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***Three things - Hellebuyck, Jets blank Stars in Game 5
Hellebuyck makes 22 saves, Ehlers scores twice as Jets force a Game 6***

By Jamie Thomas

WINNIPEG – Mark Scheifele (1G, 1A), Kyle Connor (2A) and Nikolaj Ehlers (2G) had multi point games, Connor Hellebuyck made 22 saves for his second shutout of the postseason as the Winnipeg Jets beat the Dallas Stars 0-0 in Game 5 of their Second Round series. Vladislav Namestnikov had the other goal for Winnipeg who staved off elimination with the Stars now leading the best-of-seven series three games to two. The series goes back to Dallas for Game 6 on Saturday night.

A LITTLE PUCK LUCK

Tuesday night the Jets wished they could have got a least one friendly bounce but that didn't happen. It did occur in the second period off an odd man rush, Kyle Connor waited for Mark Scheifele to enter the Stars zone and hit him with a perfect pass, Scheifele went around Dylan Samberg and threw the puck to the front of the net, and it went off Thomas Harley's skate and in for his fourth of the playoffs. It was his third career goal in a potential elimination game which, which now marks the most in Jets/Thrashers history.

ABOUT THE POWER PLAY...

The Jets power play came into Thursday 1-for-16 in the series. After failing to score on their first power play of the night, the Stars took back-to-back tripping penalties giving the Jets a two-man advantage. 30 seconds into that 5-on-3, Nikolaj Ehlers skated to the front of the net and slid a low shot inside the far post to make it 2-0.

Just under 10 minutes later, the Jets made it 3-0 when Alex Lafallo won a race for the puck and centered it to a wide open Vladislav Namestnikov and put it under the cross bar. It marked the first time in the series Winnipeg scored two power play goals in a game.

HELLEBUYCK DOING HELLEBUYCK THINGS

There is no question that all eyes were on the Jets goaltender with the team facing elimination, Connor Hellebuyck was 2-6 in his career in that situation. With the game tied 0-0 in the second, Hellebuyck made a huge stop with his glove to keep the Stars off the board. Hellebuyck became the first goaltender in franchise history to record a shutout with the team facing elimination and has shut the Stars out in back-to-back games on home ice.

"His confidence never waivers. He's the type of guy that comes to the rink every day with a smile on his face and gives us his best," said Kyle Connor.

"His game throughout the whole first round, second round, the way he's approached it, he's been the same."

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<https://www.nhl.com/news/topic/playoffs/2025/series-k-news/dallas-stars-winnipeg-jets-game-5-recap-may-15>

***Jets shut out Stars in Game 5 of West 2nd Round to avoid elimination
Hellebuyck makes 22 saves, Ehlers scores twice in 3rd for Winnipeg***

By Darrin Bauming

WINNIPEG -- Connor Hellebuyck made 22 saves, and Nikolaj Ehlers scored twice in the third period for the Winnipeg Jets, who avoided elimination with a 4-0 win against the Dallas Stars in Game 5 of the Western Conference Second Round at Canada Life Centre on Thursday.

"That was a great team win, took everyone and we're going to have to do it again," Hellebuyck said. "We had everyone. Everyone was doing the same things. They're going to have a big push back next game, so we got to make sure our details are right and we bring it. Our backs are against the wall and play Jet hockey."

Hellebuyck made 13 saves in the third period for his second shutout of the playoffs; he made 21 saves in a 4-0 win in Game 2.

"It's what he's done for us all year," Jets captain Adam Lowry said of Hellebuyck. "Another stellar game by him. Like you said, it's 0-0, we have a bit of a breakdown and we could easily be down 1-0 there. It gets the building on their feet, gives us some energy, lets us take a deep breath and we are able to score 4-on-4 not too long after. We have so much confidence in Connor, what he does, what he means for our team."

The Stars lead the best-of-7 series 3-2. Game 6 will be at American Airlines Center in Dallas on Saturday (8:00 p.m. ET; ABC, ESPN+, SN, TVAS, CBC).

Mark Scheifele and Vladislav Namestnikov each had a goal and an assist for the Jets, who are the No. 1 seed from the Central Division. Kyle Connor and Neal Pionk each had two assists.

"Our guys, you could feel it, you could hear it, from this morning to tonight, guys just knowing they had to be at their best tonight," Winnipeg coach Scott Arniel said. "I think we've done a good job of putting stuff behind us and focusing on what the next challenge is."

"Whether that was going from the last game to tonight's game or whether that was going from your first shift in the first period to your third shift in the second period, it was being consistent and doing those things that are going to help us have success. Guys just recognized they have a job to do, and they went out and did it."

Jake Oettinger made 31 saves for the Stars, who are the No. 2 seed from the Central.

"You never want to give a team life," Dallas forward Matt Duchene said. "We felt like we needed to win this one. You don't want to give them any life at all. We don't want to come back here for Game 7 obviously up 3-1 at one point. It might take seven. They're a good enough team, it could. We'll see what happens. We're going to go home and try to put our best game on the ice and go from there."

Scheifele gave the Jets a 1-0 lead at 6:17 of the second period during a 4-on-4 when his centering pass to the slot redirected off two Dallas players -- first the stick of forward Wyatt Johnston before going in off the skate of defenseman Thomas Harley.

"That was our whole roster stepping up and knowing what the challenge was in front of us," Arniel said. "And putting their best game on the ice. And it was everybody -- forwards, D, goaltender -- it was everybody stepping up, not wanting to be eliminated tonight. You could see it right from the puck drop, the opening shift. We didn't take our foot off the gas."

With the Jets on a 5-on-3 power play, Ehlers made it 2-0 at 2:20 of the third period when he curled a shot around Oettinger from in close and scored off the inside of the far post.

"We don't want to be done playing hockey and today showed that," Ehlers said. "We've just got to take that to the next game ... We want to go to Dallas and win that game. And like I've said, these fans, it's been so special to play here in front of this crowd and we want to repay them by coming back and playing a Game 7 here."

Namestnikov pushed it to 3-0 with a power-play goal at 12:07 of the third, tucking the puck under the crossbar with a wrist shot from the slot.

"Listen, they won the Presidents' Trophy, right?" Stars coach Pete DeBoer said of Winnipeg. "That's a really good team. We do have a great opportunity to go home and win this at home. We did what we had to do, which is win one game in here (Game 1) in order to give us this opportunity of this elimination game (on home ice), and if not, we'll have to come back in here and win another one."

Said Dallas forward Tyler Seguin: "They're good at home. We won one (in Winnipeg) earlier, we had a chance there tonight. We were right in it despite the shots, and however it may have felt to the eye, we felt we were right in it. [Oettinger] was playing great. Just didn't get that equalizer."

Ehlers scored his second goal of the period into an empty net at 19:15 for the 4-0 final.

"I didn't think it was a horrible game by us," Duchene said. "They got one 5-on-3, another one on the power play, 4-on-4. We didn't give up anything 5-on-5. We had some looks, Hellebuyck played really well. That's the way it goes. We knew this wasn't going to be easy. We knew they weren't going to roll over on us. We're going to Dallas here and see if we can end it."

NOTES: Winnipeg is a League-best 6-1 at home in these playoffs. ... Scheifele's third career goal in a potential elimination game is the most in Jets/Atlanta Thrashers history. ... Hellebuyck has five career playoff shutouts, and has multiple shutouts in a series for the second time in his career (also two in the 2018 first round). Only two other U.S.-born goaltenders in NHL history have posted multiple shutouts in two series: Tim Thomas (two in both the 2011 Conference Final and Stanley Cup Final) and Mike Richter (two in both the 1997 Conference Semi-Finals and 1994 Conference Quarter-Finals). ... Hellebuyck is the first goaltender in Jets/Thrashers history with a shutout while facing elimination.

<https://www.nhl.com/news/dallas-stars-remain-confident-heading-home-after-game-5-loss>

***Stars ready for 'good chance to respond at home' following Game 5 loss
Remain confident against Jets after postseason scoring struggles on road
continue***

By Tracey Myers

WINNIPEG -- The Dallas Stars came into Game 5 of the Western Conference Second Round with confidence.

They had won the past two at home to take a 3-1 series lead against the Winnipeg Jets. They were getting scoring from someone other than Mikko Rantanen. It was all looking up.

The confidence was still there after Game 5, but the offense wasn't there during it. So, the Stars head home and hope the production will be there again for them.

"They're good at home. We won one earlier, we had a chance there tonight," Stars forward Tyler Seguin said after their 4-0 loss to the Jets at Canada Life Centre on Thursday. "We were right in it despite the shots, and however it may have felt to the eye, we felt we were right in it. [Dallas goalie Jake Oettinger] was playing great. Just didn't get that equalizer."

Sure, the Jets were on the brink of elimination and brought the right amount of urgency. So even though they still lead the best-of-7 series 3-2, will the Stars have the necessary urgency in Game 6 against the Jets at American Airlines Center on Saturday (8 p.m. ET; ABC, ESPN+, SN, TVAS, CBC)?

“For sure,” Seguin said. “It’s a long flight (to Winnipeg), so definitely.”

That urgency will have to show itself in goals, which have been absent lately in Winnipeg. The Stars have now been shut out the past seven periods at Canada Life Centre. The last goal they scored here came from Rantanen, whose third goal at 16:38 of the second period of Game 1 helped the Stars to a 3-2 win.

Asked if the Stars felt a big difference in the Jets at home compared to on the road, where Winnipeg hasn’t won a playoff game since 2023, Stars forward Matt Duchene said, “Not necessarily.”

“They’re a great team everywhere. When they get out to a lead, they’re really good at protecting it,” he said.

“We hit a goal post there at 1-0 (defenseman Miro Heiskanen). Seems like that keeps happening every time we’re at a key moment. We had some good looks it just didn’t go in. We could have won that game for sure. It was pretty evenly matched. They just get a lucky one to start things off and they capitalized on their [power play] chances and we didn’t.”

Indeed, the first two that got past Oettinger, who saved 31 of 34 shots, weren’t the usual goals. Jets forward Mark Scheifele’s shot went off two of Oettinger’s teammates (forward Wyatt Johnston’s stick and then defenseman Thomas Harley’s skate) and the other was a 5-on-3 goal by Jets forward Nikolaj Ehlers.

“I think the goal off our own skate, the 4-on-4 goal, that’s a tough one to give up,” Stars coach Pete DeBoer said. “Then you give up the 5-on-3 goal. You go on the road, especially in an elimination game and you get two goals like that, it’s really tough to win.”

“So, I think we could’ve done a better job trying to create a little bit more offense, obviously. But we did have a few looks. One went off the crossbar (from Heiskanen), a couple here and there, but not enough. They played with a desperation level like it was an elimination game. We were a little bit off that.”

The Stars finished with 22 shots against the Jets on Thursday, but they had just nine shots on goal through the first two periods. Of those nine shots through 40 minutes, five came from forwards.

“Yeah, traffic in front of him, sometimes more shots against these guys come from us forwards and winning more corner battles and getting them to the point and getting pucks through,” Seguin said. “In any series there are ups and downs. We’ve had a good series thus far. Now we have a good chance to respond at home.”

