

## Road to Ontario Championship begins for Tigers



**By Jake Courtepatte**

Nineteen Tigers teams have their sights set on a provincial championship in 2017.

With the Ontario Minor Hockey Association playdowns kicking off last weekend, hundreds of teams from across the province will get the opportunity to hoist the OMHA Cup.

While the Aurora organization has experienced a successful year as a whole, perhaps Aurora's greatest opportunity at a championship lies with the Novice AA Tigers, who lost just two games over the regular season to claim the York-Simcoe season title.

They opened up their first-round OMHA series with the Richmond Hill Stars at the Aurora Community Centre on Sunday afternoon, cruising to a 7 ? 0 victory to take a 2 ? 0 lead in their first-to-six-points matchup.

The Minor Atom AA squad, taking on the rival Newmarket Redmen in a Battle of Yonge Street, have jumped out to a 3 ? 0 lead following a win and a tie over the weekend.

With most teams competing in one game over the weekend, the Atom A, Atom AE, and Bantam AE Tigers have taken an early lead over the Innisfil Winterhawks, Newmarket Redmen, and Orillia Terriers, respectively.

The PeeWee A Tigers could clinch their ticket to the OMHA quarterfinals at the ACC on Friday, after two straight wins against the Richmond Hill Stars to open the tournament.

Aurora, who lost just three games all year, were second only to the Barrie Colts in York-Simcoe standings.

Five other Aurora teams will move right into York-Simcoe competition for the local crown.

The Minor Bantam AAs have already taken the lead in their YSHL opening series, defeating the Innisfil Winterhawks 3 ? 1.

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