

Tigers win-streak hits double digits for third time this season



By Jake Courtepatte

It's been the same story for the Junior A Aurora Tigers team all season ? they just keep winning.

The team earned its ninth and tenth wins in a row this weekend on the road, adding the accomplishment to their two eleven-game winning streaks put together earlier this OJHL season.

After clinching the division last week, and with the Northeast Conference within their grasp, they were hosted by the Stouffville Spirit on Saturday.

The last time the Tigers suffered a loss was at the hands of the Spirit back on January 9, and the Spirit are heading back to the playoffs for the first time in three seasons.

However, it was Aurora's game from the get-go as captain Michael Laidley gave the visiting team the early lead just three minutes in.

Cameron Morrison continued his stellar rookie campaign a few minutes later, notching his 28th goal of the season on the power play for the 2 ? 0 lead after one.

Laidley capitalized again in the second period, followed by Callum Fryer, which prompted a goaltending change in the Stouffville net.

But not all the blame can be placed on starting netminder Aaron Taylor, who had to face 29 Tigers shots in just over half a game played.

The change in net seemed to spark the Spirit, who broke the shutout in the last minute of the second with Kyle Locke serving a double minor.

With Locke still in the box at the start of the third, Stouffville's Spencer Roberts buried his second of the game to cut the lead to two.

That would be as close as they would come, however, with Liam Neuman putting away the game for good off helpers from Mack Lemmon and Locke.

The Pickering Panthers are struggling to stay afloat these days, and were given no help by the powerhouse Tigers on Sunday as they looked to move into a playoff position.

It was 3 ? 0 Aurora less than fifteen minutes into the action, as Eric Williams, Johnny Curran and Lemmon put the game out of reach early.

Morrison and Keaton Ratcliffe added two more before the final buzzer for a 5 ? 2 win.

Morrison picked up four points over the weekend and is now on an over a point-a-game pace with only four games left on the schedule.

What has often been overshadowed this season by offensive production is the efficiency of the Aurora goaltending tandem, as Marcus Semiao once again proved himself to be one of the best backups in the league and the future of the Tigers. He stopped 29 shots in the contest.

His 13 ? 0 record has provided much relief for starting goalie Andy Munroe, also putting up a career season.

The Tigers can tie their season record for wins in a row in a visit south of the border on Wednesday after press-time. They take on the Buffalo Jr. Sabres, who had the Tigers' number in a 4 ? 3 victory in their only other meeting this season.

Only one home game remains on the schedule, but with the success of the regular season one can anticipate ? and expect ? to see some quality playoff action at the Aurora Community Centre.

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