Scoring on the road has been an issue in the postseason for the Stars. They scored 135 goals in 41 regular-season road games, tied for fourth with the Washington Capitals, but in the playoffs, they have nine goals in six road games compared to 23 goals in six home games.

The Stars have had a much better go of things at home during the postseason, especially offensively. They'll be looking for more of that on Saturday. Otherwise, it'll be back to Winnipeg.

"You never want to give a team life," Duchene said. "We felt like we needed to win this one. You don't want to give them any life at all. We don't want to come back here for Game 7 obviously up 3-1 at one point.

"It might take seven. They're a good enough team, it could. We'll see what happens. We're going to go home and try to put our best game on the ice and go from there."

<https://www.nhl.com/news/winnipeg-jets-like-chances-if-they-can-get-back-home-for-game-7>

***Jets like chances if they can get back home for Game 7 against Stars
Trailing Western 2nd Round series 3-1, Winnipeg avoids elimination with shutout of Dallas***

By Nicholas J. Cotsonika

WINNIPEG -- The odds are still against the Winnipeg Jets. But now, if they can win a road game, they will like their chances to come back and win in the Western Conference Second Round.

Facing elimination, they dominated the Dallas Stars in a 4-0 win in Game 5 at Canada Life Centre on Thursday, cutting the Stars' lead in the best-of-7 series to 3-2.

Game 6 is at American Airlines Center in Dallas on Saturday (8 p.m. ET; ABC, ESPN+, SN, TVAS, CBC).

"We don't want to be done playing hockey, and I think today showed that," said Jets forward Nikolaj Ehlers, who scored two goals. "We've just got to take that into the next game."

Of the 354 teams to fall behind 3-1 in a best-of-7 series in the Stanley Cup Playoffs, 32 have come back to win the series. That's nine percent.

The Jets are 0-5 on the road in these playoffs and have lost nine straight playoff games away from home dating to 2023.

Even if they do win Game 6 in Dallas, Stars coach Pete DeBoer is 9-0 in Game 7s. No other coach has won as many Game 7s in NHL history.

But if you're the Jets, you've got to look at it like this: Are you really going to lose 10 straight road playoff games? Is DeBoer really going to win 10 straight Game 7s?

Dallas does not want to come back to Winnipeg. The Stars have lost each of their past two games at Canada Life Centre 4-0 and haven't scored a goal in this building in more than seven periods. The Jets are 6-1 at home in the playoffs.

"I think we've been building our game all season long," Jets goalie Connor Hellebuyck said. "It's unfortunate that we got into this position. But you know what? I believe in this group, I believe in myself, and I believe in all of our fans, so we're going to continue to compete and leave it all out there."

In Game 5, the Jets looked like the team that won the Presidents' Trophy as the NHL's top regular-season team and led the NHL in fewest goals against per game (2.32).

They outshot the Stars 35-22. Through two periods, they were outshooting them 22-9, and the Stars had only five shots from forwards.

"We talked about if we could get back to defending how we have all year, if we could get back to that fast transition, get puck support all over the ice, we'd put ourselves and [Hellebuyck] in a much better position to be successful," Jets captain Adam Lowry said. "I thought we did a real good job of getting that, and I think that goes down to the belief in our structure, belief in the coaches' strategy and the belief in one another -- that when the chips are down, guys are going to show up."

Hellebuyck made 22 saves, including a huge one 39 seconds into the second period, grabbing a backhand shot by defenseman Thomas Harley with his glove to keep the score 0-0.

Then the Jets got a bounce. Two, actually. In a 4-on-4 situation, center Mark Scheifele fired a shot from the right circle that deflected off the stick of Stars center Wyatt Johnston, then ricocheted off Harley's right skate and into the net at 6:17 of the second.

Winnipeg's power play entered the game 1-for-16 in the series after leading the NHL (28.9 percent) in the regular season. The Jets got back on track by going 2-for-5. Ehlers scored 5-on-3 at 2:20 of the third, and center Vladislav Namestnikov scored 5-on-4 at 12:07.

"We had everyone," Hellebuyck said. "Everyone was doing the same things. You know they're going to have a big pushback next game, so we've got to make sure our details are right and we bring it. Our backs are against the wall, and it's time to play Jet hockey."

The numbers aren't pretty for Winnipeg on the road in these playoffs. The Jets have been outscored 25-8. Hellebuyck is 0-5 with a 5.84 goals-against average and .793 save percentage.

But the Jets led the NHL with 26 road wins in the regular season, including a 4-0 win at Dallas on April 10. Hellebuyck has won the Vezina Trophy as the NHL's best goalie twice. This season, he is a finalist for the Vezina and the Hart Trophy, which goes to the NHL's most valuable player.

If they get it to Game 7, if they get back home to the whiteout, look out.

"We don't want our season to be done," Lowry said. "We believe in this group. We believe what this group can accomplish. Just get the next one. That's kind of what we talked about. Live to fight another day. Thrilled with the result tonight. Thrilled we're going back to Dallas. Rest, recover, get ready, and there's another big one in front of us."

The Athletic

<https://www.nytimes.com/athletic/6360890/2025/05/16/jets-stars-hellebuyck-shutout/>

Connor Hellebuyck's shutout extends Jets' season in Game 5 win over Stars: Takeaways

By Murat Ates and Mark Lazerus

WINNIPEG — The Winnipeg Jets won their second elimination game of this year's playoffs, beating the Dallas Stars 4-0 in Game 5 on Thursday with a four-on-four goal from Mark Scheifele, power-play goals from Nikolaj Ehlers and Vladislav Namestnikov and an empty-netter from Ehlers.

The Jets also got a second consecutive home shutout from Connor Hellebuyck — and his best save of the series. The Stars still lead the series 3-2, with Game 6 on Saturday in Dallas.

Hellebuyck, with 22 saves, came through with his biggest game and best moments, most notably gloving Thomas Harley's second-period slot shot with a desperate, windmill save.

Jake Oettinger kept the Stars in it early, making 11 first-period saves and looking unbeatable until Scheifele's rush attempt beat him after bouncing off Wyatt Johnston's stick and then Harley's skate. Oettinger had made seven short-handed saves after 40 minutes, withstanding a late second-period flurry from the Jets, including four near-goals from Gabriel Vilardi alone, but ultimately his 31-save performance wasn't enough.

Ehlers gave the Jets a much-needed insurance goal on an early third-period five-on-three power play, taking Kyle Connor's pass and sweeping a shot past Oettinger's poke check attempt to make it 2-0. Namestnikov's power-play goal was a rocket wrist shot from the slot, teed up by Alex Iafallo and shot through Harley's outstretched stick on its way to the top shelf. Ehlers added a second goal with the Stars' net empty.

Emotions boiled over in the third period, with a raucous scrum by the benches, which featured Jamie Benn tackling Scheifele to the ice at one point. Both Benn and Winnipeg's Brandon Tanev got roughing minors and 10-minute misconducts for the fracas.

The Jets were always going to need great goaltending, more life from their special teams and the decisive finishing strike at the end of all of their scoring chances if they were meant to stay alive. They got all of those — and some puck luck, too — and have survived to play another day.

Jets' flood of first-period scoring chances

When Scheifele won his first power-play faceoff to Connor, who unloaded on a one-timer to the top corner, there was a fraction of a second when it looked like Winnipeg had scored the game-opening goal. One flash of Oettinger's glove later and you could imagine Canada Life Centre's collective dread. This was going to be one of those nights.

Oettinger went on to handle multiple deflections, including Cole Perfetti's chance, later on that same power play. He stopped Connor's rush shot, following up after Vilardi tried to beat Cody Ceci and Johnston. He navigated Nino Niederreiter's net-front traffic, got a piece of Ehlers' rush shot — after Ehlers had blown by Evgenii Dadonov on the right wing — and moved effortlessly post-to-post to get a pad on Scheifele's one-timer off a Jets faceoff set play.

The Jets finished the first period with an 11-4 lead in shots, despite the Stars' two power plays to their one, but with nothing to show for it.

A line drive in the scorebook

The Jets couldn't beat Oettinger during the first two periods, but the Stars could. The dam burst at 6:17 of the second period, when Scheifele's shot from the right faceoff dot deflected off Johnston and then banked in off Harley, all alone in front of his goalie. All Harley could do was stand there and look at the rafters.

It continued a playoff-wide trend of own goals, one that has hit the Stars a few times, most notably when Sam Steel banked in Colorado's game winner off Colin Blackwell's shoulder in Game 6 of the first round. Some nights, it seems a fortunate bounce is the only way to beat Oettinger. Colorado also had one go in off Stars defenseman Ilya Lyubushkin, and there also was Artturi Lehkonen's accidental soccer-style goal — the puck fluttering over Oettinger's shoulder — in Game 1 of the first round as he was being hauled down to the ice.

But hey, they all count the same.

In need of a depth charge

With approximately three minutes left in the second period and Dallas down by a goal, Matt Duchene got the puck in space in the left circle and flung a seam pass to Tyler Seguin, all alone in the right circle.

Seguin hit the crossbar.

Up to this point, it was almost a sign of strength that the Stars were so close to a return trip to the Western Conference final despite having so many underperforming forwards. But now that the series has tightened and the stakes have heightened, it's long past time for some of Dallas' scorers to start, well, scoring. Mikael Granlund's hat trick in Game 4 was a good start, but he's far from the only one who had been getting carried offensively by Mikko Rantanen.

Duchene has zero goals in these playoffs. Seguin hasn't scored since Game 3 of the first round. Benn, Mason Marchment and Dadonov each have one goal, none in this round. And Jason Robertson has been back for five games with just one assist to show for it. That's probably not going to cut it. Not against the Jets, and not against the Edmonton Oilers, should the Stars reach the third round.

"I always felt it was a matter of time if we just stuck with what we were doing," coach Peter DeBoer said when asked about the depth scoring before Game 5. "We have too good of players, too good of track records not to score eventually. But I think part of the playoffs is, you have to be comfortable not scoring. Everyone makes a big deal about scoring. Vegas gets eliminated (Wednesday) night by Edmonton in a 0-0 game, you know? 1-0 in overtime and you've got two of the greatest offensive players in the world on the ice. If you throw Jack Eichel in, maybe three of the top five or six. So you have to be comfortable, and it's OK that you're not scoring, that you're still finding ways to win."

Jets' power play: Just enough, just in time?

Winnipeg's power play entered Game 5 scoring on just 15.8 percent of its opportunities — the worst rate of any team that made it to Round 2. The Jets had scored on only 4.2 percent of their power-play shots — roughly half of the worst team shooting percentage in the NHL this season.

They'd also struggled on five-on-three opportunities toward the end of the season, but Ehlers reversed all of those problems with a single, third-period sweep of his stick in Game 5.

The Stars were assessed back-to-back tripping penalties early in the third, giving the Jets' top unit 1:47 of five-on-three time in search of a much-needed insurance goal with a 1-0 lead. Winnipeg had just finished the second period with a barrage of scoring

chances on its second power-play opportunity of the game, and this time, Ehlers finally got the Jets' power play on the board.

