

Tigers top Kingston in Northeast finals, will face off against Patriots this week



By Jeff Doner

After manhandling the Kingston Voyageurs in the OJHL Northeast Conference finals, the Aurora Tigers are now on to the finals against the Toronto Lakeshore Patriots.

The team completed their second series sweep of the 2014 playoffs by downing the Voyageurs 7 ? 2 on Wednesday night at the ACC.

?We are all very excited ? you work so hard all season to get that final and to see it finally happen was a great feeling for all of us,? said veteran Adam DiBrina, who has had a solid playoffs for the Tigers. ?It looks like we're playing our best hockey, but you know what? I still think we can step it up a notch. There's always room for improvement and we know that.?

At first, it didn't look like things were going to be so easy for the Tigers, who were hoping to avoid a trip back to Kingston for a Game Five bout.

The Voyageurs got on the board first, scoring the only goal in the opening frame.

Unfazed after giving up the lead goal, the Tigers stormed back and did not deviate from the game plan.

DiBrina went hard to the net and scored a goal just two minutes into the second to tie things up.

Defenceman Mihkel Poldma added a goal of his own with a blast from the point six minutes later to give the Tigers a 2 ? 1 lead.

Kingston tried to push back on the power play in the final minutes of the period, but the Tigers penalty kill did a masterful job quashing any scoring attempts by the Voyageurs.

Things then began to unravel for Kingston, as Aurora took the reins and pulled ahead in the third.

Taylor McCloy, Dylan Sikura, Robert Angiolella, Kory Kennedy and Drake Board all added goals to cap the 7 ? 2 game four rout.

Head coach James Richmond said his team has done a good job of playing solid hockey in all areas of the ice.

?It's not done yet, but absolutely we're happy and excited to win the Northeast,? he said. ?The boys are playing hard and I know Lakeshore is playing well too, but I'm pretty happy with the way our guys are playing right now.?

Helping things along was the steady Kevin Entmaa in net, who continued to prove his worth by stopping 36 shots for the win.

Richmond also said the character and leadership of the team has really come through.

"I think the character in that room is spectacular, I really do," he said. "I am really proud and happy for them, but it really is about character."

The focus will now move to the Toronto Lakeshore Patriots, who are led by a former Tiger in Kevin Shier, who is also leading playoff scoring with 25 points in 13 games thus far.

DiBrina said the Patriots are a fast team with good goaltending, but he pointed out his Tigers are proficient in the same areas.

"We know they really depend on their speed but, at the same time, I think our goaltending is great," he said. "I think we're one of the fastest teams in the league. I think it's going to be a good matchup and it's going to be a tough series for sure with everybody giving it their all to win that Cup. We're just looking forward to the series."

The Tigers were unable to host their Championship final home games at the ACC due to a scheduling conflict, so the team will be playing their home games at the Canlan Arena at York University.

The series will commence on Thursday, April 10 at 7:30 p.m. at Canlan Arena for Game One.

For the full schedule and stats, visit auroratigers.pointstreaksites.com