

# ***THE NEW JERSEY SOCCER GROUP***

## ***Press Release***



Millburn, NJ, September 18<sup>th</sup> 2008

### **Women's Professional Soccer (WPS) Announces Player Allocations**

Yesterday at the at the Sports Museum of America in downtown Manhattan, NY, Women's Professional Soccer (WPS) announced the allocations of the U.S. Women's National Team to its seven franchises. It included a fabulous ceremony hosted by NBA All-Star & WPS part-owner Steve Nash and presided over by WPS Commissioner Tonya Antonucci.

Each of the seven teams set to begin play in WPS for the 2009 season - Bay Area, Boston, Chicago, Los Angeles, New Jersey/New York, St. Louis & Washington, D.C. - were allocated three players each from the pool of players associated with the gold-medal winning U.S. Women's National Team. The allocation followed an extensive process in which the players and teams submitted their preferences to the league and a committee then examined the lists to give its recommendations.

"The excitement for WPS allocation has been building for months as fans, coaches and even the players have been speculating about which athletes will be dispersed to each WPS market," said Antonucci. "This is a big day for Women's Professional Soccer, as teams now have Olympic gold medalists from Beijing allocated to their home cities along with other talented national team players. These are the first building blocks for the teams as the league begins the countdown to the inaugural 2009 WPS Season."

Connections with the WPSL abound not only with Antonucci, but seven of the 21 players allocated yesterday have also plied their trade in one of the top amateur women's soccer leagues in the world. Nicole Barnhart (California Storm), Shannon Boxx (Ajax America), Rachel Buehler (SD SeaLions & West Coast F.C.), Lori Chalupny (River Cities F.C.), former All-WPSL selection Stephanie Cox (Elk Grove Pride), Leslie Osborne (California Storm) and Abby Wambach (Ajax America) have at one time made their way through action in the WPSL.

2008 WPSL East Conference Coach of the Year Tony DiCicco will be at the helm of the Boston Breakers. This past season, the MYSC Lady Blues of the Midwest Conference qualified for the WPSL Final Four and have their own business agreement with the Chicago Red Stars while starting in 2010, A.C. Diablos head coach Matt Driver and his Team Dynamics LLC organization will head the new Philadelphia franchise.

The draft for the remaining players to fill out the WPS rosters will occur in early October and again in January - where you might just see many of the current WPSL stars make their professional dreams come to fruition.

The mission of Women's Professional Soccer (WPS) is to be the premier women's soccer league in the world. Play kicks off in the spring of 2009, with WPS teams based in the Bay Area, Boston, Chicago, Los Angeles, New Jersey/New York, St. Louis and Washington, D.C.

The WPSL is a 51-team national women's soccer league with five conferences and is considered one of the top women's soccer leagues in the world. The Millburn Magic is the Northern NJ member of the WPSL, an independent national league representing the highest level of women's soccer in the United States. The 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

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

More about the WPSL at

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

More about the New Jersey Soccer Group at

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

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