending return.

"Bringing him back in the lineup, it's going to be huge," Petrovic said. "Those guys, while he was out, did a fantastic job. They know how to handle that extra load. Having Miro back's going to be massive. He's an All-Star in this league. It's a huge addition."

Stars coach Pete DeBoer was, predictably, less forthcoming about Heiskanen's timing.

"I said second round, right?" he said. "So I'm still sticking by what I projected, that we'll see him in the second round."

DeBoer was more open about Heiskanen's impact, and cautioned that the Stars will be "smart" about easing him into the lineup. There'll be no 30-minute games for the star defenseman — not right away, at least. But there's no denying the impact Heiskanen can have. The Stars have come this far without arguably their best player. Imagine what they can do with him.

"I don't think you have to look much further than across the rink at Morrissey," DeBoer said. "(He was) out of their lineup, and all of a sudden he's back in and the things he's doing on the ice with the puck, defending, things like that — it changes the way your team plays. It's a different situation and, again, I want to temper Miro coming back. Morrissey was out for two games, Miro's been out for three and a half months."

Robertson ramping up

Jason Robertson returned to the Stars' lineup perhaps sooner than expected after injuring his right leg during the regular-season finale, but he hasn't had his usual impact just yet. In three games against Winnipeg, the Stars' top goal-scorer this season has zero points with five shots on goal, and Dallas has been outscored 3-1 at five-on-five with Robertson on the ice, despite having the lion's share of scoring chances and high-danger chances.

After playing in all 82 games for three straight seasons, coming back from injury has been an eye-opening process for Robertson. And it's far from complete.

"You're coming back from injury, so whatever you had is obviously going to bother you," he said. "That's the No. 1 thing. Then getting up to game speed in the playoffs is a different animal. There's no hiding out there. Every moment's heightened, every missed assignment, any forecheck, any time you can be up the ice, everything just gets heightened."

"You're just trying to be super simple out there till you get your legs back and get in game shape. That can take a little bit. I've never had that before, especially in the playoffs. Guys are stepping up and giving me time to get more and more games under me."

Stepping in and stepping up

Petrovic, a 33-year-old veteran, has been one of the great stories of this postseason. He's played just six regular-season games over the last two seasons, spending most of them in the AHL, but has played in 17 and counting playoff games. This spring, he's been a steady partner for rookie Lian Bischel, and he scored just his second career playoff goal in Game 3 on the much-debated go-ahead goal early in the third period.

Petrovic's other playoff goal? It came nine years ago with the Florida Panthers. It was also a game-winner. Unsurprisingly, Petrovic said his phone was blowing up on Sunday evening after the game.

Stars goalie Jake Oettinger said it reminded him of defenseman Joel Hanley, who helped Dallas get to the Stanley Cup Final in 2020 after playing just eight regular-season games in the NHL.

"When your number's called, you get your opportunity, you go make the most of it," Oettinger said. "That's what pro sports is all about. I don't know if there's a person that's watched us in the last three or four weeks that can say that he's not an NHL defenseman. He's earned that position, and I don't think he's playing in the AHL again after how well he's done this playoffs. All the guys in the room knew it, and it's all about making the most of your opportunity and he's done that. I'm so happy for him."

Blake Wheeler's Sportsnet panel debut

Former Jets captain Blake Wheeler made his debut as a Hockey Night in Canada panelist on Sportsnet for Game 3. It wasn't quite the NHL's version of Ted Lasso's foul-mouthed curmudgeon Roy Kent making a star TV turn — Wheeler, despite occasionally bristling at reporters, was articulate in his interviews as a player — but it was close.

Here's Wheeler discussing Kyle Connor's maturation from offense-first, star sniper to a scorer who also got the details right leading up to his Game 3 goal.

Wheeler was occasionally prickly as an interview subject but he was always insightful, opinionated and articulate — three ingredients that could lead to a strong broadcasting career.

