

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

## ***Press Release***

Millburn, NJ, June 7th 2009

Magic Frustrated in Maine



In their second game in 24 hours, the Millburn Magic tonight faced the Maine Tide at the windy Husson College field, Bangor. After playing defensively in their last 2 games against the Boston Aztecs, the Magic struggled to find their attacking rhythm again and ended up tying the game 1-1.

The Magic were on top from the beginning of the game; Tara Ricciardi in particular, from her role in center midfield was in fantastic form and drove the team forward from the opening kick off. The pace of Kat Sheeleigh up front for the Magic was always likely to cause problems for the Tide's defense and the Magic looked dangerous when playing balls in behind for her to attack, the Maine 'keeper forced to come flying out of her goal on several occasions to prevent Sheeleigh scoring after she had gotten clear of the defense. Through the first half, the Magic struggled to get numbers forward and really compress the game in the Tide's half, allowing the opposition to enjoy time on the ball and spells of good possession. Good work across the backline, commanded by Ashley Ventura, meant Magic GK Lia Fierro was rarely called into action. Indeed, there were few goal threats for either team in the first half, which dissolved into a midfield battle.

Kim Malecki and Kelly Sims on the wings looked threatening in the second half and Ricciardi pushing forward from midfield allowed the Magic to keep the Tide on the back foot. Sims, cutting inside from the left before firing at goal had the first real chance of the half; her effort inches over the bar. Sheeleigh was guilty on missing a 1 on 1 minutes later before she was extremely unlucky to see her next effort drift just wide after being played through brilliantly by Ricciardi. The deadlock was finally broken in the 62<sup>nd</sup> minute by Sheeleigh. After winning the ball in her own half, Ventura did well to beat her opponent before sliding the ball into the path of Sheeleigh who showed good composure under pressure to finish past the onrushing 'keeper to give the Magic a deserve 1-0 lead. Millburn continued to press in search of a second goal, Malecki's effort from the right saved by the 'keeper before Ricciardi fired her effort straight at the 'keeper in what would have been an outstanding individual goal.



*Ricciardi in Action*

The Magic failed to hold on to their narrow lead and conceded in the 83<sup>rd</sup> minute. A long, hopeful ball played forward from the right, helped by the windy conditions, was carried over Fierro and onto the far post, the rebound being slotted home by Shelby Bradford. The Magic had chances in the final minutes but were unable to find the end product and were disappointed to end the game with a 1-1 tie. The Magic will look to improve their performance and get a win this Wednesday, June 10<sup>th</sup>, when they will host the Adirondack Lynx at Millburn High School, kick off 7pm.

The Millburn Magic is the Northern NJ member of the Women's Premier Soccer League, an independent national league representing the highest level of amateur soccer in the United States. The Millburn Magic 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.

*Magic Line Up:* Lia Fierro, Amanda Malkiewicz, Carly Bray, Kim Malecki, Katy Fissel, Katelin Blaine, Tara Ricciardi, Kat Sheeleigh, Kelly Sims, Ashley Ventura, Leah Jerome. *Subs:* Fiona Cantrill (25), Kelly Feeney (18), Robin Chernow.

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

[www.MillburnMagic.com](http://www.MillburnMagic.com)  
[www.NJSoccerGroup.com](http://www.NJSoccerGroup.com)  
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