

Tigers win streak hits double digits with another trio



By Jake Courtepatte

Exactly halfway through the 2014-2015 OJHL season, the Junior A Aurora Tigers couldn't be in a better position.

Three more wins over the past week have given them a sixteen point cushion atop the North Division, as well as three points above the Trenton Golden Hawks in the overall league standings.

The Milton Icehawks visited the Aurora Community Centre on Wednesday in a game that saw the Tigers jump out to a 3 ? 0 lead and never look back.

Goaltender Marcus Semiao continued his unbeaten season with the 5 ? 2 win, improving to 7 ? 0 by stopping 20 of the 22 shots he faced.

Two nights later the Tigers were back at it against the Whitby Fury of the East Division.

Once again, a 3 ? 0 lead was built upon and then maintained by solid backstopping, this time from regular starter Andy Munroe. He allowed one powerplay goal in a flurry of Whitby chances in the third period, as the Tigers held on to a 4 ? 1 win.

Saturday's matchup against the Lindsay Muskies was, perhaps, the most exciting of the week.

Up 1 ? 0 early in the first, the Tigers were put on the powerplay as a Lindsay player was called for hooking behind his own net.

Shortly after, Noah Delmas made a beautiful cross-ice feed from the blue line to Johnny Curran, who was parked at the side of the net to make it 2 ? 0.

It was a short-lived celebration as while Curran's goal was being announced Munroe was beat under the pads to cut the lead in half.

Now 3 ? 1 in the second, Drake Board got the Tigers out of a tough spot with a nice shorthanded goal on a four-minute penalty kill. The teams would trade another goal each before the end of the period to make it 5 ? 2.

After a couple of Lindsay notches in the third and a goal from Michael Laidley, the Muskies decided to pull their goaltender with about two minutes to play.

Cameron Morrison notched the empty-netter for the Tigers third special teams goal of the game, an area they have been particularly

successful in as of late.

?If you get the special teams going, you're going to win hockey games,? said Board. ?It's the little things that make the difference

The wins extend the Tigers' winning streak to ten games, having won 21 of their last 22 games. Their last regulation loss came at the end of September.

Despite the team's success, it may come as a surprise to some fans that the Tigers aren't crowding the top scorers leaderboard. Curran, who leads the team with 35 points, sits tied for twelfth in league scoring.

Board, following closely with 33, says it is representative of the teamwork on the Aurora squad.

?It's a team game. Everyone's in it together, we're all brothers here. We don't have anyone in the top-ten in scoring and we're one of the best teams in Canada?I think that really says something.?

All three of the Tigers recent pick-ups were on the score sheet on Saturday -

The trio of new faces have combined for 13 points in 15 total games so far, with Mack Lemmon leading the way with eight.

Along with adding to the score sheet, Board said his new teammates also add a presence physically ? perhaps the only aspect the team was weak on.

?They're all big boys. They bring some toughness, but also skill and speed for sure.?

?Now we've got four solid lines going, and we can throw anyone out there and trust them.?

Two games are on the docket this week, as the home stretch continues against the Georgetown Raiders on Friday and the Buffalo Jr. Sabres on Saturday.

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