

Tigers build on lead atop OJHL North division

By Jake Courtepatte

After dropping three of four in a long third week of the Ontario Junior Hockey League season, the Aurora Tigers needed a return to form in a pair of games over the weekend.

They got much more than just a return to form.

The OJHL's North division leaders outscored their opponents 13 ? 2 in back-to-back wins on Friday and Saturday, taking down division rivals the Lindsay Muskies before a cross-conference clash with the Burlington Cougars.

Aurora's visit with the struggling Muskies on Friday saw them pepper the Lindsay net with 45 shots, putting up four unanswered goals between the second and third periods to take the game 4 - 1.

Anthony Romano had a multi-goal game, while Zach Wilkie added a single. Captain Jake Bricknell contributed to his team-leading 23 points by scoring an empty-netter in the final few seconds.

Romano picked up right where he left off on Saturday against the Cougars, taking advantage of a five-on-three opportunity in the fourth minute of play to score twice on the powerplay.

Jason Stachelback added two more before the end of the period, part of a seven unanswered goal stint for the Tigers, before starter Jack Irvine was finally beaten nearing the end of the second.

Romano, Bricknell, and Christopher Giroday combined for twelve points, while the Tigers threw an astounding 67 shots in net in a 9 ? 1 effort.

“The whole team just works well together,” said Bricknell. “There's a lot of experience in the room this year.”

Just over a month into the regular season, the new-look Tigers are setting a much different pace from the Tigers of one year ago.

With only two wins under their belt at this point in the 2016-17 season, this year's pack of Tigers has led Aurora to a 7-3-1 record, good for two points above last year's division champs the Markham Royals: though with one game in hand.

A clash-of-the-titans matchup lies ahead this weekend in the weekly Saturday home game, with the Tigers hosting the Wellington Dukes at the Aurora Community Centre. The two teams are one and two in the NorthEast conference standings, with Wellington leading at 8-1-1-4.

Puck drop is set for 7.30 p.m.

The Tigers also visit the 4-3-1 Pickering Panthers on Friday night.

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