

NHL.com

<https://www.nhl.com/news/winnipeg-jets-mark-scheifele-injury-status-for-game-7-against-st-louis-blues>

Scheifele game-time decision for Jets against Blues in Game 7 Center skates on his own after missing Game 6 with undisclosed injury

By Darrin Bauming

WINNIPEG -- Mark Scheifele will be a game-time decision for the Winnipeg Jets when they face the St. Louis Blues in Game 7 of the Western Conference First Round at Canada Life Centre on Sunday (7 p.m. ET; CBC, TVAS, SN, TBS, MAX, FDSNMW).

The center skated on his own Saturday morning, wearing a tracksuit, after an undisclosed injury forced him to miss a 5-2 loss in Game 6 at St. Louis on Friday that tied the best-of-7 series 3-3.

"Yeah, that's a great sign," Jets coach Scott Arniel said of Scheifele's solo skate Saturday. "Obviously, a great sign. Feels a lot better today than he did yesterday. He wanted to go out and see how he felt, and we'll move forward. He'll be a game-time decision (Sunday)."

The 32-year-old took the brunt of several collisions in the first period of Winnipeg's 5-3 win in Game 5 on Wednesday, including one from Blues captain Brayden Schenn along the boards at 6:12, when Schenn was called for interference, and another open ice hit from 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, but did not return for the second period.

Arniel ruled Scheifele out for Game 6 before the club flew to St. Louis on Thursday, but remains hopeful he'll be able to go for Game 7.

"These are kind of the moments you live for," Arniel said. "As I mentioned to the team, if you haven't been through it yet, this is your chance. Go make a lasting impression in your minds and a memory so that you have it maybe for the next series. It's just something that is part of your growth as a player. Those guys who have it already, you want to build on it. Guys that have never been here, put it in your resume, that you've won a Game 7."

Scheifele was second in scoring for Winnipeg during the regular season with 87 points (39 goals, 48 assists) in 82 games, trailing only forward Kyle Connor's 97 points (41 goals, 56 assists) to lead the Jets, who won the Presidents' Trophy with the best record in the NHL (56-22-4).

The home team has won every game of this series; this will be the first Stanley Cup Playoffs Game 7 ever to be held in Winnipeg.

This will be the second time the Jets/Atlanta Thrashers have reached a Game 7; Winnipeg defeated the Nashville Predators 5-1 in Game 7 of the 2018 second round.

"I just feel we've been really solid all year at home," Jets defenseman Dylan Samberg said. "We know that and we're comfortable playing here and the crowd really helps as well. I think we just have to use that home-ice advantage to our advantage and just make sure we stick to the simple details and try not to waver.

"It all comes down to one game, so just making sure we put our best foot forward and leaving it all out there on the ice. There's going to be a lot of energy out there and it's going to be exciting. Just making sure we channel that the right way."

<https://www.nhl.com/news/topic/playoffs/2025/series-e-news/st-louis-blues-winnipeg-jets-game-7-preview-may-4>

***Blues at Jets, Western Conference 1st Round Game 7 preview
Winnipeg hosts winner-takes-all scenario for 1st time; St. Louis looks for 5th straight such victory***

By Tracey Myers

WINNIPEG -- The Winnipeg Jets will try to win the second Game 7 in their history while the St. Louis Blues will attempt to win their fifth consecutive Game 7 when they meet in the finale of their Western Conference First Round series at Canada Life Centre on Sunday (7 p.m. ET; CBC, TVAS, SN, TBS, MAX, FDSNMW).

The winner will advance to the Western Conference Second Round and face the Dallas Stars, who came from two goals down in the third period to defeat the Colorado Avalanche 4-2 in Game 7 of their first round series.

Winnipeg is hosting the first Game 7 in its history. The Jets' only other Game 7 was a 5-1 win against the Nashville Predators at Bridgestone Arena in the 2018 Second Round.

"I mean, it's a great opportunity," Jets forward Morgan Barron said. "These Game 7s are kind of the moments you grow up watching on TV and dream about playing in them. Yeah, we're all really excited about it. It's a great opportunity for us."

