

# ***THE NEW JERSEY SOCCER GROUP***

## ***Press Release***



**Admirals are Admirable in 4-1 Win  
Erie, PA—June 5th, 2010**



The New Jersey Blaze suffered a defeat Saturday night at the hands of the Erie Admirals, with three scorers handing the visiting southern NJ squad a 4-1 loss at Gannon University Field in Pennsylvania.

“We started very slowly,” said head coach Rob Napier, who was sad with the result following a spirited comeback against Pocono Snow in the home opener on May 28th. “Physically and mentally, we were still on the bus despite a good warm-up and pre-match team-talk. They punished a defensive error for their first goal and from there it was an uphill climb.”

It would be Conor Meade who converted the opener after nine minutes, firing a left foot finish across the goalmouth and into the back of the net. “Confidence and communication were affected from that point onwards and we knew that the Admirals were certainly a good team - they were very vocal and had an excellent presence on the field,” Napier continued. “With a lot of English players adopting their typical national style, it proved to be a challenge as our lads had to adapt to what was, for them, a new approach by opposition this season.”

Andrew Carr headed home to put the Admirals 2-0 after 21 minutes, as Erie became comfortable with a direct route of play, leading a physical game in both the air and on the field. First touches and passing cohesion also worked in the Admirals’ favor, resulting in the third goal after 42 minutes from Afrim Latifi. The striker went unassisted, claiming a clearance and finishing at the near post.

Keen to make amends for their performance in the first half, Napier and the team worked extremely hard to make amends with a strong team talk at the break. “The Admirals were playing excellent football in every aspect possible and we had to step up our game and ensure we gave it our all, showing more desire and determination in every challenge. I was pleased with the improved performance in the second half despite the damage already done in terms of the scoreline; it was reflective of our desire to boost our confidence.”

The 4-4-2 approach of the Admirals would soon notch up another goal, however. “They worked extremely well in this style and played to their strengths,” Napier continued, pointing to Meade’s second of the game, when the striker put his head to the ball before anyone else from an inswinging free-kick.

“They were remarkably efficient in front of goal,” he explained, adding: “They executed their set-pieces well. However, we still didn’t want to give up and kept pushing, and we got our own goal as a result in the closing minutes.” It came from South Brunswick local Coron Short, the captain of the team who also excelled last week against the Snow. A well-timed run and header from Short complemented William Paterson junior forward Julian Valerio’s free-kick perfectly. “It was a true moment of quality and a nice way to end the game,” Napier added.

Tomorrow, the squad must face Buffalo in another long-distance away trip, though the head coach is much more upbeat about the future. “We’ll take the fact that we had a good reaction in the second half and finished strongly as momentum for tomorrow night’s clash,” he concluded. “The team knows what it needs to improve and we’ll be looking for a significant boost in all areas of the game to get three points before returning to New Jersey.

“I trust the lads to deliver a much better performance against Buffalo.”

The [New Jersey Blaze](#) are the central New Jersey 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.