

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

## ***Press Release***



Morristown NJ, July 5<sup>th</sup> 2008

### **Colonials Battle to the end against Stoners**

Having shown vast improvements in their last outing, the Morris County Colonials looked to pick their first home points of the season against the Pennsylvania Stoners. Despite taking an early lead the 5-1-0 Stoners proved too strong for the Colonials who ended up with a 3-2 loss.

The Colonials worked hard right from opening kickoff to close the space in midfield and limit the Stoners time in possession of the ball. Despite this, the Stoners had the opening chance, a good strike from Alex Weekes serving as an early warning for the Colonials of the skill of the Stoners front line. The deadlock to the tentative game was made for the Colonials by Jorge Blakido. Captain Rob Alman, spurring on the Colonials as ever from midfield, began the move with a smart pass into Jonathan Yazo who in turn fed Blakido before the striker finished calmly past Stoners Goalkeeper Sam Bishop.

After taking the lead, the Colonials were forced back in their own half for long periods by the Stoners who looked to break forward at every opportunity. The Colonials did well to keep their shape, remaining compact at the back and forcing the Stoners to play direct balls which were dealt with well by the Colonials defense. Leroy Sequeira came to the rescue of the Colonials on a number of occasions throughout the game with last minute challenges demonstrating the desire and commitment that has been lacking at times for the Colonials this season. Their hard was undone on 35 minutes after Stoners forward Tom Ehrlich beat the offside trade to find himself with time and space to finish past Colonials keeper Matt Ginall. The Colonials were continually forced to focus on defense after the goal as the Stoners continued to press. The Stoners then took the lead 5 minutes before the half after Ehrlich was judged to have been bought down inside the penalty area. Midfielder Ryan Hess stepped up and coolly slotted the penalty kick to the left of Bishop to take the Stoners in a 2-1 Half time lead.

The second half continued in much the same vein; both teams guilty of wasting possession and lacking the final piece of quality in the final third. The challenge facing the Colonials double on 58 minutes after confusion in defense lead to a 3-1 lead for the Stoners. After a poor challenge lead to another free kick in a dangerous area for the Stoners, Matt McNeil curled the ball into the box. Bishop's attempt to come and claim the ball only lead to him taking out the challenging Colonials defender whilst the ball sailed into the empty net direct from McNeils's strike.

Despite this blow, the Colonials continued to work hard across the field; Yazo in midfield looking to build on good defensive work from Sequeira and Greg Delva, but the Colonials appeared to lack a cutting edge up front. A mistake from Sequeira could have put the game beyond the reach of the Colonials, however, when played through on goal, substitute Dave Koluski failed to find the net. The miss set up a nervy finish for the Stoners after Blakido scored his second of the night a few minutes later. After good work from Billy Collins on the left flank to hold the ball up and pick out Alman, Alman's shot-come-cross found its way to Blakido, who with time and space inside the box, finished calmly again. The Colonials continued to push forward after the goal in search of an equalizer, however, a lack of quality on the delivery of free kicks and corners meant good opportunities were wasted. The same can be said the Stoners who were wasteful on two more occasions when they could have made certain of their 6<sup>th</sup> victory of the season instead of enduring a nervous final few minutes.

The Colonials will play again at Morristown Beard High School tomorrow night when they will host the Maine Sting, kick off 6pm. The National Premier Soccer League (NPSL) is an open aged national league representing the highest level of a mateur soccer in the United States. 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.

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

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