

Golden Hawks drop home opener to Cougars

By Jake Courtepatte

A hectic season-opening weekend left the junior C Caledon Golden Hawks with one win and two losses through the first three games of the Provincial Junior Hockey League campaign.

A higher than average return rate of players sparked immediate chemistry on the bench in the season opener, a road game against the Schomberg Cougars last Thursday. Returnee Ryan Mouser scored the first goal of the season 12 minutes in, with Matt Magliozzi doubling the lead late in the first period.

Schomberg notched two goals in the second to tie the game, before three unanswered from Kevin Pleasance, Michael Andrews, and an empty netter from Sean Nottle sealed a 5-2 Caledon win.

The Hawks continued their road swing Friday, visiting the Midland Flyers.

They mustered only 17 shots on net in the contest, diminishing a solid effort from Andrew Ireland in his first game between the Caledon pipes.

Ireland stopped 24 of the 27 shots he faced in the 3-2 loss. Caledon goals were scored by team captain Nicholas McNutt and Magliozzi.

After a solid performance in net in the season-opening win, Jason Cumbo was given the task to tend the Caledon goal in the home opener Sunday in a rematch with the Cougars.

Hoping to play the spoiler to the Hawk's home-opening night, the first period had Cumbo standing on his head. Schomberg's Connor Whiteside had a glorious opportunity on an early power play, stopped on a rebound by a diving Cumbo, drawing cheers from the home crowd.

Late in the first, Ryley Egerton was sprung on a semi-breakaway while on the penalty kill, but was unable to beat Cumbo.

It was on the penalty kill, however, that May finally found the back of the net early in the second. McNutt countered to tie it just minutes later, though May regained the lead with another short-handed goal just before the 10-minute mark of the period.

Egerton added an empty netter late in the third to hand the Hawks a 3-1 loss. Caledon went zero for seven on the power play in the game, including an extended five-on-three opportunity in the first period.

Each member of the nine-team PJHL Carruthers division walked away from opening weekend with one win, with the exception of the Alliston Hornets.

Up next for the Golden Hawks is their most testing challenge to date, in Alliston to face the Hornets tomorrow (Friday) night. The defending league champion Hornets lost just three games all last season, and are off to a 2-0 start in 2016-17.

Sunday's weekly home game features the Hawks versus the Huntsville Otters (1-1-0), with puck drop set for 6:30 p.m.

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



Vince Michelizzi stops Caledon's Matt Magliozzi in close in the Schomberg Cougars' 3-1 win over the Golden Hawks in Caledon Sunday. Photo by Jake Courtepatte