

**Winnipegjets.com**

<https://www.nhl.com/jets/news/three-things-jets-season-comes-to-an-emotional-end>

### ***Three things - Jets season comes to an emotional end***

The Winnipeg Jets 2025 Stanley Cup Playoff journey came to an end in heartbreaking fashion in Dallas as they fell 2-1 in overtime to the Stars at American Airlines Center. Mark Scheifele scored the only goal for the Jets who lost in six games to the Stars, Connor Hellebuyck was outstanding in the loss making 18 saves including a game saver on Mikko Rantanen. The Jets also lost defenceman Josh Morrissey after he fell awkwardly in the corner close to the end of the second period. Dallas will head to the West Conference Final for the third consecutive season to face the Edmonton Oilers.

#### ***FOR BRAD***

Mark Scheifele lost his father Brad on Saturday morning and made the decision to play in Game 6. After a scoreless first period, Scheifele got the Jets off to a dream start when he jumped on a Kyle Connor rebound and put the puck between Jake Oettinger's pads for a 1-0 Winnipeg lead. Scheifele finished the game playing 18:51, had the goal and a team leading nine hits. After the game, Neal Pionk tried to describe what he and his teammates did to help Scheifele through the night.

"Yeah, did everything we could to give words of encouragement," said Pionk.

"And for him to play tonight and play the way he did is flat out, one of the most courageous things I've ever seen. So, all the credit to him."

#### ***SO CLOSE***

With under nine minutes left in the third period and the score tied at one it looked like the Jets had the go-ahead goal. Kyle Connor worked his way into the slot and passed over to Adam Lowry who sent a perfect pass to Mason Appleton, Appleton settled the puck and ripped a shot at the open net, but Jake Oettinger lunged over to save the day for Dallas.

#### ***HEARTBREAKING END***

With 15 seconds left in the third period, Scheifele was forced to trip Sam Steel, or the Stars forward would have had a breakaway. The game would go into overtime and 1:33 into the period, Tyler Seguin found Thomas Harley in the high slot and Harley beat Hellebuyck for the series winning goal. Jets captain Adam Lowry made his way over to the penalty box to be there for Scheifele and the rest of the Jets made sure to support him as well. An emotional finish to a sad day for the 32-year-old and the season for the Winnipeg Jets.

"Guys have to be awfully proud of that accomplishment. How we battled through the playoffs, lots of things happened. We had to go through a lot of bodies," said Scott Arniel.

“Again, losing Josh tonight was a big blow. Just a lot of circumstances that happened. Our leadership within our group kept grinding everybody and pushing everybody. It's growth. It hurts a lot. But we lost to a great team.”

## **NHL.com**

<https://www.nhl.com/news/why-winnipeg-jets-were-eliminated-from-2025-playoffs>

### ***Jets eliminated due to struggles on road, lack of secondary scoring Winnipeg goes 0-6 away from home in playoffs, Vilardi held to 1 goal after return from injury***

By Tracey Myers

The Winnipeg Jets were eliminated from the Stanley Cup Playoffs by the Dallas Stars in a 2-1 overtime loss in Game 6 of the Western Conference Second Round at American Airlines Center in Dallas on Saturday.

The Jets (56-22-4) were the No. 1 seed from the West and won the Presidents' Trophy, awarded annually to the team with the most points (116) at the end of the regular season.

Winnipeg advanced to the second round for the first time since 2021.

#### ***The skinny***

Potential unrestricted free agents: Nikolaj Ehlers, F; Brandon Tanev, F; Mason Appleton, F; Dominic Toninato, F; Haydn Fleury, D, Chris Driedger, G

Potential restricted free agents: Gabriel Vilardi, F; Morgan Barron, F; Rasmus Kupari, F; Dylan Samberg, D

Potential 2025 Draft picks: 5

Here are five reasons the Jets were eliminated:

#### ***1. Hellebuyck struggles***

Connor Hellebuyck was looking to change the narrative on how he fares in the postseason. He went from good to great at home, highlighted by his last two performances at Canada Life Centre, 4-0 wins in Games 2 and 5.

But the road was a different story.

Hellebuyck was good in Game 6 on Saturday, but he was pulled in each of the three games in St. Louis during the first round and finished 0-6 on the road with a 5.06 goals-

against average and an .809 save percentage on the road. He was 6-7 this postseason with a 3.08 GAA, an .866 save percentage and two shutouts in 13 starts.

## *2. Tough road*

The Jets were solid in the playoffs at Canada Life Centre (6-1). Elsewhere? Not so much. Winnipeg, which had an NHL-best 26 road wins during the regular season, went 0-6 and was outscored 27-9 in two rounds.

Home-ice advantage allowed the Jets to get away with losing the three road games in the first round. But with Dallas winning Game 1 of the second round, the Jets had to find a way to win on the road.

They couldn't and haven't won on the road in the playoffs since Game 1 of the 2023 first round, 5-1 at the Vegas Golden Knights.

## *3. Special teams issues*

Winnipeg entered the playoffs with the League's best power play (28.9 percent). It didn't translate enough to the postseason, where it went 8-for-43 (18.6 percent), 12th among playoff teams.

The penalty kill was a bit better (31-for-42, 73.8 percent), ninth among playoff teams) but was 12 seconds short of completing the most crucial kill in overtime on Saturday.

## *4. Lack of depth scoring*

Forward Kyle Connor led the Jets with 17 points (five goals, 12 assists) in 13 games. Center Mark Scheifele was next with 11 points (five goals, six assists) in 11 games. There's no doubt the offense flowed through these two, right to the end when Scheifele scored the Jets' lone goal in Game 6, with Connor getting the primary assist.

But they lacked secondary scoring; forward Gabriel Vilardi, who scored 27 goals in 71 regular-season games, had one goal in nine playoff games; forward Alex Lafallo, who scored 15 goals during the regular season, had one in 13 playoff games.

## *5. Injuries*

The Jets had to weather some tough injuries throughout the playoffs. They didn't have Ehlers or Vilardi to start the first round. Vilardi, who missed the final 11 regular-season games with an upper-body injury, came back in Game 5 against the Blues. Ehlers, who sustained a lower-body injury on April 3 and reaggravated it April 12, returned for Game 6 against St. Louis.

Scheifele was out for Games 6 and 7 against the Blues after sustaining an undisclosed injury in Game 5. Defenseman Josh Morrissey missed most of Game 7 of the first round with an undisclosed injury sustained in the first period of that game. Morrissey sustained what looked to be a left knee injury in Game 6 on Saturday, and coach Scott Arniel said it wasn't good. It's unknown how the injury will impact Morrissey's offseason routine.

<https://www.nhl.com/news/winnipeg-jets-praise-mark-scheifele-effort-after-death-of-father>

***Jets proud of Scheifele's emotional Game 6 effort after death of father  
Forward scores for Winnipeg, which is eliminated by Stars in Western 2nd Round***

By Tracey Myers

DALLAS -- As Mark Scheifele came out of the penalty box on Saturday, his Winnipeg Jets teammates surrounded him, each taking a turn to hug their star center who was playing after his father, Brad, passed away unexpectedly on Friday.

As the Jets started to line up to shake hands with the Dallas Stars after they were eliminated in overtime, Scheifele hugged Connor Hellebuyck, his head buried in the goalie's shoulder.

"For him to go through what he had to go through, and perform the way he did, so proud of him. And his dad would be so proud of him," Winnipeg coach Scott Arniel said after the Stars defeated the Jets 2-1 in overtime of Game 6 of the Western Conference Second Round at American Airlines Center on Saturday.

The end for the Jets came when Stars defenseman Thomas Harley scored a power-play goal at 1:33 of overtime. Scheifele was in the box after he was called for tripping Stars forward Sam Steel with 15 seconds remaining in regulation.

"(Scheifele) wanted to win so bad. The circumstances, so, so tough," Arniel said. "Being in a situation like that, I couldn't imagine it. The pro that he is, the leader that he is, the year that he had with us, his dad and his family would be very proud of him."

The Stars advance to the Western Conference Final for the third straight season. They'll host the Edmonton Oilers in Game 1 at American Airlines Center on Wednesday (8 p.m. ET; ESPN+, ESPN, SN, TVAS, CBC).

Scheifele had 11 points (five goals, six assists) in 11 Stanley Cup Playoff games, second on the Jets to linemate, left wing Kyle Connor with 17 points (five goals, 12 assists) in 13 games. Scheifele missed Games 6 and 7 of the first round against the St. Louis Blues after sustaining an undisclosed injury in the first period of Game 5.

The Jets got the news on Brad Scheifele when they got to American Airlines Center on Saturday morning. Arniel went back to the team hotel immediately to talk with Mark Scheifele. About two and a half hours prior to the game, Arniel told the media Scheifele would play in Game 6 because, "Mark really wants to play for (his dad)."

His teammates were there for him the whole time.

"I know we have a great group here," Jets defenseman Neal Pionk said. "So that was what I knew going in, once we found out the news, that he was going to have a great support group and we were going to be there for him and through the highs and the lows, and obviously today was a real low.

"Yeah, did everything we could to give words of encouragement, and for him to play tonight and play the way he did is flat out, one of the most courageous things I've ever seen. So, all the credit to him.

Indeed, it was Scheifele who got the Jets going, scoring his fifth goal of the postseason to give them a 1-0 lead at 5:28 of the second period. It was an opportunity for Scheifele to smile as his teammates surrounded him for a positive reason, the goal undoubtedly for his dad.

Scheifele logged 18:51 of ice time, scored a goal, won 7 of 12 face-offs and led the Jets with nine hits.

"That's tough," said Steel, who scored Dallas' first goal on Saturday. "We find out (about Scheifele's dad) today, a group of us, when we had lunch, and we were all just absolutely gutted for him. I'm not sure I could do what he did tonight. It's pretty brave of him. He played his heart out."

It was a tough end to the season for the Jets. They had high aspirations after winning the Presidents' Trophy, awarded annually to the team that finishes with the most points in the regular season. They fought through key injuries. They mustered a tremendous comeback in the final two minutes of regulation in Game 7 of the first round to get the opportunity to play the Stars.

Saturday's end was cruel in so many ways for the Jets and especially for Scheifele. He wanted to play for his late father, wanted to be there to help the Jets get to the conference final for the first time since 2018, and he put forth a tremendous effort to try and do that. It wasn't to be.

"Heartbreaking," Jets captain Adam Lowry said. "You know, we felt like we had a great regular season, we felt like we had a team that could go on a run. For it to end the way it did and everything else surrounding the day, it's just a lot of emotion.

"It's tough to put into words what Mark went through today. Gets a huge goal for us, plays a heck of a game, and it ends the way it does. Just emotional, heavy. Really proud of the group we had. The commitment, the no quit, a lot of things that a good team needs. We ran into a great Dallas team. We couldn't find that extra one tonight and that was the difference."

On Sunday morning, Florida Panthers coach Paul Maurice, who coached Scheifele in Winnipeg for nine seasons (2013-22), expressed how proud he was of how the latter handled himself. The Panthers visit the Toronto Maple Leafs in Game 7 of the Eastern

Conference Second Round on Sunday (7:30 p.m. ET; CBC, TVAS, SN, TNT, truTV, MAX).

“On behalf of myself and my family and the entire Florida Panther organization, our deepest sympathies and condolences to Mark Scheifele, his family and the Winnipeg Jet family,” Maurice said. “The Scheifele family is very close and I think just as an observation from last night, the display of courage and focus for Mark to do what he did and possibly an even greater display of the power of the family, of the Scheifele family but the Winnipeg Jet family, for him to have played with his brothers. And that extends out to (Jets coach) Scott Arniel and (GM) Kevin Cheveldayoff and (executive chairman) Mark Chipman and all the Winnipeg Jet fans built a culture of family there that allowed that inspiration to happen. So, again, a thank you to them for that display and also our condolences to them.”

<https://www.nhl.com/news/topic/playoffs/2025/series-k-news/winnipeg-jets-dallas-stars-game-6-recap-may-17>

***Harley scores in OT, Stars eliminate Jets in Game 6 of West 2nd Round  
Defenseman wins it with power-play goal at 1:33; will face Oilers in conference final***

By Taylor Baird

DALLAS -- Thomas Harley scored a power-play goal 1:33 into overtime, and the Dallas Stars eliminated the Winnipeg Jets with a 2-1 win in Game 6 of the Western Conference Second Round at American Airlines Center on Saturday.

With Mark Scheifele in the penalty box for tripping Sam Steel on a breakaway with 15 seconds left in the third period, Harley won it with a one-timer from the high slot off Tyler Seguin's pass from below the goal line.

“It was all pretty quick,” Harley said. “It happened pretty quick. I do remember jumping up pretty high [in celebration]. I think I beat my record at training camp with that one. But [Seguin] made a great play behind the net with his head up. I just tried to put it across and it went in. After that, just happy thoughts.”

