

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

## ***Press Release***



**Strong Second Half Gives Magic Victory Over Blaze  
Madison, NJ—June 1st, 2011**



Despite a tough first half for the Magic in their second home game of the season, the ladies were able to overcome the first-year New Jersey Blaze women's team to record a stunning 4-1 victory, setting the gears in motion for a high-powered season following a goalless draw against Long Island Fury.

The young visiting squad would ultimately be undone by the Magic after Millburn found true form in the second period. The Blaze, who missed a penalty in the first half, were unable to tie things up before the break after a powerful low drive from Fordham's Katie McDonnell. However, strong work from the Blaze's midfield caught the usually resilient Magic unawares, forcing the squad to remain on the back foot against impressive playmaking from the away team. They were, however, unable to capitalize and would be forced to wait until the second half to tie things up.

This happened in the 70th minute when the Blaze were given hope through a goal from Meghan Ledwith. While reflecting the pressure the girls had put on the hosts for the most part of the first half, it would be a moment of genius that would reverse the flow of the game. On 72 minutes, Monmouth Hawk Kim Malecki curled an unstoppable shot into the top corner, reminding awe-struck fans of similar goals she fired in against BuxMont Torch and Jersey Select in the 2010 season.

Taking the Blaze by surprise, their shock would be compounded by a lucky rebound that came off Wesleyan's Laura Kurash. The attacking midfielder stormed up the left hand side of the field and drew Blaze keeper Sara Keane out from the box; the ensuing shot cannoned between the two before trickling over the line.

To cap things off, former England youth international Kayleigh Hines struck a stunning solo effort from around 25 yards out to make it 4-1 at the close. While the scoreline did not necessarily reflect the tenacious Blaze's attacking style of play or control for large parts of the game, the Magic ultimately deserved to claim the victory.

Sean Kiernan, the still-undefeated first-year coach of the Magic, was impressed with the girls' performance. "We struggled to match the strong efforts of the Blaze in the first half, but we had a solid game plan and we stuck to it at all costs.

"However, Kim Malecki's goal was of a different class and reminded us that with players like her, we sometimes have to expect the unexpected. It was the breakthrough we needed and we took a lot of strength from her brilliant goal; we were able to move forward with confidence after that strike."

Meanwhile, Blaze co-head coach Erwin van Bennekom was mindful of his squad's strong effort. "The 4-1 loss does not reflect the game, but we should have been much more clinical on both ends of the field," he said. "There are some specifics we need to work hard on as a team, but both Rob Alman and myself are proud of the way we played yesterday and have seen a solid base to build on."

Kiernan agreed that his opponents did not give him an easy game. "It was a tough challenge that could have gone either way for the most part of the game," he said. "I'm glad we were able to get on top; it certainly wasn't an easy three points. The Blaze are definitely a team to watch - they have a lot of talent."

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.

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