

## **Tigers captain representing Aurora in OJHL All-Star weekend]**

He is a supply teacher with the Durham Catholic School Board by day. By night, he is the captain of the OJHL Aurora Tigers.

And this weekend, Lucas Stanojevic will be representing Aurora at the OJHL All-Star weekend in Collingwood.

It has been a long time coming for the Ajax, ON, native as the 5-foot-11 forward initially received this honour two years back.

?I'm pretty honoured to be chosen to be in something like that because I know not all players have the opportunity to attend an event like this. [I'm] happy to be able to represent the team,? Stanojevic told The Auroran.

?It was cancelled last year because of the whole COVID wave. We didn't really play at all in January. We didn't have too much time to fit in games so they had to cancel the all-star weekend to be able to get those games in last year and the year before, there was no season at all. I believe this is the first one in about two or three years now. Looking forward to it.?

This Friday and Saturday, Stanojevic is excited to be with all of the top players in the league. Specifically, on Friday night, he will be passing the puck for the accuracy challenge and will also be a part of the speed-skate relay.

Then, Saturday night, the All-Star Game taking place at 3.00 p.m. will be broadcasted on CHCH.

It has been an incredible year on a personal level for Stanojevic.

Since being named captain of the Aurora Tigers a few months back, following the trade of former captain Connor Van Weelie, he has been responsible for producing in a top-line role and he has done so tremendously.

Stanojevic has 26 goals and 21 assists on the year so far and is currently ranked seventh in the league in goals forward in all of the OJHL.

?It's my second year in Aurora. Going back to the beginning, Aurora was pretty much the only team that gave me a shot. Last year there were a lot of learning experiences along the way. Being one of those role players, one of those depth guys from the other guys playing higher up in the lineup. With the help of Jim Thomson and the entire coaching staff from this year to last year, obviously a year older, a lot of experience, I gained knowledge from last year. And with the opportunity that I was presented with this season, I was able to take advantage of it and go in every single game and play as hard as I could,? Stanojevic said.

?I have the organization themselves to thank for that for all of my development from the very beginning to where I am now, because I would not be where I am without their help and support along the way. I've also had the chance to play with some really good players throughout the season. Still playing with Matthew Godwin and Carter Real right now. Solid linemates.?

Currently the Tigers are coming off a three-game losing skid last week.

Stanojevic is preaching hard work from the group and it is all up to the boys in the locker room to change things the rest of the way. He is confident the group will do so.

Following two days in Collingwood, the Tigers will travel to Trenton to take on the Golden Hawks Sunday evening. Puck drop is at 7.30 p.m.

By Brock WeirEditorLocal Journalism Initiative Reporter