Ehlers sold five-hole but finished far side, putting the Jets ahead by two at a pivotal moment.

Vilardi had four Grade-A scoring chances on Winnipeg's late-second-period power play. His pass attempt through the slot: blocked. His shot attempt from the slot: blocked. A seam pass to him at the left post: broken up at the last second.

Then, with the Jets circling Oettinger and the Stars' goaltender down, out and trying to get back into the play, Vilardi's shot hit the bottom of Oettinger's right skate while his back was to the play. It was Winnipeg's first major series of power-play scoring chances since Vilardi's Game 2 goal — and it proved to be a sign of things to come.

Winnipeg did score on that power play, but Scheifele batted in the puck and it was immediately waved off. The Winnipeg crowd responded with a cheeky "should have kicked it" chant, a reference, of course, to Alex Petrovic's game winner in Game 3.

A bright spot for the Stars

Miro Heiskanen is nowhere near 100 percent, but he took a step in the right direction in his second game back. Heiskanen was more active offensively in Game 5 than he was in Game 4, and had one of Dallas' best scoring chances during a first-period power play, when Hellebuyck just got a piece of his shot from the right circle. DeBoer again went with 11 forwards and seven defensemen so as not to overload Heiskanen, but he finished with 18 minutes, 33 seconds of playing time, after playing just 14:52 in Game 4.

Heiskanen also bounced back up from a couple of big hits, including an early Adam Lowry cross-check. Heiskanen said before the game that getting hit a few times in Game 4 gave him some confidence in his surgically repaired knee.

"Yeah, for sure," he said. "In practice, there's not a lot of hits, so you don't really know what to expect. It's good and it felt really good, so it's a good thing."

<https://www.nytimes.com/athletic/6360989/2025/05/16/nhl-playoffs-winnipeg-jets-game-5/>

Jets survive Game 5 like past versions couldn't, but can they do it again?

By Murat Ates

WINNIPEG — The Winnipeg Jets' season was on the line, but this time there was no last-second miracle comeback. The Jets' 4-0 win in Game 5 was a 60-minute onslaught.

The Jets delivered their best game of the playoffs in their most important, must-win Game 5 — and earned one more chance to keep their season alive. It took Connor

Hellebuyck's second straight home shutout, a resurgent Winnipeg power play, a little bit of luck, and a level of desperation past Jets teams couldn't have matched.

"That was everybody. That was our whole roster stepping up and knowing what the challenge was in front of us. And putting their best game on the ice," said Jets coach Scott Arniel. "And it was everybody: forwards, D, goaltender. It was everybody stepping up, not wanting to be eliminated tonight. You could see it right from the puck drop, the opening shift. We didn't take our foot off the gas."

As hockey games go, Game 5 gave Winnipeg's Canada Life Centre crowd everything it could have asked for. The Jets dominated the first period, outshooting Dallas 11-4 and creating scoring chances for top scorers Kyle Connor, Nikolaj Ehlers and Mark Scheifele that Jake Oettinger turned aside. Then, when Winnipeg lost its defensive coverage to open the second period, Hellebuyck came to their rescue. Matt Duchene found Thomas Harley undetected in the slot, Harley fooled Hellebuyck by taking the puck to his backhand and then Hellebuyck's reflexes took over.

"I thought he was gonna tip it," Hellebuyck said. "So I had a bit of a blocker reaction. Then he pulled it back, and he might have fanned on it a little bit, but he tried to go glove side."

Five minutes later, Scheifele took a shot off the rush that hit Wyatt Johnston's stick, then bounced off Harley's skate and behind Oettinger. The Jets had their game-winning goal and, even though Ehlers and Vladislav Namestnikov's third period power play goals were much nicer to look at, there is poetry in the way Winnipeg won Game 5: There's no way the the Jets who lost to Vegas and Colorado in five games each could have beaten Dallas on Thursday. They'd have been blown out before a fluky, double-deflection goal like Scheifele's could have done them any good.

Facing elimination in Game 5 against Vegas in 2023, the Jets were outshot 23-14 and outscored 4-0 by the second intermission. They pushed back harder against Colorado in the same circumstances last season, but trailed 3-2 after 40 minutes after recovering from a poor first period with a better effort in the second.

"You have to be able to push back when things aren't going your way," Rick Bowness said after the Vegas series. "We had no pushback. Their better players were so much better than ours tonight, they deserved to win. They were the better team in the regular season, (and) they were the better team in this series."

Those words aren't true anymore.

Winnipeg's season was on the line, and this time, Winnipeg's best players rose to the occasion. Scheifele scored a goal and an assist. Connor picked up two assists. Ehlers, whose playoff reputation falls short of his quality as a player, scored twice and is now tied for third in Jets playoff scoring with seven points in seven games. Hellebuyck,

whose Game 6 could redefine his playoff narrative, delivered his best postseason performance.

Ironically, those accomplishments say more about where the level the Jets have reached as a team than they do about the individuals involved.

Zoom out past Hellebuyck's heroics, Scheifele's fortunate bounce, Ehlers' clever five-on-three shot, Namestnikov's rocket wrist shot and Ehlers' empty netter: The story of Game 5 is that the Jets won a game they couldn't have won in recent history. There was no last-minute miracle because no miracle was necessary. There was no postgame tirade about a complete lack of pushback because no such tirade was needed.

It was also the first time in franchise history that they've won an elimination game outside of a Game 7, and their reward is the opportunity to do it all over again, only this time in much tougher circumstances. The Jets, mired in a nine-game playoff road losing streak, must beat the Stars in Dallas on Saturday. Win that, and then there's the matter of Pete DeBoer's 9-0 record in Game 7s.

"It's unfortunate that we got into this position," Hellebuyck said. "But you know what? I believe in this group, I believe in myself, and I believe in all our of our fans, so we're going to continue to compete and leave it all out there."

We'll get back to Winnipeg's unfortunate position in a moment. It's worth noting that Ehlers and Arniel joined Hellebuyck in putting Jets fans at the heart of his motivation.

"It's been so special to play here in front of this crowd," Ehlers said. "We want to repay them by coming back and playing a Game 7 here."

"We'd love for a chance to come back and do it in Game 7, but we've got a lot of work ahead of us in Game 6," Arniel said. "To reward our fans and to give them a chance to see another game, that's what we were looking to do."

So, how do the Jets win their first road game of the playoffs? By dragging the series back to Winnipeg?

Step one is bottling what worked in Game 5. Hellebuyck locked in, the Jets' power play came to life and Winnipeg got goals from the top and middle of the lineup. The shutout belonged partly to the goaltender, partly to better puck support in all three zones and even to a little bit of puck luck. Harley could have tried to deflect his shot, like Hellebuyck thought he wanted to do. Tyler Seguin could have gone bar-down with his second-period rush chance instead of going bar-and-out. But Harley and Seguin's chances were two of Dallas' few Grade A's on the night. The Stars are a potent rush team; Winnipeg got through most of Game 5 without conceding odd-man rushes.

"We were quick with our decisions, we were quick with the reads, quick supporting the puck all over the ice," Lowry said.

He also spoke to Winnipeg's self-inflicted wounds in games 3 and 4.

“(We were) hurting ourselves within our team game, feeding into their transition, feeding into their offence,” Lowry said. “We talked about if we could get back to defending how we have all year, if we could get back to that fast transition, good puck support all over the ice, we’d put ourselves and Helly in a much better position to be successful.”

It's important to consider the role matchups played in Dallas' home ice advantage. Stars coach Pete DeBoer is good at using last change to keep his best players away from Lowry's shutdown line — and targeting Scheifele's line instead. Consider that the 8:37 Mikko Rantanen played against Lowry in Winnipeg in Game 5 is more than Rantanen played Lowry in both games in Dallas. Through five games, Winnipeg has outshot Dallas and kept the score to 1-1 during Lowry versus Rantanen minutes, while Rantanen has outscored Scheifele's line 2-0 while keeping Winnipeg hemmed in its zone.

It's a massive swing, with impacts at both ends of the ice. Every shift that Rantanen, Roope Hintz and Mikael Granlund beat Scheifele's line in transition creates offence for Dallas and keeps three of Winnipeg's top offensive players 200 feet from Jake Oettinger.

Remember Winnipeg's last-minute line shuffle to start Game 4? Arniel deflected questions about his new line combinations, offering only that it was about “matchups” but it's clear that he was trying to give Scheifele's line some defensive help. Connor and Scheifele sometimes miss their assignments playing transition defence. Alex Iafallo was a safety valve.

It gets lost because Winnipeg lost Game 4, but Arniel's thought process was mostly vindicated: Connor, Scheifele, and Iafallo sawed off their minutes, earning a 7-6 edge in shots and a 0-0 scoreline while playing together. From an X's and O's standpoint, Iafallo helps Connor and Scheifele by staying on the right side of the puck on breakouts and by staying on the right side of his check when the Stars are rushing up ice. There have been times when the Connor/Scheifele/Vilardi line gets caught up the ice — and DeBoer has leaned into that matchup to try to get offence for Rantanen, Granlund, and Hintz.

So it's not just about the hometown crowd.

If Winnipeg is meant to beat Dallas in Game 6, the Jets need to shut down the Stars' dynamic rush attacks. To do that, Winnipeg needs Connor and Scheifele to play their best 200-foot games of the playoffs. Arniel can also try to help with lineup tweaks like he offered in Game 4, but it's on his players to execute such that they don't give up as many Grade A chances for free as they did earlier in the series.

“I think they were winning the battles the first couple games before this one, and we needed to step up,” Connor said, “And I think everybody did. It’s one game and we’ve got to re-focus (quickly) and get ready for the next one.”

Winnipeg’s suffocating 4-0 win in Game 5 means only that a series comeback is possible. It’s still the best result available to the Jets in Game 5, and a better result than Winnipeg’s core had achieved in recent years. The Jets are off to Dallas to see if they can achieve their first road win of the playoffs — and their season is on the line all over again.

<https://www.nytimes.com/athletic/6360988/2025/05/16/connor-hellebuyck-game-6-jets-stars/>

Will the real Connor Hellebuyck please stand up? Jets goalie’s legacy on the line in Game 6

By Mark Lazerus

The “M-V-P” chant started when he was announced as a starter, with Canada Life Center’s foundations quaking from the cacophonous sound of 15,000 fans dressed in unison and screaming in unison. They were cathartic chants, encouraging, willing Connor Hellebuyck to be the goaltender they knew he could be, not the one they knew he could devolve into.

The chant picked back up again early in the third period, when Hellebuyck made a rather routine save on a Miro Heiskanen shot. This time, they were delirious, pure joy, part of a residual giddiness from Nikolaj Ehlers’ five-on-three power-play goal that had just put the Winnipeg Jets up 2-0.

When Hellebuyck stopped Matt Duchene a few minutes later, the chant was revived yet again, this time louder, more forceful. It felt defiant, a top-of-their-lungs message to the Dallas Stars and the hockey world, the ones focusing on the stumbles rather than the shutouts, the sample size instead of the whole body of work.

