

Bandits split their week with loss at home, but win on the road



Caledon's Chris Dimartino races for the ball with a Shelburne Vets player during Friday's Junior C game in Shelburne. The Bandits left with a 7-4 win. It was their third win of the season. Photo by Brian Lockhart

By Brian Lockhart

The Caledon Junior C Bandits are getting closer to breaking .500 for the season.

After three consecutive losses, including a one-goal defeat from Fergus June 4, the Bandits turned it around with a 7-4 win over Shelburne Friday.

The loss to Fergus at the Mayfield Recreation Complex came in the third period, when the visitors tied it at three, then took a lead late in the game.

Fergus scored the winner on a powerplay with 1:43 remaining on the clock.

The Bandits regrouped for their next outing when they travelled to Shelburne to face the Vets.

Leading 3-2 at the end of the first period, the Caledon squad kept up the pressure for the entire game and delivered a volley of shots at the Shelburne goalie. They just couldn't find the back of the net.

'With some of our regular players they were scoring a lot in previous years, but now they have had a bit of a monkey on their back,' said Bandits' head coach Mike Gillian. 'But they are coming together.'

First period Bandit goals came from Chris Sehl, Sam McCanna and Michael Rybka.

The second period saw a single goal from each team, making it a 4-3 game going into the final 20 minutes. Caledon's Rybka scored the second period Bandits' goal.

The last frame starting with only a one-goal difference, but the squads turned it up a notch to try to get the advantage.

Two Caledon powerplay goals tipped the balance in the Bandits' favour when Blaine Schmidt scored at 2:40 into the period, followed by another from Rybka; his third of the game.

A final Caledon goal on an empty net sealed the deal and the Bandits recorded their third win of the season.

'The kids realize that no game is a 'gimme', they've got to work on it,' Gillian said after Friday's win. 'We're using a motion offence. Eventually they'll get it. We've only played two games with it.'

After Friday's game, the Bandits have a 3-4 record so far for the season.

Over all, Clarington is leading the league, going undefeated after nine games.

In the West Division, Wilmot is in the top spot with no losses after six matches.

The Bandits will return home to Mayfield arena Saturday to host Huntsville.

The game is scheduled for a 7 p.m. start.