

Aurora United sides still searching for first win



By Jake Courtepatte

The Aurora United men came within one minute of picking up their second point of the season against Toronto's Masters Futbol at St. Maximilian Kolbe field on Sunday.

Falling down 2 ? 0 early off the foot of former Toronto FC player Jose Melo, the Aurora squad climbed back to a 3 ? 2 deficit at the half thanks to Jared Agyemang and Jordan Kalk.

Matthew Caguana tied the game for the home team in the 74th minute, but the heartbreaker came in the 90th and final minute when Yasin Shahwan sent a long strike off the crossbar into the Aurora goal.

?They are a type of team that like to play long and use their physicality, so our idea was to get the ball down, play some football, and keep it on the deck,? said Aurora head coach Derek O'Keeffe.

?When we did that, we did it well. When we started to go long, I think we were playing into their hands at that stage. We're a footballing team, and I think when we do keep it on the ground we are capable of good football.?

The loss brings Aurora's season record to 0-3-1, one point up on Toronto Skillz FC in the basement of League 1 Ontario's East division.

?We're a new team, we're rebuilding, and there are a lot of players that don't know each other,? said O'Keeffe.

?We have a new coach in myself, and all I've said to the team is that it is going to take time for us and we need to be patient. We are building a new team, and an exciting team that likes to play football. Unfortunately it wasn't our day, but we'll learn from it and we'll create our own identity. It might take time, but we've got to be patient and we'll build our own brand. It will happen soon.?

The men resume play Saturday in a tough match against the undefeated Woodbridge Strikers, kicking off at St. Max field at 7 p.m. The women's side, meanwhile, found the wrong end of a 3 ? 1 score against West Ottawa SC. A scoreless first half was met by three quick goals from the opposition in the start of the second.

Victoria Pickett finally put the home side on the board in the ninetieth and final minute, her first since joining the squad just a few days ago.

?I think considering that I have yet to play with these girls in a proper setting: today was the first game really, and before the game occurred we basically all introduced ourselves: I thought it was fairly good,? said Pickett.

?Although we didn't always connect our passing, I thought we did connect fairly well considering it was a first time meeting and playing together.?

Pickett, who has represented Canada at the Under-17 and Under-20 national levels, was one of seven Aurora players to see all ninety minutes of action.

?With the goal, I think Emilie (Cote) passed me a good ball, and I tried dribbling but I got fouled and I just managed to get it in under pressure,? she added.

With matching 3 ? 1 scores in all three games so far, Aurora remains the only team on the women's side of League 1 without a win. They host the Woodbridge Strikers (1-1-0) at St. Max on Saturday.

Kickoff is set for 4 p.m.

For stats and schedules, visit www.league1ontario.com.