Connor Hellebuyck is the MVP this season. He’ll likely win the Hart Trophy, becoming the first goaltender to do so in a decade. And he deserves it, too. He was, without question, the most important and impactful player in the league, backstopping the Jets to the NHL’s best record. And in a do-or-die Game 5 on Thursday night, he played like it, too. No, he wasn’t tested too severely by the suddenly punchless Stars, but he stopped all 22 shots that came his way, including a quick-twitch pad save on a Wyatt Johnston deflection in the first period and a brilliant glove save of a Thomas Harley backhander in the opening minute of the second period. Either one could have changed a game that was, for most of the night, far more tense and far closer than its 4-0 final score would suggest.

It was Hellebuyck's second straight home shutout this series, following up another 4-0 win in Game 2. Hellebuyck looked calm. He looked poised. He looked in command. He looked, well, boring — as he does when he's at his best. This was, indeed, the MVP.

But it will all mean nothing — the Game 5 shutout, the Game 2 shutout, the Hart Trophy, the third Vezina Trophy, all of it — if he doesn't do it Saturday night.

In Dallas.

Game 6 now becomes the ultimate legacy game for Hellebuyck. He'll either shut all of us up or prove all of us right. In the zero-sum world of the Stanley Cup playoffs, there is no in between. If he plays like the MVP at American Airlines Center, stands on his head and sends the series back to Winnipeg — where he suddenly feels unbeatable — for Game 7, he'll have exorcised his demons. If he plays like the utter disaster he's been on the road all postseason, those demons will continue to haunt him, maybe forever.

You've seen the numbers by now. Or, at the very least, you've sensed them. Over the past three postseasons, Hellebuyck is a flabbergasting 1-9 on the road with a ghastly .838 save percentage and an almost unfathomable 4.98 goals-against average. In this postseason alone, he's 0-5 on the road with a .793 save percentage and a 5.84 goals-against average. He was pulled in all three road games in the first round against the St. Louis Blues. Never mind MVP numbers; these aren't even Zamboni-driver EBUG numbers.

And then back home in the sanctuary of the Winnipeg Whiteout, he was flawless. Again. It's Jekyll and hide your eyes.

Winnipeg — the team and the city — believes. It's why the fans so urgently cheered him on, bucked him up, tried to make him believe. It's why his teammates mobbed him afterward, thanked him, raved about him, tried to make us believe.

"I'm glad you brought that up, actually," Jets captain Adam Lowry said of the flashy save on Harley, legs splayed, glove held high. "That was incredible, but it's what he's done for us all year. Another stellar game by him. It's 0-0, (and) we have a bit of a breakdown, and we could easily be down 1-0 there. It gets the building on their feet, gives us some energy, lets us take a deep breath, and we are able to score four-on-four not too long after. We have so much confidence in Connor, what he does, what he means for our team."

It's true. All of it. But it's all for naught if Hellebuyck falls flat on his face again Thursday night when he's surrounded by bright green instead of bright white.

"Doesn't matter what happens in the past," Hellebuyck said. "We've got one game ahead of us, and we just need to focus on winning that one."

His counterpart will be ready. Jake Oettinger always is. He lost 4-0 on Thursday and might have been the best player on the ice. He didn't give up a five-on-five goal, either. In the first period alone, he made high-danger saves on a Kyle Connor one-timer right off a faceoff, a Connor bouncer in the crease, an Ehlers rush, a lightning-quick Mark Scheifele shot and a Lowry two-on-one off the rush. After stopping a Josh Morrissey point shot through traffic without a rebound midway through the second period, Oettinger stood up, shoved Gabriel Vilardi and then stared him down for several seconds. Home or road, Oettinger is the same guy. He's always cool, he's always sharp, he's always unfazed by the moment.

If Hellebuyck wants that same reputation, it has to start in Dallas. Or it might become too late.

To be clear, the Jets goalie isn't the only player with something to prove in Game 6, though. Dallas has reached the brink of a second straight Western Conference final not because of its vaunted depth scorers but despite them. Mikko Rantanen and Oettinger have been carrying this team, and it's well past time for the Stars' forward group to hold up its end of the bargain. Matt Duchene hasn't scored the entire postseason. Tyler Seguin hasn't scored in nine games. Jason Robertson has been a nonfactor all series since returning from a leg injury suffered in the season finale. Jamie Benn, Mason Marchment and Evgenii Dadonov have yet to score this round and have just one goal each all playoffs.

Hell, Benn's biggest contribution in an elimination game Thursday might have been sucker-punching Scheifele by the benches in one of those meaningless "message-sending" moments at the tail end of a one-sided loss. You know, captain stuff.

Duchene and Seguin nearly hooked up for the equalizer late in the second period, but Seguin drew iron instead.

"Obviously, you want to help your team win," Duchene said. "I'm doing a lot of good things out there. You make five or six plays for Grade-A's and it doesn't go, what can you do? Just keep going. It'll go at some point. I've had a million hot streaks and a million slumps in my career. I've played a long time. It's all about putting your best game out on the ice, and I thought our line had a lot of good looks tonight and easily could have been the difference. It'll go one of these days. Hopefully, the dam breaks and away we go."

But the thing about being one of 12 forwards is that it's easier to blend in. If Dallas somehow collapses and blows a 3-1 series lead, nobody's going to put all the blame on Duchene's shoulders. Or Seguin's. Or Robertson's. Or Benn's. There are plenty of shoulders to go around.

But when you're the goalie — when you're the goalie in this league — it's different. There's no hiding. Hellebuyck already has the hardware to be considered one of the game's all-time great goalies, but he's also been laid bare these past three

postseasons. And he's running out of chances to prove he has the clutch gene that separated the likes of Martin Brodeur, Dominik Hasek and Patrick Roy from their peers. Right now he's merely a regular-season star. If he wants to be known as something more, something greater, something truly worthy of all those trophies he's piled up, then he needs to do something about it. And he needs to do it now.

A decade into his career, we're still trying to answer a simple question: Who exactly is Connor Hellebuyck? Or, more to the point, what exactly is Connor Hellebuyck?

Well, tune in to Game 6 to find out.

Sportsnet.ca

<https://www.sportsnet.ca/nhl/article/jets-earn-another-game-with-precise-execution/>

Jets earn another game with precise execution

By Jacob Stoller

WINNIPEG — Whether it was an usher, a security guard or a drunk fan, everybody near the exits at Canada Life Centre was saying the same thing.

“See you Monday.”

Thursday's 4-0 win over the Dallas Stars — which narrowed the Winnipeg Jets' series deficit to 3-2 — hardly guaranteed a Game 7 being played here on Monday. But it made it seem within reach.

“It might take seven,” Stars forward Matt Duchene said after the game. “They're a good enough team, it could.”

Especially when the Jets play like they did in Game 5.

“That was our whole roster stepping up and knowing what the challenge was in front of us. And putting their best game on the ice,” Jets coach Scott Arniel said. “And it was everybody. Forwards, (defenceman), goaltender. It was everybody stepping up, not wanting to be eliminated tonight. You could see it right from the puck drop, the opening shift. We didn't take our foot off the gas.”

Winnipeg's effort, which the hit and shot totals illustrate, was one thing, but it was their precision, above all, that led to them extending their season.

It was the extra five to 10 per cent that they could've used in Game 4, where they were the better team for large spurts.

"It's everybody just taking it up a notch, winning battles," Kyle Connor said. "If you just look at it over the course of the game, how many 50-50 battles there are, it adds up."

Little things like that are a testament to the in-game momentum that is so crucial come playoff time. It's the foundation to the 'Jets hockey' template this team strives for, game in and game out.

They make life difficult for their opponents' best players, and Miro Heiskanen and Thomas Harley can attest to that after Game 5, with each defenceman being on the receiving end of seven hits. They tamed the 'Moose,' holding Mikko Rantanen to just one shot during five-on-five play.

And when these Jets are outworking their opponent, their skill usually finds a way of shining.

The power play finally came back to life, converting on two of the five attempts.

"That power play in the second when they had a lot of chances and didn't connect but they built on the momentum and energy in the building," Adam Lowry said. "Even them just coming back to the bench with the confidence that they were moving pucks, they were creating. Then looking to third, them getting one to kind of ice the game, that was huge."

When the Jets are well-connected as a five-man unit, it trickles back to the netminder who, in this round, is worthy of those "M-V-P chants." Connor Hellebuyck looked like a stone-cold killer, stopping all 22 shots faced en route to recording his second shutout of the series.

We're not seeing the 'Playoff Hellebuyck' we've come to know. This is the Hellebuyck we've come to know throughout recent regular seasons, capable of stealing games. And when he's dialled in? Oof. Good luck.

"It's unfortunate that we got into this position. But you know what? I believe in this group, I believe in myself, and I believe in all of our fans," Hellebuyck said.

Yes, the fans are part of it, too. When those aforementioned dominoes fall into place, they're even crazier than usual.

"This playoffs, believe me, we can feel it," Arniel said of the crowd support. "We can really feel it. There's another wave that comes into this building and it kind of pulls you along. Our guys were riding on it tonight. But that's what you love. We'd love for a chance to come back and do it in Game 7, but we've got a lot of work ahead of us in Game 6. To reward our fans and to give them a chance to see another game, that's what we were looking to do."

Perhaps we will see you back here on Monday.

<https://www.sportsnet.ca/nhl/article/depth-scoring-concerns-growing-for-stars-after-another-shutout-loss/>

Depth scoring concerns growing for Stars after another shutout loss

By Iain MacIntyre

WINNIPEG — Asked after the morning skate if his remarkable Game 7 playoff success helps in elimination games, Dallas Stars coach Pete DeBoer briefly smiled and said: "Well, it's not Game 7."

But it may as well have been for the Winnipeg Jets, who, when faced with elimination Thursday night, produced their best game of the series and dumped the Stars 4-0 in Game 5. The victory cut Dallas's series lead to 3-2 and forced a Game 6 Saturday in Texas.

DeBoer is 9-0 as a National Hockey League coach in Game 7s, and the Jets would love to force him to try making it 10 in a row.

For now, the Stars still control the series.

They are 5-1 at home in this Stanley Cup tournament, have stockpiled a mountain of playoff experience in recent seasons, are getting great goaltending from Jake Oettinger and still have two chances to win one game. And their coach, of course, is perfect in Game 7s.

But their grip on the Western Conference semifinal got a little greasier with the Game 5 loss, especially with struggling Jets goalie Connor Hellebuyck finding his A-game and the Stars' talented and deep group of forwards still mostly shooting blanks.

"I thought we actually weathered the storm okay," DeBoer said about the Jets' surge at the start. "Jake was really good early, which you need. I think ... the goal off our own skate (that made it 1-0) ... that's a tough one to give up. And then we give up the five-on-three goal. You go on the road, especially in an elimination game, you get two goals like that, it's really tough to win.

"I think we could have done a better job trying to create a little bit more offence, obviously. But we did have a few looks — one off the crossbar, you know, a couple here and there. But not enough. They played with a desperation level like it was an elimination game. We were a little bit off that."

The double-deflected Mark Schiefele shot, which took its second carom off the shin of Dallas defenceman Thomas Harley, opened scoring for Winnipeg at 6:17 of the second period. And Nikolaj Ehlers' power-play goal — after tripping penalties 11 seconds apart to Stars Alex Petrovic and Esa Lindell — doubled the lead at 2:20 of the third.

