

THE NEW JERSEY SOCCER GROUP

Press Release



Long Island NY, June 13th 2008

Slow start costs Magic at Long Island

A poor start and an early goal cost the Millburn Magic dearly tonight, as they went down 1-0 to conference leaders Long Island Fury.

The 2006 National Champions from New York started quickly, and capitalized on unusual uncertainty and poor passing from the visiting Magic, and went close several times before taking the lead in the 6th minute. National U20 player Allie Long was given the freedom of the Island to travel almost half the field without challenge, before sliding a low shot from 25 yards that squeezed past Millburn keeper Lia Fierro in off the post.

Perhaps fazed by the home team's 5-0 record going into the game, Millburn continued to struggle with the quick Fury passing game, and could have conceded again when Donnique Sinclair-Chamber was turned on the edge of the area, although the Fury forward sliced her shot wide when well placed.

Eventually, Magic started to be come to terms with their opposition at the back and to compete in midfield, leading to some impressive attacking play. They almost equalized in the 32nd minute, when Kat McKenna got free on the left and delivered the perfect ball for Steph Sabilauskis, whose attempt rolled agonizingly wide of the post. Moments later, Katelin Blaine stepped forward into midfield and released McKenna on the left again, but her angled shot flew across the goal tantalizingly wide. Finally, Chrissie Sidie had the ball in the net for Millburn with a left-footed 20 yard drive, only for the goal to be chalked off for an innocuous earlier handball.

Millburn continued to press in the second half, and while Long Island retained the majority of possession, the better chances were created by the New Jersey team. A Sidie corner in the 61st minute led to a goal-line scramble which should have leveled the scores, but the goalkeeper's ended up holding the ball, while the Millburn players were holding their heads wondering how the ball stayed out of the net. With Blaine and Ashley Ventura superbly marshaling the Millburn defense, the Magic pressure and possession continued to grow, but without the goal their ascendancy deserved, the equalizer eluded them, and Long Island moved to 6-0, while the Magic fell to 2-2-1.

With the New York team now comfortably ahead in the league standings, third place Millburn team now face a race for the second play-off spot, with next Friday's home game against rivals Atlantic City Diablos taking on extra significance. The June 20th fixture kicks off at 7pm at Millburn High School t.

Magic Line-Up: Lia Fierro, Tara Ricciardi, Donnique Sinclair-Chambers, Katelin Blaine, Kat McKenna, Sara Grims-gaard, Chrissie Sidie, Lara Kaminski, Steph Sabaliauskis, Kim Malecki.. **Subs:** Rachel Fell (21), Jen Vroman (23), Ein Olssen (60), Caitlin Fabian

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
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More about the WPSL at

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