Dallas will face the Edmonton Oilers, who are the No. 3 seed from the Pacific Division, in a rematch of the conference final from last season, won by the Oilers in six games. Game 1 of the best-of-7 series will be here on Wednesday (8 p.m. ET; ESPN+, ESPN, SN, TVAS, CBC).

It is the Stars' third straight trip to the conference final; they lost to the Vegas Golden Knights in six games in 2023.

Steel scored, and Jake Oettinger made 22 saves for Dallas, which is the No. 2 seed from the Central Division.

Scheifele scored, and Connor Hellebuyck made 18 saves for Winnipeg, the No. 1 seed from the Central and the Presidents' Trophy winner as the team with the best record in the regular season.

"I can't imagine there's a better-coached team in the League than what that coaching staff did with that group," Dallas coach Pete DeBoer said of Winnipeg. "I'm a little biased because we work in the West, but, won the Presidents' Trophy. They give you nothing, they play hard, they play as a team, great leadership. But I think they should win the Jack Adams (Award, for NHL coach of the year) running away in my opinion with the job they did this year. So, hats off to those guys too."

Scheifele learned Saturday morning that his father, Brad, had died.

"Heartbreaking," Jets captain Adam Lowry said. "You know, we felt like we had a great regular season, we felt like we had a team that could go on a run. For it to end the way it did and everything else surrounding the day, it's just a lot of emotion. It's tough to put into words what Mark went through today. Gets a huge goal for us, plays a heck of a game, and it ends the way it does. Just emotional, heavy."

"Really proud of the group we had. The commitment, the no quit. A lot of things that a good team needs. We ran into a great Dallas team. We couldn't find that extra one tonight and that was the difference."

Scheifele gave the Jets a 1-0 lead at 5:28 of the second period during a delayed penalty, scoring on a rebound from the low slot that beat Oettinger through the five-hole.

"I know we have a great group here," Winnipeg defenseman Neal Pionk said, "so that was what I knew going in once we found out the news, that he was going to have a great support group and we were going to be there for him and through the highs and the lows, and obviously today was a real low. Yeah, did everything we could to give words of encouragement, and for him to play tonight and play the way he did is flat-out one of the most courageous things I've ever seen. So, all the credit to him."

Steel tied it 1-1 at 11:12, one-timing a rebound over the glove from high in the right face-off circle after Hellebuyck made a save on Harley.

"It was nice to get one there going into the third tied up," Steel said. "Hellebuyck played unbelievable for the last however long. It felt like we couldn't get one past him there for a bit, so it was nice to get one. And then going into the third with 20 minutes, tied game to win the series. It's always nice to chip in and when you go on runs like this. You're going to need all of the lineup to score, so I'm happy I could be that guy tonight."

Oettinger made a diving save to his right on Mason Appleton's shot from a sharp angle at 11:22 of the third to keep the game tied.

"I just saw that open net there but somehow [Oettinger] got it. Great save by him," Dallas defenseman Miro Heiskanen said. "I think we played well. There was a little more tougher period, maybe first 10 minutes of the second, Jake made some great saves. We stuck with it and got the goals we needed and got the win."

Winnipeg defenseman Josh Morrissey left the game late in the second period holding his left knee after getting tied up along the boards with Dallas forward Mikko Rantanen. Jets coach Scott Arniel said Morrissey is "banged up pretty good."

"Guys have to be awfully proud of that accomplishment," Arniel said of his team's season. "How we battled through the playoffs, lots of things happened. We had to go through a lot of bodies. Again, losing Josh tonight was a big blow. Just a lot of circumstances that happened. Our leadership within our group kept grinding everybody and pushing everybody. It's growth. It hurts a lot."

"But we lost to a great team. We lost to a team that was in our rearview mirror all year long."

*NOTES:* Harley (23 years, 271 days) became the third-youngest defenseman in NHL history to score a series-winning goal in overtime, following Babe Pratt (21 years, 77 days; Game 2 of the 1937 NHL Quarterfinals) and Bobby Orr (22 years, 51 days; Game 4 of the 1970 Stanley Cup Final). ... DeBoer tied Mike Keenan (96) for the fifth-most playoff wins by a coach in NHL history. He also got his 19th career series win to pass Jon Cooper, Darryl Sutter, Keenan and Toe Blake for sole possession of sixth place. ... The Jets were 0-6 on the road this season in the Stanley Cup Playoffs and have lost 10 straight road playoff games dating to 2023.

<https://www.nhl.com/news/topic/playoffs/2025/series-k-news/dallas-stars-have-something-special-heading-into-western-conference-final>

***Stars may have 'something special going on' heading into West Final against Oilers***

***Eliminate Jets in 2nd round despite key players missing or slumping***

By Nicholas J. Cotsonika

DALLAS -- Is this the year for the Dallas Stars?

They advanced to the Western Conference Final for the third straight season Saturday when they eliminated the Winnipeg Jets 2-1 in overtime in Game 6 of the second round at American Airlines Center.

After losing in six games to the Vegas Golden Knights in 2023 and the Edmonton Oilers in 2024, they have reason to believe this time will be different. They get another shot at the Oilers, with Game 1 here Wednesday (8 p.m. ET; ESPN+, ESPN, SN, TVAS, CBC).



"I think we've got something special going on," Stars coach Pete DeBoer said. "We're going to have to prove it again. We've been to this spot the last two years and haven't taken the next step, so that's the challenge."

Dallas just defeated two of the best teams in the NHL despite adversity.

In the first round, the Stars overcame the Colorado Avalanche, who won the Stanley Cup in 2022, added depth during the season and have two of the top players in the world in center Nathan MacKinnon and defenseman Cale Makar.

They did it in seven games without Miro Heiskanen, their No. 1 defenseman, and forward Jason Robertson, who led them with 35 goals in the regular season, due to lower-body injuries.

In the second round, the Stars grounded the Jets, who won the Presidents' Trophy as the NHL's top regular-season team and had Connor Hellebuyck, a finalist for the Vezina Trophy, which goes to the NHL's best goalie, and the Hart Trophy, which goes to the League's most valuable player.

They did it even though Robertson didn't score in six games and Heiskanen came back for only three games, each still getting up to speed. They did it even though some key forwards have struggled to score, including Jamie Benn (one goal in 13 games), Evgenii Dadonov (one), Mason Marchment (one) and Matt Duchene (none).

"It's hard to believe we're halfway, right?" DeBoer said. "It sure feels like we've been through a lot. But that's the beauty of the NHL playoffs. We'll take a couple days [to rest]. I think we've got a lot left."

Dallas is different this season most notably because of the addition of forward Mikko Rantanen, who leads the Stanley Cup Playoffs with 19 points (nine goals, 10 assists) in 13 games.

But the Stars also added forward Mikael Granlund, who has seven points (four goals, three assists) in 13 games, and defenseman Cody Ceci, who plays an important role.

They have gotten big goals from unsung heroes like defenseman Alexander Petrovic and forwards Colin Blackwell and Sam Steel. It was Steel who finally broke through at 11:12 of the second period Saturday, after Dallas failed to cash in on several chances and fell behind 1-0.

"It's always nice to chip in, and when you go on runs like this, you're going to need guys all over the lineup to score," Steel said. "So, happy I could be that guy tonight."

The Stars have had excellent special teams and gotten elite goaltending from Jake Oettinger, who made a spectacular save to keep the game 1-1 at 11:22 of the third

period Saturday, diving to his right across the crease to rob Jets forward Mason Appleton.

Oettinger is 8-5 with a 2.47 goals-against average and .919 save percentage in the playoffs. In this series, he went 4-2 with a 2.02 GAA and .929 save percentage, while Hellebuyck went 2-4 with a 2.20 GAA and .905 save percentage.

“Our goaltending’s been exceptional,” DeBoer said. “Listen, he just went head to head with maybe the MVP of the League and what everyone is saying is the best goaltender in the world -- and he probably was this year -- in Hellebuyck, and he went toe to toe with him, nose to nose with him, the entire series. So great character, gut-check by Jake, and he’s delivering at a real key time for us.”

What if Heiskanen and Robertson return to form? What if players like Benn, Dadonov, Duchene and Marchment start scoring?

“I think we have a deep team, a lot of guys who probably still got better,” Heiskanen said. “As a team, I think we’ve still got another gear, and hopefully we can do that in the next round.”

We’ll see. The Oilers have two of the best players in the world in forwards Connor McDavid and Leon Draisaitl, and they’ve added depth. They look like they’re on a mission after losing to the Florida Panthers in Game 7 of the Stanley Cup Final last season.

“It’s up to us as a group to take that next step,” Oettinger said. “I think we should feel great about what we’ve done with the adversity we’ve faced. Yeah, I think our best hockey is yet to come.”

**Sportsnet.ca**

<https://www.sportsnet.ca/nhl/article/emotional-handshake-line-caps-heartbreaking-day-for-scheifele-jets/>

### ***Emotional handshake line caps heartbreaking day for Scheifele, Jets***

By Iain MacIntyre

DALLAS – The handshake line at the end of a Stanley Cup Playoff series is one of the greatest traditions in hockey – a display of empathy and decency in a sport that can be savage. If only the rest of humanity was so willing to make peace.

But rarely has a receiving line of opposing National Hockey League players been as poignant, both brilliant and sad, as it was Saturday night when the Winnipeg Jets lined up to shake hands with the Dallas Stars after losing 2-1 in overtime.

It wasn't the end of their season that was so powerful – although that, too, is devastating for a Jets team that won the Presidents' Trophy and had legitimate aspirations of advancing to the Western Conference Final and then the Stanley Cup – but the start of the mourning.

Mark Scheifele, the longest-tenured Jet, played Game 6 despite learning Saturday morning that his father, Brad, had passed away back home in Ontario.

Scheifele scored Winnipeg's only goal on Saturday, but was in the penalty box in overtime when Dallas defenceman Thomas Harley ripped a slapshot past goalie Connor Hellebuyck at 1:33 to send the Stars to their third straight conference final.

When Scheifele emerged from the penalty box, despondent and distraught, the competitive shield against grief removed, he was gathered in by Jets teammates who took turns hugging him. And then, in that beautiful receiving line, so did the Stars.

And the first and longest embrace was with Dallas captain Jamie Benn, who had punched Scheifele in the face near the end of Winnipeg's 4-0 win in Game 5 on Thursday, knocking him to the ice and earning a \$5,000 fine from the NHL.

"I just told him that I respected him as a competitor, and as a hockey player," Benn told us later. "You can grow to not like guys throughout a playoff series. But when it's all over, I told him I respect him as a player. I wanted to let him know that it took a lot of courage for him to play today in a tough situation. I'm not sure too many guys would have done that in his situation. So, I respected it. I know every guy in our room respected it, and our whole organization respected it.

"I wanted to tell him I cared about him."

Benn was Scheifele's chief enemy on the ice. So, imagine how the Jets teammates felt about him.

"Heartbreaking," Winnipeg captain Adam Lowry said. "You know, we felt like we had a great regular season. We felt like we had a team that could go on a run and for it to end the way it did, and everything else that was surrounding the day, it's just a lot of emotion.

"It's tough to put into words what Mark went through today. (He scores) a huge goal for us, plays a heck of a game, and it ends the way it does. Just emotional, heavy. Just really proud of the group we had, the commitment, the no quit. We ran into a great Dallas team, but we couldn't find that extra one tonight, and that was the difference."

Later, after stopping briefly to fight back tears, Lowry said: "Just an awful day for him. You want to give him the strength, you want to get that kill so bad. We just couldn't do it."

Scheifele's tripping penalty with 15 seconds remaining in regulation time was the only penalty of the game. His shot had been blocked inside the Dallas blueline by Sam Steel, who was turning it into a breakaway the other way when Scheifele lunged and clipped him.

In a series when most of the Stars' top forwards were quiet, Steel had tied the game off a big rebound at 11:12 of the middle period, less than six minutes after Scheifele had opened scoring by sliding the puck through Jake Oettinger's pads after the Dallas goalie stopped Kyle Connor from the slot.

Besides his team's lone goal, Scheifele registered nine hits in 18:51 of ice time.

"You know, for him to play tonight and play the way he did is flat out one of the most courageous things I've ever seen," Winnipeg defenceman Neal Pionk said. "So all the credit to him."

"I can't stress enough how proud I am of our group," Jets coach Scott Arniel, who spent the day with Scheifele at the team's hotel, told reporters. "When things are hard and things are tough, you know, especially this year, we haven't cowered away from it. We faced it, you know."

"I'm just so proud of them and how close we are. Some things have happened over the last couple of years, and just us being a tight-knit group, being family, I really saw it on display today. We see it at different points over the course of the season; might be injuries and it might be personal stuff that happens. But everybody – everybody – wanted to win for Mark tonight. Just the heartbreak at the end of it, how it ended, it's a tough one."

Arniel said before the game that the Jets were rallying around Scheifele, determined to win for their teammate and his dad and force a Game 7 Monday in Manitoba.

Their chances of doing so were hurt considerably when No. 1 defenceman Josh Morrissey suffered a significant knee injury late in the second period as he pulled down Stars forward Mikko Rantanen.

