

Ganly feels he's well rested for what could be lengthy playoff run for Soo



Tyler Ganly feels playing in a community like the Soo has helped his development. *Aaron Bell / OHL Images*

45...shift and finished at plus-1 in just his second game back on February 6, when the Greyhounds dumped second-place Erie 6-1.

"That was a huge help for me. Returning for games against two big teams like Niagara and Erie was good to help get my feet back under me."

Playing in a tight-knit northern Ontario environment where fan support and media coverage surpasses most OHL communities, Ganly admits he's under a microscope more than many of his fellow Major-Junior players.

Not that he's complaining. "I think that's actually helped with my overall development," said Ganly, a sixth-round draft pick of the Carolina Hurricanes.

"There's a lot of people who care so

much about the team here that it helps push you to perform well every night. "We're supported tremendously here. The fan base has needed this (success) for a while."

While missing a sizable chunk of the season was far from welcomed, the returning blueliner feels there may be a silver lining to his time off.

Said Ganly, "Yeah being out sucked... it wasn't good. But on the other hand now I'm well rested for what hopefully will be a long playoff run. That's the way I've got to look at it."

Additionally, the Milton OHLer feels that after two seasons — and a couple of short playoff runs — he's more mentally prepared to handle the championship expectations that come with being part of this year's Greyhounds.

"We know we've got the team to go far, and now I have a better understanding of what to do to perform well in the post-season and how hard the better teams are going to work to win."

Having said that, Ganly stressed that the Soo aren't getting ahead of themselves as far as playoff success is concerned.

"As far as the national rankings are concerned, honestly we're not too focused on them... it's really in the back of our minds. We're more focused just on our own conference and finishing as high as possible because home-ice (advantage) is so important."

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