

Aurora United's Adjei wraps up stellar season with brace



By Jake Courtepatte

One of the semi-pro League 1's most elite players was among rookie peers in a 4-2 win for Aurora United FC over Master's Futbol last week.

Simon Adjei capped off his rookie year in the Ontario soccer league with a pair of goals against the Toronto club, one of only a handful of regulars who dressed in Aurora's final regular season match.

"Overall we were very pleased with our performance, considering the number of young players we had in the squad today," said Aurora assistant coach Dave Di Placido.

"I think we had eight 1999s, and I thought they did quite well. They were some of the better players on the field today. We had four or five of the regulars, and the rest were a younger group of players. There were a lot of mistakes from both teams, but for the most part it was good."

One of those call-ups, Niklas Seldel, notched his first senior goal just six minutes in with a header from inside the box. Master's tied the score only five minutes later, before Adjei redirected a corner kick at the 22-minute mark to regain the lead.

Master's once again tied it up before Aurora took full control of the game.

We addressed the group at half-time, we settled down a bit after that, and had a strong second half to the game."

Niklas Theodorakakis also notched his first of the year in his fifth game of the season at the 51-minute mark, before Adjei solidified his point-per-game pace by completing a brace at 85 minutes.

Adjei, a product of Sweden's Husqvarna club last season, finished the season with 19 goals in 19 games, good for second most in the league.

By far the highest scoring player on the Aurora squad, Adjei led his team to a sixth-place finish in its inaugural season, compiling a 4-15-3 record. Three of those wins came in the final seven games of the season.

"This season as a whole was a bit challenging really, and we had some troubles with players and the group overall, but I think we learned quite a bit this season about creating a large pool of players, drawing on U21 and U18/ U17 program," said Di Placido.

"I think we've learned a pretty good lesson from a club and coaching standpoint and I think we can bring that into next year and have an overall stronger season."

Vaughan Azzurri was by far the most dominant team in League 1, finishing first overall in the league with a 17-1-4 record.