

2022-23 Season Review – Winnipeg Jets

Standings

Winnipeg Jets							League	
Season	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA	Rank	PlyOff
2021-22	39	32	11	89	250	253	19	No
2022-23	46	33	3	95	246	224	14	Yes
Change	+7	+1	-8	+6	-4	+29	+5	

Team Record by Game Type

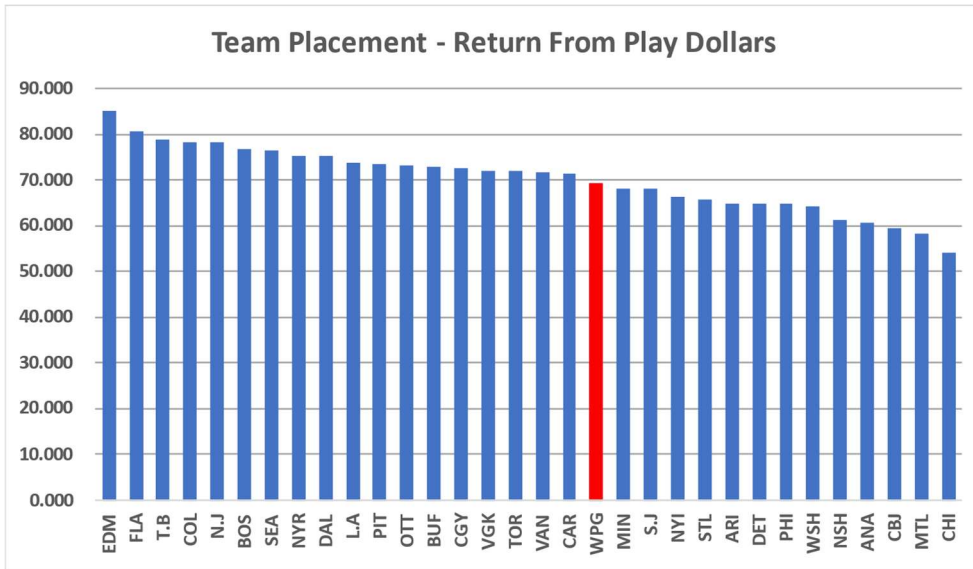
Game Type	GP	Record	Point %
OT/SO	13	10 - 0 - 3	0.885
Best 10-Game Streak	10	8 - 1 - 1	0.850
Scoring Exactly 3 Goals	13	11 - 2 - 0	0.846
Blowouts (More than 4-goal margin)	4	3 - 1 - 0	0.750
Vs. Non-Playoff Team	43	28 - 14 - 1	0.663
Home Games	41	26 - 13 - 2	0.659
Fire-wagon Hockey (More than 8 goals in a game)	10	6 - 3 - 1	0.650
2-Goal Margin	17	10 - 7 - 0	0.588
All Games	82	46 - 33 - 3	0.579
1-Goal Margin (Excluding overtime games)	14	7 - 7 - 0	0.500
Away Games	41	20 - 20 - 1	0.500
Vs. Playoff Team	39	18 - 19 - 2	0.487
Defensive Battles (fewer than 4 goals in a game)	12	5 - 6 - 1	0.458
Worst 10-Game Streak	10	2 - 6 - 2	0.300
Conceding Exactly 3 Goals	14	3 - 10 - 1	0.250

Talent Distribution

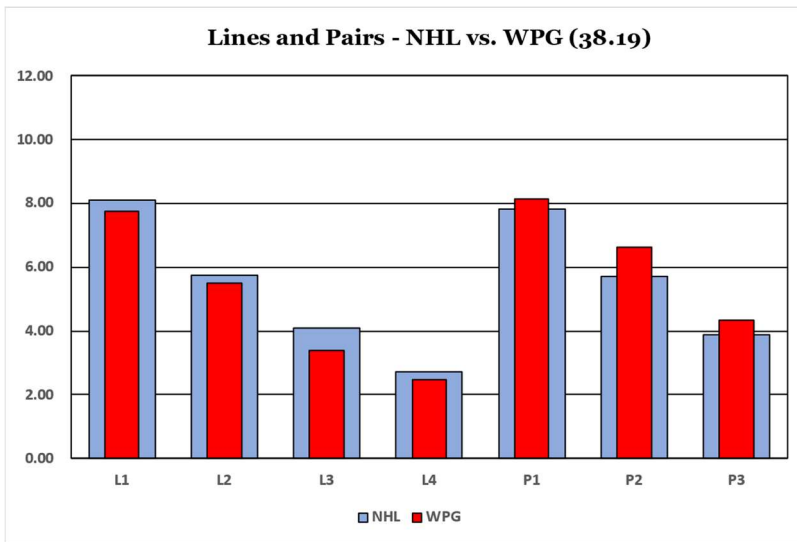
Count by Category			PR% by Age Group			PR% by Draft Status		
PR Category	Fwd	Def	Age Group	NHL PR%	Team PR%	Draft Status	NHL PR%	Team PR%
PR-Elite	0	0	18 to 23	18%	9%	Drafted by Current Team	48%	46%
PR-Star	2	1	24 to 28	45%	51%	Drafted by Other Team	41%	35%
PR-First5	3	3	29 to 33	29%	34%	Undrafted	10%	19%
PR-Regular	1	1	34+	8%	5%			
PR-Fringe	7	1						
PR-CallUp	8	3						

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Return From Play



Lines and Pairs



L1	Mark Scheifele	Kyle Connor	Pierre-Luc Dubois
L2	Adam Lowry	Blake Wheeler	Nikolaj Ehlers
L3	Morgan Barron	Cole Perfetti	Kevin Stenlund
L4	Mason Appleton	Sam Gagner	Axel Jonsson-Fjallby
P1	Josh Morrissey		Neal Pionk
P2	Brenden Dillon		Dylan DeMelo
P3	Nate Schmidt		Dylan Samberg