But in the first 43 minutes, the Stars managed only 11 shots on Hellebuyck, who heard the happy sound of Tyler Seguin's wrister ping his crossbar during a two-on-one in the middle period.

Dallas leads in this series because Oettinger has been much better than Hellebuyck, special team success has favoured them, and their top line of Mikko Rantanen, Roope Hintz and Mikael Granlund has been unstoppable in a couple of games.

Most of their forwards, however, have gone missing offensively.

Seguin, Matt Duchene, Jason Robertson, Jamie Benn, Wyatt Johnston, Mason Marchment and Evgenii Dadonov combined for 165 goals in the regular season — or about two per game. Collectively, they have one goal in this series, by Johnston in Game 4.

The Stars' leading scorer in the regular season with 30 goals and 82 points, Duchene hasn't scored in 12 playoff games this spring while producing just five assists, all of them on the power play.

"Obviously, you want to help your team win," Duchene said. "I'm doing a lot of good things out there. You know, you make five or six plays a night for Grade-A (chances) and it doesn't go. What can you do? You just keep going. It'll go at some point. You've just got to keep doing the same thing over and over.

"I've had a million hot streaks and a million slumps in my career; I've played a long time. And you know, it's all about just putting your best game out on the ice. And I thought our line had some really good looks tonight, and easily could have been the difference. So it'll go here one of these days, and hopefully ... the dam breaks and away we go."

Seguin, who missed most of the season with injury but produced nine goals and 21 points in 20 games, has two goals and two assists in 12 playoff games.

He had one shot on Hellebuyck in Game 5, matching Johnston. Duchene had two shots.

"Yeah, I mean you want to produce," Seguin said. "I'm having some chances, and sometimes they don't go in, sometimes they go in. So I'm looking for that first one.

"I thought they played great. I mean, they're a top team in the league, right? So they played a great game. Their goalie played a great game. We were one shot away there for a little bit. We're excited to go home and try to close it out there.

"Any series, there's ups and downs, and we've had a good series so far. Now we get a good chance to respond at home."

Asked about the urgency to avoid another trip to Winnipeg by ending the series Saturday in Dallas, Seguin said: "For sure, it's a long flight. So, definitely."

"I don't think it was a horrible game by us," Duchene said. "We didn't give up anything five-on-five all night. We had some looks, Hellebuyck played really well, that's the way it goes. We knew this wasn't going to be easy. We knew they weren't going to ... roll over on us. We'll go into Dallas here and see if we can end it."

"You never want to give a team life. We felt like we needed to win this one. You don't want to give them any life at all. We don't want to come back here for Game 7, obviously, up 3-1 at one point. It might take seven, though. I mean, they're a good enough team, it could. We're going to go home and try and put our best game out on the ice and go from there."

<https://www.sportsnet.ca/videos/leagues/nhl-video/>

Jets' Hellebuyck answers the call in pressure-filled Game 5 (VIDEO)

Kelly Hrudey joins Sportsnet Central to break down the Winnipeg Jets' 4-0 win over the Dallas Stars in Game 5, discussing goaltender Connor Hellebuyck's impressive shutout performance, the team's power play, and more.

TSN.ca

<https://www.tsn.ca/nhl/video/hellebuyck-jets-shut-down-stars-in-game-5-to-stay-alive-in-playoffs%7E3134734>

Hellebuyck, Jets shut down Stars in Game 5 to stay alive in playoffs (VIDEO)

Connor Hellebuyck posted his second shutout of the playoffs and the Jets had another dominant home performance - completely shutting down the Stars in Game 5 to extend the series. The TSN Hockey playoffs panel weighed in.

<https://www.sportsnet.ca/nhl/article/granlunds-hat-trick-leads-stars-to-game-4-win-3-1-series-lead-over-jets/>

Biron: Jets made Stars chase them around in Game 5 (VIDEO)

The Jets came out flying in Game 5 with their season on the line, and shutout the Stars to force a sixth game in the series on Saturday. TSN Hockey analyst Martin Biron shared his thoughts on Winnipeg's performance.

<https://www.tsn.ca/nhl/video/will-scheifele-benn-animosity-carry-over-to-game-6~3134888>

Will Scheifele/Benn animosity carry over to Game 6? (VIDEO)

TSN Jets reporter John Lu joins SC with Jay Onrait to talk about the Jets' incredible Game 5 performance that kept their season alive, and whether or not he thinks the animosity from the third period will carry over into Game 6.

Canadian Press

<https://www.chrisd.ca/2025/05/16/winnipeg-jets-dallas-stars-round-2-game-5/>

'Everybody Stepping Up': Jets Stay Alive with Dominant 4-0 Win Over Stars in Game 5

By Judy Owen, The Canadian Press

Adam Lowry believes the Winnipeg Jets found another gear on Thursday that was driven by a powerful emotion.

"Desperation," the Jets captain said.

Nikolaj Ehlers scored twice, Mark Scheifele had a goal and an assist and Connor Hellebuyck made 22 saves to help Winnipeg avoid elimination with a 4-0 victory over the Dallas Stars in Game 5 of their second-round series.

The Stars lead the best-of-seven playoff matchup 3-2 with Game 6 set for Saturday night in Dallas.

"I think all year we've been a great team at home," Lowry said. "I just thought start to finish, the structure, the way we wanted to play. We were quick with our decisions, we were quick with the reads, quick supporting the puck all over the ice."

Vladislav Namestnikov also had a goal and an assist. Kyle Connor and Neal Pionk both contributed two helpers in front of a roaring whiteout crowd at Canada Life Centre.

Jake Oettinger stopped 31 shots for the Stars.

"It was everybody stepping up, not wanting to be eliminated tonight," Jets head coach Scott Arniel said. "You could see it right from the puck drop, the opening shift. We didn't take our foot off the gas."

It was the fifth time in Jets/Atlanta Thrashers' franchise history that an opponent has been shut out in the playoffs.

Winnipeg, which won the Presidents' Trophy with a franchise-record 56 wins and 116 points, is an NHL-best 6-1 at home this post-season.

Its albatross is away games.

The Jets have lost all five road games in the Western Conference playoffs, including in their first-round series against the St. Louis Blues that Winnipeg won in a Game 7 double overtime at home.

"We haven't played well on the road at all this playoff, so no better time than now to start," Lowry said.

Hellebuyck shrugged off those results.

"Doesn't matter what happens in the past," he said. "We got one game ahead of us and we just need to focus on winning that one."

Stars veteran forward Matt Duchene is ready to return home.

"We knew this wasn't going to be easy," he said. "We knew they weren't going to roll over on us. We're going to Dallas here and see if we can end it."

The Jets and Stars started the night with each team getting a power play in the game's opening eight minutes. Oettinger whipped out his glove to thwart a Connor one-timer, and Hellebuyck turned aside a Roope Hintz shot.

Dallas came up empty on its second man advantage with six minutes remaining.

Hellebuyck was well-oiled early in the second frame, whipping out his glove to make a close-in save on Stars defenceman Thomas Harley.

The goaltender also had a hand in Scheifele's fourth goal of the playoffs at 6:17.

After Hellebuyck made a poke check to start the four-on-four play, Scheifele was the trailer and shot the puck that first hit Stars forward Wyatt Johnson and then went into the net off Harley's skate.

Winnipeg almost made it 2-0 on the power play with 53 seconds remaining, but it was ruled the puck was gloved into the net.

Jets fans started chanting, "should have kicked it," referring to a controversial game-winning goal by Dallas forward Alexander Petrovic in the Stars' Game 3 win. A review had ruled Petrovic's kick of the puck toward the net was actually propelled in by Hellebuyck's stick-save attempt.

Winnipeg outshot Dallas 11-5 in the middle frame.

The Jets went ahead 2-0 just 31 seconds into a five-on-three early in the third period after Ehlers swept the puck around Oettinger at 2:20.

“We don’t want to be done playing hockey and today showed that,” Ehlers said. “We’ve just got to take that to the next game.”

Namestnikov capitalized with 10 seconds remaining in a man advantage when his high shot beat Oettinger with 7:53 left.

Ehlers sent the puck into an empty net with 45 seconds remaining for his fifth goal of the playoffs.

BEATING THE ODDS

The Jets defied some all-time NHL stats with the victory.

According to the league, teams down 3-1 in a playoff series only have a 44.7 per cent chance of winning Game 5.

It was the second time the Jets were facing elimination in this season’s Stanley Cup playoffs, and the 10th time in franchise history. Their mark is now 3-7.

Global Winnipeg

<https://globalnews.ca/news/11182805/winnipeg-jets-suffocate-stars-4-0-to-avoid-elimination/>

Winnipeg Jets suffocate Stars 4-0 to avoid elimination

By Christian Aumell & Russ Hobson Global News

With their backs against the wall, the Winnipeg Jets rose to the occasion to live to fight another day.

Connor Hellebuyck stopped all 22 shots he faced and the Jets scored a pair of power play goals in a 4-0 Game 5 win over the Dallas Stars Thursday night in Winnipeg, cutting the Stars’ lead in the second-round series to 3-2.

The Jets took the lead six minutes into the second period on a lucky bounce and Nikolaj Ehlers scored twice in the final frame as the Jets put in a complete 60 minute team effort.

“That was everybody,” said Jets head coach Scott Arniel. “That was our whole roster stepping up and knowing what the challenge was in front of us and putting their best game on the ice.

"It was everybody stepping up, not wanting to be eliminated tonight. You could see it right from the puck drop, the opening shift, and we didn't take our foot off the gas."

Mark Scheifele and Vladislav Namestnikov also scored for Winnipeg in the win.

The Jets were just 1-for-18 on the power play in the series heading into the third period, but they scored twice on the man advantage to seal the victory.

The Jets badly outshot the Stars in both the first two periods. The shots were 11-4 for Winnipeg in the first and 11-5 in the middle stanza.

"I think it's everybody just taking it up a notch – winning their battles," said Jets forward Kyle Connor. "So, I think it's just a combination of everybody having that extra gear and that fight and just being dialed in.

"It's the toughest time of year. I thought we stepped up, but obviously job is not done."

Winnipeg is now 6-1 on home ice in the playoffs.

Hellebuyck has been heavily criticized for his play on the road, but he recorded his second shutout of the series on home ice in Game 5.

"It's unfortunate that we got into this position, but I believe in this group," said Hellebuyck. "I believe in myself.

"We're gonna continue to compete and leave it all out there and that's all we can ask for."

Ehlers is clearly running at 100 per cent again after missing the start of the playoffs. He has five goals in the first five games of the series.

"Overall I got my legs going," he said. "And I get them going early and obviously that's a huge part of my game, so that's something that I want to continue doing."

The Jets are now 3-7 all-time in elimination games. They've never won a series when trailing three games to one, but they're now just one road win away from a Game 7 back at home.

"We're going to have to do a carbon copy of that on Saturday," Arniel said. "Exact same thing is going to have to happen."

