

## **NHL.com**

<https://www.nhl.com/news/mark-scheifele-won-t-travel-play-for-winnipeg-jets-in-game-6-st-louis-blues>

### ***Scheifele won't travel, play for Jets in Game 6 vs. Blues Forward injured during Game 5 win; Winnipeg looks to advance to 2nd round***

By Darrin Bauming

WINNIPEG -- Mark Scheifele will not play for the Winnipeg Jets in Game 6 of the Western Conference First Round against the St. Louis Blues at Enterprise Center on Friday (8:00 p.m. ET; CBC, TVAS, SN, TNT, truTV, MAX).

"He won't be coming on the trip," coach Scott Arniel said Thursday before the Jets boarded their flight to St. Louis. "Extremely [disappointing]. You're hoping maybe for the best, wake up today, things are better. But right now he won't be making trip and we'll see, we'll just go day to day moving forward."

Scheifele took a couple of big hits during the first period of the Jets' 5-3 win in Game 5 on Wednesday, including one from Blues captain Brayden Schenn along the boards at 6:12 where Schenn was called for interference, and another open-ice hit from Blues forward Radek Faksa at the St. Louis blue line at 17:02. Scheifele remained in the game for the remainder of the period, playing 8:05 with one assist. He did not come out for the second period.

"Certainly not having him is going to be huge," Arniel said. "But at the end of the day, last night our three centermen had to step up and play big minutes, did a great job, [Adam Lowry, Vladislav Namestnikov, Morgan Barron]. We'll throw another centerman in here for tomorrow and take away a little bit of that workload."

"But you know what, I'm so proud of the group, how everybody stepped up. That's kind of what our team has done all year, that when guys go down, other guys step in. And it's going to be just as large tomorrow. We did the job last night, now we've got to turn around and do it again."

Namestnikov took Scheifele's place on Winnipeg's top line as well as the Jets' first power-play unit and had a goal and an assist during the second period.

Asked if Scheifele was in concussion protocol, Arniel was short, "I'm not going down that road."

Scheifele, 32, has six points (two goals, four assists) in five Stanley Cup Playoff games, and had 87 points (39 goals, 48 assists) in 82 regular-season games, second on the Jets behind Kyle Connor, who had 97 points (41 goals, 56 assists).

"This is going to be a meat-and-potato kind of work zone-to-zone [game]," Arniel said. "Get out of our zone, get through that neutral zone and then make them spend some time in their end of the rink. You know, not having Nic [Ehlers], not having 'Scheif,' kind of knocks out a couple of your top-six players. So this is straightforward, grind it out kind of work for, fight for every inch and get those greasy goals, a lot like we scored last night."

The Jets lead the best-of-7 series 3-2 after losing Game 3 and Game 4 in St. Louis. They are trying to reach the second round for the first time since the 2020-21 season.

"Emotions are high," Jets defenseman Dylan DeMelo said Thursday. "Obviously, when Scheif's out of the game, it's a huge void, no doubt about it. Fantastic player, does just so much for our group, offensively and defensively but you saw guys step up yesterday, and that's what we've been preaching all year, is our depth and guys stepping up, more ice time, different roles, whatever it may be. And I think everybody collectively stepped up and did a great job yesterday."

<https://www.nhl.com/news/topic/playoffs/2025/series-e-news/st-louis-blues-hope-home-dominance-continues-in-game-6-against-winnipeg-jets>

***Blues hope home dominance continues in Game 6 against Jets  
St. Louis needs win to save season, has won 14 straight games at Enterprise Center***

By Tracey Myers

WINNIPEG -- Jim Montgomery has complete confidence.

The St. Louis Blues coach wasn't dwelling on their 5-3 loss to the Winnipeg Jets in Game 5 of the Western Conference First Round at Canada Life Centre on Wednesday. The Blues have accomplished too much since coming out of the 4 Nations Face-Off break to doubt their comeback abilities.

"I believe in our group. We've done it here for 2 1/2 months," he said. "There's no reason to believe that we're not going to be coming out full force and trying to force a Game 7."

It's been more than two months since the Blues have lost a game at Enterprise Center, where they'll host the Jets in Game 6 on Friday (8 p.m. ET; FDSNMW, MAX, truTV, TNT, SN, TVAS, CBC).

Trailing in the best-of-7 series, they've never needed that home domination to continue more than now.

They've won 14 straight at Enterprise Center, their last loss there coming Feb. 22, their first game after the 4 Nations break, when the Jets defeated them 4-3 in a shootout.

"They're a good team but we've played some good hockey at home for a couple of months now. So we're comfortable there," Blues captain Brayden Schenn said. "We played well in Games 3 and 4. You knew it was going to be a tough series. They're a good team, [there was] a lot of back and forth and momentum swings. So far the road team hasn't been able to get the job done. It's our turn to get one at home now."

This is the only Stanley Cup Playoff series so far in which the home team has won every game. It's the first series in which the home team has won each of the first five games since the 2022 Eastern Conference Second Round between the New York Rangers and Carolina Hurricanes (six games). In that series, the home team won every time until Game 7, when the Rangers eliminated the Hurricanes in Carolina.