St. Louis could become the fifth team in NHL history to win at least five straight Game 7s. Four teams have won six in a row: the Carolina Hurricanes (2006-2022), New York Rangers (2012-15), Boston Bruins (1983-94) and Detroit Red Wings (1949-64).

Jim Montgomery is coaching a Game 7 for the third consecutive season and fourth time overall.

“With my experience, I just think every time you go through it, the more grateful you are for the opportunity,” the Blues coach said. “The first time you’re going through it, you’re just really excited. I think the experience gives you the knowledge of what to expect, when to expect it, how to handle the peaks and the valleys that are going to naturally happen, not only within the game but between the days leading up to the game.”

This is the 200th Game 7 in Stanley Cup Playoff history and second of this postseason after Avalanche-Stars on Saturday.

Teams scoring first in a Game 7 of a Stanley Cup Playoff series have won 75.4 percent of the time (150-49). Home teams have won 58.8 percent of the time (117-82).

Here is a breakdown of Game 7:

Blues: St. Louis has gotten great balanced scoring throughout the series. Defenseman Cam Fowler continues to lead the Blues with 10 points (two goals, eight assists). Center Robert Thomas is next with eight points (two goals, six assists) and Pavel Buchnevich is third with seven points (three goals, four assists).

Jets: Mark Scheifele is a game-time decision. The center missed Game 6 with an undisclosed injury sustained in the first period of Game 5. Scheifele skated in a track suit on Saturday, which coach Scott Arniel said was “a great sign.” Scheifele has six points (two goals, four assists) in five games, tied for second on the Jets with center Mason Appleton (six assists) and second to forward Kyle Connor with nine points (four goals, five assists).

Number to know: 19. Number of Game 7s for the Blues in their history, the most of any non-Original Six team. They have the fifth-most overall in NHL history, passing the Pittsburgh Penguins, Dallas Stars and New York Rangers who have each played in 18 Game 7s.

What to look for: Will it be a home sweep and advancement for the Jets? Or will the Blues put together their best road game of the playoffs to upset the Presidents’ Trophy winners?

What they are saying

“We haven’t played the way we needed to on the road in a tough building yet. Obviously, we’re going to make adjustments, but there’s certain things that are giving us success on home ice and I’m sure they’ll bundle that up in video, show us, engrain it in our brain. They’re good at home, they’re a good team. It’s going to be a good challenge. Nothing comes for free, nothing’s easy but we feel confident in this group that we’ve got some gamers in here that enjoy challenges like that.” -- Blues captain Brayden Schenn

“I just feel we’ve been really solid all year at home. We know that, and we’re comfortable playing here and the crowd really helps as well. I think we just have to use

that home-ice advantage to our advantage and just make sure we stick to the simple details and try not to waver." -- Jets defenseman Dylan Samberg

<https://www.nhl.com/news/topic/playoffs/2025/series-e-news/jordan-binnington-history-gives-st-louis-blues-confidence-heading-into-game-7>

***Binnington's track record gives Blues confidence against Jets in Game 7
Goalie is 'total package,' 2-0 with .986 save percentage in situation***

By Lou Korac

MARYLAND HEIGHTS, Mo. -- There's something about the big spotlight that never seems to faze Jordan Binnington.

The St. Louis Blues goalie will be playing in his third career Game 7 in the NHL when the Blues and Winnipeg Jets play on Sunday (7 p.m. ET; CBC, TVAS, SN, TBS, MAX, FDSNMW).

Binnington is 2-0 in Game 7s, winning twice in 2019 when the Blues won the Stanley Cup, which included victories over current Blues coach Jim Montgomery's Dallas Stars in the second round and the Boston Bruins in the Cup Final.

Including those games, and the recent championship game of the 4 Nations Face-Off representing Canada, which defeated the United States 3-2 in overtime, Binnington has stopped 92 of 96 shots with a 1.18 goals-against average and .958 save percentage. He has a 0.82 GAA and .986 save percentage in two Game 7s.

And that's why Montgomery, who lost 2-1 in double overtime to Binnington when he made 29 saves against the Stars on May 7, 2019, is as confident as ever with the 31-year-old when the stakes are this high.

"Two words that come to mind right away is how calm he is and proven winner," Montgomery said. "He's done it, he's been there, he knows how to not only get himself in the right zone, but also how to give confidence to his team in front of him."

