

Feb. 7 – Saginaw Spirit @ Kitchener Rangers

The Rangers look to complete a sweep of their two home games this weekend after they hung on for a 7-6 win over Oshawa on Friday, despite taking the play to the Generals for most of the night by outshooting them 52-34. On Friday, Kitchener stormed out of the gate and jumped out to an early 4-0 lead before the game was even eight minutes old. This was just the start to what turned out to be a very close game as Oshawa replied with four straight goals of their own. Micky Sartoretto ended up with the eventual game winner with his third goal of the year at the 8:47 mark of the third. Overall the Rangers had four players record two point nights, but Jeff Skinner and Matthew Tipoff lead the way with 3 points each. Mike Morrison got the start and remained perfect on the year with his third win. The Generals' Christian Thomas recorded a hat trick while Jeff Hayes finished with 1 goal and 3 assists.

Tyler Randell scored on the power play in that game to give the Rangers at least one power play goal in six of their last seven games. The power play has been strong all year and in their last seven games the Rangers have scored 10 power play goals. As of Saturday Kitchener's power play ranked third in the league. A few Rangers come into this afternoon's game on impressive point streaks. With his two points in the Oshawa game, Jason Akeson has not extended his point streak to eight games, while Skinner's three points give him points in five of his last six. One of the most impressive streaks on the team though has to be that of Chris MacKinnon's. After recording 2 assists on Friday, MacKinnon has now tallied at least a point in 17 of his last 18 games to give him 27 points during that span.

Saginaw's power play how been getting the job done for them as well, having connected five times in their last three games and ranking sixth in the league before their game last night. The Spirit went into Erie last night for their fourth meeting with the Otters this year and fell 4-3. Prior to that game they had struggled against Erie this year having lost all three previous meetings. After losing five straight games from January 17-28th, the Spirit had reeled off a three game winning streak before facing the Otters last night, including a 4-2 victory over the Majors on Friday night. During the winning streak they have also outscored their opposition by a 15-6 margin.

Against Mississauga St. Michael's on Friday, Edward Pasquale played his third straight solid game for the Spirit between the pipes. Pasquale turned aside 28 of 30 shots and only allowed two goals for the third straight game. In those games he has stopped all but 6 of 103 shots. The Spirit got out to a 2-0 lead before the Majors tied it at two midway through the second. A power play goal at 19:43 of the second by Jordan Szwarc would prove to be the game winner, before Vincent Trochek added an insurance marker early in the third. Throughout the

three game winning streak Saginaw has had 15 different players record at least one point, with five players all leading the way with four points.

These teams have met twice previously this season with each team winning at home. The games have been tightly contested with Kitchener winning 6-5 in overtime on October 2nd and Saginaw winning 5-3 back on January 2nd. In the season series so far each team's best player has also been the top performer when these squads meet. The Rangers' Chris MacKinnon has a goal and 3 assists, while Saginaw's Jordan Skellett has a goal and 5 assists. As of yesterday each ranked in the top five in league scoring with 72 and 73 points respectively.