"I texted with him a little bit. He said he really enjoyed it," Morrissey said on Monday. "He's definitely a very smart hockey guy. The way he saw the game, the way that he was able to make plays throughout his entire career, I think that bodes well for somebody watching the game from his vision and standpoint (on TV)."

Wheeler will be back on Hockey Night in Canada on Tuesday to wrap up his initial commitment. Time will tell what his future holds as a broadcaster but as a general rule, people listen when he speaks.

"He said he had a good time with it," Morrissey said. "I'm sure he was great."

Associated Press

<https://globalnews.ca/news/11176114/dallas-stars-winnipeg-jets-game-4/>

Dallas Stars keep responding in NHL playoffs, now top-seeded Jets have to in Game 4 to get even

By Stephen Hawkins The Associated Press

The Dallas Stars keep responding in these NHL playoffs, like they have all season.

Now they go into Game 4 at home with a chance for a 3-1 series lead against the top-seeded Winnipeg Jets in the second round of the Western Conference playoffs.

"It's the best response team that I've coached in my time here, coming off, not necessarily a poor effort, but a loss or maybe we're not as good as we could be, (and) rectifying that quickly," third-year Stars coach Pete DeBoer said. "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."

Dallas has had to change the way it plays defensively since Miro Heiskanen injured his left knee Jan. 28, and the standout defenseman still hasn't played since. The Stars also were without top goal scorer Jason Robertson in the first round against Colorado, when they lost another Game 1 before back-to-back overtime playoff wins despite leading only a total of 62 seconds in regulation. They have two 4-0 losses this postseason, and rebounded from both with big wins, the latest 5-2 in Game 3 against Winnipeg on Sunday after being shut out by Connor Hellebuyck two nights earlier.

In the only NHL game Tuesday night, Winnipeg now must respond to even the series and regain home-ice advantage.

"For sure. It's important. We need to get one on the road here," Jets forward Kyle Connor said. "That next one is the best chance we've got."

DeBoer said Monday that he still believes Heiskanen will play at some point in the series against the Jets. The defenseman had a scheduled day off during what was an optional practice.

The Stars got goals from defensemen Alexander Petrovic and Thomas Harley in Game 3 against the Jets. Petrovic, who has played twice as many postseason games as he did regular-season games, was credited with the go-ahead tally in the third period. A puck shot by Mikko Rantanen deflected off Hellebuyck and then the defenseman's skate back toward the net and went in for a 3-2 lead.

Right after that disputed goal, Rantanen almost immediately scored yet another goal for the Stars.

"We had, whatever it was, a two-, three-minute situation where they scored a couple of goals, but at the end of the day, hopefully some of the stuff we did, the offense we created, the chances that we had, help us feel good about what we can do in Game 4," Jets coach Scott Arniel said. "And that's what we're going to have to do. ... We have to find ways to score more goals than them. We had looks."

Rantanen is having no problems scoring, with an NHL-high 18 points (nine goals and nine assists) and setting all kinds of records. He is the first player with 18 points in the first 10 games of the playoffs since a pair of Hall of Famers did that in 1989 — Wayne Gretzky for the Los Angeles Kings and Mario Lemieux for the Pittsburgh Penguins.

After the primary assist on the go-ahead goal Sunday, Rantanen has factored into each of the last five game-winning goals for the Stars since overtime in Game 3 of the first round against Colorado, his former team. The previous franchise record was four in a row by Joe Nieuwendyk during their 1999 run to their only Stanley Cup title.

Rantanen had a goal and two assists to become the first player in NHL history with five three-point games through his first 10 games of a postseason. All of his have come in the last six games — twice against the Jets.

"He's a tough guy. Like a lot of their skill players, it takes a lot to sort of shut those guys down," Arniel said. "That's all part of this. If we're going to have success, not just him but we have to take away all their offense. ... We just have to make sure we continue to do a job on him and the rest of their top players."