"No one's won on the road so far," Blues forward Oskar Sundqvist said. "So obviously we're feeling good going home and [will try to] do everything we can to come back here on Sunday."

It's easy to understand why the Blues are confident. They didn't just defeat the Jets in Games 3 and 4 at home, they dominated them. They outscored the Jets 12-3 combined in those games. They frustrated the Jets in just about every facet, and Winnipeg goalie Connor Hellebuyck was pulled in each, the first time in his postseason career that's happened.

The Blues wanted to carry those home performances into to Game 5 in Winnipeg, but it didn't happen.

"I mean, there are adjustments always, right? I just don't think we liked our game tonight," Schenn said Wednesday. "At the end of the day, we weren't good enough tonight to turn the tides. We got some key goals at key times and just weren't able to grab momentum after that. Obviously a little bit deflating. At the end of the day, you turn the page, move on and go to Game 6."

If there was one bright spot for the Blues, it was their fourth line of left wing Alexey Toropchenko, center Radek Faksa and right wing Nathan Walker. Walker scored his first two goals of the playoffs, with Faksa and Toropchenko assisting on his second one.

"I thought [that line] did a lot of good things. Their habits and their game management were excellent," Montgomery said. "They had a lot of big hits again and they just keep building our game the right way. So they're a good example of what we need to do."

The Blues have been fighting the uphill battle since February. They were eight points out of a playoff spot coming out of the 4 Nations, went on a franchise-record 12-game winning streak from March 15-April 5 and clinched a playoff berth in Game No. 82. This is one more bit of adversity, but they're confident in facing it, especially at home.

"We know we can play better, and we know what this group is capable of," Blues defenseman Justin Faulk said. "We're excited to get back home, get the job done there, and you never know. We've just got to win that one and get to Game 7."

## **Winnipeg Free Press**

<https://www.winnipegfreepress.com/breakingnews/2025/05/01/taking-it-on-the-road>

### ***Taking it on the road***

### ***Jets look to win series Friday that has favoured the home side***

By: Mike McIntyre

ST. LOUIS — The Winnipeg Jets have been here before. This time, however, they hope to be the ones forcing the handshake line inside Enterprise Center and moving on to bigger and better things.

We take you back to April 20, 2019, when the St. Louis Blues hung on for a 3-2 victory in Game 6 of their first-round playoff series.

It was a devastating development for Winnipeg, which had started the year with so much promise only to fade down the stretch.

It would ultimately usher in a tumultuous off-season filled with change. For example: the franchise bid farewell to Dustin Byfuglien, who scored his final NHL goal that fateful night.

Meanwhile, surging St. Louis would ride the playoff waves all the way to a first franchise Stanley Cup championship later that spring, with Laura Branigan's Gloria serenading them every step of the way.

Fast forward to the present, and what might Friday night and another crucial Game 6 between the Jets and the Blues bring? This time, it's Winnipeg on the cusp of advancing and St. Louis trying to stave off elimination.

A little revenge, perhaps? Six years in the making and served ice cold?

"The last one is the hardest one to get," Jets defenceman Dylan DeMelo cautioned Thursday.

It certainly is, especially for a Jets franchise that has only advanced past the first round twice in franchise history.

They did it for the first time in 2018, following a five-game series win over the Minnesota Wild and a seven-game nail-biter triumph against the Nashville Predators.

The second occurred during the COVID-impacted 2021 campaign which included modified divisions and a 56-game schedule. The Jets swept the Edmonton Oilers to begin the playoffs, where they were quickly bounced by the Montreal Canadiens.

Now, a chance to go from the NHL's Sweet 16 to the Elite Eight for a Jets team that finished first overall during the regular season but has been severely tested by a resurgent, resilient Blues team that has plenty of similar traits to that squad that ended their season.

"Honestly, the temperature and just the pace. It's amazing how much faster it's going and how much heavier it is," Jets head coach Scott Arniel said Thursday of what he's seen so far.

"I know we can't bottle this up and do it for 82 games. This has been five games of sort of rock 'em sock 'em. Everybody, you got to know where you are, who's coming, you got to make plays fast. You got to do things quickly. Yeah, I don't think it's gonna change."

Can previous hockey history, particularly between these fierce Central Division rivals, perhaps add some extra motivation?

There are seven players on the current Jets roster who appeared in that 2019 series, although two of them — Mark Scheifele and Nikolaj Ehlers — are injured and won't be available for this one. That leaves goaltender Connor Hellebuyck, defenceman Josh Morrissey and forwards Kyle Connor, Adam Lowry and Brandon Tanev.

The Blues have five skaters: goalie Jordan Binnington, defenceman Colton Parayko and forwards Robert Thomas, Oskar Sundqvist and Brayden Schenn — who just put Scheifele on the shelf with a controversial first-period hit during Wednesday's 5-3 victory by Winnipeg in Game 5 that brought the spice level of the series up a habanero pepper or two.

And what to make of this fun little fact?

During their previous playoff meeting, the visiting team won the first five games before St. Louis finally broke the trend and won on home ice in Game 6. It's been the opposite this time around with the home team winning the first five games.

Does that bode well for Winnipeg flipping the script this time around and being the first to win in the road in Game 6?

