

Golden Hawks done for season ? Loss in Schomberg ends quarter-final round

By Brian Lockhart

The season is over for the Caledon Junior C Golden Hawks.

Their quarter-final series against the Schomberg Cougars ended last Thursday night (Feb. 13) in Schomberg with a 5-1 loss in game five of the series.

After taking game one of the best-of-seven series on home ice Feb. 2, the Hawks lost four straight to bow out of the running in the Georgia Mid Ontario Hockey League playoffs.

Game five turned out to be a final attempt to keep the series alive, but when the Hawks showed up with only 13 skaters on the bench, they knew it was going to be a tough battle to take the win.

By the time the third period was drawing to a close there were only four skaters and a back-up goalie on the bench after players were removed from the game due to misconducts.

The Hawks were rolling out single players on the shift change just to keep in the game.

The series capped what was a successful season that saw the squad improve their overall performance and ranking in GMOHL over the previous year. They finished fifth in the League with 47 points and a 21-19 record that included two overtime and three shoot-out losses.

"I think when we started the season we had some real solid players that really helped out our team," said Hawks' head coach Sandy McCarthy after the series was over. "Victor Piszczek, Rocky Furfari" they were quality players that could play on any team's top lines. Those players quit on us about a month and a half ago and we've been struggling to get a full line-up ever since. They had other things in their life that came forward. I think it really hurt our team to lose those guys. They were both powerplay and penalty kill guys. They both played a high level of hockey. By them leaving it left a big hole in our team that was hard to fill."

Moving into the playoffs, the squad was up against a team that, at least on paper, was a pretty even match.

The Schomberg squad ended the regular season in fourth place with a 25-15 record and 55 points.

Most fans thought the series was likely to go seven games.

"It's tough to win hockey games when you give a team 14 powerplays like we did in game two," McCarthy said. "When you give a team that was in the top two or three in the league all year, 14 powerplays, nothing good is going to happen."

McCarthy tried to instill a sense of discipline in the team all season.

Last year, the Hawks led the League in penalty minutes and one of his objectives this year season was to get the squad to stay out of the box.

Penalty minutes did go down this year, but they still led the League in time in the box.

For the rest of the team's stats for the season, it is all good news, as the team had a real improvement this year under McCarthy's guidance. In the points column, Hawks' forward Daniel Cafagna came on top, notching 63 points for the season, scoring 34 goals and 29 assists in 40 regular season games. Christian Bonaldi was in second place with 40 points, 16 goals, and 24 assists, after 32 games. Steven Klomp came in third in the points total with 16 goals and 17 assists after 30 games - good for 33 points.

In other quarter-final playoffs games in the GMOHL, the Penetang Kings have eliminated the Midland Flyers in four games. The Alliston Hornets dispatched the Fergus Devils in four games.

The league is waiting for the final outcome of the Stayner-Erin series to finalize the semi-final round.



Caledon Golden Hawk forward Brett Bloor brings the puck around the back of the Schomberg Cougars' net, pursued by a

Schomberg player in game five of their quarter-final series. The Hawks lost the series in five games and are done for the season. Photo by Brian Lockhart