

Hurricanes down Tigers in annual Pink in the Rink game



By Jake Courtepatte

On a night where hockey played second fiddle, the Newmarket Hurricanes quietly took over first place in the OJHL's North division. The streaking Canes hosted the Aurora Tigers on Thursday in the pair's annual Pink in the Rink game, with all proceeds going to the Southlake Regional Health Centre.

A sea of pink took over the Ray Twinney Complex, with Newmarket donning bright pink jerseys, socks, and stick tape in support of three deceased loved ones who made a deep impact on the organization.

Kevin Lord, KJ Ramolla, and Josh Sedore were honoured with a pre-game ceremony before the action kicked off, and though this year's numbers are still being tabulated, the event has raised over \$130,000 for cancer research since its inception in 2009.

The staff, volunteers, the team, and the community really did a great job, said Southlake Foundation member Corinna Jones. We rely on events like this for crucial funding, and the great work that this team does not go unnoticed.

The puck then dropped on a game that would see one team emerge as the division leader, with the Canes sitting just one point back of the Tigers in standings.

A scoreless first period was highlighted by some stellar saves from Aurora goaltender Bradley Van Schubert, including a breakaway stop late in the frame.

He was broken, however, just over a minute into the second period when Adam Trotman sent a wrister off the crossbar and in.

Aurora's Tyler Davis tied the game on the powerplay shortly after, though Newmarket retook the lead with a shorthanded marker before the end of the period, a 2 ? 1 score that would hold until the final buzzer.

Hosting the Stouffville Spirit in the weekly Friday night game at the Aurora Community Centre, the Tigers dropped their third game in a row, a 6 ? 3 score that saw the Tigers playing catch-up through the whole sixty minutes.

Jake Bricknell, Elijah Gonsalves, and Anthony Romano had the Aurora markers.

They were able to snap their losing streak on Sunday with a 4 ? 0 shutout of the lowly Whitby Fury, with Romano, Evan Bidenti, and Jason Stachelback all scoring in the first period to take a commanding lead.

Rizvan Mansurov buried one in the third period to complete the scoring.

Though the week ended on a positive note, three regulation losses in a row did not fare well in the North division standings. With Newmarket and the Markham Royals both on hot streaks, Aurora has dropped down to third in the division with a record of 9-6-1.

Aurora hosts Newmarket on Friday in another crucial matchup. Puck drop is set for 7:30 p.m.

They then travel to Stouffville on Saturday to take on the spirit.

For stats, schedules, and more information visit www.auroratigers.pointstreaksites.com.