NHL.com

<https://www.nhl.com/news/dallas-willing-to-accept-hard-coaching-from-pete-deboer>

Stars 'willing to accept hard coaching' from DeBoer in Stanley Cup Playoffs Players' ability to have thick skin allowing Dallas to respond after losses

By Nicholas J. Cotsonika

DALLAS -- How's this for sports psychology?

The Dallas Stars defeated the Winnipeg Jets 5-2 in Game 3 of the Western Conference Second Round at American Airlines Center on Sunday, bouncing back from a 4-0 loss in Game 2 and taking a 2-1 lead in the best-of-7 series.

Afterward, coach Pete DeBoer praised his players for how they take criticism.

"I talked to our group today," he said. "It's the best response team that I've coached in my time here."

He said one of the reasons the Stars haven't had extended losing streaks is because they fix problems quickly, and they fix problems quickly because there's an honesty to the group.

"They're willing to accept hard coaching," he said. "You don't have to sugarcoat it with them, which is nice. Sometimes you've got to, you know, be careful not to hurt feelings and things like that. I don't have to worry about that with our group, and it starts with our leadership guys.

"If (captain) Jamie Benn is the first guy in line to accept criticism, then everyone else kind of falls in line. It's constructive criticism, but they're willing to go there without pushback, and I think that's always a part of fixing what's wrong."

The Stars never lost more than two straight games in the regular season until the end, when they rested players to prepare for the Stanley Cup Playoffs and finished 0-5-2.

They bounced back from a loss three times in the first round against the Colorado Avalanche. They lost 5-1 in Game 1 and won 4-3 in overtime in Game 2; lost 4-0 in Game 4 and won 6-2 in Game 5; and lost 7-4 in Game 6 and won 4-2 in Game 7.

Now they've bounced back again in the second round against the Jets. Game 4 is here Tuesday (8 p.m. ET; ESPN, SN, TVAS, CBC).

In the playoffs, the stakes are high, and coaches are adjusting to the same opponent within a series. There is little chance to practice, especially in the West due to the travel. That makes meetings, film sessions and talks between periods even more important.

"As a coach, you have to get a feel for your group," DeBoer said. "How hard can that constructive criticism be, and how honest and forthright can you be with the group? And obviously the more honest and forthright you can be with your group, the quicker you can get it fixed and you're not wasting time soft-pedaling around it."

The Stars spent Saturday flying from Winnipeg to Dallas, and they didn't hold a morning skate Sunday due to a 3:30 p.m. CT face-off. DeBoer was direct with the players.

"Yeah, before the game, we had a video session," center Wyatt Johnston said. "There were a bunch of different people in the clips, and obviously he's going through the clips, and he's saying, 'This is what you need to be doing.'"

Johnston said DeBoer never tries to make an example of someone, but if you're in a clip, there's a reason why.

"There's no use sugarcoating it," Johnston said. "If we lose 4-0, we don't need him to come in and be like, 'You guys are all right.' We're big boys. We can handle it. I think that comes from the leadership. He's not afraid to show a clip of Jamie or [forward Tyler

Seguin] or any of our older veteran guys. It's the team that matters. I think he does a really good job of that."

DeBoer has credibility. He ranks fourth among active NHL coaches in games (1,261) and wins (662) in the regular season, and he's second among active NHL coaches in games (171) and wins (94) in the playoffs. Twice, with the New Jersey Devils in 2012 and the San Jose Sharks in 2016, he has reached the Stanley Cup Final. In each of his previous five playoff appearances -- with the Vegas Golden Knights in 2020 and 2021, and the Stars the past two years -- and has gone to the third round.

It helps that DeBoer has made two deep playoff runs with many of the players in this room.

"Obviously, he deserves respect from his previous years, but you just build that relationship," forward Jason Robertson said. "We've had the same core of players these past couple years. Regardless of who's coming in, everyone's held to the same accountability and the same standard to learn, to adjust and to take some criticism, and it's all towards the same goal."