Blues captain Brayden Schenn saw it firsthand in the 2019 Stanley Cup Final against the Bruins when Binnington made a number of high-danger saves in the first period to give the Blues enough life and breathing room to settle into the game; they led that game 2-0 before going on to win the Cup for the first time with a 4-1 victory behind 32 saves from Binnington.

There's no other goalie Schenn would rather play in front of in this instance.

"No. I can say that fully with what he did in 2019," Schenn said. "He's our guy, he's a special human and he gets up for big moments and he was great again [in a 5-2 win in Game 6 on Friday]."

This will be Blues defenseman Cam Fowler's first time playing with Binnington in a Game 7, but the 33-year-old knows from past experience playing against him when he was with the Anaheim Ducks just how mentally and physically tough it is to crack Binnington, especially in big games. He saw that firsthand when the Blues needed a win in their final game of the regular season to secure the second wild card into the playoffs from the West when they defeated Utah Hockey Club 6-1, and Binnington made 22 saves.

"His track record speaks for itself," Fowler said. "He was unbelievable when they won the Cup here. You saw what he could do in the 4 Nations tournament this year as a world-class goaltender, so we have all the trust and faith in him. And his demeanor, too. He's calm, he's collected back there.

"[Defenseman Philip Broberg] spoke to the way he can move the puck, and how that helps us as D-men. It puts us in a lot of good situations that help us move the puck up the ice. He's the total package. He's a huge reason why we are where we are and we'll continue to lean on him because he's shown everybody time and time again that he's world class."

<https://www.nhl.com/news/schenn-brothers-friendship-on-hold-for-game-7>

Schenn brothers putting friendship on hold for Game 7 of Western 1st Round Brayden of Blues, Luke of Jets embracing intensity of back-and-forth series

By Tracey Myers

WINNIPEG – Brayden Schenn sat atop the boards on the St. Louis Blues bench and argued with his brother Luke, a defenseman for the Jets, who was standing nearby.

It was just the latest bit of intensity in a Western Conference First Round series that's been loaded with it.

"Just brotherly love. We're just competing. That's what we do," Brayden Schenn said after the Blues defeated the Jets 5-2 in Game 6 to force Game 7, which will be at Canada Life Centre on Sunday (7 p.m. ET; CBC, TVAS, SN, TBS, MAX, FDSNMW).

"I love Luke, and he'd say the same thing about me and it's nothing offside, it's just the game and at the end of the day, we're competing for our teams for the Stanley Cup."

Indeed, the back-and-forth series has brought out a new level of intensity across the board, whether related by blood or not. And for a series that's already required plenty of mental and physical fortitude from all involved, Game 7 will demand that much more.

"These are kind of the moments you live for. Whether they happen in Round 1 or the (Stanley Cup) Final, these moments, to be in these situations, the mental side of it is

making sure you're doing your job and you're the best version of yourself each and every shift," Winnipeg coach Scott Arniel said.

"Then, the physical side is, it's been an extremely physical series. That part of it is, again, continuing to be in battle mode and winning your battles and that compete is there every shift you're on the ice."

The Blues and Jets have 501 hits combined in their six games. The Blues are third among Stanley Cup Playoff teams with 252 hits and the Jets are right behind them with 249.

So far, the home team has won each game in the series. For the Blues, who were dominant at Enterprise Center, outscoring the Jets 17-5 in their three wins there, it's about bringing that game on the road.

"I think both teams have proven the game that they want to play on their home ice. We've done it here, they've done it there. Now we have to go in and try to get to that game early. I think we can take a lot of the things that we've done here in our own building and transfer them to Winnipeg," Blues defenseman Cam Fowler said.

"But we know the situation we're walking into, the team we're playing against, the season they had, and they play really well on home ice. So, we have to get off to a good start, stick to the things that we've done well in this series and look at those tomorrow. Game 7, it's a great opportunity for both teams, so we're looking forward to the challenge."

The Jets, meanwhile, are hosting the first Game 7 in their history. It's going to be another frenzied environment, but the Jets want to stick to what's worked here in Games 1, 2 and 5.

