

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

## ***Press Release***



### **Regulars Return for Upcoming Magic Campaign**

Millburn, NJ—February 17, 2010



The [Millburn Magic](#) announced the first part of their roster today, with the return of captains Lia Fierro and Lina Staropoli, plus three year veterans Kat Sheeleigh and Ashley Ventura. The four players were mainstays of the 2009 team that reached the [Women's Premier Soccer League](#) (WPSL) regional final, and will be expected to play a key part in the 2010 season.

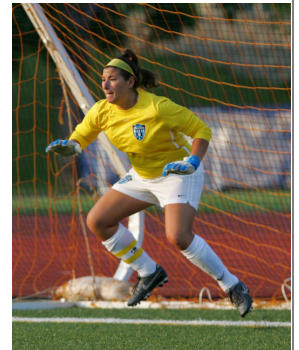
Magic goalkeeper [Lia Fierro](#) will come into the season on the back of a stellar season at Monmouth University, where she earned 1<sup>st</sup> Team Conference Honors on the back of the Hawks second NEC Championship in three years. "Lia's presence and performances have been a huge asset to us," said Magic head coach Andy Sones. "She is one of the very best out there, yet she remains determined to work hard and improve still further."

Sones cited an injury time save against New England Mutiny as Fierro's finest moment of 2009, securing a 1-0 win for the Magic with a spectacular stop low to her left.

Millburn's goal in that game was scored by Harvard forward [Kat Sheeleigh](#), who went on to leading the Crimson with 8 goals and 21 points in the 2009 season. Sheeleigh finished the year with selection to the 1st Team All-Ivy for the third consecutive season, and she will co-captain the Crimson in their 2010 season. Sheeleigh is looking forward to taking that form forward into the Magic.

"Each year this program has gotten stronger and stronger, and I am looking forward to our best season yet." Sones agreed, noting "Kat's movement and intelligence on the field is phenomenal, and she brings the best out of those around her. She is more than just a finisher, she's a leader and an all-round player."

While a number of Magic players received WPSL honors in 2009, Loyola's [Lina Staropoli](#) received the highest level of recognition, named to the All-WPSL 2nd team as well as the All-East Conference 1st team. "Lina was absolutely immense for us", said Sones, "providing leadership both on and off the field, combined with consistently outstanding performances." Staropoli is looking forward to a repeat performance: "after 9 months of straight college soccer it's crazy at times to think you are so excited to play some more," she said, "but the environment is so positive and enjoyable how could you not?" Staropoli has started in 63 of 64 games in three years at Loyola, moving between central defense and the middle of midfield, and was an integral part of the team that this year won the 2009 MAAC Championship.



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Staropoli's partner in the heart of the Magic defense for much of the 2009 was [Ashley Ventura](#). Towson's graduating defender will be back in 2010, where she will again be a major player for Millburn. "Ashley's pace and reading of the game has been a defining feature of our defense," said Sones, "and it is fantastic to have her back again." Ventura saw more minutes than any other player for Towson this past season, and her versatility in the middle or left side of defense is bound to see her play a major role for the Magic in the coming season.

The Millburn Magic competes in the East Conference of the [Women's Premier Soccer League](#), the highest level of women's amateur soccer in the United States.

Millburn Magic is 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.

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