<https://www.nhl.com/news/topic/playoffs/2025/series-k-news/coaches-room-dallas-confident-attack-giving-them-edge>

Stars confident, consistent attack giving them advantage against Jets in Western 2nd Round

Granato says Dallas has Winnipeg looking anxious defensively entering Game 4

By Don Granato / Special to NHL.com

The Coaches Room is a regular feature throughout the 2024-25 season by former NHL coaches and assistants who turn their critical gaze to the game and explain it through the lens of a teacher.

In this edition, former Buffalo Sabres coach Don Granato writes about the Western Conference Second Round. The Dallas Stars lead the Winnipeg Jets 2-1 in the best-of-7 series entering Game 4 at American Airlines Center in Dallas on Tuesday (8 p.m. ET; ESPN, SN, TVAS, CBC).

The Stars got to their game quickly in this series, and it feels as though the Jets still are fighting to find their rhythm. To this point in the series, it looks to me like the Stars have been more comfortable in chaos.

Are the Jets a bit tighter than their competitors right now? Despite goals being even at eight through three games, it does appear to me the Jets are a bit more anxious defensively.

Has Mikko Rantanen's hot hand provided the Stars with a bit more confidence and mojo to this point? Or has a hot hand like Rantanen's forced the opposition into overthinking things defensively? It's probably a bit of both.

The Stars attack with confidence, but it does appear the Jets have been a bit more anxious than usual. Good players and good teams force you to work defensively. Great players often get you to second-guess just about everything you do in defensive situations. Among the little things I notice: The Jets might over-skate coverage on the backcheck, trying too hard.

Has Dallas had an advantage early in the series because of their first-round matchup? The Stars played the Colorado Avalanche, a high-tempo, up-and-down team that's similar in fashion to the Jets.

Is Dallas' edge past playoff success? The Stars made it to the Western Conference Final each of the past two years, while the Jets lost in five games in the first round each of the past two years. I don't want to say that's it, because we don't know. But this is the intrigue of the playoffs. Is that coming into play?

It's impressive how the Stars have performed without Miro Heiskanen, their No. 1 defenseman, who hasn't played since Jan. 28 because of a knee injury. The top teams can handle injuries because of their depth in skill and experience. The players have enough knowledge to know what's expected of them and how to get the job done. The deeper teams enjoy the benefit of that, and I think that's what you're seeing with Dallas. There are enough skilled or experienced guys to pick up the slack for a loss of somebody like Heiskanen.

When you look at the Jets' 0-4 record on the road during these playoffs, you've got to think matchups really matter. And I can tell you from being behind the bench, they do. They really, really do matter. In playoff series, obviously it's even more impactful. For example, the Stars were able to get Rantanen away from Jets center Adam Lowry when they had the last change at home in Game 3.

I think this is something that Winnipeg can resolve. It's not a lack of effort by any means. It's not a lack of focus. It's just, for whatever reason, the Jets have been a little bit tighter in these situations. Obviously playing from behind, they're a little more focused on adjustments and tweaking things compared to the team that's ahead in a series. And Connor Hellebuyck, as long as he's healthy, is still a Vezina Trophy-winning goaltender. While he might have fallen out of rhythm a bit, he can get back in it, as he did in the Jets' win in Game 7 of the first round against the St. Louis Blues.

The Jets are down a game. So what? There were times in the St. Louis series where they didn't look good. So what? You've just got to win the series, and the first round was amazing for them in that regard. They deserve credit, because they were good enough to compensate for a lot of adverse things that happened in Round 1 and win it in the end.

That's a heck of a team. That's a talented, committed team that worked hard during the regular season and trained hard. You look at all these little, what you could call hiccups, so far in the first three games, and they're still obviously very much right in the series. When you stay that close, a bounce or two either way can be the difference. The rest of the way is very intriguing.

