

THE NEW JERSEY SOCCER GROUP

Press Release



**Laura Kurash Named District Academic All-American
Millburn, NJ—November 7th, 2011**



Despite her team falling to Amherst in a hard-fought battle in the NESCAC semi-finals, Wesleyan's Laura Kurash - the star midfielder for the Magic in the 2011 summer campaign - still managed to get the credit she deserved for her excellent fall performance.

Kurash was named first-team CoSIDA/Capital One District II Academic All-American after judges were blown away by her 13 goals and four assists during the year; six of her goals were also game winners. It will mean that her name will appear on the national ballot for Academic All-America honors.

With the help of Kurash, Wesleyan posted its second-highest number of victories in a season in the team's history, attaining a 9-6-1 final record. This has only been bettered by the 1994 squad, which was 12-4-1. The Cardinals also defeated five NESCAC rivals for the first time ever in a single season; Trinity were overcome with the help of a Kurash assist, while wins against Bowdoin, Colby, Bates and Connecticut College all came from game-winning goals from the attacking midfielder.

Sadly, there would be no fairytale final for Wesleyan women's soccer team this year, after the squad were beaten 3-0 by the undefeated, top-seeded and nationally ranked #8 Amherst in the NESCAC semi-final matchup last weekend (November 5th). Despite the Cardinals' best efforts, which kept the Lord Jeffs off the scoresheet during the first half, Amherst broke through the Wesleyan defense early in the second period, grabbing two further goals in the closing 20 to pick up its second 3-0 victory over Wesleyan in a two-week time frame.

Amherst advances to the NESCAC title game against Williams, which defeated Middlebury on penalty kicks in its semi-final. With Kurash improving each year, the Magic hopes that its 2011 All-WPSL star will return to the squad to boost her skills even more, while offering her intelligence to teammates both on and off the field.

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