"I just feel we've been really solid all year at home. We know that, and we're comfortable playing here and the crowd really helps as well," Jets defenseman Dylan Samberg said. "I think we just have to use that home-ice advantage to our advantage and just make sure we stick to the simple details and try not to waver."

The Blues and Jets have put on quite the first-round show. It's been entertaining. It's been back and forth. It's been intense. Game 7 promises to bring more of the same.

"Hopefully it has a great ending to it. All year long we've put our work in to build towards this. We've talked about these situations and certain things that have happened over the course of the year that we don't know when it'll rise in the playoffs but now it's here. Now it's here. It's Game 7," Arniel said.

"We've gone through building blocks to get here, to get to this moment. Whether that was through the 82 games, or the six games we have just played, these are all things

that now (we) put it on the line here for Game 7 and I'd like to think our group's prepared. Now we go out and do what we do best."

Sportsnet.ca

<https://www.sportsnet.ca/nhl/video/why-jets-hellebuyck-should-feel-good-going-into-game-7-vs-blues/>

Why Jets' Hellebuyck should feel good going into Game 7 vs. Blues (VIDEO)

Kelly Hrudey joins Sportsnet Central to preview Game 7 between the Winnipeg Jets and St. Louis Blues and why Connor Hellebuyck should be feeling good going into the game despite the rough series thus far.

<https://www.sportsnet.ca/nhl/article/jets-notebook-scheifeles-status-will-define-game-7/>

Jets Notebook: Scheifele's status will define Game 7

By Jacob Stoller

WINNIPEG — You won't be able to give a gut-feel prediction on this Game 7 until right before puck drop.

When we find out if Mark Scheifele is playing.

The Winnipeg Jets' No. 1 centre — who has been sidelined since the first intermission of Game 5 with an undisclosed injury — skated at Canada Life Centre in a tracksuit on Saturday afternoon.

"Obviously, a great sign," Jets coach Scott Arniel said during Saturday afternoon's media availability. "Feels a lot better today than he did yesterday. He wanted to go out and see how he felt and we'll move forward. He'll be a game-time decision."

Scheifele's status will define Winnipeg's chances.

If he's in, the Jets will have their full forward lineup for the first time in this series. The first line will reunite. The top power play unit — of Scheifele, Kyle Connor, Josh Morrissey, Nikolaj Ehlers and Gabriel Vilardi — will be reunited.

If he's out, there's a domino effect.

Winnipeg's lack of centre depth is exposed, with Vladislav Namestnikov and Adam Lowry becoming this team's top-six centres. Connor loses his runningmate. And secondary scoring, which has been hard to come by this series for the Jets, becomes even more crucial.

"That's just part of what happens in playoff hockey. If you want to move on, you've got to step up," Arniel said. "Everybody needs to step up and do a little bit more. And sometimes you've got to come outside of your skin a little bit and do something that maybe you're not necessarily known to do."

Unsung heroes are vital this year, and thus far, the Jets haven't had many, save for Alex Iafallo during Vilardi's absence. Meanwhile, the Blues have had fourth liners like Nathan Walker score three goals, a revitalized Cam Fowler leading the team in playoff scoring (10) and a rookie in Jimmy Suggs who's chipped in four points in six games.

Without Scheifele, the team's lack of depth scoring comes to the forefront. Four of Winnipeg's 11 five-on-five goals have been scored by Kyle Connor, and no other player has recorded more than one five-on-five goal.

Can Ehlers finally slay his playoff demons and be a game-breaker? He's only recorded 14 points in 38 playoff games and hasn't scored a goal since the 2020-21 playoffs.

Can Cole Perfetti build off a moderately impressive playoffs thus far — three points in six games — and be a driver in a high-stakes game?

Can Josh Morrissey, for the first time in this series, take over a game?

Given how shaky Connor Hellebuyck has been, the Jets can't rest on their laurels at the idea that they can edge teams out in a 2-1 game. They need more offensive firepower.

And playing a pivotal Game 7 without Scheifele will dilute that.

Game 7 Vibes

Sunday marks the first time the city of Winnipeg will host a Game 7.

"Hopefully it has a great ending to it," Arniel said.

