

Tigers forward Lee Chiang could be Mr. Reliable for the rest of the year

Your leaders will always be your leaders. A cliché to say that? Undoubtedly.

In a team breakdown, it's the obvious thing to point out. The Aurora Tigers have leaders that have fully embraced their roles. Luc Reeve was named captain of the team when Greg Johnston took over the head coaching job in the offseason. He leads the team with 25 points so far in 21 games played. That's one-point shy of his career-best 25 points he recorded and, by the way, he did that having played a full OJHL season.

Then there's Justin Biraben, who's a bulldog out there protecting his teammates. There's William Smith, a craftsman on the puck. And Connor Van Weelie, a tenacious speedster who never takes his eye off the prize.

These leaders on the Tigers are what's making this team tick. Of course, there's goaltending, too, don't forget. And an incredible supporting cast of boys that are simply gelling together with what looks to be minimal effort. It all seems natural.

But there is a name, maybe not known for being a leader, but someone that any team needs to have on their roster. A pure goal-scorer. Someone who loves to find the back of the net. Who will get into all the dirty areas. That's Lee Chiang.

The Stouffville native came over from the Toronto Patriots and is currently leading the boys in goals this year. His 14 goals are five more than Reeve who sits in second with nine. He is tied for ninth in all of the OJHL's top scorers so far this year.

One of the main things about Lee is he has an amazing quick release, said head coach Greg Johnston.

Good players, the puck seems to follow them. They always find the right body to go to. His anticipation, his ability to read the play, read the puck and read rebounds. Like a lot of guys, if someone takes a shot from the left side, there's a likelihood where the rebound is going to go. Chiang finds those spots. He gets the spots and he's aggressive on the puck in front of the net. He jumps all over it.

In the team's 6-3 loss to the Milton Menace and 3-2 win over the Georgetown Raiders this past week, Chiang was responsible for four of the seven goals scored. His offensive prowess is something to note for this team moving forward and he could be the Mr. Reliable this group is looking for.

Two seasons ago when the Tigers were in a shambles, there was no scorer that team relied on.

This brand-new look and the revamped roster the club has put together this offseason, Chiang is a scorer. He's a like Tyler Toffoli, a Brock Boeser, and even a James Van Riemsdyk.

Chiang is also a great stick handler and an excellent player in the defensive zone according to Johnston. He helps lead breakouts out of the defensive end and is tough to knock off the puck when in the offensive zone.

The Tigers average 3.10 goals per game, ranked 13 in all of the OJHL. The boys will get ready to host the Stouffville Spirit on Friday at the ACC at 7.30 p.m. before heading out to Collingwood to battle the Colts Saturday night.

By Robert Belardi