

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

## ***Press Release***



**Well-Rested Blaze Try For Repeat Result in Home Opener  
Haddonfield, NJ—May 27th, 2010**



After an 11-day gap in the schedule for NPSL newcomers the New Jersey Blaze, it is hoped the squad will be able to bounce back from a heavy defeat to FC Sonic by replaying their first battle of the season, though this time on home turf.

Led by head coach Rob Napier, the team will run out for the first time at Rowland Park in South Brunswick to face Pocono Snow, the side the Blaze beat 1-0 in the franchise's 2010 opener at Eiler-Martin Stadium in East Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania. However, the game was not without its down sides, despite the club taking all three points back to New Jersey.

During the clash, Irish forward Liam O'Donnell was rendered incapacitated for the season after a clash of heads with a teammate left the player with serious facial injuries. His fractured cheek and eye socket meant O'Donnell's season was over before it really began, meaning there was less firepower for the following day against the Sonic, again away in PA.

Additionally, Larry Geraghty, who got the vital goal against the Snow, was also forced to sit out the next day's match-up after he pulled a muscle when converting the ball into the net. It is anticipated that the long rest will allow him to play in the rematch this Friday.

Despite this issue, Napier had a lot of concerns following the 4-0 loss in the last game, maintaining that a lot of things needed to be fine-tuned in preparation for the opener in NJ. He said after the Sonic tie: "Our performance was disappointing as we didn't really compete and made too many basic errors, both with and without the ball. FC Sonic are a good team and our mistakes were punished.

"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," he added.

Napier will also be taking Pocono's record into account since the Blaze's victory on May 15th. The following Friday on May 21st, Pocono beat TSC MD Red Devils 2-0 on the road, while repeating the scoreline at home to FC Reading Revolution on Sunday. Now topping the league, the Snow have already established their presence in the Keystone Conference, and this needs to be eroded by the Blaze for a chance at success in the division in the long run.

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.