

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

## ***Press Release***



Boston, MA, June 8th 2008

### **Colonials' Improvement Continues Despite Loss**

Morris County Colonials' third NPSL fixture away to Boston Aztecs saw their best performance so far in a tough 4-2 defeat. Despite two previous losses, Coach Borrow's players approached the fixture in optimistic mood and were determined to make their mark against an established New England outfit which had beaten the PA Stoners the previous night 2-0.

The match kicked-off in sweltering heat in the Aztecs' Amesbury home and Colonials' captain Rob Alman made the first impression, heading against the bar in the 5<sup>th</sup> minute from a good right-wing cross by Hugo Ferreira. Injected with self-belief, the Colonials continued to build impressively, probing and asking questions of the Aztecs' defense, but the finishing touch was missing and the Colonials failed to capitalize on their early dominance. This proved costly in the 28<sup>th</sup> minute when a long clearance by an Aztecs central defender went straight through the Colonials' back line, finding a Boston striker who controlled the ball first and calmly slotted the ball home. It was now another uphill challenge for Borrow's team, but what happened five minutes later will go down in Colonials history as they scored their first goal. Good quality midfield possession involving Rob Alman and Kieran Lade led to Jonathan Yazo receiving the ball and attacking the heart of the Aztecs defense before threading a perfect through ball for Jonny Donado who finished convincingly with a low, driven left-footed shot to the keeper's right. The joy felt throughout the Colonials team was unconfined and as long as the Colonials could cut out the occasional shaky moment at the back, there was no reason why they could not go into the half-time interval at least on level terms.

However, with ten seconds of normal time remaining in the first half, the Colonials suffered a big psychological blow when a lack of communication between their right allowed the Aztecs' left-winger to attack the space behind Gaspar and cross the ball to be finished all too easily, giving the Aztecs a crucial advantage at the break. It was imperative the Colonials scored the next goal to keep the game alive and they duly did in the 55<sup>th</sup> minute. A deep Ferreira corner was shot towards goal by Yazo at the far post. With the ball bouncing around the edge of the 6-yard box, Colonials' colossus Sam Roca was the first to react and prodded the ball over the line despite an Aztecs defender blatantly using his hand to stop the ball going over the line. Back in the game again, the Colonials needed to remain focused defensively and continue to attack with quality. Morristown's Mark Richter, playing at left-back and with a point to prove after remaining on the bench against the Stoners, had a solid game and refused to be intimidated by the opposition's physical approach.

As the game wore on and with the heat showing no sign of abating, the game became a battle of the fittest. As the final ten minutes approached, Borrow lined up his remaining substitutes and asked them to make the decisive impact. Just before their entry, though, the Aztecs, themselves tiring and feeling the effects of their second game within 24 hours, struck the decisive blow from another attack down the left wing and the resultant cross was converted to restore the Aztecs' advantage. Would the Colonials be able to equalize for a third time? Borrow implored his team to attack and threw numbers forward. Substitute Bryan Bodner, making NPSL history as the youngest ever player to make his debut at just 16, epitomized the spirit within the team with a crunching challenge on an Aztecs attacker within moments of entering the fray.

The Colonials continued to press in search of their third goal, but the quality of the final pass was lacking. In injury time, the Aztecs delivered a sucker punch when an innocuous contact in the box was deemed a penalty by the referee. The spot-kick was hammered home and gave the score-line an unjust gloss for the home team. Faced with a long ride home after the defeat, Coach Borrow's remained upbeat. "Their coach complimented us on how well we played and everyone could see the continued improvement. This team is definitely coming together and there were several good individual performances out there. I can't wait for next Saturday when we get a chance to play them again".

Indeed, the Colonials have the chance to avenge defeats against Long Island Academy on Friday and the Aztecs on Saturday when they play at Morristown Beard High School at 5pm. With this painful defeat fresh in the players' minds, the return fixture promises to be a fantastic game.

More about the Morris County Colonials at  
More about the New Jersey Soccer Group at  
More about the NPSL at

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