Still, after getting outplayed in the first period, the Jets outshot the Stars 19-11 in the final 40 minutes of regulation time but could get only one puck past Oettinger, who made a lunging, desperation save on Nikolaj Ehlers halfway through the third period.

And the Jets couldn't kill Scheifele's penalty against a Stars power play that was a major factor in the series.

"Just before I take questions, I want to acknowledge a couple things," Dallas coach Peter DeBoer said at the start of his press conference. "Condolences to Mark Scheifele and his family. I consider myself a Kitchener guy (DeBoer coached the OHL Rangers in Scheifele's hometown); his family's from Kitchener. Just courageous, what he did

tonight. I'm sure his dad would have been really proud of him and what he did. Tough night for him and anybody in the hockey world that has been in a situation like that. So, hats off to him. Courageous young man.

"The second thing I want to acknowledge is the Winnipeg Jets. I can't imagine there's a better-coached team in the league. I'm a little biased because we work in the West, but (they) won the Presidents' Trophy. They give you nothing, they play hard, they play as a team, great leadership. I think (Arniel) should win the Jack Adams running away, in my opinion, with the job they did this year. So, hats off to those guys too."

One of the last Dallas players to put his arm around Scheifele in the handshake line was Mason Marchment, who ran over Scheifele on Saturday night and was a menace to the Jets all series. Marchment lost his own father, former NHLer Bryan, three years ago.

"You know, we battle out there," Marchment explained. "I'm going to keep it between us (what was said) but I thought it was necessary to kind of share what I went through, and what helped me get over it. Well, not over, but get through it. I wish nothing but the best for him."

Hockey. This game. Our game.

<https://www.sportsnet.ca/nhl/video/emotions-high-as-jets-unable-to-kill-penalty-for-scheifele-in-ot/>

### ***Emotions high as Jets unable to kill penalty for Scheifele in OT (VIDEO)***

Sportsnet's Sean Reynolds details the difficult day for Mark Scheifele, how he impacted Game 6, and how the rest of the Winnipeg Jets desperately wanted to survive the overtime penalty kill that ultimately ended their season.

<https://www.sportsnet.ca/nhl/video/why-the-winnipeg-jets-window-is-still-yet-to-be-closed/>

### ***Why the Winnipeg Jets' window is still yet to be closed (VIDEO)***

Elliotte Friedman joins Martine Gaillard and Faizal Chamisa after Game 6 to discuss an emotional 24 hours for Mark Scheifele, the Stars getting hot at the right time, and why the Winnipeg Jets aren't going away anytime soon.

<https://www.sportsnet.ca/nhl/video/should-stars-steel-have-gotten-a-penalty-shot-on-scheifeles-penalty/>

### ***Should Stars' Steel have gotten a penalty shot on Scheifele's penalty? (VIDEO)***

The Hockey Central panel debate whether or not Dallas Stars forward Sam Steel should have been awarded a penalty shot after Mark Scheifele was called for tripping in the dying seconds of the third period.

### **The Athletic**

<https://www.nytimes.com/athletic/6364590/2025/05/17/jets-stars-game-6/>

### ***Stars eliminate Jets in Game 6 on Thomas Harley's overtime goal: Takeaways***

By Murat Ates and Mark Lazerus

DALLAS — It's a Western Conference final rematch.

Thomas Harley scored a power-play goal at 1:33 of overtime to give the Dallas Stars a 2-1 victory over the Winnipeg Jets in Game 6 of the second-round series. The goal gave the Stars a 4-2 series win and sent them back to the conference final, where they'll face Connor McDavid, Leon Draisaitl and the Edmonton Oilers for the second straight spring.

The Stars never seem to make it easy on themselves, and Game 6 was no exception. Despite an utterly dominant first period, they found themselves down 1-0 early in the second period when Winnipeg's Mark Scheifele — mere hours after the death of his father, Brad — tucked a Kyle Connor rebound between Jake Oettinger's pads for an emotional and inspirational goal.

But Dallas is as well-equipped to handle the wild emotional swings of playoff hockey as just about any team in the West, and that proved true again in Game 6, as Sam Steel beat Connor Hellebuyck with a rising one-timer of a Thomas Harley rebound to tie it up less than six minutes later.

And before Harley could win the game, Oettinger had to save the game. He did so at 11:28 of the third period, when Adam Lowry sent a cross-slot pass to Mason Appleton, who had a yawning cage to shoot into. But Appleton didn't quite get all of it, and Oettinger made a spectacular dive to his right to keep the puck out of the net. Appleton put his hands on his head in disbelief.

"We have a mature group," said Stars coach Pete DeBoer, who won't have to put his astounding 9-0 record in Game 7s on the line again. "We have a weathered, battle-tested group that's been through these before. They understand (that) to waste energy overreacting to the highs or the lows in the playoffs is not helpful. That's our group, the

key guys in our room, having been on long runs before. (They) understand that. That's a big part of playoff hockey."

Oettinger made 22 saves to get the better of Hellebuyck, who made 18 saves.

The Jets, the Presidents' Trophy winners, had their season ended with their 10th consecutive playoff road loss.

Here are some takeaways:

### *Scheifele scores*

Scheifele was already the main storyline of the night, by virtue of tragedy. He became the man of the moment by burying a rebound goal that lifted the Jets to a 1-0 lead in the second period.

Scheifele snuck behind Alex Petrovic to finish off Kyle Connor's rebound attempt just over five minutes into the period.

"Mark will be playing tonight," Scott Arniel said before the game. "As he said, that'd be the wishes of his dad. He would have wanted him to play ... He's with us, and Mark really wants to play for him."

It was a fitting goal, a moment of tribute that the whole hockey world — save Dallas, perhaps — could celebrate.

Dallas scored its overtime goal with 13 seconds remaining on Scheifele's tripping penalty, which prevented a breakaway. When he came out of the penalty box, Scheifele's teammates huddled around him, hugging him as the series-ending handshakes began.

### *Squandered opportunities*

At the end of the first period, the Stars had a ludicrous 15-1 edge in scoring chances and a 6-0 lead in high-danger chances, per Natural Stat Trick. And yet the score was 0-0. Not only that, Dallas had just six shots on goal. How? The Stars simply couldn't hit the net.

In a dominant but sloppy and downright bizarre opening period, Dallas probably should have scored a handful of goals. But Wyatt Johnston failed to complete a wraparound when he had Hellebuyck beat. Evgenii Dadonov — who was playing like his hair was on fire — missed the net twice on Grade-A looks. Tyler Seguin sent a backhander wide after he put himself in position to have a wide-open net to shoot at (to be fair, Schenn did manage to get in the way and up the degree of difficulty). And that's just a small sampling of the squandered opportunities.

Dallas had 24 shot attempts in the period, and missed the net on 11 of them, with seven more getting blocked. And the few chances that did reach the net — such as Matt

Duchene's one-timer off a Mikko Rantanen feed — were stopped by Hellebuyck. Winnipeg was extremely fortunate to go into the locker room even.

Predictably, after all those missed opportunities for Dallas, Winnipeg got on the board first early in the second on Scheifele's rebound goal.

#### *Hellebuyck shines*

Hellebuyck kept Winnipeg in the game through the Stars' dominant first period, but saved his best work for the third period.

The Jets left Rantanen, of all people, all alone just a minute into the third period, free to attack Hellebuyck from the right wing and into the slot. Rantanen went forehand, backhand, forehand, stretching Hellebuyck to the limit, but Winnipeg's goaltender got his right skate on Rantanen's shot.

As the minutes died down and the game turned into a "next goal wins" scenario, the Stars tilted the ice in Dallas' favor, pouncing on poor coverage and a Luke Schenn giveaway to create a pair of chances for Mikael Granlund.

Hellebuyck extended his left pad just in time to stop Granlund's attempt from the low slot, then covered up the rebound effort that followed it.

#### *Jets lose Morrissey to injury*

The Jets' Josh Morrissey left Game 6 late in the second period and did not return after crashing into the boards with Rantanen.

Rantanen fell on Morrissey's left leg, bending it awkwardly as the two players crashed to the ice. Morrissey got up under his own power and finished his shift but left the ice as soon as Hellebuyck covered the puck. He held his left knee with his left glove on his way off the ice and then struggled to put weight on his left leg on his way off the ice.

It was Morrissey's second game-ending injury of the playoffs. He also left Game 7 against St. Louis in the first period, watching Winnipeg's history-making, double-overtime win from the sidelines.

The Jets forced overtime without Morrissey, again, but this time they had their season ended.

#### *Put the whistles away*

In what was perhaps the sloppiest and most physical game of the series, the officials were content to let just about everything go. There were no penalties called in the first 19 minutes, 45 seconds (other than a delayed high-sticking call that was negated by Scheifele's goal), even though there were almost certainly penalties committed.



The clearer it became that the line was basically nonexistent, both teams gleefully started crossing it — particularly the Jets, who were credited with a series-high 54 hits, more than double the Stars' total of 26. Scheifele alone had nine hits.

The officials drew the ire of the home crowd when a series of borderline plays by the Jets went uncalled. First, Morrissey swept Rantanen's leg and then pulled him down on the play on which he was injured. Then, Duchene was hit from behind in the corner by Lowry. Shortly after that, Marchment — who is unlikely to get the benefit of the doubt after his frustrated slash of referee Graham Skilliter in Game 3 — was tripped up by Schenn.

Finally, with 14.8 seconds left in the third period, Scheifele tripped Steel to prevent a breakaway — officials decided not to call for a penalty shot — putting Dallas on the power play for the start of overtime. That led to Harley's goal at the 1:33 mark.

<https://www.nytimes.com/athletic/6364344/2025/05/18/nhl-playoffs-mark-scheifele-winnipeg-jets/>

### ***Mark Scheifele, Winnipeg Jets dealt devastating loss but meet it with courage and heart***

By Murat Ates

DALLAS — Mark Scheifele stepped out of the penalty box and into the arms of his teammates. Game 6 couldn't have ended worse for the Winnipeg Jets but there they were, waiting to hug him, even after the series-ending handshake line had begun.

Scheifele played Game 6 against the Dallas Stars for his father, Brad, who died overnight Friday, and for his teammates, whose hearts broke for him once when they heard the news and again when Thomas Harley scored in overtime for a 2-1 win. That it was Scheifele in the penalty box, called for a late third-period tripping penalty that negated a breakaway, was a cruel end to an already devastating day.

Adam Lowry hugged Scheifele as the Stars celebrated. Lowry then waited beside the swarm of Jets, each embracing Scheifele in turn, each trying to console him at an inconsolable time.

"You want to give him the strength," Lowry said, fighting back tears. "You want to get that (penalty kill) so bad... We just couldn't do it."

For Scheifele, Game 6 started as a way to honour his dad. It ended with more heartbreak, but not without courage in the face of a devastating loss.

The timing of Brad Scheifele's death was a surprise, but the Scheifele family had the chance to make a plan. What would Mark do if his dad, whose health had taken a turn, died during the playoffs? The Scheifele's family decision — made privately, lived

publicly — will go down in Jets playoff lore: Scheifele would play, and he would play his heart out.

That's exactly what he did. It was Scheifele who dragged the Jets out of their disjointed start, finishing off the game-opening goal.

Scheifele followed up on Nikolaj Ehlers' stopped breakaway attempt, winning the puck off the left wing boards and firing his own shot attempt. Scheifele then snuck behind Alex Petrovic to stuff Kyle Connor's rebound between Jake Oettinger's pads.

Neal Pionk, who was one of Winnipeg's other top players in Game 6, was blown away by Scheifele's performance.

"For him to play tonight and play the way he did is flat out, one of the most courageous things I've ever seen," Pionk said.

Pionk is well aware of the importance of community during difficult times. He has mourned the death of his close friend, Adam Johnson, in part with the help of the Jets.

He said Winnipeg's players wanted to send Scheifele the message that they were there for him.

"We're a family, Scheif's a big part of our family, and we're here for him no matter what. That was a 'We weren't leaving the ice without him' kind of thing," Pionk said. "We did everything we could to get him and his family a win, just didn't pull through."

Winnipeg's Round 2 series loss can be picked apart in a number of ways. There was the Jets' inability to win a game on the road. There was Mason Appleton's weak shot, stopped by a diving Oettinger after Connor and Lowry worked a brilliant passing play to get Appleton a cross-ice feed. There was Petrovic's kick goal, the Jets' ensuing Game 3 collapse, and there was also the Jets' mediocre performance at home in Game 1. Winnipeg's series-opening game (and Mikko Rantanen's hat trick in that game) may eventually come to haunt Winnipeg more than the devastating end to Game 6. The analysis of Winnipeg's season and upcoming offseason will come in the coming days.

But the story of Winnipeg's Game 6 loss is inextricably connected to Scheifele and the loss of his dad.

