

Golden Hawks outlasted by Terriers in marathon shootout

By Jake Courtepatte

The Junior C Caledon Golden Hawks found themselves exhausting their offensive weapons Sunday, in a game where neither goaltender wanted to give up the extra point.

After giving up a two-goal lead Friday to the Alliston Hornets to lose 3-2, the Caledon squad were looking to rebound against a team much more relevant to them in GMOHL standings.

The weekly Sunday night game had the Hawks matched up against the Orillia Terriers, nipping at the Hawks' heels for a bye to the quarter-finals in the playoff picture.

Despite a low-scoring affair, the back-and-forth action had the arena in Caledon East buzzing by the end.

Orillia dominated the play in the first 10 minutes, applying strong offensive pressure relieved only by the Hawks continuously icing the puck.

They did not register a shot on net until midway through the first period.

Their opportunity came when forward Ben Ardis chased a puck into the offensive corner, taking a hard hit from behind into the boards that resulted in a game misconduct and a Caledon powerplay.

On the advantage, Christian Burel fed Christian Mariconda a pass from the corner to the top of the circle, and Mariconda would make no mistake sending a wrister over the Orillia goaltender's glove.

The goal seemed to spark the home team, as minutes later defenceman Alex Palumbo made a nice diving play to stop a Terrier breakaway.

Goaltender James Cyfko was solid, stopping all 21 shots he faced in the first period.

He continued to keep his team in the game in the second, making back-to-back glove saves five minutes in to maintain the one-goal lead.

However he broke after nearly 30 shots on net, beaten by a blind backhand that went through his five-hole to tie the game.

Caledon's best chance of the second period was a Nicholas McNutt breakaway. But his deke to the forehand went wide of the net. Strong goaltending at both ends kept the third period scoreless, and overtime solved nothing.

The Hawks moved to a shootout for just the second time this season, a tiebreaker that they were 1-0 on so far.

After all six starting shooters were denied, including a Derek Czech shot off the post, the shootout moved to a sudden-death format. Mitchell Hall had to score after Orillia's fifth shooter put one past Cyfko, and score he did. He capitalized with a nice wrist shot that found the top corner.

McNutt found the Hawks in a do-or-die situation again as the seventh shooter, mimicking his Orillia counterpart by going five-hole for the goal.

Finally, on the 10th shooter, Cody Forgione could not match an Orillia goal as his low snap-shot was denied by the keeper. The Terriers took the game in shootout by a score of 2-1.

The Hawks are in tough with only six games left in the regular season schedule, as they face the top two teams in the GMOHL this week.

They head to Stayner to take on the Siskins tonight (Thursday), before looking to even the season score with the Terriers on the road Saturday.

Ending the week is a home match up against the first-place Hornets Sunday.

Puck drop for that game is 7 p.m. at Caledon East.

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



Derek Czech hits the post in a shootout in the Golden Hawks' 2-1 loss to the Orillia Terriers Sunday.