TSN.ca

<https://www.tsn.ca/nhl/video/jets-desperate-for-a-road-breakthrough-in-game-4~3132112>

Jets desperate for a road breakthrough in Game 4 (VIDEO)

The Jets have yet to come away with a victory on the road in these playoffs and Connor Hellebuyck's stats away from home are indicative of Winnipeg's road woes. TSN Hockey analyst Bruce Boudreau joins Gino Reda to weigh in what Hellebuyck has to do in order to get out of his funk and the call on Alexander Petrovic's eventual game-winning goal for the Stars in Game 3.

<https://www.tsn.ca/nhl/video/how-will-the-jets-respond-to-controversial-game-3-loss-to-stars~3132111>

How will the Jets respond to controversial Game 3 loss to Stars? (VIDEO)

The controversial game-winning goal for the Stars in Game 3 was a gut-punch for the Jets who now find themselves trailing Dallas in their series. How is Winnipeg handling the defeat and how can the team find a way to snap an eight-game road losing streak in the playoffs that dates back to 2023? TSN's John Lu joins Domino's That's Hockey to discuss.

<https://www.tsn.ca/nhl/video/hot-or-not-stars-vs-jets-edition~3132127>

Hot or Not: Stars vs. Jets edition (VIDEO)

What has been the main difference with Connor Hellebuyck's play on the road and at home? Is Mikko Rantanen the most dominant force in the playoffs right now? TSN's Bruce Boudreau discusses this and more in the latest edition of Hot or Not.

<https://www.sportsnet.ca/nhl/article/time-is-now-for-jets-to-find-consistency-and-end-road-slump/>

Time is now for Jets to find consistency and end road slump

By Iain MacIntyre

DALLAS — When the Stanley Cup Playoffs began, the Winnipeg Jets were the only team that could win the Cup without winning a road game.

But they lost that particular perk that came with finishing first in the regular season when the Jets dropped the opening game of their second-round series 3-2 to the Dallas Stars in Winnipeg.

The Jets were pretty much awful in three first-round road games against the St. Louis Blues, a hat trick of lopsided losses in Missouri, but still won the series by sweeping all four games in Manitoba.

As they chase their first Western Conference Final appearance since 2018 — and what would be the franchise's first Stanley Cup — the Jets must find a way to win in Dallas, where they trail the Stars 2-1 heading into Game 4 on Tuesday night.

Surely, the best team of the regular season, which had the NHL's third-best road record, can figure out how to win at least one playoff road game, right?

Except the Jets haven't managed to win a playoff game away from home since Game 1 against the Vegas Golden Knights in their only series two years ago.

They have lost eight straight road games since then while being absurdly outscored 42-13. They haven't scored more than twice in any of those games, and they've allowed fewer than five goals only once. This is madness.

There are blind gophers on the Canadian Prairies who fare better on the road than the Jets.

Seve Ballesteros' caddie once told the spectacularly mercurial golfer, "Aim for the rough; maybe you'll miss."

Despite all their blocks and snap hooks, the Jets can't afford to aim for the rough.

In Game 3 here Sunday, they played an impressive road game for 43 minutes until the Jets lost a contentious, third-period goal call that followed a seven-minute intermission for the review. It broke a 2-2 tie but, more alarmingly, also broke the Jets.

They surrendered two more rush goals they couldn't defend — and goalie Connor Hellebuyck couldn't prevent — as Dallas won 5-2 to gather momentum and put Winnipeg back in the playoff vise.

And here they are again, facing a dare: Go ahead, win a road game.

"Obviously, we know that on the road we have to be better," Jets coach Scott Arniel told reporters Monday at the American Airlines Center. "We have to be more consistent, and that area obviously hasn't been good.

"We have good leadership and guys recognize that there's areas that we have to be more consistent with. But at the end of the day, the one thing about the playoffs, it's the next game. It really is. You can love what you did if you win, you hate what you did if you lose, but it really is all about the next step. We have to win in this building, obviously. They took Game 1 from us, so we have to win in the building. All our energies are pushed towards Game 4 tomorrow."