"Obviously, a team that's a lot like us that plays really good at home," said DeMelo.

Winnipeg enjoyed its two visits to St. Louis during the regular season, winning here both times.

It's been an entirely different story in the playoffs, with a pair of lopsided losses in Games 3 (7-2) and 4 (5-1). Jets captain Adam Lowry believes his team was far too tentative, perhaps taking the foot off the gas by virtue of winning the first two games in their rink and "almost like we were protecting a lead in the series."

Those were the 13th and 14th consecutive victories on home ice for St. Louis. Their last setback? February 22 against Winnipeg in a 4-3 shootout defeat.

The Jets need to find a way to bottle up the type of game that's become their calling card at Canada Life Centre and bring it on the road with them. Or, as Lowry put it, spend more time playing "on our toes" just as they did in Game 5.

And maybe, just maybe, Hellebuyck will find his regular-season form that has led to a fifth Vezina Trophy nomination and a first-ever Hart Trophy bid.

The fact Winnipeg leads this series 3-2 despite some shaky work from their No. 1 netminder, Ehlers out for every game, Vilardi being sidelined for the first four, DeMelo missing a game due to illness and now Scheifele on the shelf is quite something.

"I think (Wednesday's win) was right up there with one of the gutsiest efforts we have shown all year," said DeMelo.

"Obviously, the magnitude of the game being 2-2 and trying to get that one to take the series lead and then dealing with one of your top players, if not, your top player being out of the lineup, having everybody rally and play hard, play the right way and do the right things and contributing up and down the lineup. We are going to need that again for sure. It's great that we got it last game, but we need to replicate that again to finish these guys off."

Will it be handshakes or more heartbreak for the visitors in the Show Me State? One way or another, the Jets will be coming home this weekend. Whether it's to get ready for their second-round series or bringing the Blues back with them for a winner-take-all Game 7 on Sunday remains to be seen.

"We just need to take the momentum from (Wednesday's) game and play the same way in their building," said forward Vlad Namestnikov. "It's a tough building to play in but I know we can get the win there."

<https://www.winnipegfreepress.com/breakingnews/2025/05/01/hellebuyck-up-for-hart-trophy>

## ***Hellebuyck up for Hart Trophy***

By: Ken Wiebe

Winnipeg Jets goalie Connor Hellebuyck has been named a finalist for the Hart Trophy for the first time of his career.

As the NHL revealed the three players up for the award that is given to the player who is the most valuable player to their team, Hellebuyck was joined by centre Leon Draisaitl of the Edmonton Oilers and winger Nikita Kucherov of the Tampa Bay Lightning.

Hellebuyck led the National Hockey League in most statistical categories this season, including wins (47), shutouts (eight) and goals-against average (2.00), and was second in save percentage by .01 to Anthony Stolarz of the Toronto Maple Leafs, who played 19 fewer games.

Hellebuyck is only the third goalie to be named a Hart finalist in the past 10 seasons, after Sergei Bobrovsky of the Columbus Blue Jackets in 2016-17 and Igor Shesterkin of the New York Rangers in 2021-22.

Only three goalies in the league's expansion era have won the Hart — Dominik Hasek of the Buffalo Sabres (1996-97 and 1997-98), José Theodore of the Montreal Canadiens (2001-02) and Carey Price of the Canadiens (2014-15).

The NHL previously announced Hellebuyck was a nominee for the Vezina Trophy, awarded to the league's best goaltender. He has been a finalist for that award five times in the past eight seasons, winning the 2020 and 2024 trophies.

Kucherov won the Art Ross Trophy with 121 points, while Draisaitl captured the Rocket Richard Trophy as the NHL's top goal scorer (52) and was tied for third in the NHL with 106 points.

Hellebuyck and the Jets resume their opening-round series with the St. Louis Blues at 7 p.m. Friday with a 3-2 series lead after a 5-3 win Wednesday night and will look to move on to the second round with a victory.

## **Canadian Press**

<https://www.winnipegfreepress.com/sports/hockey/2025/05/01/winnipeg-jets-forward-mark-scheifele-out-for-game-6-against-st-louis-blues>

### ***Winnipeg Jets forward Mark Scheifele out for Game 6 against St. Louis Blues***

By: Gregory Strong, The Canadian Press

ST LOUIS – With two star forwards down and a starting goalie who was pulled in his two previous road games, the Winnipeg Jets have a few strikes against them as they return to enemy territory.

They still have the St. Louis Blues on the ropes though in a first-round series that has been physical, fast-paced and energetic. A spicy Game 5 that saw the departure of Jets centre Mark Scheifele has only added to the drama.

Home has felt like it for both teams. The Jets are hoping the first road win in this best-of-seven showdown will come Friday night in Game 6 at Enterprise Center.

“We don’t change how we’re going into this,” Jets head coach Scott Arniel said Thursday. “We’re going in to do what we do best and get it going right from the beginning of the game like we did last night, and hopefully that’s enough to get us right to the end.”

Like they did in the first two games at home, the Jets held off the opposition Wednesday night with a strong two-way game in a 5-3 victory.

