

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

## ***Press Release***

Morristown, NJ May 18<sup>th</sup> 2008

### **Long Island dominate Colonials in 0-7 Victory**

The Morris County Colonials faced a difficult opening fixture in the NPSL yesterday going up against the Long Island Academy and their large contingent of ex-professional players. After struggling to get into the game, the Colonials were disappointed to end the game with a 0-7 loss.

Straight from opening kick off, the Academy won a corner kick, with the resulting delivery being headed home from midfielder Arman Ossoli to give his team a 0-1 lead inside the first minute. Their roster decimated by players not yet back from college, the Colonials were shocked by the early set. In the thirteenth minute, Long Island doubled their lead through Jose Batista who's shot was parried into the net by Colonials Goalkeeper Jason DePre. Unfortunately for the Colonials, a third goal for the Academy quickly followed in the sixteenth minute with Gustavo Diaz cleverly peeling away from his marker to latch onto a through ball from Dan Leon before firing past DePre.

The early lead allowed a strong academy side to step up their passing game as they dominated possession. The Colonials continued to work hard, closing down players and trying to limit space. However, the quality of the Long Island, national champions two years ago, was simply too much for newly formed Colonials team who were forced to chase play as the Academy passed and switched the play with an impressive, instinctive awareness of each other. In defense, Renier Mena swept away any danger whilst the forward line of Jose Batista and Gustavo Diaz constantly threatened the Colonials back line. The quality of the Academy was clear from their superbly executed set pieces; on forty-one minutes; a well worked short corner routine led to Dan Leon adding a fourth goal before the interval.

Despite the scoreline, the Colonials came out for the second half positively, looking to attack at every opportunity. Andrew Zalk, leading the line for the Colonials worked hard upfront whilst his attacking partner Johnny Donado worked tirelessly to win back possession. From the left back position, Leroy Sequiera, constantly looking to break down the wing and deliver into the box, dominated his opponent in a strong individual performance. On fifty-one minutes, Long Islands strong forward partnership of Batista and Diaz again paid dividends, this time with Batista providing the pass to set Diaz away, the forward with a great strike across goal to make the score 0-5. Ten minutes later Diaz completed his hat-trick after being first to react to DePre's deflected save from Ossoli's cross into the box. Assisted by Dan Leon, Batista finished off a good opening day victory for Long Island on seventy-two minutes to make the final score 0-7.

The Colonials will look to bounce back from the disappointing opening to their inaugural campaign on May 30<sup>th</sup> when they travel to Pennsylvania to face the Stoners in the first of four games on the road.

*Colonials lineup:* Jason DePre, Gregory Delva, Sam Roca, Marco Gaspar, Leroy Sequiera, Hugo Ferreria, Joeseoph Odumewu, Jonathan Yazo, Leandro Fioretti, Andrew Zalk, Johnny Donado. *Subs:* Joey Stellato (50), Joseph Odumewu (60), Kieran Lade (68), Mark Richter (72), Bryan Bodner

The Morris County Colonials are the Northern NJ member of the National Premier Soccer League, an independent national league representing the highest level of amateur soccer in the United States. The Colonials 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 Morris County Colonials at  
More about the New Jersey Soccer Group at  
More about the NPSL at

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