

Canada U17 standout joins Aurora United FC women



By Jake Courtepatte

The program may be in its infancy, but the women's side of Aurora United FC inked one of Canada's brightest young stars to a deal last Thursday.

Sarah Stratigakis of Woodbridge signed with the semi-pro team as one of the final pieces of the puzzle before its inaugural League 1 Ontario matchup, set for this Saturday on the road against Vaughan Azzurri.

The 16-year old, who broke out with the U17 squad at the 2014 U17 Women's World Cup, even saw playing time with the U23's at the Pan Am Games this past summer. She was one of the youngest players on the field, suiting up with some of the game's best, including some of her favourites like Toronto's Ashley Lawrence and Kadeisha Buchanan.

In six appearances at the international U15 level, Stratigakis notched five goals in 2014.

She was fourteen years old when she made her Canadian youth program debut in 2013, winning a silver medal with Canada under coach Bev Priestman at the CONCACAF Women's U17 Championship in Jamaica. More recently, she won a silver with the U20 team at the CONCACAF Championship in Honduras, qualifying Canada for the U20 World Cup in 2016 in Papua New Guinea.

Her minor league home club is the Unionville Milliken SC.

Both men's and women's sides from Aurora were part of an expansion of League 1 this past winter, and Stratigakis should make an immediate impact on a fresh and inexperienced roster. The four-team expansion brings the women's league up to eleven teams, heading into the league's third season.

Aurora United opens their home season at Sheppard's Bush in Aurora May 14, hosting Durham United FA.