Scheifele was just trying to get the puck to the net with 22 seconds left in the third period, but Sam Steel blocked his shot and chased down the bouncing puck. Scheifele skated after him as the seconds ticked away, diving to try to stop Steel's breakaway, ultimately pulling him down. The referees had kept their whistles to themselves during so many other altercations in Game 6 but could not let Scheifele's trip go uncalled.

The Jets killed the first 15 seconds of Scheifele's penalty to end the third period and all but 13 seconds of it in overtime. The Jets could have lost in any other way with any

other player in the box but it seemed particularly cruel that it was Scheifele — after such a good game, so soon after losing his dad.

He'd given everything he could.

"I'm so proud of him and his dad would be so proud of him. He wanted to win so bad," coach Scott Arniel said. "The circumstances (were) so, so tough ... His dad and his family would be very proud of him."

And isn't that what so many of us want in life? The opportunity to do one thing — big or small, publicly or privately, on the ice or off of it — that makes our loved ones proud. Scheifele was dealt a brutal moment on Saturday. He met it with courage and heart on hockey's biggest stage. With the support of his teammates and his family, he may continue to meet it with courage and heart. What more of an emotional response could there be than that?

When Scheifele first arrived at the visitors' dressing room, he was surrounded by teammates, too. The days' loss was evident in his sullen expression, but his presence indicated his desire to play before Arniel confirmed it.

"As he said, that'd be the wishes of his dad: He would have wanted him to play," Arniel said.

The Jets' cultural growth between missing the playoffs in 2022 and showing up for one another so poignantly after Game 6 deserves a moment.

Three years ago, Jets' players called each other out for not playing for one another. Two years ago, former coach Rick Bowness accused his team of having "no pushback" as they played to a lackluster effort against Vegas. Last year, the effort was better but the Jets were clearly outclassed by Colorado. Those issues aren't holding Winnipeg back anymore.

While they weren't able to come all the way back from 3-1 down, the Jets showed resilience throughout these playoffs.

Winnipeg won Game 7 against St. Louis in historic fashion and fought off elimination against Dallas in Game 5 on Thursday. It overcame injuries to Scheifele, Gabriel Vilardi, Nikolaj Ehlers, and Josh Morrissey. Winnipeg rallied around Scheifele during his personal tragedy, took Game 6 against Dallas to overtime, and outscored Dallas 14-13 in Round 2. Then, when Harley scored the goal that won the series for Dallas, the Jets had the presence of mind to go straight to Scheifele for support.

"I can't stress enough how proud I am of our group," Arniel said. "When things are hard and things are tough, especially this year, we didn't cower away from it. We faced it head on."

Game 6 against Dallas gave Jets fans the opportunity to see Winnipeg's players show great care for each other in a public setting. Arniel shed some light on Winnipeg's leadership group behind the scenes; it really does seem that the Jets' culture is in a better place.

"I've seen it build over the last couple of years," Arniel said. "It starts in our room with our veterans, our leaders, Low, Scheif, JMo some of those guys and obviously other veterans who have been here for a while: Helly, P (Pionk), those guys. They do a fantastic job in our room, certainly how they welcome (people) in but also recognize there's a way we look after each other, how we care for each other, both on and off the ice."

These playoffs felt like growth. It is easier to believe that this core has the pieces to succeed because the Jets backed up their refreshing earnestness in last year's exit interviews with a high-quality season from start to finish.

But a return to this season's quality of play will not be easy.

Winnipeg's roster would ideally be supplemented by even more forward quality and another defender who can clear Connor Hellebuyck's sightlines. Pressing roster concerns include Nikolaj Ehlers' free agent status, plus the need to extend restricted free agents Gabriel Vilardi and Dylan Samberg. Mason Appleton and Brandon Tanev are also pending UFAs; Morgan Barron and Rasmus Kupari are Winnipeg's other RFAs.

For the moment, the pressing concern is the Jets' emotional loss.

Lowry called it "heartbreaking."

"We felt like we had a great regular season. We felt like we had a team that could go on a run," Lowry said. "For it to end the way it did and everything else surrounding the day, it's just a lot of emotion. It's tough to put into words what Mark went through today. Gets a huge goal for us, plays a heck of a game, and it ends the way it does."

<https://www.nytimes.com/athletic/6366351/2025/05/19/nhl-playoffs-2025-round-2-eliminations/>

### ***What we learned in Round 2 about the four teams eliminated from the NHL playoffs***

By Shayna Goldman

"Playoff Bob" used to hold a different meaning.

No matter how sparkling Sergei Bobrovsky was in the regular season, he wilted in the postseason. A Vezina-winning caliber season in 2016-17, when he earned a 0.931 save percentage and saved 45 goals above expected, ended in a five-game Round 1

elimination. Bobrovsky's save percentage plummeted to 0.882 and he allowed 1.6 goals above expected.

The following year, he went from 22.3 goals saved above expected in the regular season down to a minus-four in the playoffs.

Bobrovsky only made it past the first round once in his first seven playoff appearances, and his GSAX fell into the negatives each time.

It wasn't until 2022-23 that "Playoff Bob" meant something positive, when he was the Panthers' backbone on their run to the Stanley Cup final.

As one goalie shed that old identity, another has taken it on. Until Connor Hellebuyck changes the narrative, it's what he will be remembered for. And it's one of the louder takeaways from the Jets' playoff run.

As every playoff series comes to a close, the primary focus tends to be on the team advancing. But what about the losing team, whose offseason is officially starting earlier than hoped? Before the spotlight shines on the final four teams starring in the conference finals, let's look at what we learned about the four teams eliminated in Round 2.

### *Winnipeg Jets*

Hellebuyck is the new "Playoff Bob"

Goaltenders were part of the Player Tiers for the first time this year. Hellebuyck seemed like a natural choice for that number one slot, just months after winning the Vezina Trophy. Except player placement is based on their entire body of work, not just the regular season — and that's always been Hellebuyck's Achilles heel.

After earning a 0.921 save percentage last year and saving almost 40 goals above expected in 60 games, Hellebuyck was crushed in Round 1 last year. As much as his defense left him exposed to the Avalanche, he didn't respond well to his workload, either. He allowed 6.5 goals above expected in five games and put up his worst postseason numbers yet.

This year, he put up even better regular-season numbers — a 0.925 save percentage and a 49.5 GSAX, the third-best mark of the analytics era.

And then he turned into a pumpkin against St. Louis in Round 1.

The Blues did a good job targeting Hellebuyck's weaknesses; they created traffic in front to take away his eyes, beat him with a number of tips and redirects and aimed high-glove.

Hellebuyck only earned one quality start in Round 1 and allowed a collective 9.8 goals above expected. He was pulled in three straight road games, but luckily for the Jets, he found his composure in Game 7 after allowing two first-period goals against.

Hellebuyck was a lot better against the Stars; he saved 4.8 goals above expected, fueled by strong performances in Games 2, 5, and 6, which brought his total playoff GSAX up to minus-5.0. He helped force a Game 6 and gave his team a chance in that elimination game.

The problem is that Round 2 performance likely won't be the lasting memory or the narrative that carries into next season. It won't matter that the Jets lost to the Western Conference favorite, or that the team had to manage without their top defenseman for parts of Game 6. It will be that Hellebuyck, once again, fell apart in Round 1 and went 0-6 on the road. And nothing he does next regular season will change that — only he can with a playoff turnaround, like Bobrovsky.

<https://www.nytimes.com/athletic/6364673/2025/05/18/stars-oettinger-conference-final/>

### ***Scenes from Stars' series-clincher: Mason Marchment's humanity, Jake Oettinger's game saver, more***

By Mark Lazerus

DALLAS — It was amid chaotic, visceral, unadulterated joy that Mason Marchment thought of one of the saddest moments in his life and one of the saddest moments in someone else's.

Empathy is funny like that. It sneaks up on you, then quickly consumes your mind, your body, your soul.

So while Marchment and the Dallas Stars leaped into each other's arms in the high slot at American Airlines Center, giddily celebrating Thomas Harley's overtime winner over the Winnipeg Jets in Game 6 on Saturday night — a power-play clapper that sent them back into the Western Conference final for a rematch with the Edmonton Oilers — he immediately thought of his dad. And Mark Scheifele's dad. Both of them gone too soon, both of them taken so suddenly.

And all Marchment could think about in that moment was the handshake line, and what he wanted to tell Scheifele — who, at the moment, was hanging his head in despair. Scheifele's emotional and inspirational decision to play mere hours after his father's unexpected death — to play for his dad, to play because of his dad — ended in cruel fashion, with Scheifele helpless in the penalty box.

It's been nearly three years since longtime NHL defenseman Bryan Marchment died during the San Jose Sharks' prep for the 2022 draft in Montreal, but it's still fresh for Mason. It'll always be fresh. The deepest wounds take more than a lifetime to heal. So

when Scheifele got to Marchment in the handshake line, Marchment buried his face in Scheifele's right shoulder and told him all the things that he needed to hear nearly three years ago.

In a quiet moment in a joyous Stars locker room, with country music blaring in the next room, Marchment shared the gist, if not the specifics, of what he said.

"Just trying to help him through some emotions that I was going through," Marchment told The Athletic. "I just wanted to give him some words that I got told back when my dad passed that really helped me think a different way about it. To just kind of comfort him with what happened."

Marchment didn't want to go into details, but said it was about "basically just remembering the good times, and living your best life, because that's what they would have wanted for us."

Marchment, of course, is known for his nasty on-ice temperament and agitating style of play. Opposing fans loathe him, and opposing players have no love for him, either. But in that moment, he wasn't a hockey player. He was just a human being who knows real pain. And Scheifele wasn't an opponent. He was just a human being in real pain.

"My hat goes off to him for battling out there tonight," Marchment said. "Takes balls to do that. I can respect that. It's tough, and I just hope nothing but the best for him. I hope he works through it this summer and has people close to him who help him through it. I don't want to get too deep into it, but I wanted to talk to him. We're enemies out there when we're playing, but we're all good people in this league. I don't want to hate him or anything like that. At the end of the day, we're all just people. And when you treat someone with respect, I think it means a lot."

Brutal game, this hockey. But not always.

Jake Oettinger wasn't going to apologize. Come on, in the first round alone, the guy has had Artturi Lehkonen score a golazo with an accidental kick as he was dragged to the ice, he had one puck tick in off teammate Ilya Lyubushkin, and he had Sam Steel bank a shot off Colin Blackwell's shoulder and past him for a game-winning goal.

Oettinger was due a lucky break.

That's how he described what was maybe the save of the postseason for the Stars. With the score tied at 1 a little more than midway through the third period, Kyle Connor got the puck to Adam Lowry to Oettinger's left. Oettinger committed, and Lowry sent a perfect seam pass to Mason Appleton all alone on the other side. He had a completely open net to shoot at. So Oettinger, out of sheer desperation, flopped to his right, awkwardly because his right foot sort of got caught under him, and swatted the puck down with two hands.

No, Appleton didn't get all of it. No, he didn't aim it perfectly, either. No, it wasn't Oettinger's most balletic move.

And no, he doesn't feel bad about it, thank you very much.

"I saw Connor coming in, and then I thought Lowry was going to shoot it, so I slid over and then I, like, blew an edge," Oettinger said. "I just threw a prayer over and it hit me, so got pretty lucky. I think we were owed that after some of the bounces we got in this round, so I think it all evens out."

As for the Oettinger vs. Connor Hellebuyck debate that raged throughout the series — with Winnipeg fans chanting "U.S. backup!" to Oettinger and Dallas fans chanting "Otter's better!" to Hellebuyck — there was a clear winner. For this one series, at least.

"Our goaltending's been exceptional," Stars coach Pete DeBoer said. "Listen, he just went head-to-head with maybe the MVP of the league, and what everyone is saying is the best goaltender in the world. And he probably was this year, Hellebuyck. And he went toe-to-toe with him, nose-to-nose with him the entire series. Great character, gut-check by Jake. And he's delivering at a real key time for us."

You could have slipped at least two or three phone books under Harley's skates. Though, at just 23 years old, he's probably never seen a phone book.

But that's how high Harley leaped after he shot the Stars into the third round. "Just happy thoughts," he said.

"I do remember jumping up pretty high," he said. "I think I beat my record at training camp with that one."

It was, remarkably — given how physical the game was — the first power play of the game. That's when we learned Harley had lost his spot on the top power-play unit to Miro Heiskanen, who was playing his third game since having knee surgery Feb. 4.

But PP2 suited Harley just fine, as he buried a sharp feed from Tyler Seguin from behind the net. A fitting ending for a player who all but saved Dallas' season after the Heiskanen injury.

"It's hard to replace a guy like Miro, but Tom has done everything," Oettinger said. "He's been a workhorse. I think everyone in the locker room knew how good he was, but finally got to show it. ... The fact that you have two guys like that on the same team is pretty rare. I think every franchise in the league would want to have one of them, and we have two, so we're very lucky. They make me look really good every night."

