

MILLBURN MAGIC

Press Release

Millburn, NJ, June 13th 2009



Magic Extend Unbeaten Run

The Millburn Magic took their unbeaten two three games this Saturday, with a comfortable 4-0 win over WPSL provisional team the BuxMont Torch. The torch will be entering the league as full members in 2010, and this year play a partial schedule, although this game against the Northern New Jersey team will have shown them the level they need to step up to if they are to enjoy success.

The Magic offered debuts to five players, included Shira Averbuch, who anchored the midfield with Lara Kaminski, providing a strong base for the New Jersey team to attack at will. Kelly Sims and Kim Malecki always looked dangerous in forward areas, and it was Malecki who opened the scoring in the 27th minute. Kerry Prime had provided good service throughout the half, and delivered a low ball in from the left, which Malecki flicked around her defender before finishing comfortably with the outside of her foot. Malecki's strength was a constant threat, and Sims was finding spaces around her, almost adding a second in the 34th minute when she cut in from the left and unleashed a powerful shot that the keeper did well to tip over the bar. As the Magic brought Katie Chapin into an attacking position on the right with Prime behind the forwards, Millburn ended the half in the ascendancy, although they almost conceded just before half the break after confusion on a corner - a rare error from a defensive unit well marshaled by Lina Staropoli.

In the early minutes of the second half, BuxMont drove forward and had one of their better chances of the game, with a free kick just outside the Millburn penalty area. The shot was powerful and on target, but dealt with well by Robin Chernow low to her right. Mindful of the need to make the game safe, Millburn reacted strongly, and doubled their lead a few minutes later. Carly Bray broke down the left side, and although her cross was deflected, Sims reacted quickest to the loose ball, sliding in between the defender and keeper to register her first goal of the season. By now the Magic were playing fluently, Bray and Katie Chapin providing plenty of width on oth sides, while Averbuch and Kaminski dominated the middle of the field, and Kaminski it was who registered the third goal. Katie McDonnell cut in the from the right, showed good strength to hold off two defenders, then rolled the ball back invitingly into the path of the midfielder, whose shot from fully 25 yards sailed in just under the crossbar. It was a deserved goal capping an excellent performance for Kaminski, a key player for the Magic through the 2008 season, but starting her first game this time around.

Provider for the third goal, McDonnell almost put herself in the scorebook to mark her Magic debut. After her initial effort from a Bray corner was blocked, McDonnell reacted quickest to the loose ball, and from a tight angle unleashed a bullet that struck the crossbar. The fourth was not far away however. Malecki broke down Millburn's right, beating two players before cutting inside, and having the vision to pull the ball back across the goal into the path of Bray, who drilled the ball high into the net for her first of the season, and completing the scoring at 4-0.

Although no league points were at stake, Saturday's win will continue to build Millburn's confidence, already high after Wednesday's 3-1 comeback win against the Adirondack Lynx. The game also showcased the depth and talent of the Magic younger players, with Chernow, McDonnell, Prime and Chapin all showing well in extended performances, the latter two both stars of Millburn's 2008 YPSL winning team. After a tiring four games in eight days, the Magic now enjoy a week off before an crucial conference clash at New York Athletic Club next Sunday (June 21st, 4pm). Currently established mid-table, Millburn will be looking to avenge a disappointing 1-0 home defeat, and confirm themselves firmly into the play-off places ahead of a tough end to the season.

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 - Hirsch (Chernow, 46), Shenk, Feeney, Staropoli, Ventura, Averbuch, Kaminski, Bray (Chapin, 25), Prime (McDonnell, 46), Sims, Malecki.

More about the Millburn Magic at
More about the WPSL at
More about NJSG at

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