

THE NEW JERSEY SOCCER GROUP

Press Release



Millburn NJ, June 8th 2008

Magic Struggle to find Rhythm against Fury

After being narrowly edged out of the points when the teams first met, tonight the Millburn Magic looked to put in another strong performance against the Long Island Fury; a team with only one loss on their record this season. Despite their high hopes, the Magic were lackluster as they slipped to a 4-0 home defeat.

Against tough opposition, tight from the start, it looked to be a long night for the Magic as the Fury quickly stepped into their passing game, switching the ball with ease with impressive movement away from the ball. It didn't take long for the Fury's early dominance to turn into an early lead. After good play down the right, Lia Fierro in goal for the Magic did well to initially cut out the ball before a deflected cut back cross, combined with a lack of pressure from the defense, allowed Kelly Henderson to drive the ball home from close range. Taking early charge, the Fury continued to pass the ball well, comfortable in possession as the Magic too often sat back and allowed the Fury time and space with the ball. However, possession resulted in few chances at goal as the Magic did just enough to prevent from conceding again until the 26th minute when disorganization at the back meant Alaina Beyar was first to a loose ball in the box and was allowed to finish under no real pressure past Fierro. The Fury were almost out of the Magic's reach minutes later; a great breakaway strike from Lorraine Quinn bringing a diving save from Fierro. Moments later a through ball played in Victoria DiMartino who successfully rounded Fierro who did well to recover in order to prevent the cross and almost certain goal; injuring herself in the process to keep the score at 2-0 at the end of the half.

After strong words in the dressing room at half time, the Magic showed improvements in the second half, showing more enthusiasm to pressure the Fury and began to battle for the possession in midfield. Despite improvements when working to win the ball, the Magic remained wasteful when in possession, often playing each other into pressure or playing searching long balls that were easily picked off by the Fury's backline. As a result, the Magic failed to create any real chances at goal; the best efforts coming from fantastic deliveries from Kat McKenna playing on the left for the Magic.

Having been forced to chase the ball for the majority of the game, the Magic tired towards the end, allowing the fitter Fury team to take advantage of spaces that began appeared at the back, the Magic conceding twice in the final two minutes of the game. In the 89th minute, Leigh Anne Cummings did well to beat her defender and fire across substitute goalkeeper Sammi Hersh. With the very last play of the game, Kelly Henderson played a cutting ball through the middle to Cummings who finished with ease for her second goal in quick succession.

Magic Line-Up: Lia Fierro, Donnique Sinclair-Chambers, Kaitlen Blaine, Tara Ricciardi, Ashley Ventura, Rachel Fell, Lina Starapoli, Kat McKenna, Kim Malecki, Chrissie Sidie, Lara Kaminsky. *Subs.:* Sammi Hirsch (55), Steph Zalewski (35), Caitlin Fabian (18), Jen Vroman (31)

The Magic represent Northern NJ in the Women's Premier Soccer League, 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
More about the New Jersey Soccer Group at
More about the WPSL at

www.millburnmagic.com
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