Wyatt Johnston couldn't complete a wraparound on which he had Hellebuyck beat. Seguin missed a wide-open net with a backhander. Evgenii Dadonov had about a half-



dozen chances, none of which he could convert on. Mikko Rantanen had a chance sail wide. Matt Duchene didn't get all of a one-timer, and Hellebuyck got his pad on it.

The Stars had 15 scoring chances in the first period. The Jets had one. Yet it was 0-0 through 20 minutes, and Dallas had six measly shots on goal — unconscionable given Hellebuyck's much-discussed road struggles. You can't expose a goalie if you don't expose him to any rubber. So when Scheifele scored his memorable goal early in the second period, the Stars were somehow losing — losing! — despite utterly dominating the game.

The tension on the bench was rising. The nervous energy in the crowd was soaring.

Then Steel — literally the only one of Dallas' 11 forwards who isn't a scorer — stepped into a Harley rebound and beat Hellebuyck high on the glove side.

That's the playoffs for you.

"It's always nice to chip in, and when you go on runs like this, you're going to need all of the lineup to score, so I'm happy I could be that guy tonight," Steel said.

Steel said the Stars looked at all their squandered opportunities as a positive, as proof that what they were doing offensively was working. But until one actually goes in ...

"You learn a lot about people in pressure, high-intense situations," DeBoer said. "Steeler has an unflappability. He rises to the occasion."

Look, Duchene knows. He's well aware that he's played 13 playoff games this spring without a single goal. This, after scoring 30 goals in the regular season. You could see it in the way he gritted his teeth after chunking that one-timer. You could see it in the way he looked to the rafters after failing to get a shot off on a good rush.

Duchene needs to score. So does Jason Robertson. So does Marchment. So do a lot of guys. Rantanen has come back down to earth, and suddenly the Stars have just one regulation goal in their last two games. It's an issue. And as he sat at his locker stall Saturday morning, you could hear the hint of agitation in his voice, belying his usual veteran calm and worldly veteran perspective.

After Harley's winner, he gave Oettinger a bigger hug than most — maybe a thank you for covering for him?

"Hopefully, it flips here at some point," Duchene said. "I've been through it enough in my career, the hot streaks, the cold streaks, where you get one off your ass, you get one off your teammate's ass, off their skate, off something. Eventually, it breaks. You just keep going. At this time of year, it's all about wins and losses. But you want to contribute on the good side of that."

"I'll take one off the teeth right now. Half my teeth are fake at this point anyway, so might as well lose another one."

The Stars have gotten this far without his producing. They won't get much farther. The Oilers rarely have trouble scoring, and the Stars will have to keep up.

But Rantanen, who has carried this offense with a league-high 19 playoff points, has noticed something special about this Dallas dressing room since coming over from the Colorado Avalanche and the Carolina Hurricanes. They're always in a good mood, always feeling calm, always projecting confidence. No matter what. So he thinks they'll be just fine.

"That's what I've noticed," Rantanen said. "That's why I'm now not surprised they've been as successful the last couple years as they have been. The even keel is the biggest asset you can have in the playoffs. When you lose a game, you reset, when you win a game, you reset right away. It doesn't matter what the result, you can lose 9-1, you can win 9-1, it doesn't matter. That's important in the playoffs, and this team has been good with it."

After all, there's a lot of hockey left to be played. They're only halfway home.

### **TSN.ca**

<https://www.tsn.ca/nhl/video/more-than-a-game-stars-eliminate-jets-on-incredibly-emotional-night-for-scheifele~3134548>

### ***'More than a game': Stars eliminate Jets on incredibly emotional night for Scheifele (VIDEO)***

Mark Scheifele's father, Brad, passed away unexpectedly on Friday night and Scheifele decided to play in Game 6 with an incredibly heavy heart, putting on a fantastic performance in honour of his late dad. The Stars beat the Jets in overtime to advance to their third straight conference final. The TSN Hockey panel has more on a very emotional night in Dallas.

<https://www.tsn.ca/nhl/video/lalji-describes-scheifele-s-night-following-his-father-s-passing~3134549>

### ***Lalji describes Scheifele's night following his father's passing (VIDEO)***

Farhan Lalji joins SportsCentre to take a closer look at Mark Scheifele's night following his father's passing, and discuss how he sees the Stars' offence faring against the Oilers in the Western Conference final.

<https://www.tsn.ca/nhl/video/how-much-longer-is-winnipeg-s-stanley-cup-window~3134550>

### ***How much longer is Winnipeg's Stanley Cup window? (VIDEO)***

Despite winning the Presidents' Trophy, the Jets finished the playoffs with an 0-6 road record after getting knocked out in the second round. Craig Button joins SportsCentre to share his thoughts on Game 6, if Winnipeg's window to win a Stanley Cup is closing, and how he sees the rematch between the Oilers and Stars playing out in the WCF.

### **Canadian Press**

<https://www.chrisd.ca/2025/05/18/winnipeg-jets-dallas-stars-round-2-game-6/>

### ***Jets Eliminated by Stars as Overtime Loss in Game 6 Caps Emotional Day***

By Gregory Strong, The Canadian Press

As the horn blared throughout American Airlines Center on Saturday night, an emotionally drained Mark Scheifele turned to his teammates for support.

One by one the players embraced the veteran forward, who played in Winnipeg's Game 6 loss to Dallas even after learning his father had died the night before.

The Stars eliminated the Jets with a 2-1 overtime victory that capped a day packed with emotion for the visiting side. Winnipeg captain Adam Lowry described the feeling with a single word.

"Heartbreaking," he said.

The vitriol that built up over a hard-fought second-round series instantly dissipated as the teams lined up to shake hands.

Scheifele had a long hug with Stars captain Jamie Benn, who was fined after sucker-punching him in Game 5. Another extended embrace followed with Mason Marchment, a regular thorn in Winnipeg's side.

After the game, Stars general manager Jim Nill and hockey great Wayne Gretzky stopped by the Jets' dressing room to shake hands with Scheifele and voice their support.

Scheifele scored Winnipeg's lone goal in the second period but Sam Steel followed with an equalizer. Thomas Harley put it away at 1:33 of the extra session with Scheifele off after a tripping call late in regulation time.

As the crowd erupted in celebration, Lowry went to the penalty box to support his friend and teammate.

“We’re a family,” Lowry said. “Just to let him know that we’re there for him. It’s just an awful day for him. You want to give him the strength, you want to get that kill so bad. We just couldn’t do it.”

Scheifele didn’t speak to reporters after the game. The Jets did not open their dressing room to media.

It was Winnipeg’s sixth straight road loss of the post-season and 10th in a row dating back to 2023.

The Jets won the Presidents’ Trophy in the regular season but their inability to win away from Canada Life Centre proved costly.

“Our leadership within our group kept grinding everybody and pushing everybody,” said Jets head coach Scott Arniel. “It’s growth. It hurts a lot. But we lost to a great team.”

On the winner, Tyler Seguin fed Harley as he skated in from the point and he one-timed it over Connor Hellebuyck’s blocker.

“I just tried to put it across and it went in,” Harley said. “After that, just happy thoughts.”

The Stars advanced to play the Edmonton Oilers in the Western Conference final. The Jets were left to search for answers after being outscored 27-9 over six road losses this post-season.

Dallas split the first two games at Canada Life Centre before winning two games at home. Winnipeg earned a home shutout victory in Game 5 to extend the series.

The Stars came out flying to start Game 6 but the Jets survived the early pressure. Hellebuyck stopped Evgenii Dadonov on a wraparound attempt and caught a break when Seguin missed a glorious chance in front.

Winnipeg didn’t record its first shot on Dallas netminder Jake Oettinger until the ninth minute of play.

The Jets upped the pace in the second period and were rewarded when Scheifele tucked a rebound between Oettinger’s legs. The goal came on a delayed penalty call after Nikolaj Ehlers was stopped on a breakaway.

The Stars pulled even when Steel one-timed a long rebound over Hellebuyck’s left shoulder.

Later in the period, Winnipeg defenceman Josh Morrissey suffered an apparent left knee injury after getting tangled up with Mikko Rantanen in the corner.

Morrissey needed assistance to walk back to the dressing room and didn't return.

"It's not good," Arniel said. "We'll obviously get him home. He's banged up pretty good."

Winnipeg had a glorious opportunity to take the lead midway through the third period. Kyle Connor fed the puck to Lowry, who sent it across to Mason Appleton.

Oettinger sprawled out and somehow blocked the fluttering puck.

"I thought Lowry was going to shoot it so I slid over and then I like, blew an edge," he said. "I just threw a prayer over and it hit me so (I) got pretty lucky."

Dadonov nearly put Dallas ahead seconds later but his shot from a tight angle hit the post.

In the final minute of regulation, Steel blocked a shot by Scheifele to set himself up on a partial breakaway. The Winnipeg centre hauled him down for the game's only penalty call.

"We stuck with it," said Dallas coach Pete DeBoer. "I was proud of how we won that game tonight. A less mature team doesn't win that game."

Winnipeg won all four home games in a first-round win over the St. Louis Blues, securing the series in overtime of Game 7 after two late goals in regulation time.

### **Associated Press**

<https://globalnews.ca/news/11185604/harley-scores-power-play-goal-in-ot-as-stars-beat-jets-2-1-to-win-series/>

### ***Harley scores power-play goal in OT as Stars beat Jets 2-1 to win series***

By Stephen Hawkins The Associated Press

DALLAS (AP) — Thomas Harley scored on a power play 1:33 into overtime and the Dallas Stars advanced to the Western Conference final for the third season in a row, beating the top-seeded Winnipeg Jets 2-1 in Game 6 on Saturday night.

Mark Scheifele scored for the Jets hours after the unexpected death of his father, but also had the tripping penalty with 14.8 seconds left in regulation that set up Dallas to start overtime with a man advantage.

Sam Steel, who scored earlier for Dallas, was on a partial breakaway when Scheifele lunged forward desperately trying to make a play when he tripped up the forward at the blue line — an infraction that could have resulted in a penalty shot. The Stars called a timeout, but missed a shot and had another one blocked before the end of regulation time.

The Stars move on to face the Edmonton Oilers in the Western Conference final for the second year in a row, and will host Game 1 on Wednesday. Connor McDavid and the Oilers, who won in six games last year, wrapped up their second-round series with a 1-0 overtime win over Vegas on Wednesday night in Game 5.

Dallas goalie Jake Oettinger made 22 saves to wrap up his sixth playoff series win over the past three seasons. He made an incredible diving save with 8 1/2 minutes left in regulation, leaning to the right before having to lunge back across his body toward the left post to knock down a shot by Mason Appleton.

Hellebuyck, the two-time Vezina Trophy who is the odds-on favourite to win that top goalie award again this season, stopped 18 shots.

Dallas has won all three of its overtime games this post-season. It was only the second OT game for the Stars, who scored twice in the final two minutes of regulation in Game 7 of the first round and then beat the St. Louis Blues.

Steel got his first goal of the playoffs midway through the second period. He shot a long rebound from the top of the right circle, sending the puck into the upper right corner of the net just above Hellebuyck's glove.

Scheifele got his fifth goal of the playoffs when he gathered the rebound of Kyle Connor's shot and scored from just outside the crease 5 1/2 minutes into the second period. That score came before a whistle blew for a delayed penalty, a high stick by Oettinger into the face of Gabriel Vilardi, who got the secondary assist for his pass to Connor.

After pumping his fist to celebrate, Scheifele had a huge smile on his face when mobbed by his teammates that were on the ice for the goal that made it 1-0.

Story continues below advertisement

That was all set up after Nikolaj Ehlers had a breakaway shot that was knocked away by Oettinger and retrieved by Scheifele.

Hellebuyck withstood a 46-second flurry late in the first period when the Stars had eight shots — three that were on goal, along with four misses and one that was blocked.

## **Winnipeg Free Press**

<https://www.winnipegfreepress.com/breakingnews/2025/05/18/his-dad-would-have-been-really-proud-of-him-kind-words-charity-pour-in-for-jets-scheifele>

### ***'His dad would have been really proud of him': Kind words, charity pour in for Jets Scheifele***

By: Mike McIntyre

Mark Scheifele is not alone.

The Winnipeg Jets centre is getting support from the hockey world and beyond after suffering a devastating personal loss. His father, Brad, died early Saturday, just hours before the Jets were set to face the Dallas Stars in Game 6 of their second-round playoff series.

Scheifele ultimately decided to suit up for the must-win contest and, in storybook fashion, opened the scoring for the visitors. But in a cruel twist of fate, he took a tripping penalty with 14 seconds left in regulation, and the Stars scored on the ensuing power play early in overtime to end Winnipeg's season.

"My sympathies and condolences to Mark Scheifele and his family," Florida Panthers coach Paul Maurice said Sunday morning prior to his team facing the Toronto Maple Leafs in Game 7 of their series.

"The display of courage and focus for Mark to do what he did was a greater display of the power of family — not just of the Scheifele family but the Winnipeg Jet family for him to play with his brothers, and that extends out to Scott Arniel and Kevin Cheveldayoff and Mark Chipman and all the Winnipeg Jets fans."

