

MILLBURN MAGIC

Press Release



Millburn, NJ, Wednesday October 24th

New Women's Soccer Franchise Launched in Northern New Jersey

The Women's Premier Soccer League arrived in Northern NJ today, with the announcement of the Millburn Magic as an expansion team for the 2008 season. The WPSL, which has been around since 1998, offers the highest level of women's soccer in the United States, and has featured top international players as Julie Foudy, Shannon MacMillan and Brandi Chastain as well as many current National Team players including Abby Wambach, Shannon Boxx and National team captain Kristine Lilly.

The 2008 Magic roster will include Millburn alumni and 2006 captains Lia Fierro and Samantha Weiner, now playing at Monmouth and Cornell Colleges. The Head Coach is Andy Sones, current Millburn Girls soccer coach, and head of the Magic organization. "It's great" said Weiner, "I never thought I'd get the chance to play for a Millburn team again". Fierro agreed. "It's wonderful to be able to play at such a high level on my own doorstep", she said "and this gives everyone the chance to see high level soccer right here in town. The team has a provisional agreement to play home games at the Dr. Keith A. Neigel stadium at Millburn High School. "I feel very strongly that this is a wonderful opportunity for the sporting community in the town", said Athletic Director Ted D'Alessio, and that this is a great way to promote and develop the profile of women's soccer in Millburn".

In addition to local talent, the Magic will showcase the best players from the North Jersey area, and Sones is negotiating to bring in a number of international players from overseas – some fresh from the recent World Cup in China. "I'm working hard to attract some of the very best players in the world right here to the town", said Sones, "Millburn is full of girls who love playing soccer, and what better way to support and develop that than by providing them the best role models? When they're not playing, the Magic players will be involved training and coaching individuals and local teams in the town, so the kids can actually meet and relate to them as people as well as watching them on the field".

"We welcome the Millburn Magic to the league", said WPSL Commissioner Jerry Zanelli. "There were a number of potential candidates for the Northern NJ area, but the Magic organization combines a high level of both soccer and business expertise with a strong youth soccer infrastructure, which set them aside from the competition. We have complete confidence in their ability to be successful on and off the field moving forward". While player expenses are covered, the league is strictly amateur, and the Magic organization is working with local and regional business partners to provide sponsorship to cover transport and league operating costs.

There is considerable support from other sources: "Working with Andy on this initiative presents a tremendous opportunity to showcase women's sports and tremendous, talented athletes, said Millburn Mayor Dan Baer, "I fully support this effort which helps to bring another level of prominence to women's soccer". He continued "the entire Township benefits from the connection to this high level of competition and the opportunity for local, home grown talent to participate at the highest levels of the sport". Millburn Soccer President Kevin Willens added "this is fantastic for soccer in town. It can only help to get more kids playing and loving the game".

The Millburn Magic team will play in the WPSL Mid-Atlantic Conference against teams such as the Philadelphia Liberty and 2007 conference winners Atlantic City Diablos. Conference winners move on to national play-offs, and the current national champions are FC Indiana (Indianapolis, IN) who beat Ajax America (Redondo Beach, CA) in Tampa three months ago. The season runs May through the start of August, so players can return to college for pre-season.

More about the Millburn Magic at www.millburnmagic.com

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