

THE NEW JERSEY SOCCER GROUP

Press Release



Millburn NJ, June 25th 2008

Magic Hold out for Win

After suffering disappointment against the Diablos over the weekend, the Millburn Magic looked to bounce back against the Northampton Laurels. After dominating much of the game, the Magic endured a nervous last fifteen minutes before finally coming away with a 2-1 victory.

The Magic started brightly, immediately looking to attack the Laurels. Rachel Fell was a threat from the start, attacking down the right side whilst Kim Malecki proved a handful for the Vroman. After Kat McKenna played the ball over the over the Laurels backline, Vroman was left with just the goalkeeper to beat; unfortunately, the opportunity was missed through a combination of a last minute challenge and poor finishing. Despite this, the Magic continued to press forward; McKenna testing the Laurels keeper as well as Malecki. The breakthrough came for the Magic on 25 minutes. Substitute Elin Olsson did well on the left to beat her defender and pull the ball back into the middle to Malecki who did well under pressure to fire home to give the Magic a 1-0 lead going into half time.

The second half continued as the first left off; with the Magic having the lions share of passion but failing to make the most of opportunities created, choosing to shoot from distance instead of getting in behind the Laurels backline. Fell, Olsson and Malecki each striking on target without stretching Goalkeeper Lauren Mains.

The Magic took a 2-0 lead on 59 minutes, Fell getting a well deserved goal through her own creation. After her pace allowed her to glide past her defender and shoot, Goalkeeper Mains initially did well to save the shot, before Fell reacted quickest to force the ball into the net. However, the Magic's joy was short lived as almost immediately after, the Laurels pulled a goal back. Poor defending meant Melissa Kornock was left in acres of space on the right and when the ball was played over to her by Dena Shleifer, Kornock had time and space to pick her spot before firing past Sami Hirsh in goal for the Magic.

The goal appeared to shake the Magic's confidence and inspired the Laurels who began to win the battle in midfield for the first time in the game. The Magic looked uncertain in their play, trying to force the ball and giving away possession cheaply. The Laurels continued to push on, looking for an equalizer. Catching Northampton on the break, Vroman again had a chance to put the game beyond reach, this time firing straight at Mains when clean through on goal.

Despite a nervous ending, the Magic held out to take maximum points, moving them to 3-3-1. The Magic's next home game is on June 3rd when they will host the Lancaster Inferno.

Magic Line-Up: Lia Fierro, Donnique Sinclair-Chambers, Kaitlen Blaine, Caitlin Fabian, Ashley Ventura, Rachel Fell, Lina Starapoli, Kat McKenna, Tara Ricciardi, Jen Vroman, Kim Malecki *Subs:* Elin Olsson (30) Denise Gosling (22), Chrissie Sidie, Sammi Hirsch (55), Steph Zalewski (35)

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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