

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

## ***Press Release***



Westchester, New York, July 12th 2008

### **Colonials check in to Heartbreak Hotel**

When the Morris County Colonials pulled in to Westchester County's swanky New York Athletic Club, little did they know they had just checked in to the Heartbreak Hotel. At the home fixture versus NYAC a month earlier, the Colonials had shown signs of playing as a cohesive unit capable of competing at this level despite the 1-0 defeat. Following their 2-2 tie against Maine Sting the previous week, the Colonials crossed the Hudson confident of achieving their first victory of the season.

Captain Rob Alman assumed coaching duties on the sidelines allowing Ed de Gottal and Leandro to start in midfield with Yazo and Marco Gaspar completing the quartet. The Colonials began the game setting the tempo with some patient build-up play and it appeared only a matter of time before New York's defensive line was breached.

Unfortunately for the Jersey team, the 13<sup>th</sup> minute saw Billy Collins, playing at right back, dribble in a dangerous area too close to his own goal. From the resultant interception, the New Yorkers counter attacked and Mark Murphy calmly dispatched the opportunity to put the home team ahead.

Despite the setback, the Colonials stayed true to their philosophy of playing soccer on the turf with good quality link-up play between the midfielders and attackers. New York's keeper was increasingly tested and on 30 minutes, was found wanting when a hopeful Donado shot was spilled to the feet of the gambling Gaspar whose attitude was rewarded when he tapped in the rebound.

Now the Colonials faced another challenge: could they turn a deficit into a lead? The remainder of the half was too scrappy for the Colonials' liking as they lost their rhythm and allowed NYAC to come back into the game and occasionally threaten Matt Gnall's goal.

Level at the break, it was clear the Colonials were playing the better soccer and were capable of creating chances. It was now a matter of converting those chances.

The second half saw the Colonials dominate possession and create chance after chance. Jorge Blacido, who had scored 3 goals in the previous 2 games, sought to continue his scoring streak, but put his shots straight at the NYAC keeper. The game's turning point came halfway through the second period. After slicing NYAC's defense apart yet again, Leandro had a golden opportunity with the ball at his feet and the whole goal to aim at, he took the complicated option and tried to chip the opposition's tall keeper rather than placing the ball past him. The decision proved costly as NYAC counter attacked. Sam Roca, playing at center-back, failed to head the ball away and again the ball landed at the feet of Mark Murphy who slotted the ball past the vain dive of Matt Gnall.

Undoubtedly a bitter pill to swallow, surely the Colonials would learn to finish with more conviction? The chances continued to come, but a bizarre reluctance to shoot meant NYAC's goal stayed intact until the end of the game despite wave after wave of Colonials pressure.

The final result of 2-1 meant a frustrating journey back to Morris County. The quality of attacking play was arguably the best of the season, but more self-belief and better execution are still needed in front of goal to claim that elusive first victory of the season.

More about the Morris County Colonials at

[www.colonialsoccer.com](http://www.colonialsoccer.com)

More about the NPSL at

[www.nationalpremiersoccerleague.com](http://www.nationalpremiersoccerleague.com)

More about the New Jersey Soccer Group at

[www.njsoccergroup.com](http://www.njsoccergroup.com)