Winnipeg took a 3-2 series lead but it was a costly win as Scheifele was hurt and didn’t travel to St. Louis. Officially out on a day-to-day basis, the top-line centre joined forward Nikolaj Ehlers (foot) on the shelf.

“Not having Nik, not having Scheif, kind of knocks out a couple of your top-six players,” Arniel said during an availability at the Winnipeg airport. “So this is straightforward. (You) grind it out, work for and fight for every inch and get those greasy goals.”

Scheifele, who has six points in the series, took two punishing bodychecks early in Game 5 and didn’t return after the first intermission. Injury specifics weren’t provided.

He was hit along the boards by Blues captain Brayden Schenn — who was penalized for interference — and later took a stiff open-ice check from Radek Faksa.

Overall, the Jets outhit the Blues 44-40 in the teams’ latest rough-and-tumble affair.

“This is playoff hockey,” Arniel said. “A lot of this stuff goes on. It’s tough. It’s tough to manage, it’s tough to ref and it’s tough to coach. It’s what it is. That’s why everybody talks about the playoffs.

“It’s a totally different animal in itself. It takes on a whole new life. It’s pressure on players, coaches, referees, the league. So it’s just (time to) move on. We know where we’re at right now. We know Scheif won’t be with us for tomorrow’s game. Now we’ve just got to focus on winning that next one.”

Hellebuyck, who has been nominated for the Hart and Vezina trophies, was chased in a 7-2 loss in Game 3 and yanked again in a 5-1 defeat in Game 4.

He posted a 2.00 goals-against average and .925 save percentage in the regular season but has a 3.96 GAA and .822 save percentage in this series.

Hellebuyck let in a softy to Jimmy Snuggerud in Game 5 but also made an all-world stick save on Oskar Sundqvist.

“It was just one of those saves where you’re like, ‘Oh my goodness,’” said Jets defenceman Dylan DeMelo. “It gets you out of your seat. Just a fantastic save and huge moment in the game there.

“(If) they score one there, maybe that changes the outlook of the game.”

Hellebuyck is not the only netminder who has been uncomfortable at Enterprise Center in recent weeks. The Blues closed out the regular season with 12 straight home victories.

“So far the road team hasn’t been able to get the job done,” Schenn said after Game 5. “It’s our turn to get one at home now.”

Ehlers, who’s out on a week-to-week basis, has been skating in recent days and joined the team for the trip.

The Jets haven’t reached the second round of the playoffs since 2021. If the Blues force a deciding seventh game, it will be played Sunday at Canada Life Centre.

“I believe in our group,” said Blues head coach Jim Montgomery. “We’ve done it here for two and a half months. There’s no reason to believe that we’re not going to be coming out full force and try to force a Game 7.”

## **Associated Press**

<https://www.winnipegfreepress.com/sports/2025/05/01/blues-hoping-to-defend-home-ice-once-again-as-jets-look-to-fight-their-way-into-nhls-second-round>

### ***Blues hoping to defend home ice once again as Jets look to fight their way into NHL's second round***

By: Tim Reynolds, The Associated Press

The first five games of the Winnipeg-St. Louis series have all had the same result. The home team won.

The Blues need that trend to continue Friday — or else.

Game 6 of the Jets-Blues matchup awaits in St. Louis, with Winnipeg — the NHL's best team in the regular season — holding a 3-2 series lead. The Blues rolled to wins on their home ice in Games 3 and 4, taking those games by scores of 7-2 and 5-1 to extend a run of invincibility there that has lasted for more than two months.

"It's a tough building to play in," Jets forward Vladislav Namestnikov said. "But I know we can get the win there."

If they do, they will be doing so without star Mark Scheifele, the team's second-leading scorer and leader in game-winning goals this season. Scheifele was hurt in Game 5 and wasn't flying with Winnipeg to St. Louis on Thursday for Game 6.

The teams had different opinions about when Scheifele got hurt, but the bottom line is the Jets will be missing a big part of their team for a potential closeout game.

"Certainly, not having him is going to be huge," Jets coach Scott Arniel said Thursday. "But at the end of the day, last night, our three centermen had to step up and play big minutes and did a great job. ... So proud of the group, how everybody stepped up. It's kind of what our team has done all year. Guys go down, other guys step in."

Winnipeg was the most recent visiting team to win in St. Louis — but that was more than two months ago.

The Blues have put together the longest home winning streak in the NHL this season, a 14-game run that started on Feb. 23 and hasn't stopped. St. Louis has outscored opponents 69-25 in that span at home, winning by an average of a whopping 3.14 goals per game.

"We've played some good hockey at home for a couple months now," St. Louis' Brayden Schenn said. "We're comfortable there."

That's a bit of an understatement. The Blues have simply looked like a different team in their own building; St. Louis has had stretches of three goals in five minutes, three goals in eight minutes and three goals in 15 minutes so far in this series on its own ice.

They looked nothing like that club in Game 5, a 5-3 Winnipeg win that probably wasn't as close as that score would make it seem. Blues coach Jim Montgomery didn't waste any time thinking about that game once the final horn sounded.

"We can analyze every part of it. They were better," Montgomery said. "So, we're on to the next one."

It took St. Louis a long — long — time to get home on Thursday, after their travel plans were seriously delayed.

