

Golden Hawks keep finding the back of the net in GMOHL action

By Jake Courtepatte

Last week was a crucial point in the Junior C Caledon Golden Hawks season, and the boys in blue and gold came out of it with their heads held high.

The middle of the pack in the Georgian Mid-Ontario Hockey League standings has been a tight race all year, with four points separating the Hawks from the Fergus Devils, who they hosted at home Friday night.

Michael Andrews put the Hawks up on the board first, just two minutes into the game.

Goaltender James Cyfko was a force in the second period, stopping all 15 shots he faced. Meanwhile at the other end, Daniel Cafagna, coming off a four-point performance five days earlier, notched the Hawks' second goal near the end of the frame to double the lead.

After almost 50 minutes of shutout hockey, and a third Hawk tally by Nicholas McNutt, Cyfko was finally solved by the Devils on the powerplay with Steven Klomp in the box for interference.

Two more late Fergus goals would put a scare into the Golden Hawk's defense, but they were able to hold onto a 4-3 victory. Syfko made 40 saves in the win.

Now in position to make perhaps their first move in the season to the league's higher ranks, the Hawks were at home again Sunday night to face the Orillia Terriers. Both teams came in with 18 points in the standings.

The first period was an uneventful one, highlighted only by a point-blank shot from the slot by Christian Bonaldi midway through the frame, which glanced off the shoulder of the Orillia goaltender.

In the second, the Terriers got into some penalty trouble, beginning with a five-minute charging major just 20 seconds in.

Midway through the kill, Cafagna was tripped up in the neutral zone for a full two-minute five-on-three.

Although the puck did not leave the Orillia zone for what must have seemed like a very long penalty kill, their triangle defense kept the Hawks to the outside, unable to produce any quality scoring chances.

But determined to shoot themselves in the foot, less than a minute after the expired powerplay, the Terriers picked up another stick penalty when Klomp was hauled down in the defensive zone.

Staying on for the powerplay, he walked out in front from behind the net with the puck, roofing a pretty backhand over the goaltender for the 1st lead.

Ryan Mouser and Cafagna would add one more each before the buzzer, taking a 3rd Hawks' lead into second intermission.

This time, it was the Hawks getting into penalty trouble in the third. After Jake Mottershaw was given the boot for cross-checking at the end of the second period, Steve Zeppieri was hit with an ejection and five-minute major after running hard into the Orillia goaltender.

Now tasked with killing off their own extended five-on-three, the Hawks weren't as lucky. Two quick Terrier goals cut the deficit to 3rd, with more than two minutes of powerplay left.

The rally was a wake-up call for the Hawks, who successfully maintained the lead and dug themselves out of a hole with a shorthanded marker by Bonaldi that the team would ride the rest of the game.

After back-to-back wins, they are now tied for fourth in league standings with the Devils.

Caledon, who has cruised along to a .500 record at the midpoint of the GMOHL season, heads to Midland tomorrow (Friday) hoping to secure a win over the league's worst team. Sunday's home game welcomes the Schomberg Cougars to Caledon East. The Cougars have had the Hawks' number this year, winning both games played.

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



Cody Forgione looks to get by Orillia defender Mathew White in the first period of Sunday's home win against the Terriers. Forgione had one assist in the contest.