

Aurora FC climbing League1 table after draw



By Jake Courtepatte

In a league where every point is precious, Aurora FC's 1 ? 1 draw with Whitby's Darby FC on Saturday was a monumental step in climbing the League1 ladder.

Both sides came out on the offensive, with the home side of Darby taking an early lead just thirteen minutes in.

Aurora goalkeeper Ryan Collins was caught off guard by a long ball, sent in from just over the line of Aurora's half, sailing over his head to open the scoring.

Just four minutes later, Morey Doner made a familiar connection with Maximillian Ferrari across the box, who buried it into the top right corner to tie the game.

The Sir William Mulock grad tied for the team lead in goals this season with his third, matching that of veteran forward Dylan Rennie.

With both sides within a few points in the league standings, the first half turned into a brawl: five yellow cards were handed out before the 45-minute mark, though the rosters on the field remained at eleven each before the final whistle.

With the draw, the single point earned has vaulted Aurora up three spots in the men's table, passing Toronto ProStars FC, Toronto Skillz FC, and Oakville's OSU Force in the process.

A slow start to the season, including a four-game losing streak through May and June, has the Aurora squad well back of the undefeated Sigma FC in the ladder. Though with just a single loss in the last month of play, head coach Derek O'Keefe said he is now seeing his team "make the right plays".

Next up for the Aurora men is a home game at Stewart Burnett Park on July 29, hosting the 3-3-2 North Mississauga SC.

The Aurora women, in the midst of a three-week break in the regular season schedule, return to action on their home pitch July 25 against the 3-2-3 DeRo United FC.