Maurice spent parts of nine seasons at the helm of the Jets and is one of Scheifele's biggest fans, once proclaiming that they'll "build a statue of him" one day in Winnipeg.

"They built a culture of family there that allowed that inspiration to happen. So again, a thank you to them for that display, and also our condolences to them," said Maurice.

Panthers forward Brad Marchand, one of the league's biggest antagonizers, showed a softer side in speaking about Scheifele.

"There's very few people that could have found the strength to play through something like that," he told reporters. "And to go out and to play the way that he did and step up for his team, his family must be extremely proud of him. And his dad would be."

That mutual respect was on full display by members of Stars, who embraced him in the post-game handshake line inside American Airlines Center and sung his praises in their media availabilities.

"I consider myself a Kitchener guy. His family's from Kitchener. Just courageous, what he did tonight," said Stars coach Pete DeBoer.

"I'm sure his dad would have been really proud of him and what he did. And I'm sure his dad would have wanted him there. Tough night for him and anybody in the hockey world that has been in a situation like that. So, hats off to him. Courageous young man."

Dallas forward Sam Steel — who was hauled down by Scheifele on the play that led to the game-winning power play goal — said he and his teammates were "gutted" for him despite ultimately moving on to the Western Conference Final, where they will face the Edmonton Oilers beginning Wednesday night.

"I'm not sure I could do what he did tonight. It's pretty brave of him. He played his heart out," said Steel.

It's not just kind words coming Scheifele's way, but gestures too. A campaign that began on a Dallas Stars Reddit page urged fans to donate "\$55 for 55" to the True North Youth Foundation and KidSport Canada, which are charities Scheifele supports.

According to the Jets, more than \$46,000 had poured in by Sunday afternoon.

Manitoba Premier Wab Kinew posted a message on social media along with a photo of him shaking hands with the first-ever draft pick of the 2.0 Jets at a previous gala dinner.

"Mark, you've done so much for us over the years please know the people of Manitoba have your back," Kinew wrote.

Winnipeg Blue Bombers bench boss Mike O'Shea, speaking on Sunday during his team's training camp, singled out Scheifele for praise.

"As a fan, watching that unfold and just seeing that massive display of courage and leadership from that group, something we can all learn from. Hell of an entertaining season, hate to see it end that way, but just that specific game last night, courage and leadership, got to learn from it," he told reporters.

He wasn't surprised Scheifele insisted on playing in the game — athletes are just built that way — but expanded on how difficult it would be.

"That's the courage piece," he said. "We're all going to make that decision, it's just so bloody difficult to figure out how to get through it at the level you want to get through it at, so, once again, something you certainly can watch and admire."



O'Shea was also moved by how Adam Lowry immediately went inside the penalty box to console Scheifele following the game-winning goal, and how the Jets captain conducted himself during an emotional post-game media availability.

"I've been admiring Lowry's captaincy from afar for a while now — I think he's been awesome, watching the way he's led. Listen to him speak and the way he plays the game — just (Saturday) night, it's pretty powerful," he said.

Scheifele was on the Jets charter with his teammates Sunday afternoon as they returned to Winnipeg. He's expected to join his family members in Ontario in the coming days.

<https://www.winnipegfreepress.com/breakingnews/2025/05/18/a-magical-season-and-an-agonizing-defeat>

### ***A magical season, and an agonizing defeat***

By: Mike McIntyre

Frauds. Chokers. Losers. Let the record show the Winnipeg Jets are none of these things.

Perspective and nuance can be difficult to find at the best of times these days, never mind in the immediate aftermath of a devastating end to the greatest regular season we've ever seen around here.

But don't let the truth get buried under a flood of tears, angry hot takes and all the other emotions folks may be feeling right now following Saturday's overtime dagger in Dallas that sent the Presidents' Trophy winners packing in Game 6 of their second-round series.

The 2024-25 Jets were a damn good hockey team. And while the year may not have concluded with a Stanley Cup parade down Portage and Main, that doesn't change the fact it was filled with incredible highlights and moments that repeatedly reminded us what sports is truly all about.

We saw it throughout these playoffs as they began their quest for a first-ever championship without a couple key players in Nikolaj Ehlers and Gabe Vilardi, were without top centre Mark Scheifele for a must-win Game 7 against the St. Louis Blues and then lost top defenceman Josh Morrissey early in that contest.

The dramatic, game-tying goal by Cole Perfetti with 2.2 seconds left in regulation and the overtime winner by captain Adam Lowry was the stuff of legends around here. Truly the highest of highs. This community came alive in a way we rarely see, showing how sports can unite. Those memories are forever.

That thrill of victory was ultimately followed up with the most agonizing defeat, one which reminded us that life isn't always fair. If it were, there's no way Scheifele would have been the one sitting in the penalty box, head buried in his lap as Dallas defenceman Thomas Harley scored the power-play winner.

In a perfect world Scheifele would have been the hockey hero, the way it looked like he might be when he scored the opening goal just a few hours after learning his father, Brad, had died. Instead, the cruellest plot twist of all.

It was during that lowest of lows that we were provided with more incredible moments that will again stay with us forever.

There was Lowry, as fine a leader as there is, rushing into the penalty box to console Scheifele within seconds of the red light going on behind Connor Hellebuyck. This had little to do with hockey, and everything to do with humanity.

The rest of Scheifele's teammates surrounded him afterwards, including Kyle Connor, who lost his father, Joe, in 2021. Morrissey couldn't be there, having suffered another injury earlier in the game, but he was at Scheifele's side as they walked into the rink together. He also knows the pain all too well as his dad, Tom, died of cancer four years ago.

Head coach Scott Arniel, who lost his father three years ago, spent hours with Scheifele at the team hotel prior to puck drop. This was about so much more than a game.

The post-game news conference with Lowry and defenceman Neal Pionk, who had to lean on his Jets clan last year following the tragic on-ice death of his best friend, Adam Johnson, was heartbreaking. Both men were fighting back tears as they struggled to put everything they'd just experienced into words.

The tight-knit Jets showed during the course of the 82-game campaign that they were the real deal, setting franchise records for wins (56) and points (116) while a number of key core players set personal bests. There was nothing fake about that.

But going all the way in the spring is truly a different animal. Just ask the last 12 Presidents' Trophy winners, including Winnipeg, who have failed to capture the Cup. It's hard. Really hard.

The Washington Capitals won the Eastern Conference and finished second-overall to Winnipeg, and they didn't get beyond Game 5 of the second-round. Nor did the Vegas Golden Knights, who finished third in the NHL. At the end of it all 31 teams will ultimately come up short.

Ideally, you build a strong enough foundation to keep taking runs every spring and hope that eventually you'll get enough good fortune, puck luck, timely scoring and goaltending and all the other intangibles that result in winning 16 high-stakes hockey games.

The Jets finished 10 wins short, which represents the second-longest run they've ever had. They were among the final six squads still standing, and there's enough good pieces still in place here to believe the window remains wide open.

If at first you don't succeed, try, try again.

Sports is ultimately a results-based business, one that typically treats coaches and players as chattel. The Jets haven't always been as cut-throat as most, which has opened them up to criticism. Some pundits say being overly loyal has led to a blindness at times when it comes to things like deployment and personnel decisions.

There may be some truth to that, and there will be plenty of time to discuss and dissect decisions that could or should be made in the coming months. But it says here the family environment that's been created with the Jets is what truly endears them to this community — and to each other. Through good times and through bad times.

As strong of a year as the Jets had on the ice, they scored some major victories off it, too, by boosting attendance and their season-ticket base while winning 30 regular-season games and six more playoff ones at Canada Life Centre. They re-connected with some lost fans and made plenty of new ones along the way. That's significant.

Ideally, everything that went down this year represents a new beginning, rather than an end. Arniel talked all season about "calluses" his group had formed from previous playoff disappointments and how they'd use them to get better. For 82 games, it worked like a charm.

Now, some fresh wounds that run deep.

Scheifele, knowing what we do about him, will likely come back with more fire in his belly than ever to chase the trophy he's grown up dreaming about. Morrissey as well, no doubt gutted to be sidelined for key games multiple times in these playoffs, on top of being too sick to play in the 4 Nations Face-Off Final in February.

Same for Hellebuyck, who was the losing goalie in that best-on-best overtime showcase. He saved his best road performance for last, giving the Jets every chance to win on Saturday and force a Game 7 back in Winnipeg. The soon-to-be three-time Vezina winner now has a blueprint in the all-important space between his ears to go back to.

It may not feel like it now, but this truly was a magical, memorable season — right down to the bitter end.

Gusty. Resilient. Winners. That's who these Jets really are.

<https://www.winnipegfreepress.com/breakingnews/2025/05/18/heartbreaking-jets-season-comes-to-end-with-gut-wrenching-ot-loss>

***'Heartbreaking': Jets season comes to end with gut-wrenching OT loss  
Stars players show respect for Scheifele for playing Game 6 after learning of father's death***

By: Ken Wiebe

DALLAS – Despite his best efforts, Adam Lowry could not hold back the tears.

And you could hardly blame him, given the cruel set of circumstances that had just unfolded.

The captain of the Winnipeg Jets was sitting at the podium and was doing his best to summarize the wave of emotions that had taken place during the previous 13 hours or so.

Not only had the Jets spent a good chunk of the day lending support to teammate Mark Scheifele after his father Brad passed away at the age of 68, this memorable season came to an end after a 2-1 overtime loss in Game 6 to the Dallas Stars inside American Airlines Center.

To add to the emotional toll, the game ended on a Stars power play goal from Thomas Harley that came with 13 seconds left in a tripping minor to Scheifele, who got his stick into the skates of Sam Steel to prevent a clear-cut breakaway in the waning seconds of regulation time on a play that could have been called a penalty shot.

"It's just an awful day for him (emotionally). You want to give him the strength, you want to get that kill so bad. We just couldn't do it," said Lowry. "Heartbreaking. We felt like we had a great regular season, we felt like we had a team that could go on a run. For it to end the way it did and everything else surrounding the day, it's just a lot of emotion.

"It's tough to put into words what Mark went through. Gets a huge goal for us, plays a heck of a game, and it ends the way it does. Just emotional, heavy. Really proud of the group we had. The commitment, the no quit. A lot of things that a good team needs. We ran into a great Dallas team. We couldn't find that extra one and that was the difference."

Lowry showed his tremendous leadership during the course of the day, beginning with his glowing words about what type of person Brad Scheifele was when he spoke to reporters at the arena in the morning.

After the overtime winner was scored, there was Lowry heading to the box to console Scheifele.

And after Scheifele made his way through the handshake line, Lowry waited to provide one more tap on the shin pads before the Jets alternate captain made his way off the ice for the final time this season.

“We’re there for him. we’re a family, Scheif’s a big part of our family, and we’re here for him, no matter what,” said Jets defenceman Neal Pionk. “So that’s a ‘we weren’t leaving the ice without him’ kind of thing. Did everything we could to get him and his family a win, just didn’t pull through.”

The Jets weren’t the only ones offering support for Scheifele.

While shaking hands, each of the Stars players and coaches stopped to say something to Scheifele and many provided an extra hug for the Jets’ centre.

One of the longest embraces was with Stars captain Jamie Benn, the same player who caught Scheifele with a stiff punch to the face in the third period of Game 5.

“I just told him that I respected him as a competitor, and as a hockey player,” said Benn. “You can grow to not like guys throughout a playoff series, but when it’s all over, I told him I respect him as a player.

“I wanted to let him know that it took a lot of courage for him to play today in a tough situation. I’m not sure too many guys would have done that in his situation. So, I respected it. I know every guy in our room respected it, and our whole organization respected it.”

That respect was noticeable and you can be sure that Scheifele appreciated it a great deal.

Let’s take a closer look at this one:

### *THIS ONE’S FOR DAD*

Scheifele endured one of the toughest things a person can go through, finding out that his father had passed away late Friday night.

Despite having to deal with the emotional toll of losing someone that was so close to him, Scheifele didn’t hesitate to suit up with his teammates in Game 6.

Scheifele opened the scoring on Saturday, getting to the front of the net and depositing a rebound through the five-hole of Stars goalie Jake Oettinger after a shot by Kyle Connor at 5:28 of the second period.

Scheifele’s celebration and smile as his teammates gathered around him after the goal told you how much the moment meant to him.

“For him to go through what he had to go through, and perform the way he did, so proud of him,” said Jets head coach Scott Arniel. “And his dad would be so proud of him. He wanted to win so bad. The circumstances, so, so tough. Being in a situation like that, I couldn’t imagine it. The pro that he is, the leader that he is, the year that he had with us, his dad and his family would be very proud of him.”

The goal wouldn’t have happened without an excellent play down low by Gabe Vilardi, whose spin move against Stars blue-liner Lian Bischel helped create the passing lane to find Connor for the initial shot.

### *THE EQUALIZER*

The Stars pulled even at 11:12 of the second period on a rebound goal of their own.

