

McNutt leads Golden Hawks to first win in dramatic fashion

By Jake Courtepatte

The junior C Caledon Golden Hawks finally had something to be thankful for over Thanksgiving weekend.

Sparked by a multi-point performance from six different Hawks, they were able to earn their first win of the Georgian Mid-Ontario Hockey League season in a surprise 10-3 drubbing of the Penetang Kings.

Leading the way was the team's newly-appointed captain, forward Nicholas McNutt, who compiled a career-high two goals and five assists in the win.

The Hawks jumped out to a three-goal lead in the first period, with James Pitsadiotis, Daniel Cafagna and McNutt taking advantage of three separate power-play opportunities. They spread five even-strength goals over the length of the second period, with McNutt involved in four of the plays.

Christian Mariconda and Ryan Mouser gave the Hawks an insane 10-0 lead midway through the third period, before goaltender Sam Procopio lost his shutout with three straight Penetang goals in the final few minutes.

All in all, 11 Hawks made the scoresheet, with multi-point efforts from McNutt, Cafagna, Mouser, Pitsadiotis, Tyler Whitten and Avery Rodriguez.

Caledon was also three-for-eight on the power play, while keeping Penetang's special teams at bay.

The Hawks were only two days removed from being shut out for the first time this season, a 4-0 loss in Alliston which saw goaltender Brendan Macham facing almost 50 shots.

Evidently, head coach Ken Robbins was much more pleased with his team's performance Sunday.

"It's nice to get that monkey off our back," said Robbins. "We had an entire team effort on Sunday, we showed a spark of what our guys are capable of."

With the offensive outburst, McNutt more than doubled his point total for the year, now second on the team with four goals and six assists through the first eight games.

"What a game he had," the coach declared. "We had a number of guys who had their best game so far this season."

McNutt took over the captaincy from defenceman Cody Forgione, who spent three full seasons with the team while captaining one before graduating at the end of last season.

Caledon is now 1-7-0 to start the season.

The Golden Hawks will travel to Orillia this Saturday to take on the 1-9-1 Terriers, where one of the league's two basement-dwellers will earn their second win of the season. They then play host to the 4-3-2 Stayner Siskins at Caledon East Sunday.

Puck drop is at 7p.m.

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



Golden Hawk Daniel Cafagna battles with an Alliston player for control of the puck at Caledon East. Photo by Jake Courtepatte