

Tigers take five of six points in busy weekend



By Jake Courtepatte

Three tough games, five total points.

It was a successful weekend for the Junior A Aurora Tigers in what was perhaps their most grueling stretch of the season so far, picking up two wins and an overtime loss against three of the OJHL's top teams.

Opening the week's schedule against the Kingston Voyageurs at the Aurora Community Centre on Friday, the Tigers managed four straight goals in the first period to take a commanding lead they would never relinquish.

Netminder Bradley Van Schubert was the first star of the game for the Tigers, only bested once late in the second on 53 shots.

Joseph Mizzi found the back of the net twice, while Anthony Romano, Brock Welsh, and Jake Bricknell each added singles in a 5 ? 1 win.

A depleted Tigers squad made the trip to Toronto on Saturday night to take on the Jr. Canadiens, missing forwards Romano and Welsh and defenseman Chris Giroday, all at selection camp for Canada East in the upcoming World Jr. A Challenge.

Others stepped up in their absence in the high-scoring affair between two of the league's top teams, with the Tigers going a perfect three-for-three on the powerplay in the first period. Elijah Gonsalves found the back of the net twice, along with an Evan Bidenti single, to give the Tigers a 3 ? 2 lead after one.

Mizzi added another powerplay marker in the second, though Toronto kept pace with a 4 ? 4 score through two periods.

Aurora blew the game open early in the third, notching three goals in just over two minutes from Mizzi, Zach Wilkie, and Tyler Davis, holding on for an eventual 7 ? 5 win.

Closing out a grueling weekend on Sunday with a road matchup against the powerhouse North York Rangers, Aurora captain Bricknell managed to open the scoring early with a blast from just inside the point.

Netminder Bradley Van Schubert was strong in stopping the Rangers' first eleven shots of the game, though he was fooled by a backhand in the final minute of the first to tie the game heading into intermission.

The score held right until the game's second overtime, where a tipped shot in front bested Van Schubert.

Despite the loss, picking up the single point has helped Aurora keep pace with both the Markham Royals and the Newmarket Hurricanes in the OJHL's North division. Aurora's record of 15-9-1-2 has them sitting six points back of both the Royals and the Canes, though they have games in hand against both.

While the Tigers head to Lindsay on Friday to take on the last-place Muskies, they gear up for the annual Teddy Bear Toss game on Saturday, in support of Southlake's Sick Kids.

Fans are asked to bring a new teddy bear or stuffed plush toy to toss on the ice after the first Tigers' goal, a fun yearly tradition that sees dozens of toys collected.

All those who bring a teddy or toy will also receive a coupon for a free treat courtesy of COBS Aurora.

The Tigers are also collecting for the Aurora Food Pantry until December 16.

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