

MILLBURN MAGIC

Press Release



Millburn, NJ, June 21st 2009

3-1 again, as Ryan double downs New York

For the second time in 10 days, the Millburn Magic staged an impressive second half comeback to register a 3-1 victory, this time overcoming local rivals the NY Athletic Club at the Travers Island complex at Pelham, NY. The win continued a four match unbeaten run and earned the NJ team three valuable points as the play-off places take shape in the East Division of the WPSL.

The Magic opened aggressively, and on a wet and skidding turf field, they could have scored three times in the opening minutes, Laura Kurash twice being surprised by the speed of the ball when in good positions, while Kat Sheeleigh also went close. As the Magic continued to dominate, they were caught by a counter – carelessly giving possession away in midfield, then allowing home midfielder Sylvia Stone too long to find a through ball. Millburn waited for the offside flag that never came as forward Krista Mikolajczyk received the ball behind them and finished confidently past Lia Fierro to give the home team a 1-0 lead. Millburn continued to press as he first period played out in frustrating style for the away team.

All that changed at the break, however, as Millburn made several changes and charged forward with renewed energy and belief. Lara Kaminski joined the fray at half-time, and made an electrifying start, immediately testing NY keeper Tatiana Saunders with a low drive from 20 yards. Despite attractive build-up play, Millburn's equalizer was classic route one – Fierro launching a kick down the middle in the 52nd minute, and Katie Ryan fast enough to outpace the defense to lob Saunders, then diligent enough to follow up and score her own rebound off the post. The goal launched another wave of Magic attacks. A quick Shira Averbuch free kick freed Sheeleigh whose shot was tipped over the crossbar, Kaminski drove narrowly wide, and a Kelly Sims drive almost cut a defender in half when it seemed destined for the goal – all in a matter of minutes. It was only a matter of time before Millburn took the lead, and the goal – when it came - was a beauty. Tara Ricciardi drove forward, cutting in from the right before angling a pass to Ryan. The Magic forward faked outside, cut inside, and bent a high curling shot into the top corner of the net on 73 minutes to give the Magic a deserved lead. It was Ryan's second goal of the game and fourth of the season. Three minutes later, more good play from Ricciardi and Malecki freed Ryan on the right, and when Saunders fumbled her low cross, Sheeleigh followed up for a goal which capped her own fine individual performance.



Magic's Kat Sheeleigh

"It was a very pleasing second half" said Magic Coach Andy Sones. "Katie Ryan worked hard for her goals and they will do her good. The pressure we put New York under was a big factor in where the second half was played, so I was delighted Kat [Sheeleigh] got the goal her hard work deserved". With midfielder Tara Ricciardi returning early to class on Monday - therefore ending her Magic season - Sones also paid tribute to the Providence midfielder. "Tara has been phenomenal for us this year", he noted "and never more so than today. She always wanted the ball in midfield, drove us forward exactly as we asked her to, and in the second half was unbelievable coming out of the back, constantly starting attacks". The win takes Millburn firmly into the playoff places as they enter a tough close to the regular season. This Wednesday sees them visit 2006 National Champions the Long Island Fury, before entertaining last year's Divisional champions the New England Mutiny in their next home game: June 30, 7pm at Millburn High School, before finishing at Philadelphia.

The Millburn Magic is the Northern NJ member of the Women's Premier Soccer League, an independent national league representing the highest level of amateur soccer in the United States. The Millburn Magic 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.

Magic Line-up: Lia Fierro, Leah Jerome, Katelin Blaine, Ashley Ventura, Carly Bray, Shira Averbuch, Tara Ricciardi, Kim Malecki, Laura Kurash, Katie Ryan, Kat Sheeleigh **Subs:** Katy Fissel (15), Biz Shenk (22), Amanda Malkiewicz (23), Lara Kaminski (46), Kelly Sims (46), Caitlin Walker

NYAC Line Up: Steph Barrett, Kelly Blake, Chiara Caen, Kim Mineo, Eleri Earnshaw, Courtney Fedge, Tyler Griffen, Katie McDermott, Emily Mears, Melissa Montalavo, Alisha Moran. **Subs:** Liz Cheung-Gaffney, Amy Ludlum, Kristin Mikolwjezyk, Sylvia Stone

More about the Millburn Magic at
More about the WPSL at

www.MillburnMagic.com
www.WPSL.info/



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