

Golden Hawks down the Devils; yet to solve Penetang Kings

By Jake Courtepatte

It has been a rollercoaster of a young season for the Junior C Caledon Golden Hawks, and last week was no exception.

The Hawks paid their first visit to Fergus Friday, after having beaten the Devils at home earlier in the GMOHL season.

Riding an incredible goaltending performance by James Cyfko, an early goal by Christian Bonaldi gave the Hawks a lead that the Devils were not able to catch up to.

James Pitsadiotis earned his first goal of the year, on a Devils' double-minor for butt-ending near the end of the first frame.

After a pair of Fergus goals and a Hawk tally by Ben Ardis in the second, Bonaldi potted his second goal of the game midway through the third frame, guaranteeing the Hawks a 4-2 win.

Caledon was certainly the better team defensively, killing off all three Fergus powerplays in the game.

Cyfko made 39 saves on 41 shots for the win.

There was not much time to celebrate the victory, as a greater challenge laid ahead in facing the powerhouse Penetang Kings at home Sunday.

After an uneventful opening 10 minutes, the Hawks would get the first real opportunity in the game with almost a full two-minute five-on-three.

Pitsadiotis would make the Kings pay, sending in a low one-timer from the point on a nice feed from Michael Andrews in the corner.

The Hawks' special teams continued to roll, killing off a penalty almost immediately after the goal led by a great effort from goaltender Sam Procopio.

With only seconds left on the clock in the first, Bonaldi got a chance to put the home team in a rare two-goal lead against the Kings when he was sprung on a breakaway.

His shot was just tipped by the Penetang goaltender's glove, sending the puck wide as the buzzer sounded.

A disciplined Hawk team went into the dressing room at the first intermission, penalized just once in the period.

However, it was all but forgotten in the second.

After Matt VanBoven's wrist shot beat Procopio's glove to tie the game seven minutes into the period, Penetang's Craig Robinson continued his incredible start to the season by finishing a nice give-and-go on the powerplay to put the Kings up 2-1.

Robinson has 15 points over six games this season.

Meanwhile, the Hawks were shooting themselves in the foot with bad penalties, picking up six minors and a 10-minute misconduct in the period.

The Kings opened up the floodgates in the third, adding five insurance markers for seven unanswered goals in a 7-1 win.

With the win, Penetang improves to a perfect 6-0 record.

The Hawks have a busy week ahead of them with three games on tap. Tonight (Thursday), the team makes their first trip to the Trisan Centre to face the Schomberg Cougars, before heading to Erin Saturday, where the Shamrocks took the season opener 5-1.

The week finishes off with a Sunday home game against the Stayner Siskins.

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