

THE NEW JERSEY SOCCER GROUP

Press Release



Colonials Defeated by Italians Despite Spirited Performance
Brooklyn, NY—July 3rd, 2010



Unfortunate circumstances meant that the Morris County Colonials were unable to field a full team against the Brooklyn Italians, though that did not stop the ten starters from making the most of the first half and even getting a great lead before half-time.

Head coach Rob Alman was amazed at the performance put in by his team, despite the squad losing 3-1 at John Dewey High School in Brooklyn, NY. "The boys carried out the game plan fantastically well and restricted Brooklyn by being very disciplined defensively and keeping play in front of them. We picked our times to play and countered well despite our short numbers."

While the starting ten players were under attack from a quick Italians team from the first minute, another factor proved to be a major annoyance for the visitors: the wind. Any high balls, most notably goal kicks, lost a lot of distance, meaning the Colonials naturally found themselves sitting back inside their own half and playing it along the floor to move forward.

Three corners were awarded to the Italians in the first three minutes, though they were unable to convert, while Mario Maggia and Jonathan Yazo worked extremely hard at the other end. For the hosts, Douglas Macias, Emiliano Tramantozzi and Semso Nikocecic played a close passing game through the centre of the field to have a number of chances against Colonials keeper James Hohnau.

After 13 minutes, and despite being a man down, it would be the Colonials who drew first blood. Piling into the box, Hartwick defender Adam Mitchinson rose like a salmon to head the ball into the back of the net, though was denied by keeper Rosario Candela. Steve Jakubowski, true to form, converted the rebound to put the team up 1-0.

The pressure was still on Morris County however, though it was largely dealt with well, particularly a one-on-one opportunity for Austin Friel. Chris Vaccaro stormed across the field and put in a great tackle, while Hohnau smothered the ball. As LIU's Dan Sauerhoff and the rest of the back four continued their sterling work at the back, the Italians were forced to shoot from distance, though they still came very close, particularly with wind on their side; Conor Hunter was particularly effective, striking the crossbar though his unassisted shot. The final major chance of the half fell to the Italians as well, as Hohnau made a save with his knees to deny Tramantozzi another possible goal.

In the second half, due to a lack of personnel, Alman placed backup keeper Dany Estupinan in the outfield, switching his role between forward and midfield during the second 90 minutes. "Unfortunately, this only lasted for ten minutes before we were reduced to ten men again by the referee," Alman continued, pointing to the sending-off of Jonathan Veloz with a second yellow card after 55 minutes.

"Still, the guys continued to fight hard despite many calls going against them," the head coach continued. "Sadly, these calls turned the game in Brooklyn's favor, but I give them credit for taking advantage of the calls that went their way. Their front runners were excellent and kept us occupied throughout the game. As the game wore on they were able to stretch us and create chances."

The first came from a free kick, which Juan Marillo curled over the wall. Denied by a Hohnau parry, the keeper was unable to clear a header from Hunter, who tapped into the empty net on 50 minutes. The second came after the Colonials had a clear penalty decision waved away, as Yazo was brought down on the corner of the box. A minute later, the Italians marched up the field and converted their second; Macias played a through ball to Tramantozzi, who toe-poked the ball home from five yards out on the left.

Many onlookers may have found it difficult to believe that the Colonials were reduced to ten, as their determination was unmatched. Yazo in particular proved to be a huge asset, fighting every tackle until the very end and unleashing several chances that went extremely close to being fired home. However, every player on the field did their best to get back into the game, though were ultimately undone on 80 minutes by the third Brooklyn goal, slotted in at a tight angle by Matt Friel.

"I couldn't have asked for more from our guys today," Alman said after the game. "Every player worked very hard and even short of numbers we managed to create plenty of chances to score. It was an absorbing game against a good team which ultimately was decided by three or four decisions that could have gone either way. The guys were disappointed with the result and felt they deserved to take something from the game which I think shows just how well they performed in difficult circumstances and just how close they have become as a group this season."

The [Morris County Colonials](#) are members of the [National Premier Soccer League](#), the highest level of men's amateur soccer in the United States. They 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.

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He said the team has come a long way since its 3-0 defeat to the Colonials earlier in the season: "We'd just played three games in four days so our guys were tired and our starters were depleted, though we're a much better team now. We're finishing our chances a little better. Some of our players have really come on too - they play hard from top to bottom and I couldn't be happier with them.

"We'll hopefully move forward against the Mountaineers and get a win this coming Thursday. We still need to improve our defensive shape for consistency, but we have strength in depth and that was proved today," Martone concluded.

Alman said after the game: "The second half was made scrappy due to the stop start nature of the game, which sadly spoiled the game as a spectacle. Playing our second game in two days and being a man short, I was happy with how hard our guys worked right up until the final whistle. We never stopped trying to win the game and to be so positive on the road was pleasing."

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