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Aurora captain Doner named to League1 All-Star team



By Jake Courtepatte

A veteran leader of the Aurora FC was called to represent Ontario against the best footballers Quebec has to offer in last weekend's League1 all-star matches.

Captain Morey Doner was named to the starting eleven for the League1 Ontario men's side, who faced off against the Premiere Ligue de Soccer du Quebec (PLSQ) all-stars in Montreal, the second meeting between the two leagues in two years.

?These two matches serve as an outstanding showcase platform for the best male and female players in both League1 and PLSQ,? said League1 commissioner Dino Rossi.

?Whether it's scouts from the CPL for the men, or representatives from European clubs who have shown a keen interest in our top female players, people are watching these matches with great interest.?

Doner, whose resume consists of three seasons with the Aurora club as well as a stint with the Palm City Suns of the US Professional Development League, impressed scouts with a highlight reel of plays including a long, airborne pass for an assist to open the scoring in the 29th minute.

Originally slated to begin the game on the bench, Doner drew a full half of playing time through his impressive play.

?He's a strong player, strong on the ball,? said all-star head coach Michael Marcoccia. ?He brings a high compete level to the game.?

A revamped version of the previous Canadian Championship series, Rossi said the key to the all-star matchups is to showcase North American Division III talent like Doner looking to break into the professional ranks.

?I think people in the soccer community are now beginning to understand that the level of play in PLSQ and League1 is very high,? said Rossi. ?As we've seen in the opening rounds of the Canadian Championship.?

Doner, a defensive specialist in the backfield, has one goal in seven regular season matches so far this season.

?He's a shut-down type of player,? said Marcoccia.

Aurora women's goalkeeper Meghan Phillips was also named to the women's all-star side, as a backup to Unionville keeper Marissa Zucchetto, while midfielder Markela Bejleri and forward Samantha Murphy were third string selections.

Regular season action resumes this weekend.