

Tigers? overtime troubles continue in Toronto in tough start to 2015



By Jake Courtepatte

The Junior A Aurora Tigers had a tough start to 2015, after a difficult December left the team clinging to the top spot in the OJHL. They returned to the ice on Saturday following a thirteen-day break, visiting the Toronto Patriots in Etobicoke.

The Patriots came into the game having won six of their last eight games, and sitting in the top spot of the league's South Division.

The game marked the return of some key Tigers players, namely forwards Michael Laidley and Drake Board, and defencemen Kyle Locke and Callum Fryer. All four had missed the last eight games of 2014 while taking part in the World Junior A Challenge in Saskatchewan as members of Canada East.

Goaltender Andy Munroe certainly showed no rust early on, stopping all twelve shots he faced in the first period. His counterpart, Emanuel Vella, matched him save for save to keep the game scoreless after one.

The goose egg was broken with less than five minutes remaining in the second, when Munroe was beaten by the Patriots' Nicholas Ursitti.

In typical Tiger fashion, they notched the game at one less than two minutes later on a goal by Eric Williams.

The two teams would trade one more each before the end of the period, as the Tigers' Cameron Morrison added to his impressive rookie campaign with his twenty-first goal of the year.

A scoreless third period had the Tigers heading to overtime for only the third time this year.

Aurora was sent home with only one point in the standings less than three minutes into the extra frame, when Toronto's Quinn Strydiuk scored the game-winning goal.

The Tigers are now 0 ? 3 in overtime this season.

Board picked up two assists in his return to the Tigers lineup.

After back-to-back road games earlier this week visiting the Lindsay Muskies and the Wellington Dukes, the Tigers return home on Friday to take on the Stouffville Spirit.

All proceeds from Friday's game will go towards the family of Ethan, an eight-year old boy with an inoperable tumour who will be a ?Tiger for the Day?.

Aurora is undefeated so far this season when facing the Spirit.

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