

Bantam Hawks upset the mighty Oakville Rangers in Caledon East

The power house Oakville Rangers invaded the arena in Caledon East Monday to take on the underdog Caledon Hawks Bantam AE Rep team.

In what could arguably be one of the most entertaining and thrilling games of the year, the Hawks won in a come-from-behind nail biter 5-4.

The game started at an incredible pace, with play up and down the ice at a furious speed. Starting Hawk goalie Robbie Lockhart faced five shots early in the first period. But the sixth shot saw the puck sneak through his pad and hit his knee, resulting in a game ending injury. Micheal Doyle was put into service and held the Hawks in from there on, saving 15 of 19 shots sent his way.

The Hawks opened the scoring at 5:36 of the first period as call-up Mattias Biesenthal took a nice pass from Jake Buth and found the back of the Rangers' net with a great shot. Then at 2:31 of the opening frame, Biesenthal returned the favor to Buth by taking a pass from Nicolas Eck and feeding Buth for his first of two goals for the night.

The Rangers got back into the game by scoring two unanswered goals in the second period. Then early in what could be considered one of the most exciting third periods of the year, the Rangers scored again to take a 3-2 lead. Shortly after, though, the Hawks tied the game with Buth scoring his second of the night, again with Biesenthal and Eck assisting. The pace of the game picked up to an incredible speed, with play back and forth. The Rangers were able to regain the lead with a goal at 11:42.

The Hawks did not give up though, and dug deep with defencemen Josh Coulson, Ryan Defoa, Rane Eggengoor, Hunter MacGregor and Jordan Lollino shutting down the Rangers for the rest of the game. Forwards Patrick Abbott, Daniel Marrano, Quade McKinnon, Michael Nunes and Timothy Castellin worked hard keeping the pressure on the Ranger defence. The Hawks outworked the Rangers and eventually tied the game with a beautiful unassisted breakaway goal by Biesenthal.

Biesenthal's goal swung the momentum toward the Hawks, and shortly after, at 7:25 of the third period, Jared Eggengoor scored what proved to be the game winner, taking a pass from Ryan Harding and burying a shot in the back of the Rangers' net.

The final seven minutes of the game proved to be the most entertaining of the year, with a desperation style of hockey from both sides and the Rangers pulling their goalie toward the end for the extra attacker. The Hawks held on for the win.

Regular Hawk players Jordan Monaco and Lucas Conte were not able to play, so call-ups Mattias Biesenthal and Timothy Castellin joined the team for the game.

"I am so proud of the way the boys played tonight," a very pleased Coach Jeff Monaco said after the game. "They didn't give up and kept working and working, and wow, what a great game!"

"I think that was the best game we've played all year," Assistant Coach Mark Eggengoor added. "Oakville is always a powerful team and we have struggled to beat them in the past, so it was just awesome to see the team play so well and get the results they deserve."

The Caledon Hawks Bantam AE Team would like to thank sponsors Sandcastle Energy Systems, Country Homes, Coulson Contracting, Greenpark Homes, Halton Forming, Fieldgate Homes, Cancian Construction, and Green Gables Farm. The Hawks travel to Erin tonight (Thursday) to take on the Erin-Hillsburg Devils.