The Blues had plane issues trying to leave Winnipeg and, after a replacement jet was sent to Manitoba, they finally took off about eight hours behind schedule.

The Jets landed in St. Louis around 3 p.m. Central time on Thursday, actually a tiny bit ahead of schedule, while the Blues didn't get there until about 9 p.m.

Winnipeg hasn't closed out a series with a road win since 2018, and getting it done Friday will be difficult.

Forget St. Louis' 14-game home winning streak, which is impressive enough. The Blues simply don't give up scoring chances in their building; they have allowed two goals or less in 11 of those 14 wins, and that level of stinginess puts enormous pressure on the other team's netminder.

That said, Winnipeg goalie and MVP hopeful Connor Hellebuyck has reveled in big moments like this all season.

The newly announced Hart Trophy finalist — alongside Edmonton forward Leon Draisaitl and Tampa Bay forward Nikita Kucherov — led the NHL with 47 wins, a 2.00 GAA, and a .925 save percentage this season, had eight shutouts, steered Winnipeg to its first Presidents' Trophy, won the William M. Jennings Trophy (fewest goals allowed) for the second straight year and seems like a lock for the Vezina Trophy (top goalie) for the second straight year and third time in six seasons.

If Hellebuyck does win the Hart as MVP, he'd be the fourth goalie in the league's expansion era to do it alongside Dominik Hasek, José Théodore and Carey Price. He was pulled twice in St. Louis and has a gaudy 3.96 goals-against average and .822 save percentage in this series — including all three wins.

"He's our best player," Namestnikov said.

## **Winnipeg Sun**

<https://winnipeg.sun.com/sports/hockey/nhl/winnipeg-jets/a-huge-void-mark-scheifele-out-of-jets-blues-series-for-now>

### ***'A huge void': Mark Scheifele out of Jets-Blues series, for now***

By Paul Friesen

The Winnipeg Jets boarded a charter flight to St. Louis on Thursday with one seat empty but packing an extra piece of adversity.

Top centre Mark Scheifele was left behind, dealing with an undisclosed injury suffered in a 5-3 Jets win in Game 5 the night before.

Head coach Scott Arniel was fuming after the game, saying the high, blindside hit that took Scheifele out in the first period, delivered by Blues captain Brayden Schenn, had crossed the line and should have drawn more than a minor-penalty.

On Thursday, the coach was simply disappointed.

"Extremely," Arniel said. "You're hoping maybe for the best, you wake up today and things are better. Not having him is going to be huge."

While Scheifele played another shift after the hit and took another jolting body check, Arniel indicated post-game that it was the Schenn hit that caused the injury.

Whether or not Scheifele is in concussion protocol, he wouldn't say.

"I'm not going down that road."

The Jets take a 3-2 series lead into Friday's Game 6. A possible Game 7 is set for Winnipeg on Sunday.

After Wednesday's game, Arniel said the Jets have talked to the NHL about questionable hits right through the series, but to no avail.

On Thursday, he stopped short of saying his players will be forced to take matters into their own hands.

"Talking about old-time hockey? Slap Shot?" Arniel said, referencing the classic hockey movie. "I vented myself (Wednesday) night," Arniel said. "There's a supervisor that's here every day. So they know how we feel. We've passed on our message and we hope that those things don't happen. I'm not saying that we're going out to (get) retribution."

“But we’ve got to win hockey games. So however that comes about, we’ve got to get it done.”

“Emotions are high,” defenceman Dylan DeMelo added. “When Scheif’s out of the game, it’s a huge void, no doubt about it.”

Scheifele has two goals and four assists in the series, second only to linemate Kyle Connor.

It was suggested to Arniel that perhaps this is exactly what the NHL wants in the playoffs: hockey that’s as much about brawn and intimidation as it is about skill.

He didn’t disagree.

“We saw what’s going on in Florida and Tampa, sort of the similar looks. But this is playoff hockey. A lot of this stuff goes on. It’s tough. It’s tough to manage, it’s tough to ref and it’s tough to coach. That’s why everybody talks about the playoffs. It’s a totally different animal in itself. It takes on a whole new life.

“It’s pressure on players, coaches, referees, the league.”

DeMelo doesn’t envy the job of the officials in a series like this.

“The refs are doing the best they can,” he said. “It’s a tough gig. I mean, a penalty was called on the hit. The refs have the hardest job in sports.”

Schenn’s hit on Scheifele was only the latest in a series of checks that don’t typically appear during the regular season.

The Jets don’t expect that to change just because there’s only one day to recover between games this time.

They can take some solace in the way they team played without their No. 1 centre.

The other three, Vlad Namestnikov, Adam Lowry and Morgan Barron, took on either bigger roles or more ice time, or both.

“I’m so proud of the group, how everybody stepped up,” Arniel said. “That’s what our team has done all year. When guys go down, other guys step in. And it’s going to be just as large (Friday). We did the job, now we’ve got to turn around and do it again.”

DeMelo called it a gut-check his team passed with flying colours.

“That was right up there with one of the gutsiest efforts we have shown all year,” he said. “The magnitude of the game... trying to get that one to take the series lead and

then dealing with one of your top players, if not your top player, being out of the lineup, having everybody rally and play hard, play the right way.