Stars D-man Thomas Harley took a low shot from a sharp angle and Jets goalie Connor Hellebuyck kicked out a juicy rebound that found the stick of Sam Steel.

Steel, who has been energetic throughout the series, buried his shot high to the glove side of Hellebuyck, setting the stage for an exhilarating finish.

### *THE (HIGHLIGHT-REEL) SAVES*

This was an outstanding goalie battle, with two Team USA netminders going up against one another, with tremendous saves being made at each end of the ice to ensure extra time was required to determine a winner.

During the third period, Lowry found Mason Appleton for what looked like an empty net, but Oettinger made a sprawling glove save to keep the game knotted 1-1.

Appleton looked to the sky in disbelief after the stop, which represented the best unconverted scoring chance the Jets had in the game.

Then, with roughly 2:30 to go in regulation time, Hellebuyck kicked out his left pad to prevent Mikael Granlund from scoring on a backhand rebound chance.

Like the team in front of him, Hellebuyck lost a 10th consecutive road playoff game, but he took a big step toward quieting the narrative about his play away from Canada Life Centre.

### *THE KEY PLAY*

Thomas Harley blasted home a one-timer at 1:33 of the first overtime to deliver the knockout punch.

### *THE THREE STARS*

1. Thomas Harley, Stars, Scored the series clinching goal and added an assist in 25 minutes of work.
2. Mark Scheifele, Jets, Scored the lone goal for the visitors, showing incredible strength while dealing with a monumental personal loss.

3. Jake Oettinger, Stars, Finished with 22 saves in what was another extraordinary effort.

### *THE INJURY*

The Jets lost top blue-liner Josh Morrissey with 4:53 to go in the second period with what looked to be a left knee injury.

Morrissey was battling with Mikko Rantanen in the defensive zone and as he was trying to get some leverage on the Stars winger, the Jets' D-man tripped the Stars' winger.

As Rantanen was falling to the ice, Morrissey's knee got caught underneath the Finnish forward, leaving him in discomfort as he left the ice.

Morrissey was holding his left knee and let out an audible expletive as he made his way to the bench. Once he had a quick word with Jets head athletic therapist Rob Milette, Morrissey had to be helped as he made his way down the tunnel to the locker room for further evaluation.

Following the game, Arniel didn't get into specifics but some healing will be required, even if the full severity of the injury is not yet known.

"It's not good," said Arniel. "We'll obviously get him home. He's banged up pretty good."

The Jets finished the game with five D-men, something they had to do in Game 7 against the St. Louis Blues after Morrissey left the game after three shifts with what appeared to be a shoulder injury.

Prior to his departure on Saturday, Morrissey was flying. In just under 15 minutes of ice time, he had one shot on goal and five shot attempts, two hits and four blocked shots.

### *EXTRA, EXTRA*

Special teams were a massive story in this series, as the Jets were outscored 7-3 in that department. The Harley goal allowed the Stars to finish seven-for-19 (31.8 per cent) on the power play, while the Jets were held without a man-advantage on Saturday and finished three-for-21 (14.2 per cent).

With Morrissey leaving the game, Pionk finished the contest with the most minutes of any Jets player, taking 34 shifts for 24:47 of action. Dylan Samberg was next at 23:35.

For the third time this series, the Stars opted to dress 11 forwards and seven defencemen, giving them some insurance with Miro Heiskanen working his way up to full speed while getting Rantanen some additional playing time. Heiskanen was up to 23:40 in Game 6, while Rantanen led the Stars' forwards at 24:23.

<https://www.winnipegfreepress.com/breakingnews/2025/05/17/winnipeg-jets-scheifele-hit-with-personal-loss-ahead-of-game-6>

***Winnipeg Jets Scheifele to play Game 6, despite being hit with personal loss  
'We're going to do everything we can to support Mark': Jets general manager Cheveldayoff***

By: Ken Wiebe

DALLAS – Mark Scheifele is dealing with an incredibly difficult personal loss.

The Winnipeg Jets' centre found out on Saturday morning that his father, Brad, had passed away during the course of the night at the age of 68.

Scheifele was back at the team hotel dealing with the sudden and devastating news as his teammates hit the ice to prepare for Game 6 with the Dallas Stars.

"As an organization, we're doing everything we can to support him and we give his family members sincere condolences and obviously ask that everybody respect his and their privacy at this time," said Jets general manager Kevin Cheveldayoff, who was emotional as he delivered the news to reporters on the scene. "Certainly unexpected this morning. I don't have many of the other details. Certainly appreciate everyone's understanding. Today is a different day, but we're a family and we're going to do everything we can to support Mark."

Jets head coach Scott Arniel addressed the team at the rink before returning to the hotel to be there for Scheifele.

When Arniel returned to the rink to speak with reporters later in the afternoon, he confirmed that Scheifele would be suiting up in Game 6.

"Mark will be playing. As he said, (those) would be the wishes of his dad. He would want him to play," said Arniel, who lost his father Doug three years ago. "(Brad) has been pushing hard here. We got to see him (in Winnipeg) earlier in the St. Louis series. He's with us and Mark really wants to play for him."

Scheifele let Arniel know this morning that he would be ready to go.

"Mark expressed quickly that he wanted to play for his dad and that this was what his dad would have wanted," said Arniel. "When (the Jets players) heard that, for them, they were glad to hear that and glad they can help get through this situation."

Scheifele walked into the arena with close friend Josh Morrissey, who lost his father Tom to cancer in 2021.

"As good as to be expected," said Arniel, asked how Scheifele was holding up. "It's great that he got to talk with his family, got back to the meal room and talked to the



players and give them a hug. It's part of what we've been preaching here. We're one big family.

"He needs us now and we're there for him."

Arniel lost his own father, Doug, three years ago.

"It hits home," said Arniel. "I've actually been through this experience once before in hockey. It's not a good feeling. With this group, the thing about them is that winning a hockey game or losing a hockey game or something as serious as this, that we've got a game to play and we're going to play hard for Mark. That's pretty much the chatter that's happening. Everyone wants to make sure that we don't let him down."

Jets captain Adam Lowry is close to Scheifele and was asked to share some thoughts on what he will remember about Brad.

"Such an infectious laugh. I mean, spending my whole career here, (being on) numerous fathers' trips, just the energy that he had was unmatched," said Lowry. "Just his joy and excitement for life and he really passed it down to Mark. But I think his positivity, his outlook on life, just a genuinely happy person and a terrible loss, obviously."

"Our condolences go out to Mary Lou (Scheifele's mother), Janelle (Scheifele's sister), Kyle, (Scheifele's brother) and the whole Scheifele family."

"It's a terrible loss. It's tough to put into words how gutted we all feel for Mark and his family."

The Jets will attempt to extend their season with a win on Saturday night and are looking to build on Thursday's 4-0 victory over the Stars.

But the focus right now is to let their teammate know the group is there for him.

"Having such a tight-knit room, close bond with everyone, the support, if he wants to open up about it, be there to listen but be there to take his mind off things," said Lowry.

"It's not an easy thing to navigate, especially with the magnitude of the day in terms of our playoff lives. It's important that we're there for him in just whatever capacity he needs. He needs to know everyone in that room is there to support him, to be whatever he needs us to be."

"It's one of those things that you don't wish upon anyone. Just really hope that he's got the family strength, the great support system around him that helps ease this pain because that's such a big loss. That's your mentor, that's the person you looked up to growing up. It's the person you want to be like. So, yeah, I think there's just a lot of little things you have to do to make sure Mark feels supported today and moving forward."

## **Winnipeg Sun**

<https://winnipeg.sun.com/sports/hockey/nhl/winnipeg-jets/organic-outpouring-of-support-for-jets-scheifele-from-both-sides>

### ***'Organic outpouring of support' for Jets' Scheifele, from both sides***

By Paul Friesen

Dallas Stars players and coaches weren't the only ones touched by the courage of Mark Scheifele on Saturday.

An outpouring of support for the Winnipeg Jets star came from fans of both teams in the form of donations to a charity he works closely with: The Jets' own True North Youth Foundation.

Donations began coming in when news broke of the death of Scheifele's father, Brad, as the Jets prepared to take on the Stars in Game 6 of their series on Saturday.

"An organic outpouring of support," True North spokesperson Krista Sinaisky called it in an email to the Winnipeg Sun on Sunday.

Many of the donations were \$55, matching Scheifele's sweater number. Others were larger, including one from the Stars organization for \$5,500.

"We are honoured to use these funds to meaningfully impact youth in our community in honour of the Scheifele family," Sinaisky said. "And will be giving thought as to how to do so in a way that builds legacy for their family."

Upon receiving the tragic news, Scheifele immediately told Jets coach Scott Arniel he'd be playing that night because that's what his dad would have wanted.

After Winnipeg's season ended in a 2-1 overtime loss, Stars players lauded Scheifele for not only suiting up in the face of such deep adversity but for how he played: He scored the Jets' only goal in what was his best game of the series.

"I'm not sure I could do what he did," Dallas forward Sam Steel said. "It's pretty brave of him. He played his heart out."

Steel scored the Stars' first goal and drew the tripping penalty that put Scheifele in the penalty box for Thomas Harley's overtime winner.

From Dallas coach Pete DeBoer: "I'm sure his dad would have been really proud of him and what he did. Courageous young man."

The True North Youth Foundation's mission is to provide underserved youth in Manitoba with opportunities they need to fulfill their ultimate potential, reads the organization's website.

It includes the Jets Hockey Academy, Camp Manitou and Project 11, a program aimed at mental health awareness.

Total donations when The Sun checked in around 4 p.m. on Sunday had reached a fitting number: just over \$55,000.

<https://winnipeg.sun.com/sports/hockey/nhl/winnipeg-jets/jets-hands-down-have-nhls-top-coaches-stars-deboer>

### ***Jets 'hands down' have NHL's top coaches: Stars' DeBoer***

By Paul Friesen

If Peter DeBoer was an NHL broadcaster instead of a coach, he would be able to vote for the Jack Adams Award, given annually to the league's coach of the year.

He wasn't shy about whom he'd vote for after his Dallas Stars got past the Winnipeg Jets in their second-round playoff series.

"I can't imagine there's a better-coached team in the league than that coaching staff did with that group," DeBoer said of Scott Arniel's staff. "I'm a little biased because we work in the West, but (they) won the Presidents' Trophy. They give you nothing, they play hard, they play as a team, great leadership.

"They should win the Jack Adams running away, in my opinion, with the job they did this year."

Arniel is a finalist for the award, along with Washington's Spencer Carbery and Martin St. Louis of Montreal. All are first-time finalists.

Arniel's first season with the Jets produced the top regular-season record in the league, good for 116 points. The Stars finished 10 points back, but DeBoer is taking his team to its third straight Western Conference Final.

DeBoer says chasing Winnipeg in the Central Division all season, then matching wits with Arniel in the playoffs, wasn't easy.

"It was the best-coached team in the league, hands down this year," he said. "He was looking to find his matchups. He made adjustments between games. They played short, too. (Josh) Morrissey going down was obviously a big hole for them, and they still grind through.

“Much respect for him and that staff.”

Arniel is far from a lock to win the Jack Adams, though.

Carbery's Capitals finished with 111 points, five back of Winnipeg.

In Montreal, St. Louis led the Canadiens back to the playoffs for the first time in four years, their 91 points a 15-point improvement from last season.

<https://winnipegsun.com/sports/not-short-on-heart-this-jets-ending-has-a-different-feel>

### ***Not short on heart: This Jets ending has a different feel***

By Paul Friesen

No wonder Scott Arniel didn't want to tell the story about his experience with a 3-1 series deficit.

Going into Game 5 of the Jets-Dallas series here in Winnipeg, I asked the Jets coach if he'd ever been on a team that climbed out of that deep a hole in the Stanley Cup playoffs, and if there some words of wisdom he recalled from the experience.

“I don't look back too much,” he said that day. “Nothing comes right to my head.”

The next day, during an informal chat, Arniel wanted to explain.

He knew exactly when a team he was part of overcame the kind of challenge the Jets were facing.

It was with the New York Rangers, trailing Pittsburgh three games to one in the second round of the 2014 playoffs.

Arniel was the Rangers associate coach when star centre Martin St. Louis was rocked by the death of his mother.

Three days later, in Game 6 – on Mother's Day no less – St. Louis scored New York's first goal and the Rangers came back all the way to win the series.

You can see why Arniel didn't want to bring up that experience going into Game 5. That Rangers team had a tragedy and heartbroken teammate to really around.

Trying to relate those motivating words and feelings to the Jets' situation would have felt wrong.

Then came Saturday in Dallas, and a deja vu Arniel hoped he'd never experience.

It started with the devastating news of the passing of Mark Scheifele's father.

It continued with Scheifele lifting his play to another level, scoring the game's opening goal.

This time, though, it ended in more heartbreak, Scheifele in the penalty box for the game-losing goal in overtime.

Jets seasons have ended in many ways, but never like this.

They say Stanley Cup championships bond players forever. I'd venture a guess that day in Dallas will, too.

