

Golden Hawks winless through first four outings

By Jake Courtepatte

It's been a rough start to the 2015-16 season for the Caledon Golden Hawks, still looking for a notch in the win column after two weeks.

With five days off to recover from a third period meltdown at home against Huntsville, the junior C squad took to the ice with the Midland Flyers Friday with an 0-2 record. Veteran Sam Procopio was back between the pipes, working alternate starts with newcomer Branden Macham.

He was locked in a goaltender battle with his counterpart Tim Bester until the dying seconds of the first period, with both goalies turning aside a dozen shots before Flyers' leading scorer Matt Smith found the back of the net.

From there the floodgates opened, with Midland beating Procopio three more times in the second and opening up a sizable 4-0 lead. Bester stood tall until the midway point of the final frame, with Kevin Pleasance finally breaking up the shutout, but much too late in the game. Midland cruised to a 6-1 victory.

On the bright side, Pleasance could celebrate a milestone as it was his first junior goal in his second year with the Hawks.

Stayner entered the arena in Caledon East Sunday night riding a two-game winning streak, and took that momentum to the Hawks. Macham's luck in net didn't seem to improve over Procopio's early on, giving up the first goal of the game with James Pitsadiotis in the box for a hard cross-check.

Ryan Mouser tied it up for the Hawks minutes later, notching his first goal of the 2015-16 campaign. They would leave the first period down 2-1, but with an extended five-on-three opportunity to start the second after a couple Stayner players lost their cool near the buzzer.

The Hawks would take full advantage of the situation, with perennial goal scorer Daniel Cafagna and Tyler Whitten each notching power-play markers to give their team their first lead of the game.

Pleasance added another to give the Hawks their best chance at a 'W' so far this season with a 4-2 lead and less than 25 minutes to play.

But a defensive breakdown was the cause of two Stayner goals two minutes apart that tied the game heading to the final period.

Five minutes in, Stayner's Kyle Paulitzki beat Macham with the eventual game winner. Macham stopped 26 of 31 shots in the loss. The Hawks face the Schomberg Cougars for the first time this season on the road tonight (Thursday), before looking to avenge last week's loss to the Otters in a day game in Huntsville Sunday.

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



Golden Hawk Ryan Mouser battles down low for the puck with Flyer Jon Goldsworthy. Caledon lost on the road in Midland 6-1 on Friday.