

Golden Hawks holding strong in pre-season action

By Jake Courtepatte

First-time junior coach Ken Robbins inherits a hockey team that is still looking for its first quarter-final berth in its five-year existence.

The Caledon Golden Hawks were ousted in the first round of the Georgian Mid-Ontario Hockey League playoffs in 2015, beaten in four straight games by the reigning champion Penetang Kings. But their fifth-place finish in the regular season was the highest in team history, and they will be looking to build on that success in the coming season.

They have already taken on their toughest competitor right from the get-go, facing the Alliston Hornets at New Tecumseh Rec Centre in pre-season action last Friday. The Hornets swept the Schomberg Cougars in the GMOHL finals last season.

A host of new faces took to the ice in Golden Hawk uniforms, including goaltender Matt Vaughan, formerly with the Scarborough Young Bruins AAA of the GTHL.

A case of the first-game jitters seemed to be the cause of two early goals for the Hornets in the first period, followed by two more unanswered markers before the first buzzer. However, after intermission, Vaughan settled in to shut out the Hornets for the remainder of the game.

Caledon tried to mount a comeback in the second half of the middle frame, potting three of their own unanswered goals to make it a one-goal game. Unfortunately, they accounted for only six shots in the third period and fell to the Hornets 4-3.

Goals came from newcomers Brett Barry, Matt Magliozzi and Tyler Whitten.

Ex-Creemore Valley Hawk Brendan Macham will also be put to the test in net for the Golden Hawks.

There's time for redemption before the real action begins, as one more pre-season game against the Hornets takes place this Thursday, once again in Alliston. Fans can see the Golden Hawks at home for the season opener Sept. 18, when they take on the Erin Shamrocks.

They are back at home two days later, hosting the Huntsville Otters at the arena in Caledon East.

The Hawks will also be one of 12 teams participating in the Hornets' annual pre-season tournament held the weekend before the season opener.

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