

THE NEW JERSEY SOCCER GROUP

Press Release



West Chester PA, June 29th 2008

Magic Battle Through Heat in YPSL Weekend

This weekend saw the Philadelphia Liberty host the Millburn Magic in their second weekend of competition. The opening game of the U12 campaign saw the Magic face the hosting Philadelphia Liberty. The Magic were caught off-guard just minutes into the game and conceded early before a second was scored five minutes later. Despite their excellent work effort, Shannon Walsh driving the team forward when possible, the slow start proved costly, the Magic unable to overturn the early goals, eventually losing 4-0. In their second game of the day, the Magic faced the strong Inferno side from Lancaster. Forced to chase the ball in the heat, the girls tired quickly, allowing space to appear which was taken advantage of by the Inferno who ran out 5-0 winners. In their final game against the Adirondack Lynx, the Magic made a much more positive start and enjoyed good spells of possession; Beth Zrike and Gabriela Estupinan working tirelessly. However, the Magic failed to convert their chances whilst at the other end, the Lynx forward pairing finished well, leading the Lynx to a 5-0 victory.

In the U14 competition, the Magic were again represented by both 'Blue' and 'White' teams. Starting off against the strongest competition, the 'Blue' team endured a 7-0 defeat to the Inferno. After a bright start, the Magic failed to concentrate, allowing the Inferno space and time to play; devastating against such strong opposition. The Magic showed character to put the disastrous first game behind them and produced their best display to date in the first half of their second game against the AC Diablos. In defense, Alex Ashmore was unstoppable in every challenge. The Magic paid the price for failing to capitalize on their dominance lost concentration, allowing the Diablos to take control of the game, eventually with a flattering 4-0 victory. In their final game, the Magic tied 0-0 with the Philadelphia Liberty after dominating for much of the game. Kyle Bergman linked up well with Kelsey Werner and Maddie Peterson, allowing the Magic to get in behind the Liberty defense. Over-playing and poor decision making from the officials meant the Magic ended disappointed to not have taken maximum points after a strong performance throughout the game.

The Magic 'White' team were also extremely unlucky not to have earned their first victory against the Liberty. After taking an early lead through Stephanie Beers, the Magic doubled their lead just before the half only to see the AR controversially rule the goal offside. After this setback Philadelphia began to press and were awarded a "dubious" goal after a goal line clearance looked to have saved the Magic. In the second half, an outstanding individual performance in goal from Gigi ensured the Magic's first points of the summer, coming to the teams rescue late on as legs tired. The Magic started their second game against the Diablos slowly and allowed the Diablos to cruise into a 3-0 advantage by the break. The second half saw a marked improvement in the performance; the effort and commitment of the players expressed through a fine goal from Taylor Shannahan who rounded the Goalkeeper to roll the ball in an empty net. In their final game, the Magic showed great character, commitment and passion and managed to hold some very good opposition. There were some solid individual performances and the attitude shown by the Magic was superb, however, the Inferno again proved too strong, running out 5-0 winners.

In their first weekend of competition, the U16 Magic team went undefeated. In their first game against the Philadelphia Liberty, the Magic displayed a great attitude and desire to battle for everything. With the game in the balance at 1-1 after Kerry Prime linked up well with Roisin O'Toole to score for the Magic, Millburn were very unfortunate to concede in the last 30 seconds to lose 2-1. Their excellent teamwork carried into the second game against the Adirondack Lynx, leading to a comfortable 3-0 win; an excellent individual goal from Jennifer Hesse as well as strikes from Brittany Santos and Kerry Prime. In their final game, the Magic dominated the first half against the Inferno but were unable to produce the final bit of quality to take full advantage of their dominance. The Magic remained composed and ability of the team showed through the second half was brilliant; with breath taking quality present in the build-up play that led to goals from Katie Tolkowski, Chrystalin Popp and O'Toole, whilst Prime took her tally for the weekend to 4 with a glancing header and a calm finish.

Meanwhile, back in New Jersey, the U9 and U10 Magic and Colonials teams competed in the Hackettstown Blast tournament. On the boys side, the U9s went undefeated, beating Hackettstown 2-0, before dominating North Warren in a 9-0 win. Sunday saw their good work continue, winning 9-3 against Tab Ramos and tying 3-3 with Soccer Domain Switzer. The U10s also enjoyed a good weekend, winning 3-1 and 3-0 against Maestro Alk Select and Jersey United respectively with a 3-0 loss to TSF and a 2-2 tie with Tab Ramos in between. The U9 girls opened with a disappointing 5-0 loss before three straight victories meant a successful weekend was enjoyed; a 2-1 victory over Bridgewater being the highlight of the teams performances, 5-0 and 7-0 being the other margins of victory. The U10s were also successful, beating both Jersey United teams by 4-1 and 2-1 in good team performances as well as beating ESA Cougars by 2-0, with fantastic work from Hannah Hawkins in particular. The only disappointment for the Magic being a 3-1 loss against Roxbury.

This coming weekend, the YPSL tournament will be held in Morristown before returning to Philadelphia in two weeks time. The Colonials & 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
More about the New Jersey Soccer Group at
More about the WPSL at

www.millburnmagic.com
www.njsoccergroup.com
www.wpsl.info

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