I don't know if there's ever been a more pivotal game in 2.0 history. Sure, there was that Game 7 against Nashville in 2017-18 that punched the Jets' ticket to the Western Conference Final. But back then, there was more of a "this is the start of something great" vibe. Nowadays, it's the opposite. A third consecutive first-round exit would be a crushing blow for a franchise that spent all year trying to work towards being more than just a regular-season team.

"All year long, we've put our work in to build towards this," Arniel said. "We've talked about these situations and certain things that have happened over the course of the year that we don't know when it'll rise in the playoffs, but now it's here. Now it's here. It's Game 7."

Winnipeg Free Press

<https://www.winnipegfreepress.com/breakingnews/2025/05/03/jets-embracing-the-moment>

Jets 'embracing the moment'

Hope for 'one more big high' in Game 7 against the St. Louis Blues

By: Ken Wiebe

Game Seven.

The two most exciting words in sports.

An intersection where one team feels exhilaration and advances to the next round, while the other is left with a long, excruciating offseason of anguish to mull over the what-if moments.

"It's a great opportunity," said Winnipeg Jets forward Morgan Barron. "These Game 7s are kind of the moments you grow up watching on TV and dream about playing in them."

The dream is about to turn into a reality for the Jets and St. Louis Blues, with that seventh and deciding game set for Sunday night at Canada Life Centre, with puck drop slated for just after 6 p.m.

Whether you're preparing for your first Game 7 or have a bunch of them on your resume, embracing the moment is something that players on both teams will be encouraged to lean into.

"You know what, it's special, whether you're a player or a coach. Obviously, you know what's at stake," said Jets head coach Scott Arniel, noting his New York Rangers earned Game 7 victories in the opening round over the Philadelphia Flyers and the second round against the Pittsburgh Penguins in 2014 as the Broadway Blueshirts advanced to the Stanley Cup final against the Los Angeles Kings.

"It's win and move on and the elation that comes from doing that. Enjoy it, live it, be the best version of yourself.

"If you haven't been through (a Game 7) yet, this is your chance. Go make a lasting impression in your minds and a memory, so that you have it maybe for the next series. It's just something that is part of your growth as a player. Those guys who have it already, you want to build on it. Guys that have never been here, put it in your resume that you've won a Game 7."

For Jets defenceman Dylan Samberg, that means drawing on his experience from elimination games on the road to winning consecutive Frozen Four titles as a member of the University of Minnesota-Duluth Bulldogs in 2018 and 2019.

“I don’t think it quite compares to a Game 7. I guess we’ll see,” said Samberg. “It all comes down to one game, so just making sure we put our best foot forward and leave it all out there on the ice. There’s going to be a lot of energy out there and it’s going to be exciting. But just make sure we channel that the right way.”

There was a surprising and unexpected development on Saturday afternoon, as Jets centre Mark Scheifele was on the ice for a brief skate in a track suit and helmet.

With Jets assistant coach Marty Johnston keeping a close eye, Scheifele did some light skating, puckhandling and shooting before leaving the ice to take part in a team meeting.

Whether this was simply the next step in his recovery process remains to be seen and further clues may be available during Sunday’s morning skate.

After suffering an undisclosed injury in Game 5 — when he was on the receiving end of two jarring hits from Blues captain Brayden Schenn and centre Radek Faksa — Scheifele didn’t travel to St. Louis and was scratched for Game 6.

On Saturday, Arniel left the door open for Scheifele to return — though it’s tough to put a percentage on it, since neither the nature or severity of his injury is known.

“Yeah, that’s a great sign. Obviously, a great sign,” said Arniel. “Feels a lot better today than he did yesterday. He wanted to go out and see how he felt and we’ll move forward. He’ll be a game-time decision.”

Not having Scheifele available in Game 6 was a blow for the Jets, but they showed in the final periods of Game 5 that their depth is something they can lean on.

“When you lose your No. 1 centreman, that’s tough to replace,” said Arniel, who has welcomed Nikolaj Ehlers and Gabe Vilardi back from injury during the past two games. “We’ll see how Mark is. Progression today. Might be in there tomorrow. We’ll wait and see.

