

Men's Barbs play to tie in preseason fixture



By Jake Courtepatte

The Aurora Barbarian men are off to a hot start.

A second-half comeback had the premier men's squad pull to a tie with their longtime rival Ajax Wanderers on Saturday, their first preseason action in the Ontario Marshall Provincial division of rugby union.

The Barbs fell to the Oakville Crusaders in last year's McCormick Cup consolation final.

A trip to Ohio this weekend for some more pre-season play will be followed up by the season opener on May 12, when both the premier and second Barbs squads face the Oshawa Vikings at Fletcher's Fields.

The women's squad, runners-up to the Toronto Saracens in last August's Ontario Women's League final, host the Toronto Nomads, Barrie RFC, and the Saracens at St. Max this weekend before officially opening their season on May 12 against the Markham Irish.

The highly-successful women's program, perennial contenders in the top division of women's rugby union in Ontario, also announced Saturday the signing of longtime member Katie McLeod to the McMaster University Marauder program.

Majoring in Kinesiology, the Barbarian from Richmond Hill most recently won a national championship while touring with the Ontario Jr. Blues.

McMaster head coach Tim Doucette said he is "so excited" to have McLeod join the program, adding that she has "incredible potential."

"Katie's six-foot frame will be a huge addition for our scrum, and her well balanced skills make her a force around the pitch."