“We need to replicate that again to finish these guys off.”

Arniel wasn't ready to say who would take Scheifele's place on the roster for Game 6.

Whoever it is, he'd just love to see a mirror image of Game 5.

“We were really, really good at Jet hockey for 60 minutes and that, to me, is real positive,” the coach said. “We don't change how we're going into this. We're going in to do what we do best and get it going right from the beginning of the game like we did (Wednesday) night. And hopefully that's enough to get us right to the end.”

<https://winnipeg.sun.com/sports/hockey/nhl/winnipeg-jets/expect-jets-blues-to-stick-with-rock-em-sock-em-hockey-for-game-6>

### ***Expect Jets, Blues, to stick with rock 'em sock 'em hockey for Game 6***

By Paul Friesen

People of a certain vintage will remember a toy sold in the 1970s called Rock 'Em Sock 'Em Robots.

The hockey version, minus the actual exchanging of punches, is being sold in Winnipeg and St. Louis this spring.

Instead of fisticuffs, the Jets and Blues are exchanging hits.

“It's amazing how much faster it's going and how much heavier it is,” Jets head coach Scott Arniel said, Thursday. “I know we can't bottle this up and do it for 82 games. This has been five games of rock 'em sock 'em.”

Defenceman Dylan DeMelo has been part of six playoff seasons in the NHL, none more rugged than this one.

“Clearly they're trying to do a job on our skilled guys, and trying to make them pay a price,” DeMelo said. “We're trying to do the same. This has been right up there with some of the most physical hockey I've played in a playoff series.”

The Jets lost one piece in Wednesday's Game 5 win when centre Mark Scheifele was sidelined in the first period. He's out of the mix for Friday's Game 6.

Having two days off between games has probably contributed to the onslaught.

But even though that has changed for Game 6 in St. Louis, both sides expect more of the same.

“They’ve felt that this is now their style that they’re going to try to beat us with,” Arniel said. “They’re going to continue doing what they’re doing.”

Echoes of that were heard in the Blues dressing room after Wednesday’s game.

“Yeah, I don’t think that’s going to stop,” St. Louis coach Jim Montgomery said. “Both teams are competing extremely hard. It’s making it a great series.”

“Blues forward Oskar Sundqvist: “It’s no different if it’s here or at home. It’s been a physical series. And I don’t think that’s going to stop on Friday either.”

The only thing that might curtail the excessive hits would be some stricter officiating.

Arniel isn’t holding his breath for that.

His team will just have to absorb what’s coming, try and dish out plenty of their own and keep their cool.

“You’ve got to be cautious about certainly taking penalties at the wrong time, doing things that’ll harm your hockey club,” the coach said.

Ditto for DeMelo.

“We have to make sure that we’re staying physical too, staying engaged, and also making sure that we keep our head and stay cool and collected,” he said. “And not get all riled up by that. Play whistle to whistle, play our game and take care of our business.”

As the Blues have been hard on Scheifele, they’ve also taken their share of runs at DeMelo’s partner on defence, Josh Morrissey.

“He’s obviously a guy they’re targeting and trying to get their licks on,” DeMelo said. “As D-men that’s part of the gig. You’re going to go back for the puck and you’re usually the first-touch guy and you’re going to get hit. He’s been able to absorb some of these hits, make some plays and keep battling through it.

“That’s playoff hockey and that’s the competitor he is.”

Morrissey logged a team-high 26:38 of ice time on Wednesday, more than four minutes more than any St. Louis player.

Just another day at the office for No. 44, DeMelo says.

“He’s never going to complain about too many minutes. He influences the game for us in so many ways. It’s nice to see him maybe get some recognition to fight through all of that, but that’s something we see all the time and maybe take it a bit for granted.”

What Arniel liked most about his team in Game 5 was its speed.

The other thing: The way players went to the net to create havoc and, ultimately, goals.

Without Scheifele, they’ll want more of the same on Friday.

“Meat-and-potato” hockey, Arniel called it. “Straightforward, grind it out... fight for every inch and get those greasy goals.”

<https://winnipeg.sun.com/sports/hockey/nhl/winnipeg-jets/playoff-hiccup-or-not-jets-hellebuyck-one-step-closer-to-mvp-trophy>

### ***Playoff hiccup or not, Jets' Hellebuyck one step closer to MVP trophy***

By Paul Friesen

The “M-V-P” chants Connor Hellebuyck hears every home game these days are one step closer to becoming reality.

The Winnipeg Jets goalie is one of three finalists for the Hart Trophy as the NHL’s most valuable player this season.

The news came the morning after Hellebuyck backstopped the Jets to a 5-3 win over St. Louis in Game 5 of their first-round playoff series, putting his team on the brink of advancing to Round 2.

The last goalie to win the Hart Trophy was Montreal’s Carey Price, 10 years ago.

Hellebuyck’s competition for the award: forwards Leon Draisaitl of Edmonton and Nikita Kucherov of Tampa Bay.

“That’s an amazing accomplishment to be in the running with those names,” Jets coach Scott Arniel said, Thursday. “It doesn’t happen very often with goalies. He can very proud of that.”

