

THE NEW JERSEY SOCCER GROUP

Press Release



Millburn, NJ, June 30th 2009

Crucial Victory for Magic in Mutiny Clash

In a dramatic and entertaining game at Millburn High School this evening, the Millburn Magic took a huge stride toward securing a place in the conference playoffs with a 1-0 victory over the New England Mutiny.

The first half opened with New England playing a direct game, but Millburn breaking effectively and creating the better chances. Lara Kaminski was enjoying an excellent performance in midfield for the Magic, whose dangerous forward partnership of Katie Ryan and Kat Sheeleigh caused problems for the visitors, the pair linking up to create the Magic's best chances. First, Ryan turned and played inside to Sheeleigh, who returned the favor with a beautiful ball splitting two defenders back into the path of Ryan who shot inched wide. Minutes later, Ryan had a double chance to open the scoring for the Magic; her first effort from Kelly Sims' cross blocked by Mutiny GK Lauren Brodeur, and her rebound strike firing just over the bar. Despite both Millburn center-backs missing the game, the Magic's defense was outstanding, with full-backs Biz Shenk and Katy Fissel dealing well with angled balls in behind them, and the middle well marshaled by Katelin Blaine and stand in defender Shira Averbuch. The teams went in deadlocked at halftime.

An intense second half began with the Mutiny having the better of the opening minutes; Erin Clark in particular looking dangerous. The Mutiny's best chance of the game came from a corner swung in from the left; the scramble that followed resulted in Kelly Sims clearing the ball off the line just in time to prevent the New Jersey team going behind. Millburn's keeper Lia Fierro kept the Mutiny at bay with some sharp stops until the Magic got back into their stride and forced the breakthrough in the 59th minute. After Brodeur was unable to deal with a ball played into the box, Sheeleigh chased the rebound, and from an almost impossible angle, forced the ball into the goal despite the best efforts of the Mutiny defenders to clear. The goal bought relief for the Magic and Head Coach Andy Sones. "We needed the win to get us into the play-offs" he commented. "That was a huge goal in the game and our season."

As players from both teams gave their all to the cause, passions rose and tempers flared, both teams having players cautioned before Sam Fortier was dismissed for the Mutiny in the 89th minute. As New England pressed, there was a still time for a spectacular save from Fierro in the dying moments to secure the points for the Magic, getting down to her left to force the ball around the post. The cheer that greeted that save was matched seconds later when the referee blew the final whistle, bringing a riveting context to an end with a 1-0 win for Millburn. "Today was a tough game in every way", said Sones, "and the way we came together to battle was key. We broke well in the first half, created the better chances throughout the game, and the defense stood up to everything thrown at it. It was close but I thought we deserved three points, and the intensity of the game was a wonderful advertisement for the league".

The win makes the New Jersey team hot favorites for the playoffs in only their second season. The Magic's final game of the season is away to the Philadelphia Liberty on July 8th. The Millburn Magic is the Northern NJ member of the WPSL, 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, Katelin Blaine, Shira Averbuch, Katy Fissel, Biz Shenk, Kim Malecki, Laura Kurash, Lara Kaminski, Kelly Sims, Kat Sheeleigh, Katie Ryan. **Subs:** Leah Jerome (31), Carly Bray (32), Kelly Feeney (79), Katie Chapin (39), Catlin Walker, Kerry Prime, Amanda Malkiewicz (23), Katie McDonnell

Mutiny Line Up: Lauren Brodeur, Karen Guron, Danielle Dakia, Casey Nowakowski, Chelsea Botta, Courtney Sands, Jenny Mauer, Riley Houle, Erin Clark, Sydney Stoll, Meghan Cunningham. **Subs:** Sam Fortier (23), Kylee McIntosh (33), Devan Boundy, Hanah Bromley (23), Cassie Ashwell.

More about the Millburn Magic at
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www.MillburnMagic.com
www.NJSoccerGroup.com



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Defender Biz Shenk