

Tigers fall to Rangers in clash of the titans



By Jake Courtepatte

While the buzz around the Aurora leg of Rogers Hometown Hockey continues to grow for Saturday, the on-ice junior product still had three games to contend with on the Ontario Junior Hockey League schedule last weekend, dropping two of three for the first time in over a month.

The Junior A Aurora Tigers faced a struggling Brantford 99ers squad for the second time in three games on Friday, falling just short of a comeback in a 5-4 loss.

Down 4-0 after two periods, Aurora rallied to score four in the final frame. League-leading scorer Joseph Mizzi led the way with a three-point effort for the Tigers, along with Markus Paterson, who put up his second-straight multipoint evening.

Aurora goaltender Jack Irvine stole the show in Saturday's visit with the Mississauga Chargers, stopping all 22 shots he faced in a 2-0 shutout, the second of the year for the regular starting keeper.

Cael Cavallin opened the scoring just past the two-minute mark of the second period, before a new name reached the scoresheet in the third with Payton Schaly, notching his first goal in the six games he has suited up for the Tigers.

Sunday's matchup with the North York Rangers provided perhaps the Tigers' most daunting challenge of the season, facing off against the eleventh-ranked team in the nation on their own ice.

The two powerhouses saw both Irvine and his counterpart Eli Shiller stand tall in the crease in the first period, before North York got on the board with a pair early in the middle frame.

Nolan Turi broke the shutout before the buzzer to make it 2-1, though three goals from the home team in the third period saw the game end 5-2 in favour of the Rangers. Mauro Biasutto had the Tigers' other marker, his first time finding the back of the net as a Tiger.

While the Tigers still have to work through a game hosting the lowly Pickering Panthers at the ACC on Friday, all attention is now focused on another division rival: the Newmarket Hurricanes, who will face the Tigers in front of a sold-out crowd Saturday night in the Aurora leg of the Rogers Hometown Hockey stop.

The weekend features Sportsnet broadcasters Ron MacLean and Tara Slone, NHL alumni, live entertainment and hockey activities for the whole family.

On Sunday, Rogers Hometown Hockey will host an outdoor viewing party of two NHL games hosted by Ron and Tara.

The former Humboldt Broncos players set to drop the puck for Saturday's 7:30 p.m. start in Aurora have already landed in the area, doing a whirlwind tour of Toronto before attending the much-anticipated event on Saturday.

Not lost in the grandeur of the day is the continued rivalry between the two teams taking the ice: Newmarket (10-10-2-5) sits second behind the Tigers in the OJHL's North division, albeit thirteen points behind the leader (19-9-2-0).

Aurora sits twelve back of the conference-leading Oakville Blades (25-2-1-1).

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