

MILLBURN MAGIC

Press Release

Millburn, NJ, July 8th 2009

Magic End Season with Victory

Millburn Magic finished their regular season in style last night, beating Philadelphia Liberty 2-1 in a fiercely contested Women's Premier Soccer League East Conference game at Chestnut Hill College.

On the back of a 1-0 victory against New England last week, Millburn started slowly, as Philadelphia penetrated with through balls, and possessed the ball well in midfield. Millburn gradually got into the game, and created the better chances as the half went on, Katie Ryan getting free on several occasions, while Kat Sheeleigh and Amanda Malkiewicz also went close. Although Lia Fierro had get down smartly to her left to make a key save with a couple of minutes of the first half remaining, the first half ended with Millburn on top. That ascendancy took only 52 seconds to convert into a lead when the second half started, Laura Kurash finding Ryan on Millburn's left, before the Magic top scorer cut inside and bent the ball inside the far post to open the scoring. The goal was no more than the New Jersey team deserved, and they pressed forward to find a second. Kurash and Katy Fissel went close, and Malkiewicz struck the upright, before the lead was doubled in the 60th minute. Malkiewicz continued to cause problems for the Philadelphia defense, and finding Ryan behind the Philadelphia defense, who shook of a defender before coolly rounding the home keeper and sliding in her 8th goal of the season.

With the game seemingly over, Millburn continued to dominate in midfield and create chances, but they suffered the loss of midfielders Lara Kaminski and Katy Fissel with injuries, and Philadelphia struck back against the run of play in the 76th minute. Jamie Timmerman had impressed throughout for the home team, and her ball found the perfectly timed run of Mandy Moraca, who finished well. The goal inspired Philadelphia's best spell of the game, pushing forward in search of an equalizer and testing Millburn's back line. Carly Bray and Leah Jerome were both enjoying solid games for Millburn at the back, in a defense well marshaled by the returning Lina Staropoli, but the Liberty still tested Magic keeper Lia Fierro on several occasions. In usual fine form, Fierro stubbornly refused to allow an equalizer, making several saves from long range efforts, and making numerous excellent punches on corners under considerable pressure. Having soaked up everything Philadelphia had to throw at them, Millburn almost scored a third at the end, Ryan almost completing her hat-trick, but the Jersey team were happy to hear the final whistle, concluding four wins in their last five games of the season, and setting themselves up nicely for their first appearance in the playoffs.

Millburn Coach Andy Sones was understandably happy with the result and performance. "We started slowly" he said, "but as we increased our urgency and tempo, we knew the goals would come. We created the better chances throughout the game, and our defenders were very solid when questions were asked of them." Millburn's second consecutive one goal victory bodes well for the challenges of the coming play-offs, starting next weekend, just as their resilience and team spirit has made them difficult to beat, and a team other contenders will be hoping to avoid.

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. 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, Carly Bray, Lina Staropoli, Katelin Blaine, Biz Shenk, Katy Fissel, Shira Averbuch, Lara Kaminski, Kim Malecki, Amanda Malkiewicz, Kat Sheeleigh. **Subs:** Katie Ryan (25), Kelly Sims (22) Leah Jerome (17), Kelly Feeney (39), Robin Chernow.

More about the Millburn Magic at
More about the WPSL at

www.MillburnMagic.com
www.WPSL.info/

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Magic's Lina Staropoli