Winnipeg got a great early chance to get something going when Sam Steel was called for holding 2:49 into the game. The Jets got three shots on goal during the power play but were unable to sustain any real zone time.

Just over a minute after Steel returned to the ice, Adam Lowry was called for cross-checking but Winnipeg got the kill, just like they did when Cole Perfetti took an interference penalty later in the period.

Overall, the Jets were the better team in the first, outshooting the Stars 11-4 but they were unable to beat Jake Oettinger.

Hellebuyck had to make multiple high-quality saves early in the second, including a flashy glove stop on Thomas Harley in close.

Just over six minutes into the second, it was Harley who proved to be in the wrong place at the wrong time as the Jets got on the board first.

With the teams playing 4-on-4, Neal Pionk carried the puck into the Stars end before passing to his left to Connor. He then hit a trailing Scheifele, who faked a shot and held onto the puck before sending it towards the crease where it banked off Harley's skate and into the net.

Winnipeg went into lockdown mode as they tried to hold onto their slim lead. Dallas nearly cracked the code with just over three minutes left in the second but Matt Duchene rang a shot off the connection of the post and crossbar over Hellebuyck's glove.

The Jets got their second power play chance of the game with 2:31 to go in the middle frame when Mason Marchment was given a questionable holding penalty.

The ensuing power play was easily Winnipeg's best in a while as they held the puck in the zone for nearly the full two minutes, getting all kinds of pressure on Dallas. The puck did wind up in the net at one point but it was immediately waved off because Scheifele propelled a fluttering puck into the net with his glove, prompting Jets' fans to chant "should have kicked it," in reference to Alex Petrovic's controversial game-winning goal in Game 3.

Winnipeg continued to maintain a strong edge in shots on goal, outshooting the Stars 10-5 in the second for a two-period edge of 21-9. Dallas managed just one shot over the final 14:34 of the period and had only 23 shot attempts through 40 minutes, their fewest through two periods all season.

Just 1:39 into the third, the Jets got their third power play chance of the night when Petrovic tripped Mason Appleton in the Stars' zone, and just 12 seconds later, Scheifele was tripped by Esa Lindell in almost the exact same spot below the goal line, giving Winnipeg a lengthy 5-on-3.

It was exactly what the doctor ordered for the Jets to finally break through against the stout Stars penalty kill.

Winnipeg won the ensuing faceoff leading to a Scheifele slapshot that caught Oettinger high. Dallas then cleared the puck down the ice but the whistle blew at the same time because Oettinger's mask came off, a big break for the Jets as it kept the faceoff inside the Dallas zone.

Off that faceoff, the puck came back to the point where Scheifele whipped a pass across to Connor. He then sent it down low for Ehlers, who made a quick move to the front of the net before sliding it past Oettinger to make it 2-0 with Winnipeg's second power play goal of the series.

Dallas got their own power play look with just over six minutes gone in the period. They were in desperate need of an offensive spark with just 12 shots on goal to that point, but Hellebuyck turned aside both Stars shots in the two-minute minor as Winnipeg got their third kill of the night.

A fifth power play opportunity for the Jets came just past the midway point when Lian Bichsel was called for roughing and late in the man advantage, the second unit put the game on ice. Alex Lafallo found Namestnikov in the slot and he roofed it past Oettinger to make it 3-0 with 7:53 to go.

Things got feisty just over a minute later when Scheifele and Jamie Benn got tangled up near the Dallas bench. It led to Benn sucker-punching Scheifele in the face, dropping the Jets' star to the ice. Brandon Tanev jumped in to Scheifele's defence which wound up putting the Jets shorthanded, but Winnipeg killed it off to complete an exceptional night of special teams execution.

Dallas pulled Oettinger for an extra attacker with over 3:30 remaining but after some strong defending, Ehlers tracked down a loose puck and put it into the empty net to eliminate any doubt.

Winnipeg would finish the game with a 35-22 edge in shots on goal.

The Jets will have to win a road game for the first time all postseason if they hope to host a Game 7. Game 6 goes Saturday evening in Dallas at 7:00 p.m.

<https://globalnews.ca/news/11183172/analysis-winnipeg-jets-last-stand-playoffs/>

ANALYSIS: Ugly game counts the same as a pretty one for resilient Jets

By John Shannon CJOB

After 116 points and 56 wins, it was really hard to imagine that the Winnipeg Jets' season was down to one last stand. At home, yes. But one last stand.

The resilience, the depth, the goaltending that made this team the Presidents' Trophy winner hadn't been able to navigate through coach Peter DeBoer's Dallas Stars for the

first four games of their second-round series. In many ways, it was bewildering and frustrating. And to be clear, in the other games, a Dallas Star, Mikko Rantanen, had been the best player — and goaltender Jake Oettinger had outduelled Connor Hellebuyck.

Thursday night's 4-0 win over the Stars, which narrowed Dallas's series lead to 3-2, was Game 94 for Scott Arniel's Jets — 82 in the regular season, 12 in the post-season. It wasn't the prettiest game. Far from it. But, the most tense? Maybe. It was a game that at times had little or no flow, as both Dallas and Winnipeg were waiting for the other team to make a mistake. It was hardly a work of art.

But last I checked, ugly wins count the same as pretty wins.

All the way back to October, this team has shown something special. And the fans knew that. Through the adversity of the St. Louis Blues first-round series, this team again showed something special. For sure, the fans knew that.

Winning has been in their DNA all season long. You could tell from the opening faceoff, this team was not prepared to be done. And as Thursday night evolved, once again, they proved this team was different. They were committed. And they were playing for each other. You could see it in Mark Scheifele, and Luke Schenn and Neal Pionk.

On this Thursday night, it would require the will to win, the will to survive. And as much as 15,225 were there to witness a Jets win, something was different. This edition of the Jets has given every ounce of energy to entertain this city and this province. And the fans have shared in the success and exuberance of the team's victories. The team has given its all.

Frankly, after those 116 points, 56 wins and a fantastic season, the team didn't owe anything more to the fans — they owed it to themselves. And yes, they rewarded themselves. The resilience was there, the depth was there, and yes, the goaltending was there.

Now let's see if they can will their way to another Game 7.

Winnipeg Free Press

<https://www.winnipegfreepress.com/breakingnews/2025/05/16/jets-stand-tall>

Jets stand tall

Total team effort keeps season alive as Hellebuyck blanks Stars for second home game in a row

By: Ken Wiebe

It turns out the Winnipeg Jets weren't ready for this ride to be over.

Thanks to a near-perfect defensive effort and an offensive awakening, the Jets were able to play their template game and stave off elimination with a 4-0 victory over the Dallas Stars on Thursday night before a Whiteout crowd of 15,225 at Canada Life Centre.

The Jets are now 2-0 in elimination games, while the Stars are 1-1 when trying to eliminate an opponent.

“No, I don’t think there is one rallying cry. It is just the messaging to come to find the belief in one another. We don’t want our season to be done,” said Jets captain Adam Lowry. “We believe in this group and know what this group is going to accomplish and just get the next one. We live to fight another day. We are thrilled with the result and we now go back to Dallas. Rest, recover, get ready and there’s another big one in front of us.”

This was the epitome of a template game for the Jets at a time when precision was required.

The Jets didn’t give up any easy ice, limited the scoring chances against and goalie Connor Hellebuyck took care of the rest, making 22 saves to record his second shutout of the series.

Hellebuyck was quick to shower praise on the group in front of him.

“We had everyone. Everyone was doing the same things,” said Hellebuyck, who is up to five career playoff shutouts. “Everyone was chipping in, and we got complete buy in. I mean, we always have complete buy in from everyone, but everyone brought it.”

Hellebuyck’s road woes have been well documented, but he’s posted consecutive shutouts on home ice, something he will be looking to build on in Game 6 on Saturday at American Airlines Center.

“Even times when we weren’t helping him out, he’s still looked great,” said Jets left-winger Kyle Connor, who chipped in with a pair of assists. “His confidence never wavers. He’s the type of guy that comes to the rink every day with a smile on his face and gives us his best.

“His game throughout the whole first round, second round, the way he’s approached it, he’s been the same. We’ve been better in front of him and helped him out in a lot of ways. And he’s been awesome when he needs to be.”

In order to force this series to go the distance, the Jets will need to snap a nine-game road losing streak.

Let’s take a closer look at what transpired in Game 5:

POWERFUL STUFF: The Jets' inability to get much going with the man-advantage had been a big storyline through four games, but Nikolaj Ehlers supplied a goal 30 seconds into a two-man advantage (at 2:20 of the third period) and Vladislav Namestnikov added another at 12:07 of the final frame for a valuable insurance marker.

After going one-for-16 through the first four games of the series, this was a massive breakthrough for the Jets power play – which was the top-ranked unit in the NHL during the regular season.

“That power play in the second when they had a lot of chances and didn’t connect, but they built on the momentum and energy in the building. Even them just coming back to the bench with the confidence that they were moving pucks, they were creating,” said Lowry. “Then, looking to the third (period), them getting one to kind of ice the game, that was huge. “

For Ehlers, it was his fourth goal of this series and he added his fifth into an empty net with 45 seconds to go.

A lack of postseason production during his Jets' tenure was something Ehlers was looking to put in the rearview mirror and he's taken some important steps to doing so.

After putting up four goals and 14 points in 37 postseason contests to start his career, Ehlers is up to five goals and eight points in seven games in the 2025 playoffs.

For Namestnikov, it was his first goal of the series and third of the postseason. This one came on a perfect shot after a fantastic pass from Alex Lafallo – who had gone 11 games without recording a point since scoring in the opening game of the first-round series with the St. Louis Blues.

THE BOUNCE: With the teams playing four-on-four early in the second period, the Jets got a fortuitous bounce — two actually — to open the scoring.

Seconds after Hellebuyck used a pokecheck to erase a dangerous scoring chance for Stars centre Wyatt Johnston, the Jets got on the attack and Kyle Connor found Mark Scheifele as the trailer.

Scheifele showed poise and patience and after taking his shot, it caromed off the stick of Johnston and then bounced in off Stars defenceman Thomas Harley.

For Scheifele, it was his fourth goal of the playoffs but his first since Game 1 of the series.

Scheifele was on the receiving end of a punch to the face from Stars captain Jamie Benn at 13:28 of the third period.

Scheifele was knocked to the ice by the blow and wasn't happy with what transpired.

Jets forward Brandon Tanev came to the aid of Scheifele before the punch was delivered and got a roughing minor and 10-minute misconduct.

Benn got a roughing minor and 10-minute misconduct, though somehow Scheifele was assessed a roughing penalty, leaving the Jets shorthanded.

"I wasn't really happy with how that..." said Jets head coach Scott Arniel. "I mean, we're the ones who are up in the game, I didn't think we should have come out of that pileup having the extra minor."

The Jets managed to kill off that minor in what was an inspired performance from a penalty kill that finished the game a perfect four-for-four.

THE (CORRECT) WAVE OFF: The Jets had some outstanding puck movement during a power play late in the second period, one that included a puck going into the net behind Oettinger.

However, the rebound was punched in by the right hand of Scheifele, so the potential goal was correctly disallowed with 52.6 seconds to go in the period.

