

Tigers defeat Stouffville and Lindsay, keeping top standing



By Jeff Doner

The Aurora Tigers continue to chug along after collecting two more wins last week.

This time, the Tigers made victims of the Stouffville Spirit and the Lindsay Muskies to help them keep their perch atop the north division standings.

“In the last 15, we got one regulation, one shootout and one overtime loss, so things are going well,” said Tigers head coach James Richmond in assessment of his team at the season’s midpoint. “The boys are working hard and they’re doing a lot of good things. The power play and penalty kill looked good tonight, so if we keep working on special teams and our speed, we should be ok.”

On Thursday night against Stouffville, the Tigers took advantage early and often, building up a 3 ? 0 lead in the first period. The usual suspects ? Tyler Boston, Michael Laidley and Dylan Sikura ? scored the Aurora goals.

Stouffville would add a goal of their own in the second period, but the Tigers would buckle down to hold on for a 3 ? 1 win.

Goalie Kevin Entmaa stood tall in net making 30 saves for the win and said his teammates played a solid game in front of him.

“We started out really strong,” said Entmaa. “We scored all three of our goals in the first and then after that we just kept putting on pressure and kept their team on the outside, which made my job a lot easier. Our defence did a good job of getting guys out from in front of the net and we played strong the whole 60 minutes.”

Sunday vs. Lindsay Muskies

The Tigers returned to the ACC for a rare Sunday night matchup against the Muskies.

Maybe feeling a little fatigued, the Tigers were back on their heels to start the game, but the Muskies didn’t inflict any damage. By the ninth minute, the Tigers started clicking and Taylor McCloy netted his 13th goal of the season.

Less than three minutes later, agitator Adam DiBrina made it 2 ? 0 on a goal assisted by Kory Kennedy and Mihkel Poldma.

“We started off really slow ? that’s something we’ve really got to work on ? but I thought after the first period we really picked it up and we came out strong in the second, dominated down low, starting cycling and getting pucks on the net, which is what we have to do,” DiBrina said after the game. “Overall I thought it was a good game, it wasn’t our best effort, but we came up with the ?W’ so

we're happy.?

As the game wore on, the Tigers continued to pour it on as Drake Board, Kennedy and Sikura each scored to make it 5 ? 0 by the end of the second period.

Kennedy's diving tip-in goal came on a nice feed from Calvin Higley, while Sikura scored with a perfectly timed wrister from the hash marks on a 5-on-3.

Neither team was able to score in the third, giving Entmaa a shutout in a 26 save effort.

Having allowed only five goals in his last four games, Entmaa said he was happy with his play in net.

?I'm feeling good now,? he said. ?I started out a little slow this season, so getting a couple of back to back wins here feels good. The shutout tonight is more of a team stat than anything. As long as our team keeps playing well, I'll keep up as well.?

Richmond said his players are settling in to their roles nicely, which is important for continued success.

?As you start to get into the season, players start to define their roles,? he said. ?It's not coaches defining their roles, they are. Adam DiBrina was a key guy tonight for me and the team. He's not the prettiest looking player, but boy is he effective. He works hard, bangs bodies, gets pucks out and he's a good guy in the dressing room.?

He also gave a vote of confidence to the feisty Drake Board, who has become one of the team's top agitators while also racking up five points in the last seven games.

?He's another guy who is defining his role. He's got some great speed and quickness. He's got some skill, but this year he knows he's got to be a bit of a sandpaper guy for us and he's really doing it,? Richmond said.

The Tigers will now pack up their bags for a five-game road swing that will have them stopping in Trenton, Toronto, Kingston, Mississauga and Georgetown. Their next home game will be Dec. 13 against Burlington.