

# MILLBURN MAGIC

## Press Release

Millburn, NJ, May 31<sup>st</sup> 2009

### Boston Prove too Strong for Magic

The Millburn Magic tonight faced a tough test against the Boston Aztecs; the reserve side for the Boston Breakers WPS team. Despite their endeavors, the Aztecs proved too strong for the Magic and ran out 3-0 winners.

The game opened with Boston's strength and pace evident, but an organized defensive performance from Millburn giving them little to show for their efforts. With Sophia Mundy looking dangerous on the Boston left, Leah Jerome dealt well with the threat, well supported by Laura Kurash and Kim Malecki alternating in front of her in midfield. Millburn's central defensive partnership of Lina Staropoli and Katelin Blaine dealt well with everything that came down the middle, and Boston were largely reduced to speculative long-range efforts, which Magic keeper Lia Ferro dealt with well. Millburn's best attacking work came on the counter, with the team making good use of their possession when they had it. Forwards Amanda Malkiewicz and Katie Ryan were particularly dangerous when released from their defensive responsibilities, and created two good opportunities; firstly Malkiewicz's through ball on the left releasing Ryan who was unable to get her shot away, before Ryan's good work on the right culminated in a tantalizing cross that Malkiewicz was just unable to reach with the keeper beaten.

On 27 minutes, Boston broke through. A momentary lapse in the Magic defensive shape allowed Mundy in behind, and her cross was finished from close range. While Boston had dominated territory and possession, the goal was tough on Millburn, who were relatively comfortable at the time of the goal.

The second half opened in the same fashion; the well organized Magic limiting opportunities for Boston to get in behind the defense and create chances inside the penalty area. The Aztecs enjoyed good spells of possession, switching the play across the field well but were forced to continue taking long range shots. Unfortunately, The Magic went 2-0 down in the 55th minute after a powerful left footed strike from midfielder Mary Francis Monroe was to much for GK Lia Ferro o handle and gave Boston a 2-0 lead. The Magic continued to look most likely to score from a breakthrough; direct balls played through to Katie Ryan, who's pace threatened the Aztecs defense drew some success for the Magic.

The Aztecs put the result beyond doubt in the 75<sup>th</sup> minute. After Carly Bray, sliding in to win the ball, was judged to have bought down Monroe in the area Courtney Sobtero stepped up to convert the resulting penalty to put the Aztecs at 3-0.

The teams will meet again on June 6<sup>th</sup> when the Magic will travel to Boston for the return match. Millburn will then continue north to play the Maine Tide on June 7<sup>th</sup> before hosting the Adirondack Lynx in the next home game on June 10<sup>th</sup>.

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.

Magic Line Up: Lia Ferro, Amanda Malkiewicz, Carly Bray, Kim Malecki, Katy Fissel, Lina Staropoli, Laura Kurash, Kaitlin Blaine, Katie Ryan, Tara Ricciardi. Subs: Kat Sheeleigh (24), Kelly Sims (37), Kerry Prime (32) Ashley Ventura (26) Caitlin Walker, Biz Shenk

Aztecs Line Up: Ashley Phillips, Ariel Harris, Kessy Moore, Brooke O'Hanley, Jess Wilcox, Abby Crumpton, Marisha Schunberg-Hodge, Meotis Erikson, Sophia Mundy, Rebeckah Splaine, Mary Frances Monroe. Suns: Christy McHugh (70), Lauren Lukis (12) Carol Tognetti, Alena Thim, Krista Macdonald (60)

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 NJSG at [www.NJSoccerGroup.com](http://www.NJSoccerGroup.com)

Millburn Magic  
374 Speedwell Ave  
Morris Plains, NJ  
07950



Midfielder Fissel in Action



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