As you might expect, given the preceding 500 words, the Jets have been chasing most of these road games.

Roope Hintz's power-play redirection of Mikko Rantanen's shot-pass just 2:27 into Sunday's contest was the fourth time in 10 playoff games that the Jets went behind 1-0 on the opposition's first shot.

That happened to Winnipeg only three times during the 82-game regular season.

"I think a big thing for us is our starts," Jets forward Cole Perfetti said. "I feel like most of our games in the playoffs so far, you know, we build towards the third period — our final product. Usually, we've been really good as the game gets going on, and we've just got to find that from the get-go. It's not a lack of preparation or a lack of effort.

"I think it's just when the game's going, from the first puck drop, we've got to have that attention to detail and come out guns blazing. A lot of these games, we've kind of fallen behind the eight ball to start, and it's a hard thing to do when you're down on the road in the playoffs, early in games. It's hard to come back."

Winnipeg rallied from 1-0 and 2-1 deficits on Sunday and was tied 2-2 until Alex Petrovic's kick-in goal was allowed to stand at 3:51 of the third period because referees and the NHL situation room ruled that Hellebuyck had propelled the puck into the net, nullifying the rulebook rider that disqualifies a soccer goal that bounces in off the goaltender's stick.

But given the experience, ability and leadership of their group — as well as the stakes — the Jets' failure to manage this dose of adversity was the most disconcerting aspect of Game 3. Obviously, any team with Stanley Cup aspirations must have more mental strength and resolve than what Winnipeg displayed in the third period.

"If we want to go on a long run, we're going to have to deal with adversity," Perfetti acknowledged. "We're going to have to go through things. Every team does in order to win a Stanley Cup. We're going to have to deal with, you know, the opposition, the refs, the unlucky bounces. Whatever it is, that's just part of the game. And we've had a few of them this post-season, and kind of had. . . a little collapse after them in a few of the games. And we've just got to make sure when that does happen, when we get thrown a gut punch, that we're able to respond in the way that, you know, we know we can play."

"It hasn't gone the way we wanted on the road," defenceman Josh Morrissey said. "But we're very much in a series right now. Obviously, we can look at some of those moments in games where something doesn't go our way, and maybe it compounds a little bit, and be better able to handle that in the future. But, like I said, we're very much in a competitive series right now and obviously tomorrow's game is massive."

The toll of so many road losses over the last two years has probably made the Jets less robust mentally than they'd like to be.

But that armour can be rebuilt with a single road win.

"A great coach once told me — and I've told our group this — there isn't a home or a road way to play," Arniel said. "There's only the right way. We have a certain style that we're accustomed to playing and how we play, and we've been doing it all year long. This is Game 93 coming up, and we've got to get back to being that road team that we were for 82 games. This playoff hasn't been good (away from home). We've got to be more consistent. There has to be more through 60 minutes."

ICE CHIPS – Looming over the series is the potential return of Stars defenceman Miro Heiskanen, who is close to playing after missing 3 ½ months with a knee injury. Dallas coach Pete DeBoer reiterated Monday that he believes his No. 1 blue-liner will return against the Jets at some point.

"In a series, you want to keep putting the other team under that must-win pressure," DeBoer said. "No one wants to fall behind by two games. We put them under that pressure after (winning) Game 1, and they responded. We're putting them under that pressure again tomorrow. I know they're going to respond, and hopefully our game is a little better than it was in Game 2 when we had them in this spot."

<https://www.sportsnet.ca/nhl/video/can-jets-finally-end-their-road-struggles-in-game-4-vs-stars/>

Can Jets finally end their road struggles in Game 4 vs. Stars? (VIDEO)

Paul Caponigri joins Dave Ross and Jensen Lewis on By The Books to discuss the Dallas Stars finding their footing after a rocky end to the regular season and why they're poised to capitalize on the Winnipeg Jets' road struggles in Game 4.