

Golden Hawks split two points in tie with Schomberg Cougars

By Jake Courtepatte

It may be a rebuilding season, but it seems the Caledon Golden Hawks have at least one team's number.

A back-and-forth affair between the junior C Hawks and Schomberg Cougars left both teams skating away with a point each last Thursday.

At the Trisan Centre in Schomberg, Caledon jumped on the board just 13 seconds into play when Ryan Mouser potted his second of the year. The Hawks got the better of their rivals in the opening frame, outshooting the Cougars 10-7, though Schomberg forward Connor May beat Hawks goalie Jason Cumbo late in the period for a tie heading to intermission.

Schomberg controlled the second period, sending a quick one past Cumbo in the first minute and prompting a goalie swap for Andrew Ireland.

The change in net did nothing to spark the team, however, as Schomberg took a 3-1 lead just more than seven minutes later.

It was the work of the special teams that eventually brought Caledon back to an even score; first a shorthanded goal by Andrew Woods in the latter half of the second period, then a power-play marker by Matt Magliozzi early in the third.

Seven minutes of overtime solved nothing, and the teams left the ice with a 3-3 tie, the first of the season for either side.

The tie brings the Hawks just their third point of the 2016-17 season, which began in mid-September. As for the other two points, they were earned in the season opener, a 5-2 win over the Cougars.

Sunday's home game featured the Hawks hosting the powerhouse Stayner Siskins, who along with the Alliston Hornets, have a comfortable stronghold on the PJHL's Carruthers division.

The young and inexperienced Golden Hawks were overwhelmed, though it didn't show early on. The first two goals of the game were scored by Caledon, off the sticks of Hughie Sheppard and Michael Andrews, for a 2-0 lead 11 minutes in.

But with the shot total mounting, Ireland was beaten once in the first, four times in the second, and three in the third through a total of close to 50 shots against.

Sean Nottle added another for Caledon, for a final score of 8-3.

Though the tie last Thursday may be a step in the right direction, a long road ahead waits for the Hawks if they are to stand any chance of a favorable post-season series pairing.

Through a bit more than one-third of the PJHL season, the Hawks hold a record of 1-14-1, for eighth in the Carruthers division. Their three points are seven behind the seventh-place Orillia Terriers.

A pair of middle-of-the-pack teams are on the docket to face the Hawks this weekend, beginning with a visit to the Penetang Kings (6-7-0) Friday, before touching down at home at Caledon East Sunday for a match with the Midland Flyers (7-9-0).

The club is still looking for its first home win of the season.

Puck drop is at 6:30 p.m.

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