Hellebuyck’s last win didn’t come without a hiccup, though.

He allowed a soft goal to Blues forward Jimmy Snuggerud that tied Wednesday’s game at 2-2 in the second period.

When he gave up a third goal in the game’s final minute, it marked the fourth time in five games he’s allowed three or more goals in this series.

But he also made a highlight-reel stick save on a Blues two-on-one during a first-period Jets power play that prevented St. Louis from grabbing a 2-1 lead.

“It changes the game probably if that goes in,” Arniel said. “That was a big-time moment.”

“Next level,” is how defenceman Dylan DeMelo described it. “It was just one of those saves where you’re like, ‘Oh my goodness.’ It gets you out of your seat. Just a fantastic save and huge moment in the game.”

Forward Mason Appleton couldn’t believe what he was seeing.

“I saw an empty net and then all of a sudden a stick comes in and saves it,” Appleton said. “It’s one of those saves that Bucky wows you with. That’s why he’s the best goalie in the world. That was an absolutely insane save and it flipped the momentum of the game.”

It also helped flip the script from Games 3 and 4 in St. Louis, when the two-time Vezina Trophy winner as the NHL’s top goalie allowed a combined 11 goals and got the hook from his coach in both.

“You guys talked to him,” Arniel said. “I talked to him. And he delivered.”

Arniel was referring to Hellebuyck’s vow to be better in Game 5.

He was, although the Jets played their best game in front of him, too, allowing just 19 shots.

“Helly hasn’t gotten enough credit in this series,” Jets captain Adam Lowry said. “That paddle save that he makes, you can call it series changing, you can call it game changing, but that was a key play. He had a heck of a game. Disappointing to give up that third one for him, but he kept us in it and he really shut the door when we got that lead.”

The 31-year-old goalie is also a finalist for another Vezina Trophy, after leading the league with 47 wins, one shy of the NHL record, while posting a league-best 2.00 goals-against-average and eight shutouts.

The Jets take a 3-2 series lead into Game 6 in St. Louis on Friday.

**TSN.ca**

<https://www.tsn.ca/nhl/video/jets-ice-chips-how-will-winnipeg-approach-game-6-without-scheifele~3125991>

***Jets Ice Chips: How will Winnipeg approach Game 6 without Scheifele? (VIDEO)***

The Jets will enter Game 6 on the road against the Blues without centre Mark Scheifele, who did not travel with the team, and his status beyond Friday is unknown. TSN's John Lu has more on how head coach Scott Arniel wants his team to play and who will draw in to fill Scheifele's spot.

<https://www.tsn.ca/nhl/video/how-will-jets-adjust-without-scheifele-for-game-6~3125649>

***How will Jets adjust without Scheifele for Game 6? (VIDEO)***

Mark Scheifele has been ruled out for Game 6 after taking a couple of big hits from Brayden Schenn and Radek Faksa in Winnipeg's win on Wednesday night. How big of a problem is Scheifele's injury for the Jets? Did the Blues get lucky to avoid discipline? TSN Hockey analyst Martin Biron joins Domino's That's Hockey to discuss.

<https://www.tsn.ca/nhl/video/tensions-rising-as-jets-and-blues-battle-on-and-off-the-ice~3126087>

***Tensions rising as Jets and Blues battle on and off the ice (VIDEO)***

Statistically, the Jets and Blue series has been the most physical this postseason and the injury to Mark Scheifele in Game 5 has turned up the heat considerably, with both head coaches making their feelings known about the hit Scheifele took from Brayden Schenn. TSN Hockey analyst Martin Biron joins Gino Reda to share his thoughts on the play, explain how the Blues are targeting the Jets best players and more

<https://www.tsn.ca/nhl/video/hellebuyck-draisaitl-or-kucherov-who-deserves-hart-the-most~3125648>

***Hellebuyck, Draisaitl or Kucherov: Who deserves Hart the most? (VIDEO)***

Connor Hellebuyck is just the third goalie to be named a Hart finalist in the past 10 seasons but will he join an elite list of goaltenders to claim the award? TSN Hockey analyst Martin Biron joins Domino's That's Hockey to share his thoughts on who he believes will walk away with the honour.

## **The Athletic**

<https://www.nytimes.com/athletic/6328337/2025/05/02/nhl-playoffs-jets-game-6/>

### ***Keys to the Jets winning Game 6? Role players, a surprise return, and greasy goals***

By Murat Ates

ST. LOUIS — The Winnipeg Jets can win their first playoff series since sweeping Edmonton in the 2021 bubble — their first against a Central Division opponent since 2018 against Nashville. They can eliminate the St. Louis Blues for the first time in Winnipeg's NHL history, avenging a 2019 playoff loss that devastated their old core and marked the last games of franchise icon Dustin Byfuglien's career.

They can also make up for the pain.

The pain of being walked out on by Paul Maurice, suddenly, in 2021, then missing the 2022 playoffs altogether. The growing pains that came next: rebuilding a dressing room culture, a lack of pushback against Vegas in 2023, moving on from captain Blake Wheeler and PL Dubois, and then — when Winnipeg finally seemed to have found a winning style of play — last year's five-game loss to Colorado.