Watching the postgame outpouring of emotion, both on the ice and in the interview room later, showed a unity that should galvanize this team for years to come.

It's difficult to compare the feelings we witnessed Saturday with those that have bubbled to the surface at the bitter end of previous seasons.

Three years ago, there was the call for more accountability after the Jets missed the playoffs, and Scheifele wondering aloud if he even wanted to stick around.

A year later players had their noses out of joint because coach Rick Bowness had been too hard on them for their first-round playoff surrender to Vegas.

Last season's disastrous first-round against Colorado had at least one player saying it was time to "question everything."

I doubt we'll hear anything like that when the Jets hold their exit interviews on Tuesday.

This team has grown into something stronger, most of its weeds unearthed, roots and all.

"It's been building," head coach Scott Arniel said after it ended in Dallas. "Some things have happened over the last couple of years. Us being a tight-knit group, being family, you really saw it on display."

Not just on Saturday, either.

"The 82 games were outstanding, the work that we put in to get ourselves where we did at the end of the season," Arniel said. "Guys have to be awfully proud of that accomplishment. How we battled through the playoffs – lots of things happened."

Like bouncing back from embarrassing road losses in Round 1 to force a seventh game against St. Louis.

Like staring at the end, late in Game 7, only to pull off a miracle, then get through a marathon overtime without their best defenceman – and pull it out.

Like staving off elimination in Game 5 against Dallas.

And then Saturday's emotional meat-grinder, a teammate dealing with a real-life tragedy, deciding to play because that's what his dad would have wanted.

Their first period was predictably wobbly, goalie Connor Hellebuyck fighting back his own demons to keep them in it.

Their second period was the reverse, as they found yet another well, deep down inside.

Then a third period that went back and forth, two Stanley Cup contenders exchanging their best.

Until the end.

"We lost to a great team," Arniel said. "We lost to a team that was in our rear-view mirror all year long."

That's not the same as beating themselves. And it's definitely not the same as splintering into pieces when it's over.

"I've seen it build over the last couple of years," the coach said. "It starts in our room with our veterans, our leaders. When things are hard, things are tough, especially this year, we didn't cower away from it. We faced it head on."

From October to May, they gave Winnipeg a reason to cheer again.

Short by a month or so, perhaps.

But not short on heart.

<https://winnipegssun.com/sports/stars-pests-offer-postgame-props-to-jets-scheifele>

### ***Stars' pests offer postgame props to Jets' Scheifele***

By Paul Friesen

A punch to the face in Game 5, a heartfelt hug after Game 6.

Dallas Stars captain Jamie Benn had Mark Scheifele of the Jets livid in Winnipeg on Thursday, when his gloved punch put the Jets star to the ice late in a 4-0 Winnipeg win.

But there was Benn on Saturday in Dallas, his arms wrapped around Scheifele in the handshake line, his heart offering condolences to an opponent who'd lost not just a playoff series, but his father, too, in a day almost too gut-wrenching to comprehend.

"I just told him that I respected him as a competitor, and as a hockey player," Benn told reporters in Dallas later. "You can grow to not like guys throughout a playoff series. But... I wanted to let him know that it took a lot of courage for him to play in a tough situation. I'm not sure too many guys would have done that in his situation. I respected it. Every guy in our room respected it, and our whole organization respected it.

"I wanted to tell him I cared about him."

Benn's postgame embrace with Scheifele wasn't the only striking visual as the teams shook hands and went their separate ways, the Stars to the Western Conference Final for the third straight season, the Jets to next-year country a little too early for a seventh straight.

Another of the longer, more emotional moments with Scheifele came from Dallas pest Mason Marchment, who spent the series either running at Winnipeg players or complaining to the officials about the runs they took at him.

He spent his embrace with Scheifele telling him what he thought his opponent needed to hear, and from experience: Marchment lost his own dad suddenly, former NHLer Bryan Marchment, nearly three years ago.

"Just trying to help him through some emotions that I was going through," Marchment told The Athletic. "I just wanted to give him some words that I got told back when my dad passed that really helped me think a different way about it... basically just remembering the good times, and living your best life, because that's what they would have wanted for us."

Like Benn, Marchment admired Scheifele for not just playing, but how he played: scoring, hitting and leaving it all on the ice in the Stars' 2-1 overtime win.

"It's tough, and I just hope nothing but the best for him," he said. "I hope he works through it this summer and has people close to him who help him through it. We're enemies out there when we're playing, but... I don't want to hate him or anything like that. We're all just people.

"And when you treat someone with respect, it means a lot."

<https://winnipegssun.com/sports/hockey/nhl/winnipeg-jets/season-ends-in-texas-sized-heartbreak-for-jets-scheifele-2>

## ***Season ends in Texas-sized heartbreak for Jets, Scheifele***

By Paul Friesen

The Winnipeg Jets' hopes of hosting another Game 7 came crashing down in dramatic, heartbreaking fashion in Dallas on Saturday.

Mark Scheifele, playing hours after learning of the death of his father, took a tripping penalty with 15 seconds left in a 1-1 tie, the only penalty called in the game, and the Stars capitalized in overtime, winning 2-1.

Thomas Harley's winner came with 12 seconds left in the penalty, ending the Jets season six games into the second round of the playoffs.

"Heartbreaking," Jets captain Adam Lowry called it. "For it to end the way it did and everything else surrounding the day, it's just a lot of emotion. It's tough to put into words what Mark went through. Gets a huge goal for us, plays a heck of a game, and it ends the way it does. Just emotional. Heavy."

Scheifele had opened the scoring, setting the stage for a potentially heart-wrenching, feel-good story.

Instead, the picture of him hanging his head in the penalty box after the winning goal will be the lasting image of an emotional day that capped an emotional series and a roller-coaster playoffs.

The Jets centre finally left the box, tears in his eyes, to embraces from his teammates, one after the other doing their best to console the 32-year-old.

"Just to let him know that we're there for him," Lowry said, fighting back tears of his own. "It's just an awful day for him. You want to give him the strength, you want to get that kill so bad. We just couldn't do it."

"We're a family," defenceman Neal Pionk added. "Scheif's a big part of our family. We weren't leaving the ice without him. Did everything we could to get him and his family a win. Just didn't pull through."

Scheifele's tripping penalty prevented a breakaway by Stars forward Sam Steel. The referee could have handed Dallas a penalty shot. Instead, No. 55 had to sit and watch his team try to kill it off.

Receiving the shocking news of his father Brad's death on Saturday morning, Scheifele immediately told head coach Scott Arniel he wanted to play.



Then he played his best game of the series, scoring the Jets' only goal and leading both teams with nine hits.

"For him to play and play the way he did is flat out one of the most courageous things I've ever seen," Pionk said.

Arniel said his No. 1 centre told him he was playing because that's what his dad would have wanted.

"For him to go through what he had to go through, and perform the way he did, so proud of him," Arniel said. "And his dad would be so proud of him. He wanted to win so bad. The circumstances, so, so tough. Being in a situation like that, I couldn't imagine it.

"Everybody, everybody wanted to win for Mark. Just a heartbreak at the end of it."

There were more hugs waiting for Scheifele in the handshake line, as the Stars shared a pain only those who've lost a dad can even relate to.

"They played their asses off for him," Dallas goalie Jake Oettinger told Sportsnet, minutes later. "I can't imagine the guts that he showed battling for his teammates."

Steel says he and some teammates heard the news while having lunch.

"And we were all just absolutely gutted for him," Steel said. "I'm not sure I could do what he did. It's pretty brave of him. He played his heart out."

And from Stars coach Pete DeBoer: "I consider myself a Kitchener guy. His family's from Kitchener. I'm sure his dad would have been really proud of him and what he did. And I'm sure his dad would have wanted him there. So hats off to him. Courageous young man."

There were shades of déjà vu in the game, too, as the Jets lost defenceman Josh Morrissey to injury – just like they did in Game 7 of Round 1 against St. Louis.

"It's not good," Arniel said. "He's banged up pretty good."

Morrissey went down in the back half of the second period, leaving his team with five defencemen, the game tied at 1-1 going into the third.

The final 20 minutes were an edge-of-the-seat mix of near-misses and desperation saves.

A Connor Hellebuyck toe save on Mikko Rantanen early in the third was answered at the other end by a Jake Oettinger save on Cole Perfetti.

Scheifele came close to setting up the go-ahead goal midway through the third, but Perfetti couldn't get his stick on the pass as the two stormed the net.

Back and forth they went, one team desperate to stay alive, the other as determined to advance to Round 2.

Nobody missed a better chance than Winnipeg's Mason Appleton, though.

Set up by Lowry with Oettinger out of position, Appleton fired it into the sprawling goalie instead of the half-open net.

Later it was the Stars' Mikael Granlund on a rebound, stopped by Hellebuyck, while Evgenii Dadonov rang one off the post.

Shots were 23-17, Jets, through 60 minutes. Dallas had the only three shots in overtime.

The Stars reached their third straight Western Conference Final, robbing the Jets of a chance to get there for the first time in seven years.

Dallas came out of the gate intent on avoiding another trip to Winnipeg, buzzing the Jets' zone through the first half of the opening period.

Hellebuyck shut the door, though.

Shots after one were 6-3, Dallas, but that didn't tell the story. Scoring chances were 15-1.

Somehow, the Jets escaped the period with a scoreless tie, and you wondered if the Stars would come to rue not cashing in at least one of those chances.

It was a complete reversal in the second, the Jets recording six unanswered shots, including a Nik Ehlers breakaway that Oettinger turned aside.

The Jets kept coming, though. And when Scheifele, left all alone in front, banged home a rebound 5:28 in, the Jets had the all-important icebreaker, not to mention an injection of emotion.

It was Scheifele's first road playoff goal in six years and a significant moment on another emotional front for him.

The goal, and Kyle Connor's assist, put them both at 49 career playoff points, tying them with the late Dale Hawerchuk, Scheifele's mentor, for the most in Jets history.

Sentiment wasn't about to slow the Stars, though.

They fought back, Steel firing a rebound over Hellebuyck's glove midway through the second to even the score.

Adding injury to the insult, minutes later Morrissey got his foot caught under a falling Rantanen, leaving the ice clutching his knee.

Shots were 12-8, Winnipeg, in the second period, the teams tied going into the nail-biting final 20 minutes.

The Jets finish the postseason with a sixth straight road loss, their 10th straight going back to a first-round series against Vegas, two years ago.

None, though, have been as heartbreaking as the last one.

### **CBC Manitoba**

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/manitoba/winnipeg-jets-lose-fans-defeated-hopeful-1.7538473>

### ***Winnipeg Jets fans lament 'really rough' end to Stanley Cup dream but commend team for this year's run***

By CBC News

It's the end of the road for a hockey dream — for this season, at least.

A power-play goal shot by Dallas Stars defenceman Thomas Harley sealed the fate of the Winnipeg Jets 1:33 into overtime on Saturday.

The Stars moved to the NHL's Western Conference final after defeating Winnipeg 2-1 in Game 6 of the second-round NHL hockey playoff — capping the Jet's run for the Stanley Cup after a franchise-record regular season.

"I'll get over it in a couple of days. That's why it's the long weekend. But it's rough, it's really rough," said Matthew Lacey.

He was one of dozens of fans who watched what turned out to be the last Jet's game this season at the Canada Life Centre's jumbotron.

It was "so close, so close," he said, but "[Mark] Scheifele's got a good one at least."

The team's forward scored the Jet's lone goal of the game just hours after the unexpected death of his father.

"Scheifele really wanted to win it for his dad," said Jets fan Kianna Ritchot. "I lost my dad, and I know how much it hurts, and you could tell how much he wanted to do it."

"I know his dad was smiling down on him and proud of him."

The True North Youth Foundation said it has received an "organic outpouring of support" from both Jets and Stars fans donating in recognition of Scheifele's loss.

More than \$55,000 had been raised by Sunday with a \$5,500 donation coming from the Dallas Stars organization.

The funds will be used to "meaningfully impact youth in our community in honour of the Scheifele family," True North said in a statement, with planning still underway.

Ani Kalia says he is 'deeply saddened' by the Winnipeg Jets loss to the Dallas Stars in Game 6 of their second-round playoff series but he's holding out hope the Jets will bring the Stanley Cup home to Winnipeg in 2026. (CBC)

"It's commendable he was still playing after that tragedy, that loss, and he was the only goal. It's amazing," fan Ani Kalia said.

It was disappointing to see the Jets capped their run for the Stanley Cup without a single victory on the road, Kalia said, but "we're still proud of them," he said.

"Next year, 2026, the Stanley Cup comes home," Kalia said.

Jets fan Kevin Mazak is also looking ahead for the next season, keeping his fingers crossed so Scheifele and defenceman Josh Morrissey — who suffered an upper-body injury in the final game of the playoffs first-round — can come back well and help the team "pick things up where we left off this year."

"They made it past the first round, they slayed the demons that they had," Mazak said. "We still believe."