After the whistle was blown and the call explained by the referee, Jets fans broke into a "should have kicked it" chant – referencing the controversial goal scored by Stars defenceman Alex Petrovic.

Points for creativity for that one.

THE KEY PLAY: Nikolaj Ehlers drove to the net and stuffed the puck in 30 seconds into a two-man advantage to make it 2-0, providing some valuable breathing room.

THE THREE STARS

Connor Hellebuyck, Jets, Made 22 saves for his second shutout of the series.

Nikolaj Ehlers, Jets, Scored a pair of goals, had five shots on goal.

Neal Pionk, Jets, Chipped in a pair of assists, had six hits, two blocked shots and was excellent defensively.

CHOOSING CONTINUITY: With their season on the line, Arniel chose to reunite the three lines that were used most during the course of the campaign.

After mixing things up on the road to adjust to the matchup game, Arniel reunited his top line and put the identity trio of Adam Lowry, Nino Niederreiter and Mason Appleton back together to try and combat Stars winger Mikko Rantanen.

"Obviously, those guys have played together for most of the year," said Arniel. "Having (familiar) lines, that certainly helps."

The plan worked out well, as the Lowry line kept Rantanen, Roope Hintz and Mikael Granlund (who scored a hat trick in Game 4) off the scoreboard.

Scheifele's line saw a lot of time against Matt Duchene's line and was able to generate numerous dangerous scoring chances.

EXTRA, EXTRA: Jets forward Cole Perfetti chipped in an assist on Ehler's empty-netter to give him his first point of this series.

The Jets outhit the Stars 49-32, with Niederreiter, Tanev and Perfetti tying Pionk for the team lead with six. Jets D-man Luke Schenn added five hits and supplied another steady game on the back end.

Both teams went with the same lineup, which meant the Stars used 11 forwards and seven D-men, which allows some additional ice time for Rantanen and allows blue-liner Miro Heiskanen to be eased back into things. Heiskanen, playing just his second game since suffering a knee injury on Jan. 28, was skating very well and ended up with 18:33 of ice time, chipping in four shots on goal and two hits.

<https://www.winnipegfreepress.com/breakingnews/2025/05/15/just-leave-it-all-out-there>

'Just leave it all out there'

Jets want to do their part by giving fans something to cheer about

By: Mike McIntyre

The Winnipeg Jets are fighting for their playoff lives on Thursday night inside Canada Life Centre. But head coach Scott Arniel said the wildfire situation in various parts of the province brings some much-needed perspective their on-ice predicament.

"This is hockey. This is sport. That's real life," Arniel said following the morning skate.

"It's getting close to home for all of us. There's a lot of people that are in tough situations right now. You pray for the safety for all of those people, but also for our first responders, our firefighters, everybody that's in the middle of that."

Arniel, whose ties to this community run all the way back to the early 1980s and the 1.0 Jets era, said the organization is thinking of those on the front lines and everyone potentially in harm's way.

"We hope they're safe and doing what they have to do to protect everybody. It is unfortunate and we've seen it across this country there the last few years," he said, adding the Jets would go out and try to do their part by giving people something to cheer about.

“At the end of the day, hopefully we can go out and win a hockey game for those people,” said Arniel. “We know that they’re all a part of — they may not be in the building (Thursday night) but they are a part of Manitoba and Winnipeg and they’re behind the Jets.”

Is there such a thing as a first-place curse?

That seems to be the case this spring, where all four division champions were in danger of having their Stanley Cup dreams shattered in the second round of the playoffs.

The Pacific Division winning Vegas Golden Knights were eliminated on Wednesday night in five games courtesy of the third-place Edmonton Oilers.

The Jets (Central) and Washington Capitals (Metropolitan) both entered play Thursday trailing 3-1 in their best-of-seven series to the second-place teams in their divisions (Dallas Stars and the Carolina Hurricanes), needing three straight wins to keep playing.

And the top team in the Atlantic during the regular-season, the Toronto Maple Leafs, must win two straight elimination games starting Friday night against the third-place Florida Panthers.

What gives?

“When you get in the playoffs, all that stuff — other than having home ice — kind of goes out the window. Whatever team is up and running and playing their game consistently for five, six, seven games, however long it takes, that’s what it’s about at this time of year,” said Arniel.

“And there’s a different brand of hockey that you often hear guys talk about. You see it some nights through the 82 games, but during the playoffs it’s another animal. It’s a whole different type of hockey. And the teams that can play it consistently the most are the ones who usually are standing at the end.”

Winnipeg, Washington, Vegas and Toronto finished first, second, third and fourth-overall in the NHL standings. Yet none of them may ultimately escape the round of eight.

Luke Schenn has been here before. Thursday night will be the 10th playoff elimination game he’s played over the course of his career.

The two-time Stanley Cup champion had gone 5-4 in those situations, including the dramatic Game 7 triumph earlier this month against St. Louis.

So what advice did the oldest, most experienced player on the Jets have for his teammates?

"It's one game at a time really, that's all it comes down to," Schenn said prior to the pivotal puck drop in downtown Winnipeg.

"Obviously you kind of learn some things throughout the series, make adjustments, and at the end of the day you play for the guy in the room next to you and just leave it all out there. You don't want to hesitate in a game like this, you want to be on your toes, be aggressive, and just it's exciting. These are the games that are exciting, that you play for."

There have been 32 teams to rally from 3-1 deficits to win a series, which equates to about a nine per cent chance. Schenn, who hasn't been on any of those teams, said the key is to not look too far ahead.

"You look at it and you obviously think it's no question a tough task, especially a team that is playing pretty well right now," he said. "You kind of dumb it down a little bit almost and just kind of think of one thing at a time. There's no point thinking about the next one."

The Los Angeles Kings are the last Stanley Cup champions to erase a 3-1 deficit on their way to hockey history, doing so in 2014 in the first round against the San Jose Sharks. They actually went a step further, as they originally trailed 3-0 before winning four straight contests.

"If you want to win the ultimate prize, there's tons of adversity and that's why it's so hard to win," said Schenn, pointing to what the Jets already did against the Blues.

The trade deadline addition was held out of the Winnipeg lineup in Game 3 in Dallas but was back for Games 4 and 5. It sure sounds like that may have been injury-related rather than performance-related.

"There are some other things, I guess, just going on behind the scenes," said Schenn. "Different changes for different reasons and, at the end of the day, I'll keep that between what's going on behind closed doors."

Schenn has been speaking daily with younger brother, Brayden, who is the captain of the St. Louis team which took Winnipeg to the limit in the first round. Brayden is now skating with Team Canada at the World Championships currently being held in Sweden and Denmark.

"I talked to him (Thursday) morning, he's having a good time over there and just obviously paying attention. Obviously he's rooting for the Jets now, there's no question about that," said Schenn.

<https://www.winnipegfreepress.com/breakingnews/2025/05/16/winnipeg-supporters-give-jets-the-fan-advantage>

***Winnipeg supporters give Jets the fan advantage
During playoffs, 'We can really feel it,' says coach Arniel***

By: Mike McIntyre

There's a unique connection between the Winnipeg Jets and the community that can't be easily explained.

But you could see and hear it on Thursday night, for example, when thousands of fans stood outside Canada Life Centre in the pouring rain holding signs with slogans such as "We Believe" and "Jets in 7" while dressed in their most creative costumes as white paint ran down their smiling faces.

Inside the downtown rink — which was sold out for the 15th consecutive game — the roaring crowd seemingly willed the local hockey club to its most important win of the season, a dominant 4-0 victory over the Dallas Stars that loudly staves off elimination and keeps their collective Stanley Cup dreams alive.

It felt, at times, like the Jets had too-many-men on the ice — approximately 15,225 of them, in fact.

"These playoffs, believe me, we can feel it. We can really feel it," Jets coach Scott Arniel said following the game. "There's another wave that comes into this building and it kind of pulls you along. Our guys were riding on it tonight."

Nobody seems more impacted by it than goaltender Connor Hellebuyck, who appeared genuinely moved at the ear-piercing "MVP" chants that followed his pre-game introduction. Hellebuyck, who is nominated for both the Vezina Trophy and Hart Trophy, certainly hasn't played like one at times in these playoffs — especially on the road where he's 0-5.

But Hellebuyck is now 6-1 in his own backyard and went on to post a second straight shutout on home ice.

"You know what? I believe in this group, I believe in myself and I believe in all of our fans," said Hellebuyck. "So we're going to continue to compete and leave it all out there, and that's all we can ask for."

This is already the second-deepest playoff run the 2.0 Jets have ever been on, and there have already been plenty of memorable highlights. If you're coming up with a list of motivating factors for Winnipeg heading into Saturday's must-win Game 6 in Dallas, don't discount the desire to keep the party going back home.

“These fans have been...” began Nikolaj Ehlers, his voice trailing off. “It’s been so special to play here in front of them. And we want to repay them by coming back and playing a Game 7 here.”

Ehlers is a pending unrestricted free agent this summer. If Thursday turns out to be his last home game with the team that drafted him ninth-overall in 2014, he certainly went out in style with a pair of goals. A guy who began the series with just four career playoff goals in 40 games already has five through the first five games of this series.

The Danish winger, like Hellebuyck, understands how much hockey means around here, as do other core players such as Adam Lowry, Mark Scheifele, Kyle Connor and Josh Morrissey. It’s not a coincidence that, with their season on the line, they all came up big.

As Arniel explained post-game, the Jets not only feel they owe it to their incredible fans, but to each other as well.

“Man, there’s a few things. Our leadership in our room is a big one. Our guys, you could feel it, you could hear it, from (Thursday) morning to (Thursday) night. Guys just knowing they had to be at their best,” he said.

“We’d love for a chance to come back and do it in Game 7, but we’ve got a lot of work to ahead of us in Game 6. To reward our fans and to give them a chance to see another game, that’s what we were looking to do.”

Those who lived through the 1.0 era, who experienced enough playoff heartbreak to fill a lifetime and then watched their team disappear to the desert, certainly get it. They relish a second chance to show that hockey truly belongs here, along with a new generation of fans who now eat, breathe and sleep the sport. This spring, so far, has been very good for them.

Those who enjoy taking pot shots at the league’s smallest market, who love to repeat the tired narrative that nobody wants to live or play here, generally do not get it. They pick apart attendance, mock player moves and ridicule the organization’s overall track record.

They don’t have as much material these days, not with the sights and sounds being beamed around the hockey world out of this godforsaken place.

The giant Canadian flag being passed around at the street party during the anthem and the joyous scenes that have become a staple.

The creative chants going on inside the building — “Should Have Kicked It” on Thursday, after a goal by Scheifele was waved off because he batted the puck into the net — might have been the most brilliant yet, an incredible throwback to the controversial Game 3 winner by Dallas defenceman Alex Petrovic.

The acknowledgments before, during and after Game 5 about the wildfire situation in the province provided some much-needed perspective.

"I'm glad it's raining, that helps the fire situation," Arniel said post-game. He understands the community connection better than anyone in the organization, given his deep roots in Winnipeg that go back to the early 1980s.

