

THE NEW JERSEY SOCCER GROUP

Press Release



Sonic Runs Rings Around Tired Blaze
Bethlehem, PA—May 16th, 2010



Despite a great beginning to the team's season and career as an NPSL squad, the New Jersey Blaze struggled to replicate this success in their second game in as many days as new starters FC Sonic triumphed 4-0 at Lehigh University's Ulrich Sports Complex in Bethlehem, PA.

After confirmation that Liam O'Donnell would be out for six months following a clash of heads with a teammate in the previous game that led to a fractured cheekbone, as well as a strain from the previous encounter that made goalscorer Larry Geraghty pull up in pre-game training, it would prove much harder for the already tired Blaze to maintain the strength they showed against the Pocono Snow. FC Sonic had a point to prove, and duly made it in front of their home fans.

The first of the four goals came after 23 minutes from Leslie Fraser, who confidently headed home a cross from Jordie Ciuffetti, signalling the first goal under the new team name. While this exhibited great skill from FC Sonic around the Blaze defense, it would be a series of blunders that would ultimately undo the previous day of hard work for the latter squad.

A mistimed header from the Blaze defense would land the ball at the feet of Sonic forward Ricky Mucelli, who had his back to the goal. Turning, he was able to negotiate a challenge before hammering home the second past keeper Kevin Gramata. Going into the half, the score was 2-0, though it could have been one or two more from the Sonic, who were kept out of the net by a number of strong saves from Gramata.

Fraser again opened the scoring in the second half after questionable defending from the Blaze allowed the ball to roll across the face of goal from the foot of Carlington Lamont, converted from the left at the back post. Lamont would later boost his points with an impressive solo effort that saw him take on a handful of defenders from the right corner before slamming it home from a tight angle past the near post.

In stark contrast to the fast, flowing football that was played the previous day in East Stroudsburg against Pocono, head coach Rob Napier stressed how consistency between the two games was simply not maintained. "Our performance was disappointing as we didn't really compete and made too many basic errors, both with and without the ball," he explained. "FC Sonic are a good team and our mistakes were punished."

Despite missing two starters and taking into account tiredness from the previous game, Napier was keen to stress that this should never be used as an excuse. He concluded: "We'll learn from this game and it will serve as a reminder of what we need to improve ahead of our home opener against the Snow."

Eleven days are now free in the schedule for Napier and the team to ensure that it is a repeat three points against Pocono in the Blaze's opening home game on May 28th at 7:30pm. Those wanting to get behind the guys should head to South Brunswick Soccer Club's Rowland Park to see the match.

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.