

## Tigers scratched but unscathed after bout with Cougars



**By Brock Weir**

The Aurora Tigers went into last week hoping for another four points against Cobourg and Pickering, but were unable to come out unscathed.

After losing 6 ? 2 to the Cobourg Cougars on Friday night, the Tigers rebounded with a 5 ? 1 win against Pickering on Saturday.

Head coach James Richmond said his team didn't seem to have it right from the get go against the Cougars.

?Last night our top guys were bad,? he said Saturday. ?It's not that they were just good or average, they were bad. I addressed it after the game last night and addressed what we needed to do tonight to bounce back and the guys that played bad last night were better tonight. Still not as good as they can be, but better.?

Things didn't start off too poorly for the Tigers, as defenceman Eric Williams scored his 14th goal of the season at 14:59 of the first to give his club a 1 ? 0 lead.

With the score tied up to start the second period, Robert Angiolella put the Tigers ahead once again on a goal assisted by Michael Laidley and Curtis Warren.

But it would be all Cobourg from there as they scored five unanswered goals in the final 25 minutes of the game to hand the Tigers a rare 6 ? 2 loss.

?I think we were waiting for stuff to happen instead of going out there and doing it,? said defenceman Austin Rigney. ?We were fishing for pucks last night instead of getting them and I think it showed on the scoreboard with how many shots we had.?

Rigney, who joined the Tigers late this season after coming over in a trade from Orangeville, has played a valuable role on the blue line for Aurora, even drawing some praise from his coach.

?He's been solid. He's been a top D for us back there,? Richmond said. ?He puts in some good minutes on the penalty kill and on five on five and on the back end of the power play. He's a guy that can settle things down there and can skate us out of trouble a lot. He's been great for us.?

On Saturday night, the Tigers looked a lot more like themselves against the Pickering Panthers.

Veteran playmaker Dylan Sikura ignited the offence for the Tigers, potting a shorthanded goal just a minute and a half into the game.

Goalie Kevin Entmaa said the Tigers knew they wanted to come out of the gate hard.

?After yesterday we knew how bad we wanted it after losing one like that, so we just came tonight and brought our all for the full 60 minutes,? he said. ?Everyone showed up and we played our game right from the start.?

Taylor McCloy scored his 27th goal of the season in the first, while Alex Gilmour, Laidley and Angiolella scored second period goals.

Pickering added one to make it 5 ? 1 at the end of the second and that's the score that would end up sticking.

Entmaa didn't face many shots, but made some big saves to keep his team ahead. He ended up stopping 22 shots to give him 27 wins on the season so far.

The Tigers are heading into their final week of play with just two games left. They play Buffalo on Friday night and Stouffville Saturday night, both at 7.30 p.m. at the ACC.

Entmaa said he is hoping his team can bring a similar game that they had against Pickering.

?We just need to play like we did in this game, roll into next Friday and play a full 60 minutes against Buffalo and then Stouffville,? he said. ?Those will be two tough games as well, so that'll be good going into the playoffs just to keep that pace up.?