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Team Leaders – Stapled To The Bench Categories

Category	Name	Rating
Most Productive	Josh Morrissey	PR-Star
Most Valuable	Kyle Connor	VR-Star
Best Center	Mark Scheifele	#2-Center
Most Disruptive	Neal Pionk	DX-B
Best Power Player	Kyle Connor	PX-A
Best Penalty Killer	Dylan Samberg	KX-A+

Team Leaders – On-Ice Situations

WPG - Team Leaders in Various On-Ice Situations		
Most Time 5v5	Most Time Power Play	Most Time Penalty Kill
Josh Morrissey	Kyle Connor	Brenden Dillon
Neal Pionk	Mark Scheifele	Dylan DeMelo
Brenden Dillon	Josh Morrissey	Adam Lowry
Mark Scheifele	Pierre-Luc Dubois	Neal Pionk
Kyle Connor	Blake Wheeler	Dylan Samberg
Most Time 3v3	Most Used Off. Zone FO	Most Used Def. Zone FO
Kyle Connor	Mark Scheifele	Adam Lowry
Mark Scheifele	Kyle Connor	Brenden Dillon
Josh Morrissey	Blake Wheeler	Neal Pionk
Neal Pionk	Pierre-Luc Dubois	Dylan DeMelo
Blake Wheeler	Josh Morrissey	Josh Morrissey

Team Essay – It is What it Is, but it Ain't What it Was

After 40 games the Jets had a 26-13-1 record. They were on pace for 108 points in the standings, but they finished with 92. There is a level of confusion when you compare Winnipeg's team-level data for their first 40 games to their last 42 games, so I thought I would wallow around in this confusion.

After the games of January 9th 2023, the Jets and the Devils had remarkably similar records. They were tied in points and practically tied in goals for and goals against.

First 40 Games of 2022-23							
Team	GP	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
New Jersey	40	25	12	3	53	136	105
Winnipeg	40	26	13	1	53	132	103

In their next 42 games, New Jersey played ever so slightly better while the Jets played very much worse, as shown below.

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Last 42 Games of 2022-23							
Team	GP	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
New Jersey	42	27	10	5	59	153	117
Winnipeg	42	20	20	2	42	114	121

It looks like Winnipeg’s problems were equally divided between offense and defense, as they scored 18 fewer goals and gave up 18 more goals in their last 42 games, but that is slightly deceiving. They played two more games in their “second half”. Looking at the average score per game is a better approach to determining where the problems were.

Winnipeg	GF/gm	GA/gm
First 40	3.30	2.58
Last 42	2.71	2.88
Difference	-0.59	0.31

We now see that the problems in the last 42 games were (math math math) about 66% offense. To delve a little deeper into the problem, I want to compare the goals they actually scored with the goals they were expected to score. There is an official statistic which tells us how many goals should have been scored: expected goals.

Here’s the two-minute primer on “expected goals (xG)”. Every shot on net is associated with an expectation of scoring. A wrist shot from the point has a low possibility of scoring; a snap shot from the slot has a higher possibility of scoring. Ten wrist shots from the point might have a total expected goals of 0.2, while ten shots from the slot might have an expected goals total of 3.0.

To me, expected goals describes how well a team played. Since neither life nor hockey is fair, the results of team play (actual goals) aren’t always the same as the expectations.

Looking at the Winnipeg Jets defense, the last-42-game “problem” is easy to determine. Winnipeg Jets goalies played extremely well in the first 40 games, while they were “only” a little better than average in the last 42 games. In those first 40 games, Winnipeg goalies gave up 22.82 fewer goals than expected, while they gave up 4.77 fewer goals than expected in the second half. Because they didn’t make outstanding saves as frequently, they gave up 18.05 more goals in the second half.

It’s on offense where the data gets a little confusing.

In their first 40 games, the Jets scored 6.62 goals more than expected. They were getting a little puck-luck, getting one goal above expectation every six games. In those last 42 games the puck-luck turned on them with a vengeance: Winnipeg scored 28.04 fewer goals than expected. That’s a change of 34.66 goals, a rate of five goals every six games.

If you look back at the difference between goals for in the first 40 games and the last 42 games you’ll see it was 18, not 34.66. Why are those two figures so different? Because

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Winnipeg played better offensively in the last 42 games. This is the confusion I was talking about.

In the first 40 games, Winnipeg's expected goals for per game was 3.13. In the last 42 games, Winnipeg's expected goals for per game was 3.38. Over 42 games that improvement in offensive play should have netted the Jets an extra 10 or 11 goals. Instead, they scored about 24 goals fewer.

When a team gives up fewer goals than expected, it is easy to place the credit on the goalies. When a team gives up more goals than expected, it is easy to place the blame on the goalies. When a team scores fewer goals than expected, should we blame the forwards or credit the opposing goalies? Logically, when it is a team that isn't scoring according to expectations, you have to place the blame on their skaters.

I guess what I am saying is that the team lost its scoring touch. It is much easier to believe that several key Jet players lost their touch than that dozens of opposing goalies happened to play very well against the Jets.

The data indicates that the Jets did increase their offensive effort, Looking at the combined data of twelve Jets forwards and defensemen who played a good number of minutes in both halves of their season, their Corsi-For went up 9% and their expected goals for went up 11%. It's just that their actual goals scored went down 5%.

Their sticks went cold. The puck seemed to weigh more. The ice was choppy. They were clutching their sticks too tightly. I have no idea why they lost their scoring touch, but they did.