A win in St. Louis would turn all that pain into prologue — the necessary context against which this year's Jets showed their mettle and demonstrated their growth. The Jets' regular-season success since Scott Arniel and Rick Bowness were hired is admirable. But playoff results, starting with a Round 1 win against the Blues, would redefine this era of Jets hockey.

One little problem: History isn't on Winnipeg's side.

The Blues have won 14 straight games at home, for one, including two dominant wins earlier this series. Mark Scheifele didn't travel to St. Louis and won't be available, either. Scheifele is Winnipeg's franchise leader in playoff points — and five points behind Dale Hawerchuk in Winnipeg history — but was injured in Game 5. He didn't travel to St. Louis and it's highly unlikely that he'd be available for Game 7, if necessary. Despite Vladislav Namestnikov's Game 5 heroics, the Jets have lost all four playoff games they've played with Scheifele scratched. Expanding the sample to include the 2020 qualification round adds one win and two losses against Calgary.

If Winnipeg loses Game 6 — or worse — the excuses are baked in. If the Jets beat the Blues, those excuses transform: every piece of adversity turns into another reason Winnipeg's success was all the more impressive.

So how do the Jets do it?

Arniel is calling for Game 6 to be about his role players.

“This is going to be a meat-and-potato ... work zone-to-zone, get out of our zone, get through that neutral zone and then make them spend some time in their end of the rink,” Arniel told reporters in Winnipeg on Thursday. “Not having Nik [Ehlers], not having Scheif, kind of knocks out a couple of your top six players. So this is straightforward, grind it out kind of work for, fight for every inch and get those greasy goals.”

About Ehlers, though — there’s an outside chance he plays in Game 6.

Unlike Scheifele, Ehlers traveled to St. Louis, and will participate in Winnipeg’s morning skate on Friday. He may even do so wearing a regular jersey for the first time since April 12. It’s difficult to believe that Ehlers would be a gamebreaker if he does play — and it may be more sensible to imagine a Game 7 or Round 2 return — but he’s making progress.

Ehlers’ injury has been the source of intrigue since getting hit in the foot by Nicolas Hague’s slapshot in Vegas on April 3, sliding foot-first into the boards later that game, and also getting hit in the foot by a power play slot shot from Cole Perfetti. Ehlers returned to the Jets lineup two games later only to back over linesman James Tobias in Chicago, aggravating his previous injury. He’d been seen in a walking boot prior to making his return to Jets practice.

Assuming Ehlers can’t play in Game 6, one of David Gustafsson or Rasmus Kupari will rejoin Winnipeg’s lineup. Vladislav Namestnikov will likely reprise his top line role between Kyle Connor and Gabriel Vilardi, while Vilardi will continue to take key faceoffs after winning four of seven he took on Wednesday. Morgan Barron could see himself promoted, while Adam Lowry, Nino Niederreiter, and Mason Appleton’s shutdown line will be counted on to chip in more offence after a push in Game 5.

The Jets haven’t won in St. Louis in regulation since Drew Bannister was the Blues’ head coach, but they’re proud of the homework they did during the extended break before Game 5. Josh Morrissey told *The Athletic* that Winnipeg had done a strong review of its own defensive coverage after the Blues’ control of Game 3 and Game 4.

“The reason we’ve been such a good defensive team is many factors but one of them is D-zone coverage,” Morrissey said. “We end plays quickly. We don’t let teams out of corners. We make it hard to find open ice. Then, when there are battles, we win them, get the puck into our hands, and then break it out and go the other way. It can be a frustrating game for teams to play against.”

Morrissey didn’t get into specifics but praised Jets coaches for the video package they put together, highlighting moments the Jets’ defensive coverage was working as it needed to be and showing the details that went awry at other times.

Jets captain Adam Lowry echoed that praise after Winnipeg’s win.

“Arnie did a really good job of going through the breakdowns ... When you review those things, you kind of see a lot of it is self-inflicted,” Lowry said after Game 5. “Not that it’s an easy fix, but there’s a structure we play with, an expectation of where guys are supposed to be and when we get back to that, we’re a real tough team to get to the middle of the ice, we’re real tough to score off in zone plays and we don’t give up a whole lot in transition.”

Without Scheifele in the lineup, leaders like Morrissey and Lowry will have to elevate their game. For Morrissey, who’s received a steady barrage of hits throughout the series, it means turning defensive zone success into time spent on the attack. He hasn’t looked as dynamic in recent games as he has for so much of the season. For Lowry, it means maintaining discipline and avoiding penalties like the one he took against Tyler Tucker in Game 4.

And if Winnipeg simply cannot control the flow of play in a tough road building, that’s where Connor Hellebuyck — Hart Trophy finalist — needs to shut the door.

The Jets have already defeated some of their own history by winning Game 5. They hadn’t won a game after losing one in the playoffs since 2019 against these same Blues. Even as the injuries pile up, Winnipeg’s depth players stepped up to deliver a massive win.

Arniel said closing out the Blues will take exactly that same kind of energy.

“I’m so proud of the group, how everybody stepped up. That’s kind of what our team has done all year, that when guys go down other guys step in. And it’s going to be just as large tomorrow. We did the job last night, now we’ve got to turn around and do it again.”