

## Golden Hawks drop third straight in special-team meltdown

By Jake Courtpatte

Since posting back-to-back lopsided wins two weeks ago, the Junior C Caledon Golden Hawks have hit a midseason slump, having lost three games in a row in regulation.

Coming off a heartbreaking 3-2 overtime loss in Orillia one weekend earlier, the Hawks were in Fergus Friday night to face the Devils for the fourth time this season. Caledon had won all three previous matches.

The game began as a goaltending showcase, with both the Hawks' Sam Procopio and the Devils' Alex Elliott standing tall to keep the game scoreless after one.

Adam Breen broke the deadlock at the beginning of the second period, with assists going to Chris Smith and Christian Bonaldi. The fans held their collective breath a few minutes later, when Derek Czech was hauled down on a breakaway for a rare penalty shot.

However, Elliott made the save to preserve the one-goal game.

This seemed to spark the Devils, as they scored their first of the game on the powerplay 20 seconds later. They followed up with two more before the end of the period, putting the Hawks in a 3-1 hole going to the third.

Caledon dominated the game offensively in the third, throwing shot after shot at Elliott. They broke through less than three minutes in, with Breen picking up his second goal of the game.

Unfortunately, Elliott stopped 21 of 22 shots in the period to hand the Hawks the 3-2 loss.

Sunday's home game was a crucial one for both the Hawks and the visiting Stayner Siskins, as they had moved into a tie in GMOHL standings.

Unfortunately for the Hawks, they seemed to bury themselves from the get-go. Two minor penalties within the first two minutes resulted in two Stayner powerplay goals, followed shortly thereafter by an even-strength tally from Cooper Martin.

Just more than four minutes into the game, the Siskins were beating the Hawks 3-0.

Caledon's first real chance of the game came shortly after their first powerplay had ended, when Steven Klomp and Bonaldi went charging in on a two-on-one.

Klomp elected to pass the puck to Bonaldi, who put on a pretty little deke to his backhand and sent it over the goaltender's pads. But later in the frame, with Breen off for tripping, the Hawks penalty-killing woes continued. Quinten Bruce scored his second powerplay goal of the period.

With the score 4-1 after the first, goaltender James Cyfko was chased from the net, after making five saves on nine shots. Procopio came in to start the second.

He was given some slack in the first minute of the period, as Steve Zeppieri threw a bad angle shot at the net from the left side.

Klomp cleaned up the rebound for the Hawk's second goal of the game.

Procopio looked sharp early on, making a nice glove save on a two-on-one before the next whistle.

Unfortunately from thereon out, the game was all Stayner's. Klomp's goal turned out to be the only shot on net for Caledon in the second period, as three unanswered Siskin goals and an extra tally in the third made the final score 8-2.

Quinten Bruce finished the game with three goals and two assists to lead the Siskins. Stayner went four-for-seven on the powerplay.

Despite the losing streak, the Hawks remain in the thick of the GMOHL standings. But they have a tough week ahead, visiting Alliston to face the Hornets Friday before hosting the Huntsville Otters Sunday.

For stats, schedules, and more information, visit [www.juniorgoldenhawks.pointstreaksites.com](http://www.juniorgoldenhawks.pointstreaksites.com)



Cody Forgione puts a puck on net on the powerplay in last Sunday's 8-2 loss to the Stayner Siskins.