

THE NEW JERSEY SOCCER GROUP

Press Release



Millburn NJ, July 22nd 2008

Magic Dominate in Final Game

In their final showing of the season, the Millburn Magic gave a strong performance in front of the largest crowd of the season against the Maryland Pride. Despite dominating possession throughout and having clear chances, the Magic were disappointed to end the season with a 2-2 tie.

In a lively start to the game, both teams looked to attack, found space and looked to get the opening goal. Inside the first ten minutes the Magic had three great opportunities to score, two of the chances falling to debutant Kat Sheeleigh. Her first chance came after good work from Rachel Fell and Kim Malecki down the right side; Malecki cutting the ball back to Sheeleigh who did well to find space inside the box before shooting just wide in a move that deserved a better finish. This was closely followed by a nice short corner routine again involving Fell which led to Kat McKenna unleashing a furious left footed attempt which the Pride GK Kristen Bell did well to palm over the crossbar. Moments later the inspirational Fell played a delightful through-all into the path of Sheeleigh; clean through on goal Sheeleigh attempted to round the GK before finishing into an empty net, only for a combination of brave goalkeeping a poor touch to deny her a debut goal.

Despite their dominance of offense, the Magic fell behind on 17 minutes to a goal from Diana Barrera. A free kick delivered into the box was not cleared by the Magic, after bouncing around in scrappy attempts to clear the ball or score, Barrera eventually forced the ball home to the away team the lead against the run of play. Their joy was short lived however as the Magic continued to press forward and were rewarded for their efforts three minutes later through a well taken goal from Malecki. A well placed ball played over the top from midfield by McKenna found the head of Malecki who, on her own in the box towered over the defenders to head past Bell. The score remained tied going into half time with the Magic continuing to dominate; Fell coming closest to giving the Magic the lead, firstly with a terrific strike finishing just over the bar, and then with a breakaway chance where, after beating the keeping with a glancing strike, the ball rolled agonizingly against the post before being cleared by the Pride. Maryland's best chance of the half fell to CJ Allen, who, after a great header that split the Magic defense from Evan Feldman, failed to get the ball out her feet in order to capitalize for the Pride.

In the 59th minute, the Pride again took the lead against the run of play. Another free kick played into the box was missed by Kaitelin Blaine attempting to head the ball clear, which allowed Evan Feldman the chance to squeeze the ball home from close range after she beat Magic GK Lia Fierro to the ball. As time began to run out the Magic, the team appeared to run out of ideas and began playing a few hopeful balls forward as chance after chance went missing for the Magic. Still pushing forward in the final 10 minutes, McKenna was rewarded for her passionate efforts, firing another powerful left-footed strike across the goal; the force of the strike taking it past Bell in goal to equalize a second time for the Magic. The goal was nothing less than Magic deserved for a good performance, particularly on offense where the Magic were unlucky not to have scored three of four in a dominate performance.

Magic Line-Up: Lia Fierro, Donnique Sinclair-Chambers, Kaitlen Blaine, Tara Ricciardi, Ashley Ventura, Rachel Fell, Lina Starapoli, Kat McKenna, Kim Malecki, Denise Gosling, Kat Sheeleigh. *Subs:*, Jen Vroman (21), Roshin O'Toole (32), Biz Shank (14), Allie Clement (21)

The Magic represent Northern NJ in the Women's Premier Soccer League, an independent national league representing the highest level of women's soccer in the United States. The Magic are part of The New Jersey Soccer Group, a management company representing a family of soccer based organizations offering a full range of soccer services in northern New Jersey.

More about the Millburn Magic at
More about the New Jersey Soccer Group at
More about the WPSL at

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