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Mike Gleeson of the Mackie Trailblazers, left, and Ed Wielgos of the Roy Nichols Avalanche have entered their 25th season of play in the General Motors Salaried Hockey League.

Motoring into a 58th season on the ice

Gleeson, Wielgos join 25-year club in GMSHL

OSHAWA -- The Oshawa Generals won't be the only team bringing a storied past to the new General Motors Centre when it opens next month.

The General Motors Salaried Hockey League, in its 58th season of operation, will also be making the move from the Civic Auditorium to the new downtown facility in November.

The eight-team league is home to some 120 players, including two, Mike Gleeson and Ed Wielgos, who are entering their milestone 25th season of play.

Gleeson, an Oshawa Car Plant Controller who plays for the Mackie Trailblazers, has played 410 games in the league, while Wielgos, an Oshawa Car Plant Material Manager who suits up for the Roy Nichols Avalanche, is a veteran of 468 games.

There are a number of new features to the league this season, including a buddy system that allows two players working opposite shifts to occupy one spot on a team's roster, and a refreshed website at gmslh.com that includes player stats dating back to the early 1970s.

A quick browse of the website will provide such information as the league's all-time leading scorer. Mike Thomas, now working for GM in Ohio, holds that honour with 639 points in 405 games. Bob Stirling is the league's top active career

points leader with 199-202-401 numbers in 497 games.

Three weeks into the league's current campaign, the Gen Auto Eldorados were the quickest out of the starting gate with an unblemished record.

The Eldorados improved to 3-0-0 thanks to heroics from David Longley last week at the Civic. Longley finished off a natural hat trick in overtime to give the Eldorados a 4-3 win over the Avalanche. Nino Mastracola also scored for the winners, while Harry Stein, Darren Solman and Chris Fraser replied for the Avalanche.

Behind the Eldorados, the league standings were typically tight through Week 3, with Minacs On-Star and Gus Brown Firebirds tied for second at 2-1-0, Avalanche and Kerr Cavaliers next at 1-1-1, and OMS Camaros, Trailblazers and Mills Montanas all at 1-2-0.

Matt Aiken has jumped into the early scoring lead after a four-point effort in the Firebirds' 4-3 overtime win over Cavaliers. Aiken scored twice and set up Andy Hawrylow for two more, including the OT winner. Neeraj Gautama, Bill Reid and Mighel Sanel replied for Kerr.

In other action, Emilio Trotta earned the shutout in a 3-0 win for OnStar over Mackie, while Montanas edged Camaros 3-2.

Steve Clancy, Paul Gibson and Darcy Ste. Marie supplied the offence for OnStar.

Andrew Williams, Jason Rachele and Gene Arsenneau scored for Montanas, with Adam Riley and Stephen Faith replying for Camaros.