

# ***THE NEW JERSEY SOCCER GROUP***

## ***Press Release***



Morristown NJ, July 6<sup>th</sup> 2008

### **Dynamic Strike Earns Colonials a Tie**

After last night's battling performance against the Stoners, the Colonials hosted the Maine Sting, the team sitting just one place above them in the North Eastern Division. In a scrappy contest, the Colonials twice came from behind to secure a 2-2 tie in their final home game of the campaign.

Straight from the kick off, the Sting put the Colonials under pressure, midfielder Dylan George looking strong from the opening. Indeed, it was George who capitalized on the early pressure for the Sting with a goal coming just inside the opening 10 minutes. Allie Devereaux played the ball through the Colonials back line to George, who kept his composure to finish with ease past Goalkeeper Matt Ginall. The goal had little impact on the Colonials who remained slow in their attempts to win the ball, often loosing 50/50 balls and having only half chances on goal; the most promising of which fell to defender Sam Rocca who, with the Sting keeper Payson Nichols beaten by the pace of the cross, failed to direct a volleyed shot on target. Rocca made amends for his effort a few minutes later, clearing off the line after good combination work from Devereaux and George led to a good opportunity for Devereaux to take the score to 2-0; an example of the many times the Sting pairing caused problems for the Colonials on defense all evening.

As the half progressed, the Colonials were often guilty of wasting possession; either trying to play complex passes or getting caught with the ball and failing to get their influential players involved. This combination meant the Colonials had to wait for 25 minutes to pass before they hit the target with any real danger; a great strike from Jonathan Yazo stinging the hands of keeper Nichols. As the Colonials began to raise their game just before halftime, they were spurred on by an equalizing goal from Jorge Blacido; his third goal in two days. Billy Collins did well on the left side of midfield again; forcing his defender towards goal before a powerful strike which rebounded off the post into the path of Blacido who tapped the ball home to take the game to a 1-1 at the end of the half.

After a lackluster display in the first half, the Colonials came out with renewed spirit in the second half and the tempo of the game increased dramatically. Yazo and Andrew Zalk began to influence the game more for the Colonials who began to ask questions of the Sting backline as the game became stretched with both teams looking to take strides forward. However, both teams remained wasteful in possession, lacking the final ball to really cause much damage. Forward Johnny Donado had the best chance for the Colonials with a nice strike on the turn which was spilled by Nichols; Zalk following in was unlucky not to direct his effort to the goal.

Despite having the better of the chances in the second half, it was the Sting who took the lead on 80 minutes through Devereaux with a flicked header after poor marking from the Colonials allowed him space in the box. The Sting could have sealed the victory moments later after a fantastic cross from Steven Grudda was headed back across goal by Andre Anderson, only for Devereaux to direct his finish straight at Ginall in goal. Despite the setback, the Colonials kept pressing until the end and were rewarded with just minutes remaining; a hopeful ball in from substitute Marco Gasper was acrobatically finished by Yazo to ensure a deserved point for the Colonials.

The Colonials will play next on July 12<sup>th</sup> when they will travel to New York to face NY Athletic. The National Premier Soccer League (NPSL) is an open aged national league representing the highest level of amateur soccer in the United States. The Morris County Colonials team are part of the New Jersey Soccer Group, a management company for a family of soccer based organizations offering a full range of soccer services in New Jersey.

More about the Morris County Colonials at  
More about the New Jersey Soccer Group at  
More about the NPSL at

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