

THE NEW JERSEY SOCCER GROUP

Press Release



Dover, DE, June 7, 2008

Magical Malecki fells Future in Delaware

A stunning strike from Kim Malecki in the 84th won the points for the Millburn Magic over the Delaware Future, in a see-saw drama played out in balmy conditions at Wesley College. Millburn started brightly, with Chrissie Sidie forcing two good saves with long range efforts, while Swedish striker Elin Olssen was dangerous in her first start of the season. With Lara Kaminski pulling the strings in midfield, the Magic dominated, and looked a good bet to repeat their 3-0 season opening victory, albeit with this game played in close to 100 degree heat rather than the rainstorm that the teams had battled with in their earlier meeting at Millburn. Disaster struck in the 24th minute however, when Millburn defender Donnique Sinclair-Chambers was forced off with an eye injury, and seconds later the Magic were caught out in the middle of their defense. Some smart interplay in the Delaware midfield gave Kellyn Robison time and space to slide a pass through the middle of the Millburn defense, with Patricia Lapinsky connecting to finish past Millburn GK Fierro. The goal knocked Millburn out of their stride, and as the contest became physical, so the play of both teams deteriorated as the game became scrappy. The half finished with the Future holding a 1-0 lead.

The second half opened with the Magic reasserting themselves as the better team, but unable to get the foothold of goals in the game that their play deserved. As the team changed it's shape to add an extra midfielder they increasingly looked like the only team who could score – with Kaitlin Blaine, Ashley Ventura and the returned Chambers securely marshalling a three-man defense. The breakthrough came in the 63rd minute, the Future only half clearing to Lara Kaminski. The Magic midfielder took a touch before hammering the ball over the helpless Tara Isbell in the Delaware goal to force Millburn level from outside the area. It was the Montclair State sophomore's first goal of the season, and represented a spectacular way to open her account. From that point, it was a race against the clock for Millburn to find a winning goal against a Delaware team who were clearly happy to hang on to get anything from the game. With Olssen now attacking from midfield, and Sara Grimsgaard directing play behind her, the flow of play was exclusively toward the Delaware goal, but even with Malecki and Steph Sabaliauskis causing all kinds of problems up front, the Delaware offside trap was proving a difficult obstacle to break down. Finally, with only 7 minutes remaining, Malecki went through and bravely challenged the keeper for the loose ball, which ran to free to Magic midfielder Kat McKenna. Although the Millburn midfielder struck the ball cleanly toward the empty net from 35 yards, it seemed to cross the line only in slow motion, with defenders desperately chasing as the Millburn team willed it over the line. The Magic celebrations were stunted initially by concerns of injury to Malecki, and as play restarted, the mood was soured more by a sobering couple of seconds of poor defensive play which allowed Heather Robbins to go through and finish past Fierro less than a minute later to tie the game up at 2-2. As the Delaware crowd shouted their appreciation, and the Future players started to think about taking their first points of the season, Kim Malecki intervened to break their hearts. Sidie's through ball was half-cleared by the Delaware defense, and the Monmouth University forward picked up the loose ball to lash an unstoppable 30 yard rocket into the top corner of the net for her opening goal of the season and the final goal of the game, leaving GK Isbell a helpless witness to the stunning strike. The 84th minute goal capped three goals in two minutes, and left the crowd silent, Future team stunned, and the Magic players in celebrations. Finally the drama was complete - this time there were to be no more chances and the game finished 3-2 in Millburn's favor.

Magic Line-Up: Lia Fierro, Kat McKenna, Donnique Sinclair-Chambers, Kaitlin Blaine, Tara Ricciardi, Chrissie Sidie, Lara Kaminski, Sara Grimsgaard, Ashley Ventura, Kim Malecki, Elin Olsson. **Subs:** Steph Sabaliauskis (21) Jen Vroman (21), Caitlin Fabian (23), Sam Weiner (27), Denise Gosling (31).

Millburn (2-1-1) next face W-League opposition in the New York Magic in a scrimmage this Tuesday, before traveling to challenge the 2006 National Champions and conference favorites the Long Island Fury (4-0) next Friday. The New Jersey team is next at home against state rivals the Atlantic City Diablos at Millburn High School on Friday June 20, 7pm start. Delaware (0-6) continue their campaign next Saturday at home against the Lancaster Inferno.

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

www.millburnmagic.com
www.njsoccergroup.com
www.womenspremiersoccerleague.com

The New Jersey Soccer Group
P.O. Box 3
Long Valley, NJ
07853

www.njsoccergroup.com
info@njsoccergroup.com
Phone: 973-315-3098
Fax: 973-315-3104