“That’s just part of what happens in playoff hockey. If you want to move on, you’ve got to step up. Everybody needs to step up and do a little bit more. And sometimes you’ve got to come outside of your skin a little bit and do something that maybe you’re not necessarily known to do. But hopefully that helps us have the winning result.”

This is the first home-ice Game 7 for the Jets since 1977, when the WHA edition hosted the San Diego Mariners in the first round of the playoffs.

“Hopefully it has a great ending to it,” said Arniel. “All year long, we’ve put our work in to build towards this. Now it’s here. It’s Game 7. We’ve gone through building blocks to get here. To get to this moment. I’d like to think our group is prepared. Now we go out and do what we do best.”

As for 2.0 Jets playoff history, they’ve been involved in just one Game 7 back in 2018, when Winnipeg went on the road and defeated the Nashville Predators at Bridgestone Arena.

In that game, the Jets chased Vezina Trophy winner Pekka Rinne in the first period and cruised to a 5-1 victory to advance to the Western Conference final.

There are eight players on the Jets’ roster who suited up in that game: goalie Connor Hellebuyck, defenceman Josh Morrissey and forwards Kyle Connor, Adam Lowry, Nikolaj Ehlers, Mason Appleton, Brandon Tanev and Scheifele.

“I talked to some guys about it (Friday) night. I know that Nashville game a few years ago. they said they lost game 6 at home and then were able to go into Nashville and take Game 7,” said Barron. “We’ve talked a little bit in this series about how there’s no momentum between games. I think momentum starts fresh every game. So, they were able to do that on the road a few years ago and there’s no excuse for us to not go out there and have a real good effort and see where it takes us.”

Where it takes the Jets is one of two places: the jubilation of victory or the agony of defeat.

One of those options is far more appealing than the other.

“Well, I mean we’ve had some real highs and some real lows. Guess what. This is going to be that again,” said Arniel. “And we’re hoping for one more big high.”

Winnipeg Sun

<https://winnipeg.sun.com/sports/try-not-to-waver-jets-must-prevent-the-blues-scoring-goals-in-bunches-in-game-7>

'Try not to waver': Jets must prevent the Blues scoring goals in bunches in Game 7

By Gordon Anderson

It's a fortunate happenstance the Winnipeg Jets are in comfortable digs for a high stakes game of hockey.

The Jets play host to the St. Louis Blues in Game 7 of this Western Conference quarterfinal series on Sunday night.

"I mean it's a great opportunity," forward Morgan Barron said on Saturday. "These Game 7s are the moments you grow up watching on TV and dream about playing in them. We're all really excited about it."

The Jets are 3-0 at home in this series, outscoring the Blues 12-7. Going back to the regular season the Jets posted a 30-7-4 home record. Going the other way in this now seven-game matchup, the splits are less flattering, Winnipeg outscored 17-5 in three losses.

"I just feel we've been really solid all year at home," defenceman Dylan Samberg said. "We're comfortable playing here and the crowd really helps, as well. I think we just have to use that home-ice advantage to our advantage and just make sure we stick to the simple details and try not to waver."

Because on the road they have wavered, strayed, gone askew, the original plan lost in those moments they were under siege, as the Blues blitzed them in quick-strike fashion in three second period letdowns.

Overall, those brief faux pas are a major reason the Jets find themselves near the end of their collective rope.

Their Central Division foe scored three second-period goals in 3:24 in Game 3; a couple of nights later in Game 4 the Blues scored three second-period goals in 8:12 and on Friday night the home team bagged three second-period goals in 2:16.

"We must make sure we give a good full 60-minute effort," Samberg said. "We've had glimpses in this series where, for 5-10 minutes stuff goes awry. We just have to stay solid, stay consistent and stick to the little things."

<https://winnipegsun.com/sports/seize-it-no-place-st-louis-blues-would-rather-be-than-winnipeg-for-game-7>

'Seize it': No place St. Louis Blues would rather be than Winnipeg for Game 7

By Paul Friesen

While the Winnipeg Jets can try to convince themselves they're fortunate to be in Game 7, the St. Louis Blues really are.

They're the ones who staved off elimination in Game 6, after all.

They're also the underdog in this series, so perhaps feeling less pressure than the Jets.

