

THE NEW JERSEY SOCCER GROUP

Press Release



**Magic Playoff Hopes Ended by Impressive Boston Aztec 23s Squad
Beverly, MA—July 17th, 2010**



The 2010 Millburn Magic campaign has officially come to an end after a comprehensive playoff defeat at a strong Boston Aztec 23s. The hosts took advantage of a depleted Magic roster to power through the Women's Premier Soccer League East Conference playoff.

After an even opening, the Aztecs opened the scoring in the 9th minute when Amy Caldwell won possession back just outside the Magic penalty area, and slid a through ball to Brooke Knowlton, who fired in at the far post. The advantage was doubled in the 17th minute in similar fashion. Knowlton winning the ball on Millburn's left, and crossing for Caldwell to deflect the shot past Millburn goalkeeper Claire Bennett, making it 2-0 to the hosts.

Minutes later things got better for Boston, with the Millburn defense again caught in possession and Amanda Webster subsequently fouled for a penalty which she converted, putting the Magic 3-0 down in the 25th minute.

Despite having five starters missing and a squad of only 13 available, the Magic still battled hard, and registered on the score board in the 36th minute when Laura Kurash volleyed a bouncing ball in the box into the back of the net.

As the heat climbed to over 100 degrees on the field, the second half was to prove too much for the Magic, as the Aztecs added a further three goals without response. Jess Luscinski added 10 minutes into the second period, before Webster and Lucy Gildein completed the scoring at 6-1.

The win sets up the Aztec U23s the Boston Breakers Reserves on Tuesday evening, while the Lancaster Inferno face the 2009 National Champions the Long Island Fury.

"I'm happy with our performance today, but it only gets more intense from here," said Dushawne Simpson, Head Coach of the Boston Aztec U23. "The Reserves have a lot of talent and depending on the Breakers players available, they could have a lot of firepower at their disposal."

Meanwhile, Magic Head Coach Andy Sones was in reflective mood as their season came to an end: "It was disappointing to finish a season in that way" he commented, "but I'm pleased we were able to have made the playoffs for the second year in a row. We've learned a lot from the season, and I'm sure we'll be able to continue moving forward".

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.

THE NEW JERSEY SOCCER GROUP

Press Release



Continued from page 1

And with 86 minutes gone, the build-up paid off for the fans as well as the Magic. A scrum-like crowding of the box finally allowed the ball to come to Katie McDonnell, whose shot - while seemingly cleared - was judged to have crossed the line by the linesman after the referee initially shrugged it off.

Hearts were racing around the stadium, though it would be the Torch, not the Magic, that would have the final say in the game - and only one minute after the equalizer was converted.

Ashley Lachappelle was able to seize the day as she latched on to a loose ball on the right before laying it off to Meghan Pipal. In a unique display of ball control, the forward fired a shot around defenders and teammates alike, working to her advantage. Stretching wide, the keeper couldn't prevent the ball from hitting the bottom right corner of the goal, causing heartache for the Magic against the run of play.

Andy Sones, the head coach of the Magic, was saddened by the loss. "They were a big, strong and fast team and their athletic abilities meant they were able to take advantage of us until we were really able to adapt to their style of play."

That said, he was keen to underline the hard work put in by the team. "We were on top of the Torch in the last 20 minutes of the first half, while we progressively got on top of them in the second, giving us our goals," Sones continued. "Our build up play was good, as was our pace of play and we were good at the back.

"However, they scored from one of their only chances in the second half, but I've got to hand it to them - they took the closing opportunity very well." He concluded: "We created a load of chances but we have to make sure we convert, while being focused against good counter-attacks like we saw today."

Meanwhile, Rich Sparling, the coach of the Torch, was keen to analyze the tie. "I'll tell you what... Millburn did not give up. They kept coming and we were being fought across the pitch." He continued: "I think we had better control of the game in the opening minutes. We kept the ball on the ground as Millburn won every challenge in the air. We started losing that control over the course of the game as the Magic were quite a physical team but our late goal showed what our girls are capable of."

Sparling added: "One thing's for sure... I'm not looking forward to playing them again!"

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.