

THE NEW JERSEY SOCCER GROUP

Press Release

Millburn, NJ, July 27 2009

Brave Magic Fall in Final



Millburn Magic's 2009 season came to an end on Saturday evening, as they lost 3-0 at the Long Island Fury in the Women's Premier Soccer League East Conference Final at Adelphi University. Three second half goals moved Long Island on to the WPSL Final Four, played at the same venue next weekend, for the National Championship.

"No complaints with the result", said Magic head Coach Andy Sones, "we held them for the first half, but we were tired, and just didn't have fresh bodies to keep up with them. Every one of our players gave 100% tonight, and I am very proud of what they have achieved this season". As expected, Long Island started in an attacking vein, pushing players forward, and trying to create gaps in Millburn's defense. Quick to shoot, the Fury easily out-shot the New Jersey team, but mainly from long range, with Lia Fierro comfortably dealing with all efforts. When they did get inside once, Fierro got down to her right to make a spectacular save. At the other end, Millburn were countering with menace, Lina Staropoli going close from a half-cleared corner, and Shira Averbuch testing Fury keeper Gillian Mastroanni from range with a free-kick. While happy to give up territory and possession, Millburn's heavily depleted midfield was effectively stifling the creativity of the home team. Carly Bray and Averbuch solid in the middle, and Kim Malecki and Amanda Malkiewicz working hard in wide areas, replaced by Katie McDonnell and Kelly Sims to keep energy levels up in 90 degree temperatures. Half time came with the score still at 0-0.

Long Island started the second half with renewed energy, and got the breakthrough in the 47th minute, Karin Simonian finding Alaina Bayer, who curled the ball around Fierro's left hand for 1-0. Less than five minutes later the lead was doubled, as US U20 star and Boston College captain Kelly Henderson found Rosie Hayes, whose shot squeezed past Fierro for 2-0. Long Island were prepared to sit back on that lead, as Millburn rallied to chase the game. Leah Jerome continued provided a spark in the midfield, and from her pass, Magic top scorer Katie Ryan came close with a sliding shot that beat the keeper but just evaded the post, and then almost got in behind on a through ball from Biz Shenk. It was the Villanova forward's last action of the game, as a groin strain got the better of her and she was replaced by STA and Morristown forward Kerry Prime. With Long Island relentless, their third goal arrived in the 68th minute, a good move down their left side finishing with Kelly Farrell tucking home from Jasmine Spencer's cross, making the final score 3-0.



Jerome in Action

"This was a season that exceeded expectations", Coach Sones identified after the game, "and while it's disappointing to lose, we did so giving 100%, against a team I think will be national champions a week from now. Long Island are established with a bunch of internationals and many of the best college players in the country, they were national champions in 2006, while this is only our second year as a team - and a young team at that. We had a great run in the second half of the season", he continued, "and the girls should be very proud of the way they played - beating New England and Lancaster were defining moments for us as an organization".

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, Biz Shenk, Leah Jerome, Lina Staropoli, Ashley Ventura, Carly Bray, Shira Averbuch, Kim Malecki, Amanda Malkiewicz, Laura Kurash, Katie Ryan. **Subs:** Katie McDonnell (28), Kelly Sims (32), Kelly Prime (38), Caitlin Walker

Long Island Line Up: Jill Mastroanni, Meredith Speck, Alyssa Pember, Tara Mendoza, Alaina Bayer; Kelly Henderson, Molly Bruh, Madison Haller, Cari Roccaro, Jasmyne spencer, Vicki DiMartino. **Subs:** Karin Simionan (22), Rosie Hayes (40), Cerrone (45), Kristi Alobate (74), Kelly Farrell (64), Margo McGinty (68), Kelly Stumper (75), Hannah Sarah McGrath (83), Brittany Angel (85).

More about the Millburn Magic at

www.MillburnMagic.com



The New Jersey Soccer Group
374 Speedwell Ave
Morris Plains, NJ
07950

www.njsoccergroup.com
info@njsoccergroup.com
Phone: 973-315-3098
Fax: 973-315-3104