

# MILLBURN MAGIC

## Press Release



Millburn, NJ, April 28th 2009

### Old and New Magic Coaches Ready for the New Season

With the [Millburn Magic](#) only three weeks away from the 2009 season opener against the Delaware Future, both the older and newer members of the team's coaching staff are focused on ways to make the jump from also-rans to genuine contenders for the [Women's Premier Soccer League](#) (WPSL) East Conference Championship.

For Magic Head Coach [Andy Sones](#), who led the team to an season's inaugural 3-3-5 season in 2008, the challenge is clear. "We lost four games by one goal", he identifies, and in three of those we conceded in the first 10 minutes, which totally reframed those games. Other than an away game in Atlantic City, the only game that we weren't close in was against the [Long Island] Fury, when they came with five internationals and in all honesty gave us a lesson." With four of Paul Riley's Long Island team - National Champions team in 2006 - now playing professionally, the Fury will have their work cut out to repeat their conference championship form, although Sones identifies other, new challengers within the conference: "we're playing the Boston Breakers reserves (Boston Aztecs), consisting of totally professional and post-collegiate players", he explains. "and Philadelphia have recruited well and will be looking for a strong season ahead of joining the professional ranks next year. New England Mutiny (2007 National Runners-Up) are always strong, and Tony DiCicco's SoccerPlus team (2007 U23 National Champions) will be full of international players again. The WPSL East Conference is without doubt one of the strongest women's leagues in the United States." Despite strong competition, Sones remains confident that his team can represent northern New Jersey well within the league. "We were very young last year", he said, "and while we're not a whole lot older now, we've added players who know how to win around a strong returning nucleus, and we know what to expect."

As well as additions to his roster, Sones has shaken up his backroom staff with several significant appointments. Goalkeeper coach [Paul Blodgett](#) joins the Magic, already well known in the state having performed the role at Rutgers for 20 years, and currently working with the professional keepers at Sky Blue FC. Blodgett is a co-founder of the [Athlete Development Institute \(ADI\)](#) - a Morris Plains based training company that emphasizes athlete development through position-specific training. His partner there is Mark Williams, is another welcome addition to the Magic staff as strength and conditioning coach. Also training the Sky Blue FC team, and with a client list including Tim Howard, Juan Pablo Angel and Tony Meola, Williams can rightly claim to be at the very top of his game.

Joining Sones on the sidelines will be [Sean Kiernan](#), well respected within youth soccer, now coming to the fore in the WPSL. As well as developing young players at Morris United, Kiernan coaches the Howell United Spirit team, who were State Cup Champions in 2007, and are currently regional runners-up and one of the top U13 teams in the country. Kiernan will have a key role with the Magic on the training field, while collaborating with Sones on game day strategy. "I'm delighted to have someone of Sean's caliber alongside me," said Sones, "he's an imaginative coach who delivers creative and challenging sessions." A former coach at English Premier League club Bolton Wanderers, Kiernan also brings with him experience coaching in Australia, Norway and California.

With international players flying in next week, and the collegiate ranks starting to return home in the next few days, the Millburn coaches look to add another page to the Magic's short history, aiming for the play-offs in only their second year.

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.

More about the Millburn Magic at  
More about the WPSL at

[www.millburnmagic.com](http://www.millburnmagic.com)  
[www.wpsl.info/](http://www.wpsl.info/)



Millburn Magic  
374 Speedwell Ave  
Morris Plains, NJ  
07950

[www.millburnmagic.com](http://www.millburnmagic.com)  
[info@millburnmagic.com](mailto:info@millburnmagic.com)  
Phone: 973-315-3098  
Fax: 973-315-3104