

Tigers on the ice for preseason action



By Jake Courtepatte

While still looking to finalize their roster, the Junior A Aurora Tigers put up a pair of impressive wins in their first two games of preseason action last week.

Looking like the strong offensive presence of Tigers team's past, Matt Gordon led Aurora to a 10 ? 3 win in their opening game Wednesday against the North York Rangers, notching two goals and two assists.

Greg Smith, a veteran OHLer of the Owen Sound Attack, contributed three points himself while seven other newcomers had themselves a multipoint game.

Visiting the Pickering Panthers on Friday, Aurora managed an impressive 34 shots on net in a 5 ? 3 win, kicked off by a shorthanded goal by Jake Bricknell under a minute in. Bricknell spent the last four seasons skipping around the OHL, playing stints with the Belleville Bulls, Hamilton Bulldogs, and Guelph Storm before landing with the Cobourg Cougars last season.

Greg Smith had his second multipoint game in a row, as well as Steven MacLean, an incoming 6'5" defenseman.

The team hit their first blip in the system Sunday in a 7 ? 0 loss to the Rangers on the road.

Preseason action continues Tuesday following press time against the Whitby Fury, and wraps up Friday when the Tigers host the Panthers at the Aurora Community Centre.

Opening faceoff is set for 7 p.m.

With the regular season fast approaching, the scores start to matter on September 11 when the Tigers visit the defending Royal Bank Cup champion Cobourg Cougars for the season opener. The home-and-home series moves to the Aurora Community Centre on September 15 for the Tigers' home opener.

The 54-game schedule runs until the end of February. The first meeting between the Tigers and the rival Newmarket Hurricanes will go at Ray Twinney on October 19, before the Tigers host the Canes at the ACC on Friday, October 27.

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