

MILLBURN MAGIC

Press Release

Millburn, NJ, June 10th 2009

Lynx Stunned as Magic Fight back for Win

After two games on the road, the Millburn Magic returned to New Jersey to host the Adirondack Lynx last night at Millburn High School. After trailing 1-0 at half time, the Magic fought back for an exciting 3-1 victory. The win reignited the New Jersey team's play-off hopes, while stunning conference co-leaders Lynx, who had entered the game with an impressive 3-0 record.

The Magic opened the brighter of the two teams, Tara Ricciardi driving them forward from midfield with Kat Sheeleigh and Katie Ryan looking threatening up front. The forward pair, developing a good understanding together, created the Magic's first chance of the game; Ryan playing Sheeleigh through only for the Harvard star's effort to finish wide of the mark. The Lynx then began to get on top in the game; Tessa McDougall particularly influential in their midfield. The Lynx capitalized on their good spell in the 14th minute as McDougall put the visitors 1-0 up. Ashley Cross did well on the right side, before cutting the ball back for the unmarked McDougall to finish with a first time shot, firing the ball across Magic GK Lia Fierro. Sheeleigh and Ryan were causing numerous problems for the Lynx; with Sheeleigh generally coming short to receive the ball, and acting as provider for Ryan running in behind. Despite the pair's threat, however, the Magic were unable to find a breakthrough and went in at the half trailing 1-0.

Recognizing the need to take maximum points from the game, the Magic changed formation to 3-4-1-2 and picked up the tempo in the second half. With Laura Kurash causing problems for the Adirondack team in an attacking midfield role, the away team had less space to play in, and Millburn capitalized on this by pressing more quickly, and attacking with greater urgency. The deserved equalizer came in the 58th minute, Sheeleigh drifting inside after receiving the ball from Kim Malecki, and unleashing a curling 25 yard strike past Lynx GK Meghan Sleezer to tie the game at 1-1. Lifted by the goal, the Magic continued to press and looked the more likely to score the crucial next goal. To the joy of the home crowd – now captivated by an exciting and free-flowing game – the goal was scored by Millburn, the impressive Malecki on hand in the 67th minute, redirecting the ball past the stranded Sleezer after Sheeleigh volleyed goalward from a corner. Worthy of their lead, the New Jersey team pressed forward, trying to put the game beyond doubt, and did so in the 82nd minute courtesy of Ryan. A strong run from Ricciardi saw her beat off her opponent and penetrate the Lynx midfield before releasing Ryan. The Villanova forward showed great close control to take the ball inside the defender, before driving the ball past Sleezer with her left foot to get the goal her performance merited. The goal secured the Magic's second win and the Lynx's first defeat of the 2009 campaign.



Goal scorer Katie Ryan

After playing three games this past week, the Magic will enjoy a short break from league play, their next game being on June 21st when the team will travel to face the New York Athletic Club. 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, Ashley Ventura, Lina Staropoli, Katelin Blaine, Leah Jerome, Tara Ricciardi, Kim Malecki, Katy Fissel, Laura Kurash, Kat Sheeleigh, Katie Ryan. *Subs:* Kelly Sims (30) Carly Bray (20), Biz Shenk (63), Kelly Feeney, Caitlin Walker.

Lynx Line Up: Meghan Sleezer, Katie Gardiner, Ashley Hamel, Laura Burnett-Kurie, Rachael Sushner, Heidi Reece Mandi Casares, Tessa McDougall, Sara Wild, Ashley Cross, Chelsea Berry. *Subs:* Megan Bellingham (33), Kylie Watt (33), Becca Lee (33), Jen McEachron.

More about the Millburn Magic at
More about the WPSL at
More about NJSG at

www.MillburnMagic.com
www.WPSL.info/
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