

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

## ***Press Release***



Morristown NJ, June 28th 2008

### **Improved Colonials still Await First Win**

The Morris County Colonials' wait for their first victory of the season continues after an agonizing 1-0 defeat against New York Athletic Club who profited from a Ben Tolkowsky own goal in the 18<sup>th</sup> minute.

Determined to put on a much improved showing following their 6-1 mauling by Boston Aztec, the Colonials fielded a new-look line-up which started positively and took the game to New York thanks to improved passing on the slick surface at Morristown Beard High School. Snappy in their tackling and winning their share of 50/50 challenges all over the field, the Colonials demonstrated a real desire to prove themselves in front of their home fans. The mixture of silk and steel came unstuck, however, when misfortune struck in the 18<sup>th</sup> minute and proved to be the game's decisive moment. One lapse of concentration meant a lack of pressure in central midfield, allowing a New Yorker to play a speculative ball into the penalty area where it was met by Tolkowsky's left foot and the resultant deflection gave keeper John Jameson no chance to make a save. The goal was tough on the Colonials who now had to find the resolve to react positively and not allow their heads to drop. Spurred on by captain Rob Alman whose tenacious tackling was symbolic of the Colonials' hunger to win the ball, his team-mates heeded the message to remain patient in possession, probing for a chance to seriously test the NYAC keeper. Jonny Donado had efforts on goal, but the bounce of the ball didn't go the Colonials' way and the half ended with the scoreline 0-1.

The challenge for the Colonials in the second half was to penetrate behind New York's defense and expose their lack of pace. In the 50th minute, Joseph Odumewu took the opportunity to take on an NYAC defender in the penalty area, but his cross failed to find a Colonials player and a pattern began to emerge where play was often around the NYAC penalty area, but the final pass either didn't arrive or lacked sufficient quality to create clean goalscoring opportunities. As the half progressed, the Colonials continued to press while NYAC defended stoically and were prepared to hit the home team on the counter attack. Pleasingly, the Colonials' defensive unit remained solid, the excellent Leroy Sequiera snuffing out any idea NYAC might have had about reaching long balls first with his fantastic pace and positioning.

Head Coach Rob Napier, in his first game at the helm, implored his team to attack and asked his substitutes to make a positive impact, but the lack of a real cutting edge upfront proved costly as the Colonials searched in vain for an equalizer which, given the balance of play, would have been deserved. Although New York held on for a narrow victory, the Colonials players knew this was clearly their best performance of the season and can look forward to the second half of the season with increased belief and renewed optimism.

Coach Napier, despite the defeat, remained upbeat and looked forward to the big holiday weekend with home fixtures against PA Stoners (Saturday) and Maine Sting (Sunday). "I think this performance was a reflection of how hard the guys worked in training this week. Our shape, both with and without the ball, was a lot better and I'm confident that with a bit more composure and quality in and around the box, we'll convert the chances we create".

The Morris County Colonials team 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. The National Premier Soccer League (NPSL) is an open aged national league representing the highest level of amateur soccer in the United States.

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

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