And, of course, the never-say-die approach of a hockey club that is now 2-0 this year when facing elimination. Opponents are seeing, hearing and feeling it, too.

"We felt like we needed to win this one. You don't want to give them any life at all," veteran Stars forward Matt Duchene said Thursday. "We don't want to come back here for Game 7 obviously up 3-1 at one point."

There's no guarantee the Jets can bring this series back to Winnipeg. Hellebuyck and company are going to have to slay a bit of a personal dragon and snap a nine-game playoff losing streak in enemy territory that now spans three years and four different opponents.

It defies explanation, especially this year when the Jets were the best road team during the regular season. It's too bad the Jets can't simply pack every one of their fans on the charter with them Friday and bring them to Texas to emulate the home-ice experience. Instead, they're going to have to find a way to get this done on their own.

But just imagine the fun around here if they force a winner-take-all showdown on Monday night back at home, sweet home, with a trip to the Western Conference Final on the line.

Might we get another Manitoba Miracle On Ice, such as the one the Jets pulled off in Game 7 against the St. Louis Blues that incredibly, improbably kept their season alive? This time, it would mean becoming just the 33rd team in NHL history to erase a 3-1 series deficit by rattling off three straight wins.

There have already been seven Whiteouts in Winnipeg this spring. Why stop there?

"Playing at home, in front of our crowd, is special," said Ehlers. "We don't want to be done playing hockey."

Winnipeg Sun

<https://winnipeg.sun.com/sports/hockey/nhl/winnipeg-jets/jets-stay-alive-dominant-win-may-16-2025>

Jets stay alive with dominant win over Stars in Game 5

By Paul Friesen

They're not dead, yet.

The Winnipeg Jets staved off elimination from the Stanley Cup playoffs with a convincing, 4-0 home-ice win over Dallas on Thursday, sending the series back to Texas, the Stars still up three games to two.

The score was a repeat of Game 2, although the Jets' performance surpassed even that one, as if they found another gear.

Adam Lowry pointed to one reason.

"Desperation," the Jets captain said. "We don't want our season to be done. That's what we talked about. We live to fight another day. We are thrilled with the result, and we now go back to Dallas."

Whether or not the dominant victory changes the complexion of the series will be determined outside the comforts of home, where the Jets have yet to win a game in five tries this postseason.

But on Thursday they were in overdrive all night, out-skating Dallas virtually from start to finish.

"Well, we were down 3-1 in the series. So that made it pretty easy," Nik Ehlers said after digging deep to score twice, including an empty-netter. "And playing at home, in front of our crowd, is special. Like we've said before, we don't want to be done playing hockey and showed that. We've just got to take that to the next game."

Vlad Namestnikov and Mark Scheifele scored the other Jets goals, while Connor Hellebuyck stopped 22 shots for his second shutout of the series.

But head coach Scott Arniel didn't need to single out anybody.

"That was everybody," Arniel said. "That was our whole roster stepping up and knowing what the challenge was in front of us. And putting their best game on the ice... not wanting to be eliminated. You could see it right from the puck drop, the opening shift.

"We didn't take our foot off the gas."

Their lead was just 1-0, though, early in the third period.

That's when back-to-back Dallas penalties handed them a two-man edge for nearly two full minutes.

They only needed 30 seconds, Ehlers scoring his fourth goal in the last four games – doubling his career playoff output – to give the Jets some breathing room.

Namestnikov made it 3-0 with 7:53 to go and the downtown rink was rocking, the Jets rolling.

The only thing left at that point was the usual silliness sparked by the team that no longer stood a chance.

Scheifele, who had opened the scoring in the second period, was the target of Stars captain Jamie Benn, whose misconduct ended his night early.

The Jets' Brandon Tanev paid the same price for his role in the scrum.

"You play this time of year against one team, there gets to be a little bit of hate out there," Stars coach Pete DeBoer said. "That's okay."

While the Jets dominated the shot count, 35-22, Hellebuyck outshone Jake Oettinger this time.

Winnipeg won all the matchups it had been losing in the series: the special-teams battle (they killed off all four Dallas power plays), the goalie showdown and the quest to shut down the middle of the ice.

They'll try to do it again, and stay alive one more time, in Game 6 in Dallas on Saturday.

"That was a great team win," Hellebuyck said. "Took everyone. And we're going to have to do it again."

If they can pull it off, Winnipeg will play host to a second straight Game 7 on Monday.

The Jets out-shot Dallas 11-4 in the first period, 11-5 in the second.

It was the start they'd hoped for.

That it was scoreless six minutes into the second had to be encouraging for the Stars. They'd survived the expected early onslaught, thanks to another Herculean effort from Oettinger.

It was a fluke goal that finally broke the ice.

Scheifele's pass to the front of the net bounced off a Dallas stick (Wyatt Johnston) and skate (Thomas Harley), leaving Oettinger no chance.

"That's a tough one to give up," DeBoer said. "They played with a desperation level like it was an elimination game. We were a little bit off that."

When Matt Duchene, on a Stars two-on-one, rang one off the iron behind Hellebuyck with some three minutes to go in the second, it began to feel like Lady Luck chose blue over green for at least one night.

"We knew they weren't going to roll over on us," Duchene said. "When they get out to a lead, they're really good at protecting it."

A questionable Dallas penalty – Ehlers used a little tug to do a full 360, drawing a holding penalty – produced a Winnipeg power play that did everything but score in the final two minutes of the second.

The barrage included Oettinger making a skate save with his back to the play and Scheifele knocking the puck into the net with his glove.

It was correctly disallowed, sparking a chant of "should have kicked it" from the crowd, a reference to a controversial Dallas goal in Game 3.

Full marks to the fans and to their team, which never looked back and improved to 6-1 on home ice in these playoffs.

"Believe me, we can feel it," Arniel said of the fan support. "There's another wave that comes into this building and it pulls you along. Our guys were riding on it. We'd love for a chance to come back and do it in Game 7."

"But we've got a lot of work ahead of us in Game 6."

<https://winnipeg.sun.com/sports/hockey/nhl/winnipeg-jets/cant-beat-yourself-up-power-play-drought-not-eating-at-jets-connor>

'Can't beat yourself up': Power-play drought not eating at Jets' Connor

By Paul Friesen

He's led the Winnipeg Jets in goal scoring the last two seasons and is coming off the second 40-goal campaign of his career.

Going into Thursday's must-win against Dallas, Kyle Connor topped the Jets in playoff goals, too, with five.

And while his quick release is a weapon on every power play, Connor, going into Game 5, hadn't scored a man-advantage goal since Dec. 23 – a stretch of 59 games and 146 power plays.

Make that make sense.

"I've just been more of a passer," the winger said early on Thursday. "We have to be able to score a lot of different ways. And maybe I scored a bunch early on and teams started to adjust to that."

Connor did have nine power-play goals in the first 36 games of the season, still good enough for the third-best total on the Jets at the end of the year.

Opposing teams took notice, and Connor has since been pushed away from what they call the flank, moved closer to the blue line with defenceman Josh Morrissey on most power plays.

"You're not scoring a lot of goals from up there," he said. "It's very different. You talk five-on-five, I'm constantly coming through the middle of the ice and finding a spot around the net, and you're able to get that shot off at a way better angle."

"I've scored some from that flank, but a lot of teams, the way they're defending across the league, more times the goal scorer is net-front or the slot guy."

Unless you're Alex Ovechkin from that flank spot, he added. He could have mentioned former teammate Patrik Laine, too.

Winnipeg's power play topped the NHL during the season.

The lack of bite in the second round, though, has hurt the Jets against the Stars.

Their official count was 1-for-16 going into Game 5, although they did manage one more right after a Dallas penalty expired.

Whether it's on the power play or even strength, or even while killing a penalty – Connor was stopped on a shorthanded breakaway in the Game 4 loss in Dallas – the 28-year-old said he refuses to let missed chances eat at him.

Not even when those chances could have swung a critical game the Jets' way, which was the case in Game 4, a 3-1 loss that put his team on the brink of elimination.

"I'm not sitting there, watching the same (video) six times, saying, 'How the heck did I not score?' I don't think it allows me to," he said. "It's not that I don't care. To have success you can't just be beating yourself up over it. That's just how I approach it. It helps me set up for the next opportunity and be in the great mindset of being able to finish the next one."

As fast as everything happens on the ice, overthinking can cause hesitation, he added.

“It’s such a split-second decision with what you need to do that if you hesitate in any way, it hinders you.”

Connor scored four goals in the first five games of the playoffs, but had just one in the last six, going into Thursday.

Trailing Dallas 3-1 in the series, the challenge for players was to balance digging deeper in an effort to do a little more, and not trying to do so much that it takes them out of their game plan.

“What I’ll be telling myself is, ‘Do what you do best.’ Focus on that,” Connor said. “We need everybody to win, so don’t think any one person needs to come over and steal the game.”

Not that there wasn’t a feeling of desperation in the Jets’ dressing room.

“Hey, the season’s almost over,” Connor said. “It’s desperate times.”

<https://winnipeg.sun.com/sports/hockey/nhl/winnipeg-jets/behind-closed-doors-jets-schenn-mum-on-being-scratched-vs-stars>

Behind closed doors: Jets' Schenn mum on being scratched vs Stars

By Paul Friesen

Winnipeg Jets defenceman Luke Schenn has been a mostly open book through these playoffs, detailing the behind-the-scenes back-and-forth in his family when he faced his brother Brayden in the first round against St. Louis.

But the veteran was tight-lipped when asked about the coach’s decision that took him out of Games 2 and 3 against Dallas.

“I’ll keep that between us,” Schenn said early Thursday. “There are some other things just going on behind the scenes. Different changes for different reasons. And at the end of the day, I’ll keep what’s going on behind closed doors.”

After playing the entire seven-game series against St. Louis plus Game 1 against the Stars, which the Jets lost, Schenn was scratched for the next two.

Josh Morrissey had returned to the lineup for Game 2, and head coach Scott Arniel went with Haydn Fleury and Colin Miller for his third pair.

The Jets won Game 2, lost Game 3 and Schenn returned, replacing Miller, for Game 4 in Dallas, a 3-1 Jets loss that left them on the brink of elimination.

The 35-year-old had one assist in his nine games going into Thursday night's fifth game, a must-win for the Jets.

Despite missing two games, he ranked second on the team in playoff hits with 45 going into Thursday's game, nine less than captain Adam Lowry

He carried a plus-minus of -9, but teammates say his value goes far beyond numbers.

"Great leadership, on and off the ice," fellow defenceman Dylan DeMelo said. "He's been around, been through trials and tribulations, been in tough markets, and he's won a few Cups. So we really value his experience."

Thursday would mark Schenn's 57th career playoff game.

He won Stanley Cups with Tampa Bay in 2020 and '21.

The Jets picked him up at the trade deadline, bringing him to his ninth NHL team with one year left on his contract.

He's still in regular contact with his brother, the Blues captain now with Team Canada at the World Championship in Sweden.

"I've been to the world championships a handful of times," Schenn said. "Guys always pay attention to playoff hockey, what's going on, have games on. They're talking about it. He's rooting for the Jets now, there's no question about that."