

Toronto Patriots claw back in third period against Tigers



By Jake Courtepatte

A third period breakdown left the Aurora Tigers with just one of a possible two points against the Toronto Lakeshore Patriots on Sunday.

With the Tigers up 4 ? 1 heading into the final frame, three straight Toronto goals sent the teams into overtime, before Toronto scored shorthanded just three minutes in.

It was Toronto that opened the scoring early in the game, with Eric Erimita tipping in a shot from the point by Daniel Caravaggio past goaltender Jake Sabourin.

Aurora countered shortly after with Luca Esposito, sending home a wrist shot from the shot, after a centering pass by Tyler Davis to tie the game.

A 5-on-3 powerplay late in the first period saw some nice passing back and forth between James Thomson and Louis Vlahakis, before Thomson ripped it in from the point to take the lead just thirteen seconds before intermission.

Aurora scored the only two goals of the second period just thirty seconds apart, making it a 3 ? 1 game on a goal from Kyle Berry before Konner McMillan made it 4 ? 1 on a cut to the middle while outwaiting the Toronto goaltender.

All three Toronto third period goals came in the final half of the period, with Erimita converting on the powerplay to cut the deficit to two with eight minutes remaining.

Lee Lapid followed up a few minutes later on a rebound, while Sabourin stood no chance on a powerplay marker with under two minutes to go that saw him screened by a handful of players.

Erimita completed the hat trick on a shorthanded break in the extra frame that caught the Tigers defense flatfooted, beating Sabourin over his blocker to take the game and complete the comeback.

It was Aurora's second game in a row to require extra time, after falling to the Pickering Panthers in double overtime on Friday. Melconian scored twice in the 5 ? 4 loss on the road, which was ended just seven seconds into the second extra frame by Adam Wheaton.

Friday's loss would especially sting the Tigers, who after a rare win the week prior sat just one point back of Pickering in the basement of the OJHL's North division.

As it stands, Aurora holds a record of 3-20-0-4, remaining one point back of Pickering, although having played four more games. The Tigers are ahead of only the Milton Icehawks (3-17-1-0) in the entire OJHL.

This week's schedule does not get any easier for the Tigers, who face one of the league's top teams in the Trenton Golden Hawks (19-3-1) on the road on Friday. Aurora is yet to win away from the Aurora Community Centre this season.

Sunday's weekly matchup features the Tigers hosting the Golden Hawks in the back end of a home-and-home series. Puck drop is set for 7 p.m.

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