

Tigers' point streak reaches twelve games

By Jake Courtepatte

The Aurora Tigers are heating up at just the right time: though the same can be said about the Newmarket Hurricanes, who will not give up first place in the OJHL's North division.

The rival squads have been battling for divisional supremacy for much of the last two months, leaving a Markham Royals team behind that has been stuck in a bout of mediocre hockey since owning the division crown in the early months of the season.

Both Aurora and Newmarket took to the ice against inter-conference foes this weekend, with the Hawks one point behind the Hurricanes.

The Tigers travelled to Stouffville on Saturday to face the Spirit in the rubber match of the season series between the two, each earning a win on the road in the other's barn.

Captain Jake Bricknell was the star for the Tigers in a game the road team dominated from the opening faceoff. The centreman opened the scoring just over four minutes in, a successful wraparound on one of nine Tigers' shots in the period.

It was Bricknell again who finished a nice tic-tac-toe play off the opening draw of the second period, with feeds from Austin Eastman and Joseph Mizzi to double the lead.

Mizzi and Tyler Davis each also found the back of the net in the second, while Aurora netminder Jack Irvine wasn't bested until just past the eleven minute mark of the period, for a 4 ? 1 Aurora lead after two.

They exploded for four more goals in the third period, from James Thomson, Christopher Giroday, Zach Wilkie, and Luca Esposito, with the score reading 8 ? 2 at the final buzzer.

Irvine picked up his eighth win of the season in making thirteen of fifteen stops.

The win continues an impressive streak for the Tigers, who have now won eight of their last nine games, and have at least reached overtime in the past twelve. Newmarket, meanwhile has won six of their last seven.

Holding a one-point lead over the Hurricanes for first in the division post-game, it was short lived as the Hurricanes came through in a 2 ? 1 overtime win over the Kingston Voyageurs on Sunday.

Aurora has a four-point window over the Royals, and are six points back of the conference-leading Wellington Dukes.

The road trip continues on Friday when Aurora visits the Oakville Blades (29-10-2-1), followed by the Pickering Panthers (16-18-1-2) on Sunday.

The next home game is scheduled for Jan. 19 at the Aurora Community Centre against the Whitby Fury.

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