

Aurora FC women moving up the board

By Jake Courtepatte

Chalk up another clean sheet for the Aurora FC women.

Keeper Sarah Charnock was between the pipes on Saturday for Aurora's 1-0 win over the league-leading Unionville Milliken FC on the road, with the only goal of the game coming off the foot of former Canada under-20 player Victoria Pickett in the 61st minute.

"It was a very even first half, both teams had good opportunities and we were lucky not to go down, but that's the game for you - sometimes it swings for you, sometimes it swings for the other team," said Aurora head coach Gianni Cimini.

"We didn't have the bench today that we hoped we would have so the game plan for today was to utilize our top players and it worked for us."

Facing a squad that had lost just one game this season coming into the match, Cimini said the plan was to "stay connected, try and play into the better players feet, and opportunities will come."

"Luckily it was a great ball across that Victoria finished off."

The win was the fifth clean sheet for the Aurora squad this season, all coming within the last eight games.

With their record improving to 5-6-0 on the season, Aurora has surpassed the Toronto Azzurri Blizzard in the women's standings, and sit just two points back of a three-way tie for fifth in the eleven-team division.

They next face the 2-8-1 Darby FC at St. Maximilian Kolbe field on Saturday, with kickoff set for 4 p.m.

The men's side of Aurora FC also faced a rather tough opponent over the weekend in London FC with a different outcome, visiting the West division opponents in a 3-1 loss.

It was Aurora who opened the scoring at the German Canadian Club in London, with Basel Rashrash putting home his first in ten games just fifteen minutes into the match, before London tied it up three minutes later.

The teams went into halftime in a draw in front of a crowd of over 400 attendees.

"We knew they wanted to play wide and we forced them into long balls time and again," said Aurora head coach Derek O'Keeffe.

"We dealt with them really well to be honest, I thought we frustrated the life out of them. We should have gone into the half-time at 2-1. We had a good chance where we were one on one with the keeper and we missed. At half-time we were very happy, and felt that we had outplayed them tactically and on the park."

But it was London that took control in the second half, with Daniel Oshana scoring twice at the 59 and 68-minute marks to give London the victory.

Aurora's losing streak has grown to five games, with their only win of the season coming in mid-June. They remain five points up on the winless Toronto Skillz FC.

Next up for the men is a road match with the Sanjaxx Lions on Sunday.

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