

Panthers claw past Canadettes in nail-biter



By Jake Courtepatte

The Aurora Panthers scored their second win of the Provincial Women's Hockey League season on Sunday with a dramatic 5 ? 2 win over the Brampton Canadettes, matching their goal total from the previous four games in just three periods.

Hosting the Canadettes at the Stronach Aurora Recreation Complex on Sunday, the Panthers had seen three straight games head to overtime, an extra period they were determined not to reach against a team just four points ahead in the PWHL standings.

A scoreless first period was highlight by the work of Taylor Beam between the pipes, who stopped nine Canadettes shots heading into intermission.

With little offense to help Beam in the first, it was Aurora who came out pressing in the second, with Jaclyn Kouleas earning Aurora's first true chance of the game heading in alone in the first minute and barely robbed by the glove of the Brampton goaltender.

Aurora's onslaught eventually led to a powerplay just before the midway mark of the second, where Gracy Emmerton took advantage by banging home a rebound at the side of the net to make it 1 ? 0 for Aurora.

Beam was solved just over three minutes later to tie the game, though Aurora quickly countered with two goals in the span of 21 seconds to take a two-goal lead, thanks to Emma Wilson and a textbook tic-tac-toe play between Kouleas and Jayden Thompson.

An unlucky bounce gave Beam no chance early in the third when Brampton made it 3 ? 2, though Aurora restored the two-goal lead thanks to Julia Mitchell sending a rebound home with just over ten minutes to play.

Kouleas capped off the scoring with a late empty-netter to give Aurora the 5 ? 2 win.

Aurora next pays a visit to Waterloo on Saturday for an important matchup with a Rangers team that sits just three ahead in the standings.

They return home on Sunday to face the powerhouse Stoney Creek Sabres, with puck drop set for 1:25 p.m.