

MILLBURN MAGIC



Press Release

Millburn, NJ, May 17th 2009

Magic Dominate in Season Opener

The Millburn Magic opened their 2009 Women's Premier Soccer League (WPSL) campaign tonight, with an impressive 5-0 victory at Millburn High School. Taking the field in front of their home fans against the Central Delaware Future, the Magic scored two goals in the first half, before racing away with three more in a fine season opening win.

The Magic enjoyed large spells of possession from the start of the game; Kim Malecki in particular enjoying time on the ball as she led the Magic on offense. Good link up play between Malecki and Katie Ryan led to the first chance of the game; Malecki releasing Ryan through the center, and her driven shot was palmed out by Delaware goalkeeper Klare Lazor. Ryan was again released minutes later, this time her attempt to loft the ball over Lazor being blocked well by defender Jill Dean, before fine Malecki cross from the right was skied over the crossbar from close range. After fifteen minutes, the Future started to find their rhythm and create pressure on the Magic's defense. Laura DiClemente had the Future's first attempt at goal on 20 minutes; the midfielder drilling her shot straight into Magic keeper Lia Fierro. The Future's best effort of the game came on 27 minutes; a long ball over the top of the Magic defense again finding the dangerous Heather Robbins, who was unlucky to see her volley finish just wide of the post having beaten the diving Fierro. That scare shook Millburn into action, and they took control for the rest of the half. The Magic were rewarded for their persistence on 35 minutes with a goal from Ryan. A cross from defender Lina Staropoli was beautifully chested down by Leah Jerome into the path of Ryan who coolly slotted the ball past Lazor. On 43 minutes, the Magic doubled their lead; Jerome, again involved, finding midfielder Tara Ricciardi wide on the right who beat her defender and delivered a fantastic cross which was headed home by Amanda Malkiewicz at the far post.

Straight from the second half kick off, the Magic dismissed any doubts over the result with a well taken second goal from Malkiewicz. Receiving the ball on the left hand side, the East Carolina forward cut inside, before delivering an unstoppable curling shot which past the despairing Lazor. With a more comfortable score-line achieved, the Magic defense settled down, and – led by the outstanding Lina Staropoli – created a solid base for better second half possession. Laura Kurash delivered a performance full of energy, and in the 62nd minute, was rewarded when she arrived to steer home a Carly Bray corner from close range. The final Magic goal was the pick of them all, again delivered again by the impressive Kurash in the 78th minute. Kelly Sims cut in to the middle, before releasing the overlapping Katie Ryan on the right. Ryan flew past her defender, and her low cross was met Kurash just inside the 18 with a powerful volley past the helpless Lazor. Ryan and Malecki had chances in the final minutes but the game ended with a comfortable 5-0 win for the New Jersey team.

Magic Coach Andy Sones:

On The Win: "we had good early chances, but we also got opened up too many times in the first half. Lia [Fierro] came up big for us when she had to, and the goals we scored settled us down. The early win will help us, and we'll be defensively tighter when we play next."

On Standouts: "Amanda [Malkiewicz] and Laura [Kurash] will deservedly get the headlines for two goals each, but Lina [Staropoli] and Lia [Fierro] were the foundation of the shutout. If we'd conceded first it would have been a very different game. Tara Ricciardi was a powerhouse in midfield, and all the forwards are getting in the right positions. There's plenty to work on, but still a lot of positives to take away".

The Magic will take the field again next Wednesday, May 27th when they will host the New York Athletic Club. 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. As an amateur league, players typically play with high level college programs through the fall, and play with us from the middle of May through the start of August. The Magic play in the East Coast Conference, with the five regional conference winners from around the country meeting for the National Championship, this year on Long Island August 1/2. 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: GK: Lia Fierro *Defense:* Biz Shenk, Marlyanne Delargy, Lina Staropoli, Carly Bray *Midfield:* Katy Fissel, Tara Ricciardi, Laura Kurash *Forward:* Katie Ryan, Kim Malecki, Amanda Malkiewicz. *Subs:* Kelly Sims (25), Kelly Feeney (16) Leah Jerome (30), Lara Kaminski (27), Robin Chernow (80).

CDSA Line Up: GK: Klare Lazor *Defense:* Jill Dean, Lea Cataggio, Chelsea Brown, Stacey Lamborn *Midfield:* Meaghan Dibiase, Colette Swensen, Laura DiClemente, Leanne Reid *Forward:* Heather Robbins, Lauren Riff. *Subs:* Patty Spielman (48), America Sosa, Jael Fedoda (68), Whitney Prindible (55)

More about the Millburn Magic at
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www.millburnmagic.com
www.wpsl.info/

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