"It's about seizing an opportunity for us," head coach Jim Montgomery told reporters after Game 6 in St. Louis. "It's what we've all dreamed of in that organization, in that

locker room, together. These are the moments. You don't think about winning Game 1 when you're playing in your basement or you're playing street hockey or knee hockey with your best friend or your brother... it's Game 7, it's overtime.

"It's an opportunity that we've earned, and now we have to go seize it."

Ditto from Blues captain Brayden Schenn.

"You've got the whole hockey world glued to you," Schenn said. "And it's going to be on us on Sunday night."

The Blues can lean on something the Jets don't have: a goalie who's been there and done it.

Jordan Binnington took St. Louis all the way to the Stanley Cup six years ago, going through Winnipeg along the way and beating Boston in Game 7 of the final.

There's nobody Schenn would rather have behind the mask with his playoff life hanging in the balance.

"I can say that fully with what he did in 2019," Schenn said. "He's our guy, he's a special human and he gets up for big moments."

Binnington has started 47 playoff games, posting nearly identical numbers to his career regular-season results.

At the other end, Connor Hellebuyck has seen his goals-against-average and saves percentage balloon for a third straight post-season. Binnington also stared down the Jets goalie in the final of the 4 Nations tournament in February, leading Team Canada to a win over the U.S.

"His track record speaks for itself," Blues defenceman Cam Fowler said. "He was unbelievable when they won the Cup here. You saw what he could do in the 4 Nations tournament this year as a world-class goaltender. So we have all the trust and faith in him. And his demeanour, too. He's calm, he's collected back there."

Montgomery echoed a lot of what his players said regarding their 31-year-old netminder.

"Two words that come to mind right away is how calm he is and proven winner," Montgomery said. "He knows how to not only get himself in the right zone, but also how to give confidence to his team in front of him."

Binnington has a 23-23 record in the playoffs, while Hellebuyck is 21-30.

<https://winnipegson.com/sports/friesen-jets-blues-game-7-among-biggest-in-winnipeg-hockey-history>

FRIESEN: Jets-Blues Game 7 among biggest in Winnipeg hockey history

By Paul Friesen

It's tempting to dip into the bag of hyperbole and call Sunday's game the most significant one played in Winnipeg in this town's hockey history.

Like pulling a sand wedge out for a 150-yard approach shot, though, that would be pushing it.

It would be doing a disservice to Game 6 of the second round against Nashville seven years ago, not to mention some of the Jets teams that won WHA titles in the 1970s.

However, Game 7 between the Jets and St. Louis has a feeling those didn't have. This is a referendum, of sorts. On this core of players, the head coach and the people who put it all together.

Succeed, and their storybook season opens itself up to new chapters.

Fail, and it slams shut, catching some fingers in the process and leaving an epilogue that'll read more like an obituary repeated from the last two seasons.

No, it's not life and death. It's a hockey game. But it's the only Game 7 of a Stanley Cup playoff series Winnipeg has ever seen, after the only Presidents' Trophy-winning season it's ever experienced.

Head coach Scott Arniel knows as much about this town's hockey history as anyone in Jets colours. As a former draft pick of the original Jets, he's lived some of it. His wife is a Winnipegger, so he hears plenty.

"These are the moments you live for," Arniel was saying on Saturday. "Whether they happen in Round 1 or the finals. Hopefully it has a great ending to it. All year long we've put our work in to build towards this. Now it's here.

"Enjoy it, live it. Be the best version of yourself."

That last line carries some weight, given the two versions of Arniel's team we've seen in this series. If the one that gets overwhelmed by the moment shows up on Sunday, it doesn't stand much of a chance.

The challenge is as much between the ears as it is between the boards.

"The mental side of it is making sure you're doing your job and you're the best version of yourself each and every shift," the coach said. "Then, the physical side – it's been an extremely physical series."

We've seen teams cave under the pressure of a Game 7 at home. Really good teams, like Boston against the Blues in the 2019 Cup Final. And that was a veteran Bruins team. For players in their first career Game 7, even in Round 1, it can be overwhelming.

Jets forward Morgan Barron is one of them. A single-elimination college game is as close as he's come to this.

