

Hawks fail to hang on against Alliston Hornets

By Jake Courtepatte

Despite their polarizing records, the Caledon Golden Hawks have been a thorn in the side of the Alliston Hornets all season. Alliston, the Provincial Junior Hockey League's premiere team, squeaked out a 3-2 victory over the lowly Hawks Sunday, their third of five games this season to be decided by one goal.

Caledon's Andrew Ireland and Alliston's Mike Masucci were both solid between the pipes in the first period at Caledon East, taking a 0-0 tie into the first intermission.

Ireland was forced to contend with 19 Alliston shots in the second, the first of which snuck by him just before the midway mark from Hornets' leading scorer Matthew Nastasiuk.

Tyler Whitten capitalized on the power play for the Hawks late in the second to tie the game, before Alliston retook the lead in the period's final minute.

Nastasiuk gave his team a two-goal lead just past the seven-minute mark of the third, while Caledon's captain Nicholas McNutt brought his team to within one goal again with just less than four minutes left in regulation.

Masucci hung on in net as the Hornets picked up the 3-2 win, the team's 24th in 27 games this year.

The Golden Hawks, meanwhile, had secured their fifth win of the season Thursday, a 6-2 shellacking of the Schomberg Cougars. McNutt and defenceman Scott Burvill each scored twice, while Kevin Pleasance and Michael Andrews added singles for the Hawks. McNutt also earned an assist for a three-point performance.

They managed to chase Schomberg starter Vince Michelizzi from the net in the second period, when they scored four of their six goals.

Ireland was solid at the other end, stopping 30 of the 32 Schomberg shots he faced.

Caledon's record at home has been the club's downfall all season, managing just one win in the 14 games they have played at Caledon East. With 12 games left in the junior C season, six of Caledon's will be played on home ice.

This week, the Hawks do battle with the Stayner Siskins (23-3-0) tonight (Thursday), the Midland Flyers (12-17-0) Friday, and return home Sunday to host the Flyers in the second half of a back-to-back series.

Caledon remains 10 points back of the Orillia Terriers for seventh place in the eight-team Carruthers division.

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



Alliston goaltender Mike Masucci reaches out with his glove as Caledon's Michael Andrews gets a chance in front. The Hawks fell to the Hornets 3-2 Sunday. Photo by Jake Courtepatte