

Aurora FC stopped short by unbeaten clubs



By Jake Courtepatte

Both sides of Aurora FC entered week six looking to hand their opponents their first loss of the League1 Ontario season, yet both remained unbeaten when the dust cleared.

The men entered Sunday's matchup on the opposite end of the spectrum from their opponent Toronto FC III, still in search of their first win of the season while the Junior Reds enjoyed a three-game winning streak.

Aurora head coach Derek O'Keeffe knew his team's best chance at a win was by playing a defensive style of game, allowing Toronto most of the possession in the first half though limiting their chances.

Poor luck was the culprit behind Toronto's opening goal at the 23-minute mark, when a mistimed tackle by an Aurora defender took down a Toronto attacker in the box.

Goalkeeper Adam Scanlon guessed wrong on the penalty kick, giving Toronto an early 1 ? 0 lead, though Aurora stormed back thirteen minutes later when team scoring leaders Dylan Rennie and Morey Doner connected to tie the score on their only shot of the half.

Surprising Toronto by bringing a 1 ? 1 tie into halftime, the league's top team brought their offense early in the second half, beating Scanlon in close to once again take the lead.

Toronto put the game away for good on a tap-in in the 67th minute, while Aurora managed zero shots on net in the latter frame. The men remain at the bottom of the table with an 0-3-2 record, tied with Windsor TFC and one point behind the Sanjazz Lions. They face the 1-1-1 Alliance United FC in a road game on Sunday, returning home to host the Toronto ProStars FC at Stewart Burnett Park on June 17.

The women were met with a similar fate when matched up against the table's top squad on Saturday, shut out by London FC to drop to 1-3-0 on the season.

Veteran keeper Meghan Phillips was forced to contend with a handful of shots early, her resilience tested in making a pair of highlight saves in the first half before being beaten in extra time.

Aurora pressed hard in the final minutes of the second half for the equalizer, though London's high-powered offense capitalized on a chance in close in the dying minutes, with league-leading scorer Jade Kovacevic notching her second of the game.

The women will look to gain some ground when they face the Woodbridge Strikers on the road Sunday morning, who sit two points up on Aurora in league standings.