

# MILLBURN MAGIC

## Press Release

Millburn, NJ, May 27th 2009

### Magic Fall Against Local Rivals

The Millburn Magic suffered an early season defeat tonight against local rivals the New York Athletic Club. An evenly matched game was settled by a single goal from New York's Melisa Montalavo in the 63<sup>rd</sup> minute as the New Yorker's ran out 1-0 winners.

For their second game of the season, the Magic welcomed back defenders Katelin Blaine and Ashley Ventura as well as forward Kat Sheeleigh for their first games of the 2009 campaign. All three were integral parts of the Magic's 2008 season and were warmly welcomed back into the fold. Their returns boosted the Magic who started the game brightly getting the ball up front to the influential Kim Malecki and Katie Ryan quickly.

The Magic's best chance of the first half fell to Amanda Malkiewicz on the half hour mark. After good work in midfield to win the ball back, Leah Jerome played Malkiewicz through only for the forward to get caught in two minds, choosing to try and return the ball to Jerome instead of shooting with just the GK to beat from close range. Moments later, Sheeleigh, just on a substitute, came close for the Magic; another defense splitting ball, this time from Malecki found Sheeleigh who's first time effort flew wide of the goal. After their lucky escape, New York found their rhythm and began to take control of the game with Katie McDermott, Stephanie Barrett and Michelle Raaf leading the teams efforts. The first half ended tentatively with neither team being able to break down the others defensive lines resulting in few clear chances for either team.



Magic GK Lia Fierro in action

The pace of the game picked up in the second half as both teams looked to break the deadlock. New York continued to create the better chances, Alisha Moran creating a few half chances for herself through her efforts to chase and pressure the Magic's defenders into mistakes. The breakthrough came after 63 minutes courtesy of forward Montalavo. After good play from Amy, the midfielder played the ball through the space and into the path of Montalavo who coolly slotted the ball past the sliding Fierro. The Magic had their best chance to equalize shortly after falling behind; a fantastic ball into the box from Katy Fissel looked to find the onrushing Sheeleigh who was inches away from connecting with the ball in what looked a certain goal. In the remaining 20 minutes of the game, the Magic, despite their endeavors, failed to maintain possession of the ball and consequently failed to create many meaningful threats on the New York goal. Committing players forward in a change of formation from 4-4-2 to 3-4-3 left space at the back for New York to attack and Fierro was called on several occasions to keep her team in the game; good diving saves to stop efforts from Montalavo and Chiara Caen prevented the visitors from doubling their lead in the final encounters. The Magic, disappointed by defeat, this Sunday, May 31<sup>st</sup>, when they take the will host the Boston Aztecs. 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:** Lia Fierro, Britta Winas, Kelly Sims, Lina Staropoli, Katy Fissel, Katie Ryan, Kim Malecki, Amanda Malkiewicz, Biz Shenk, Carly Bray, Tara Ricciardi, Marlyanne DeLargy. **Subs:** Kat Sheeleigh (30)Kaitlin Blaine, (26), Leah Jerome (12), Ashley Ventura (39) Robin Chernow.

**NYAC Line Up:** Steph Barrett, Kelly Blake, Chiara Caen, Kim Mineo, Eleri Earnshaw, Courtney Fedge, Tyler Griffen, Katie McDermott, Emily Mears, Melissa Montalavo, Alisha Moran. **Subs:** Liz Cheung-Gaffney (25), Amy Ludlum (38), Kristin Mikolwjezyk (21), Sylvai Stone (45).

More about the Millburn Magic at  
More about the WPSL at

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