

## Hawks? special teams struggles in back-to-back losses

By Jake Courtepatte

The Caledon Golden Hawks were in Penetang Friday night to visit 2013-14 Georgian Mid-Ontario Hockey League champs, the Kings, and went home on the wrong side of a 4-1 final.

Although the Hawks were first on the board, shorthanded, in the second period, four straight King goals, including three on the power play, kept their unbeaten season intact.

Much of the third was spent shorthanded, as the Hawks picked up 20 minutes of penalties in the period.

The Midland Flyers, a team that had only five wins all last season, then made the trip to Caledon East Arena Sunday, and downed their hosts 4-3.

The Hawks came out strong in the first to set the offensive pace early, at one point spending a full minute and a half in the Flyers' zone.

This was followed by a barrage of chances for Midland, which saw a number of Hawk players sacrifice the body to keep the game scoreless. The crowd applauded the efforts of the home team in their own zone.

Hawk veteran Chris Smith would open the scoring with his first goal of the season, when Randy Chen scooped the puck out from behind the net to find a wide open Smith in front.

With less than two minutes remaining in the period, the Flyers would get on the board with a bad-angle shot that found the five-hole of goaltender Sam Procopio, one that he would definitely want back.

However, Procopio would start the second period off strong, when Flyer Jean-Philip Labonte went in on a semi-breakaway after being left alone floating in the neutral zone. Procopio got a glove on the shot to preserve the tie.

Midway through the second, Flyer Daniel Pickering pulled the puck out of a scrum along the Hawks' half boards, snapping it home from the top of the circle.

A shorthanded marker a few minutes later put the visiting team up 3?1, which was cut in half by a goal by Gaige Van-Asten shortly after to make the score 3?2 after two periods.

With time running out, the Golden Hawks pressed hard late in the game, dominating offensively. They got their chance on the powerplay with less than three minutes remaining, when last season's team scoring leader Daniel Cafagna put home the tying goal. Overtime was needed for only the second time this GMOHL season, and although the Hawk's carried their momentum into the extra frame, Labonte scored his second goal of the game to hand the Hawks the 4?3 loss.

The Hawks are now 1-2-1 on the season.

They head to Fergus Friday to take on the Devils, before hosting Penetang in their weekly Sunday home game.

For schedules, stats, and more information, visit [www.juniorcaldonhawks.pointstreaksites.com](http://www.juniorcaldonhawks.pointstreaksites.com)



Sam Procopio makes one of his 23 saves on 27 shots against the Midland Flyers. The Hawks fell to the Flyers 4 - 3 in overtime Sunday. Photo by Jake Courtepatte