

Aurora United women fall after early lead



By Jake Courtepatte

Both sides of the semi-pro Aurora United FC remain winless after two weeks of League 1 Ontario soccer action.

With both teams hitting the road for their first matches of the season away from home on Friday, the women's side fell 3 ? 1 to Darby FC while the men were on the wrong end of a 4 ? 1 score.

The loss was especially tough for the women, who took an early lead just four minutes into the match off the foot of Chloe Chefero. ?I thought for the majority of the game we tried to stay a little disciplined,? said head coach Gianni Cimini. ?We're a young team and we came out very aggressive and confident and I was happy with them.?

Playing to a shut-down defensive strategy with the lead, Aurora was able to hold their opponents off the board until the 74th minute, before Darby took the lead in the 87th and added another in extra time.

?They just have to learn how to close games off in those situations. It becomes difficult because they will not control the game for the whole time, so they have to be better at adjusting when the tempo and the rhythm of the game goes against them.?

?We asked them to be a little more patient in the second half because we thought they were turning the ball over a little too easily. We told them there was a lot of space to connect passes off every regain in possession and actually we demanded a little more build-up when we did regain possession. We wanted better connection on final passes near their eighteen yard box and we felt that when we did connect these passes we were able to expose them.?

The women are 0 ? 2 out the gate and will be looking for their first win on Sunday when they host the 0 ? 2 West Ottawa S.C. Kickoff is set for 1 p.m. at St. Maximilian Kolbe.

The men were in tough early against Durham United FA when they allowed two goals less than a minute apart in the 16th minute of play.

?We started very poorly,? said head coach Derek O'Keeffe. ?We gave up the first two goals as gifts. We lacked concentration and basic errors cost us. At that point we are chasing the game after fifteen minutes so at that point you are playing catch-up. Credit to Durham, they capitalized on our mistakes, but it just wasn't our day.?

Matthew Caguana capitalized sixteen minutes later to cut the deficit to one, though a quick response from Durham and another in the second half was enough to put the game away.

?I would say to the boys after this result that they are better than what they played in the first half. They weren't engaging the ball. They were watching the ball instead of watching the man, and not putting the pressure on.?

?That will cost you in League1.?

Next up for the 0-2-1 men is a date with Master's Futbol (0-3-0) of Toronto on Sunday, kicking off after the completion of the women's match.

For stats and schedules, visit www.league1ontario.com.