

Cougars topple Caledon, gain ground on Huntsville

By Jake Courtepatte

The Schomberg Cougars have been one of the more mediocre teams in the Georgian Mid-Ontario Hockey League this season. It is cause for celebration, therefore, that the Junior C club came out victorious against two of their closest rivals this past week, in the Caledon Golden Hawks and Huntsville Otters.

On the losing end of their first seven games of the season, the Golden Hawks entered Thursday's game at the Trisan Centre on the heels of a 5-1-1 streak, their most recent a come-from-behind, hotly-contested 4-2 win over the Cougars in Caledon.

This time it was Schomberg's turn to surprise the visiting squad, down 3-2 less than a minute into the third period. Connor Whiteside tied it up a few minutes later, before JP Crescenzi put the Cougars ahead for good.

Ryley Egerton added an empty-netter for good measure and a 5 ? 3 victory.

Hornets on fire

In Alliston on Friday, the Cougars were just the latest victims at the hands of the fiery Hornets. Schomberg actually led 1-0 heading into the third, staying alive due to a first period tally from Crescenzi and the excellent play of goaltender Vince Michelizzi, who made some highlight reel saves during a 5-on-3 kill that lasted almost two minutes.

But the highest scoring offence in the GMOHL proved too much for the Cougars to handle, giving up three goals in the third to lose 3-1.

Cougars maul Otters

On their third day of competition in a row, the Cougars hosted the Huntsville Otters on Saturday. Any plan to contain the league's top scorer Andy Baker seemed to fail when he got past Michelizzi just two minutes in, but Schomberg put three of their own on the board in the period off the sticks of Tanner Smith, Justin Formenton, and Egerton to take a 3-1 lead.

Huntsville clawed back to tie it in the second, before Derek Neilly once again gave the Cougars the lead. It was Kiefer McIntosh who opened the floodgates, notching his team's first natural hat trick of the year, and his second hat trick of the season. Schomberg came out on top 7-4.

The hat trick also broke a four-game pointless streak for McIntosh, a perennial goal scorer with the club.

Having some difficulty with finding consistency so far this season, the Cougars now hold a record of 7-9-1, good for sixth in the nine-team league. That could easily change with a few more wins, as they are only four points back of the third-place Otters.

One factor to point out, however, is the team's lack of chemistry on the road. They have put up a 1-6-0 record away from the Trisan Centre this season, their only road win coming at the hands of the lowly Orillia Terriers over one month ago.

The Cougars will get a chance to put an end to that streak when visiting the Midland Flyers Saturday, their only game on this week's schedule.

For stats, schedules, and more information, visit www.schombergcougars.com.