To get a handle on how to handle it, he spent part of the flight back to Winnipeg from St. Louis on Friday night talking to some teammates who've gone through it. Eight of them played Game 7 in Nashville in 2018: Josh Morrissey, Kyle Connor, Nik Ehlers, Mark Scheifele, Adam Lowry, Brandon Tanev, Connor Hellebuyck and Eric Comrie.

"They said they lost Game 6 at home and then were able to go into Nashville and take Game 7," Barron said. "We've talked a little bit in this series about how there's no momentum between games. Momentum starts fresh every game. So they were able to do that on the road a few years ago.

"There's no excuse for us to not go out there and have a real good effort and see where it takes us."

Like most, Barron grew up watching the game on TV and dreamed of being in this very situation. So yeah, it's a dream come true. It can also turn into a nightmare.

Funny things happen in defenceman Dylan Samberg's Game 7 dream. Like everyone, he's seen himself with a chance to score the winning goal. But then...

"The classic three seconds on the clock, you miss the shot and magically another three seconds gets added again," Samberg said.

That's another thing that can happen in a Game 7: magic.

Every play is magnified. A goal or a save, permanently burned into memory. To say nothing of what it could lead to.

The closest Samberg has come to a game of this magnitude is a national championship game with the University of Minnesota-Duluth.

"I don't think it quite compares to a Game 7," he said.

Nothing really does.

"As I mentioned to the team, if you haven't been through it yet, this is your chance," Arniel said. "Go make a lasting impression... put it in your resume, that you've won a Game 7."

Either that or pull out a golf club.

<https://winnipegssun.com/sports/no-apology-necessary-mason-appleton-offside-on-morgan-barrons-disallowed-goal-in-game-6>

'No apology necessary': Mason Appleton offside on Morgan Barron's disallowed goal in Game 6

By Gordon Anderson

Given the lightning quick nature of the game, no apology was necessary.

Morgan Barron came within a whisker of netting his first career NHL playoff goal on Friday night.

With the Jets trailing by one goal, Barron intercepted a Justin Faulk clearing attempt near the St. Louis blue line and raced in alone on Jordan Binnington, finishing the play with a roof daddy shot over the shoulder of the St. Louis netminder just 29 seconds into the second period.

A potential signature moment for both the Halifax resident and the Jets.

Moments in time are fleeting, as was the legality of the goal.

On replay, Mason Appleton was in an offside position as he tried to straddle the blue line, just as Barron dashed for the gap between Faulk and Philip Broberg.

"Appleton apologized but there's no apology necessary," Barron said. "The play happens quickly and it's just the way the puck popped out and was back in the zone in a half second. I wouldn't say it was necessarily a close call, even the linesman missed it. No, there's no apology needed or anything like that. The game happens fast. It is what it is."

The Jets tied the game 5:14 later when Cole Perfetti scored a power-play goal, his first of the series, but the Blues scored four goals in the middle stanza in a 5-2 triumph.

In real time the play appeared close, but video replay did confirm the worst, collective hearts sinking on the players bench and throughout a skittish fanbase.

After the original call was overturned Blues head coach Jim Montgomery asked the referees why there was a penalty assessed to Faulk when the original play was ruled offside.

"It's in the rule book," Montgomery said. "Not only does the penalty still count, which common sense tells you it shouldn't count, but the face-off's still on the offside goes into the offensive zone."

Nonetheless, head coach Scott Arniel liked the effort and the wherewithal to lean on Faulk and evade the stick of Broberg, prior to a nine-iron style chip shot over the right shoulder of the Blues keeper.

The effort put forth by Barron is required by every man on the roster if the club wants to advance beyond the do-or-die nature of Sunday's series finale.

"Driving through there, it was a great finish for him," Arniel said. "Obviously, it didn't count but he did draw the penalty on it and helped us gain some momentum."

TSN.ca

<https://www.tsn.ca/nhl/video/where-will-jets-offence-come-from-if-scheifele-can-t-play-in-game-7%7E3127261>

Where will Jets' offence come from if Scheifele can't play in Game 7? (VIDEO)

If Mark Scheifele won't be able to play on Sunday, where will the Jets' offence come from in Game 7? Which version of Connor Hellebuyck will show up in Game 7? TSN Hockey analyst Martin Biron joins SportsCentre to share his thoughts.