

THE NEW JERSEY SOCCER GROUP

Press Release



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Colonial & Magic Players enjoy College Success

After a successful inaugural season for the Millburn Magic and Morris County Colonials, many players continued to compete at the highest level over the Fall through D1 collegiate soccer.

The Magic's standout GK Lia Fierro had 8 shut outs as she helped Monmouth University reach the semi-finals of the Northeastern Conference (NEC) tournament. Conceding two quick first half goals to Central Connecticut State meant at the Hawks ended the season ranked 3rd in the Conference with a 14-4-1 overall record. Fierro, the 2007 NEC Tournament MVP, impressed throughout the season finishing 2nd in the Conference for shutouts and 5th for number of saves. Kat Sheeleigh, the Magic's influential forward, and 2007 Ivy League Rookie of the Year was an integral part of Harvard University's 10-3-4 season. Starting all 16 games she played in, Sheeleigh scored 6 and had 5 assists to give her a total of 17 points of the season. Sheeleigh finished the season inside the top 10 players in the Conference for points, shots, shots per game and goals, as well as being named in the Ivy League Honor Roll four times and making it onto the *Soccer Buzz* Elite Team of the Week after a game winning goal topped of a class performance against Princeton in October. A five game winning streak at the end of the season propelled Chrisie Sidie and Fairfield University to the NCAA tournament for the fifth time in the programs history. Finishing 2nd in the conference with a 14-4-3 record and leading the Conference in nearly all statistics including goals and shutouts, the Stags went on to earn a 3-0 victory in the Metro-Atlantic Conference final against Loyola. The Stags will take on the number 4 seed in the region, the Oklahoma State tonight (Friday) as they look to keep their season going.

Kaitlin Blaine and Tara Ricciardi, both key figures for the Magic over the summer, returned to Rhode Island to help Providence College challenge in the Big East Conference. The Friars endured a difficult season ending with a 6-8-3 record. The Magic's midfielder Sara Grimsgaard, made 17 appearances, including 13 starts for Syracuse University. Despite having two assists and finishing inside the top 10 players for number of shots on goal, Grimsgaard and the Orange struggled, slipping to 5-11-2 in the Big East Conference.

Competing in D1 from the Colonials roster this Fall were Jorge Blacido., Billy Collins and Sam Roca, Blacido, a tricky and dynamic offensive player helped Monmouth University to a 12-3-3 and the number 1 seed in the Northeastern Conference. Blacido made 8 appearances for the Hawks in this his Sophomore year. The Hawks, winners of four straight Northeast Conference Regular Season Championships, will compete in the Conference semi-final tonight (Friday) against the number 4 seed Mount St. Mary's. Billy Collins and the University of Massachusetts enjoyed great success in the Atlantic 10 suffering just one loss as they clinched the Regular Season title, earning the No. 1 seed in the Championship Tournament, and giving themselves the chance to defend their 2007 tournament title. The Minutemen will look to extend their 8 game winning streak Friday night as they look towards securing a NCAA Tournament appearance. Finally, Sam Roca of High Point University helped the Panthers finish 3rd in the Big South Conference. After ending the regular season with a mixed record of 9-10-3, with Roca making 18 appearances, the Panthers went on make the Quarter-Finals of the tournament, eventually going down 2-1 against Liberty Flames.

The Magic compete in the Women's Premier Soccer League and the Colonials in the National Premier Soccer League, both represent the highest level of amateur soccer in the United States. If you are interested in being part of the Magic and Colonials teams for the 2009 season, please email info@njsoccergroup.com for more information.

More about the Morris County Colonials at

www.colonialsoccer.com

More about the Millburn Magic at

www.millburnmaagic.com

More about the New Jersey Soccer Group at

www.njsoccergroup.com