

Tigers roar past Chargers in first win under new head coach



By Jake Courtepatte

Aurora Tigers' Thomas Milne has enjoyed a good start to his tenure as head coach of the Junior A team, leading his team to a 1-0-1 record in his first week on the job.

Without a home game over the week, the Tigers were forced to make due on the road against both the Wellington Dukes and Mississauga Chargers. Friday's game with the Chargers came just two days after the hiring of Milne, who replaced short-tenured coach Mark Joslin, released from the team thirteen games into the season.

Milne was quickly put to the test when his team slipped behind just over a minute into the game on a wrister that beat goaltender Alex Brooks-Potts. The Tigers were held to just six shots in the first period, unable to capitalize on two powerplay opportunities.

They were able to roar back in the second period with back-to-back tallies from Evan Kearns and Alex Formenton to take the lead. Wellington's Ben Sokay tied it up early in the third, with the game eventually needing overtime.

It was Sokay, with his second goal of the night that put the game away just seconds into the second overtime period, handing the Tigers the overtime loss.

With double-digits in the loss column already, the Mississauga Chargers proved no match for the high-scoring Tigers offence the next night.

Three powerplay goals were the key to victory, as the Tigers cruised past their opponent 6 ? 2.

Austin Gerhart, in his first season with the club, led the way with a two goal, two assist effort in only his third game with the Tigers. Drake Board also put up a goal and an assist for his seventh multi-point game in eleven games, so far putting up similar impressive numbers to his production last year.

Board said he's been happy with the help he's received from the team's rookies so far this season.

?We lost a lot of key guys this year that are difficult to replace, but everyone's been stepping up to fill those gaps,? said Board. ?We're a young team and can hopefully only get better.?

Though showing relative success, the Tigers are not matching their dominance of 2014-15 so far this season. With the 1-0-1 week, they now sit second in the OJHL's North East Conference with a 7-5-3 record.

'We're all still learning to play together,' said Board. 'It's a lot of work, but we seem to have the guys to get the job done and hopefully just keep building.'

The Tigers are urging their fans to come out this Friday to the latest installment of the 'Battle of Yonge Street', as they renew their fierce rivalry with the Newmarket Hurricanes. Aside from the usual 50/50 draw, there will be a bake sale, as well as a 'shoot the puck' contest to win two tickets for a Hawaii vacation, an iPhone 6s, or a MacBook.

Proceeds will be going towards breast cancer research at Southlake Regional Health Centre. Puck drop is at 7.30 p.m.

The cats then head to Toronto on Saturday for their first meeting with the Jr. Canadiens.

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