

Aurora FC men bow out early from League1 Cup



By Jake Courtepatte

A late goal and some unlucky bounces in penalty kicks ended the Aurora FC men's quest for the League1 Cup in just the first round. A break in the regular season schedule allowed Aurora to host Toronto's ProStars FC on Saturday in the opening bracket of the season-long tournament, with Aurora still looking for their first win at their new home of Stewart Burnett Park.

With head coach Derek O'Keeffe bringing a more aggressive offensive formation into their third match of 2018, Aurora struck first when Dylan Rennie potted his second of the year from the edge of the box just ten minutes in.

A rare defensive breakdown came from Aurora just before the half, when a takedown in the box gifted the ProStars a penalty kick, one in which Aurora keeper Ryan Collins guessed the wrong way.

Though Rennie was denied on a penalty kick of his own with just fifteen minutes left in regulation time, Kairav Juta finished off a corner kick with a header to give Aurora a 2 ? 1 lead with ten minutes to go.

It was in the final minute of play when Collins was beaten by a well-angled drive off the post to send the game to penalty kicks.

While Aurora was able to convert on three of their four kicks, off the feet of Morey Doner, Ricardo Perez Padilla, and Juta, ProStars found the back of the net on all four to advance to the next round.

The men return to their regular season schedule with an away match at Toronto FC III on Sunday.

Saturday also marked the opening day for the women's side of the League1 Cup, though Aurora was able to stave off a similar comeback and move on with a 2 ? 1 win.

Samantha Murphy was the woman of the match against the Oakville Blue Devils in notching both Aurora goals just two minutes apart, early in the second half to take a 2 ? 0 lead.

With the Blue Devils pressing, Aurora spent the final eleven minutes down a player after a collision sent Natalie Casiello to the sidelines.

Oakville was able to break the clean sheet in the final few minutes, though Aurora held them off to move on to the tournament quarterfinals.

Next up for the Aurora women in the bracket is a date with the Woodbridge Strikers, though the schedule is yet to be determined.

They return to the regular season schedule this Saturday in hosting FC London at Stewart Burnett Park at 4 p.m., putting their record of 1-2-0 on the line.