

FLAT EFFORT BY LA KINGS AS THEY FALL TO BLUE JACKETS

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Photo credit: Harry How/Getty Images

Game 12; 8-5-0

LOS ANGELES — It may not have been their worst effort of the season thus far but when a team outshoots their opposition by a 22-8 margin and trail 2-1, it doesn't warrant many positive vibes. For the **Los Angeles Kings**, that was the case on Thursday as the visiting **Columbus Blue Jackets** snapped a six-game losing streak against the silver-and-black with a 3-2 victory.

On this night, it was the Jackets who struck first.

6:22 into the first, Columbus was attacking on the power play when **Cam Atkinson** tipped a **Brandon Dubinsky** pass by **Jonathan Quick** to put the visiting team up early. However, the Kings were able to answer with a power play tally of their own.

At the 12:47 mark of the opening frame, **Alec Martinez** slapped his second past **Sergei Bobrovsky** with **Dustin Brown** and new father **Jamie McBain** getting the assists. But before the period was out, the Jackets regained their lead.

With 1:47 to go in the frame, Brandon Dubinsky added to his assist by deflecting home a **Nick Foligno** shot.

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Columbus was outshot 15-8 in the first but made the most of their opportunities. It would also be a while before they recorded another shot.



In the second, the Blue Jackets made history, albeit in a dubious way.

For the first time in franchise history, the Jackets failed to record a single shot in a period while the Kings countered with eight. As for the Kings, it was the first time they held an opponent shotless in a period since April 1978.

Unfortunately, it did the silver-and-black little good as they could not tie the game. Instead, Columbus took a two-goal lead as **Gregory Campbell** wristed his first of the year past Quick at the 10:52 mark of the third.

Jeff Carter did make things interesting by cutting the lead with a minute left but that was the Kings could muster as they lose to the Jackets, snapping their four-game home winning streak.

Carter's goal was his sixth from **Anze Kopitar** which, believe it or not, was just his first assist of the year.

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The loss also ends Jonathan Quick's six-game winning streak against the Jackets as the visitors improve to 4-10-0 on the year while the Kings fall to 8-5-0.

Recently, Columbus netminder Sergei Bobrovsky said publicly that he had no confidence, yet the Kings helped him out by generating very few quality chances. Of course, in fairness, despite their record, the Blue Jackets are nonetheless a formidable team and should not be overlooked.

It's never easy dealing with a loss but all the Kings can do now is regroup and focus on their next matchup: a Saturday matinee date at **STAPLES Center** with the **Florida Panthers**.