

# **MILLBURN MAGIC**

## ***Press Release***



Thursday, March 8, 2008

### ***Magic roster strong for inaugural season***

The Millburn Magic today rolled out a strong roster for the coming 2008 season, with a combination of local, regional and international talent to represent northern New Jersey in the Women's Premier Soccer League (WPSL).

Recent Millburn graduates Lia Fierro and Sam Weiner are joined by Caitlin Fabian, representing a strong local contingent. Fierro joins on the back of an outstanding freshman season at Monmouth, where she started all but one game on the conference-winning team, also winning MVP honors at the conference championships where she did not concede a goal. Midfielder and fellow former HS captain Weiner is starring at Cornell, while Middlebury graduate and central defender Fabian joins her home town team after previously competing in the WPSL with the NY Athletic Club, before that in the English Women's Premier League with Cardiff City.

Indeed, a number of Magic players have EPL experience, with Donnique Sinclair-Chambers leading the way. The former Charlton Athletic star defender was MVP in the Women's FA Cup Final in 2005, and joins on the back of an excellent season with Watford, looking to bring her uncompromising style of play to the Magic this season. Another experienced import is former Fulham professional Deena Rahmann, an attacking midfielder currently coaching the Egyptian U21 national team. Denise Gosling and Rachel Fell make up the Brits – Gosling a well-known coach in the area looking to add some speed and flair on the right, while Fell is a tricky young winger sure to terrorize defenses through the coming season. Attacking midfielder Elin Olsson is the last of the imports, formerly of Pitea in the top flight of Swedish soccer.

Much of the Magic roster lines up as a 'who's who' of East Coast collegiate programs; Suzy Baldissard (Kinnelon) the starting keeper at Iona will provide stiff competition for Fierro, defended by Bryant graduate Stephanie Zalewski (Parsippany) and Kaitelin Blaine (Warwick, NY) of Providence – the left-sided defender looking to demonstrate a quick recovery from a knee injury which brought her freshman season to a premature end. Also from Providence is midfielder Tara Ricciardi (Wayne), who will join Liza Grimsgaard (Red Bank & Jacksonville University) in midfield. Fairfield's Christine Sidie (Governor Livingston) will be hoping to reproduce her record-setting HS exploits on the national stage, while Sidie's former club team-mate Lara Kaminski (Rahway) now starring at Montclair State, will add flair to the midfield. Syracuse midfielder Sara Grimsgaard (Red Bank) adds strength and experience in the middle of the field, while Ashley Ventura - another Red Bank graduate now playing at Towson – offers speed and strength on the left.

Stephanie Sabaliauskas' 2001-2004 goal scoring exploits at MSU set many school records which still stand today, and she will pose a goal-scoring threat for the Magic. However, she is only one of a number of potent weapons the team has: Jenn Albuja (Union City) is fresh from a record-setting 24 goal season at NJCU, in which she was also named NJAC rookie of the year, while Monmouth striker Kim Malecki (Voorhees) brings considerable own skill and flair to the attack.

All in all, head coach Andy Sones is pleased with the talent available to him in the team's first year. "It was a lot of work getting a truly competitive roster together", he said, "but we've managed to assemble a really competitive roster here of talent here while offering opportunities to local players, and keeping New Jersey heart to the team." Sones announces his full coaching staff next week.

The Magic kick off their season against the Delaware Future on Friday night May 16<sup>th</sup> at Millburn High School.

More about the Millburn Magic at [www.millburnmagic.com](http://www.millburnmagic.com)

More about the WPSL at [www.wpsl.info](http://www.wpsl.info)