

Brooks-Potts gives up five in his return to Kingston



By Jake Courtepatte

Aurora's Junior-A Tigers are taking a few days to rest up after a long road trip that saw both dominating offence and some defensive breakdowns.

Last year's regular season champions opened up the Governor's Showcase in Buffalo on Tuesday in a jam, quickly falling behind the Burlington Cougars 1 ? 0 just thirty seconds into the competition. Veteran Nolan Dunn potted the Tigers only tally of the period as they headed to the second down 3 ? 1.

St. Andrew's College's Darren Iwai scored his first goal in a Tigers uniform in the middle frame, as well as perennial goal-scorer Drake Board, to tie the game at three before a scoreless third period.

Solid defence kept the shot totals low on both sides until double overtime, when Tiger Alex Brooks-Potts was beaten to give the Cougars the extra point.

The showcase continued the next morning against the struggling Mississauga Chargers, who had lost four straight entering the contest. Aurora quickly went to work, rattling off three straight goals in the first off the sticks of Todd Winder, Jacob Piltzmaker and Drake Board.

It was 6 ? 0 Aurora just over seven minutes into the second period.

Newcomer goaltender Josh Boyko, a native of Mississauga, was beaten only twice in the game, both in the second by Steve Mariani. They were countered by six more Aurora goals, two more off Board's stick to notch a hat trick.

It was a different sort of homecoming for Brooks-Potts on Sunday in Kingston, facing his old team for the first time since tending their goal in the 2013-14 season. It was with the Voyageurs that he earned a number of honours, including runner-up for Goaltender of the Year and Goaltender of the Month for September.

It was also the first time that the 200 or so fans got the chance to see a rematch of last season's OJHL quarter-final matchup when the Voyageurs upset the favoured Tigers in seven games.

Despite the animosity, the game remained tame through the first period. The Tigers showed very little spark, going down by a score of 3 ? 0 just a short three minutes into the game, off of only a handful of shots on Brooks-Potts.

Daniel Mantenuto provided the Tigers' only spark of offence in the period with a shorthanded goal, and they headed to the second down 3 ? 1.

From there, Brooks-Potts was able to settle in, stopping nine of ten shots in the frame while only giving up one on the powerplay. The Tigers, meanwhile, continued their crawl back with one from Kyle Lock and Mantenuto's second of the game.

Although the Tigers continued to be badly outshot, Board completed the rally midway through the third to tie the game at four. But Kingston's continuous onslaught of shots proved too much for Brooks-Potts, who allowed the game-winning goal with only five minutes to play.

The Tigers will get their chance at redemption this Friday, hosting the Voyageurs at the Aurora Community Centre.

Aurora now sits with a record of 4-2-0-1, good for second place in the OJHL's North division.

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