

THE NEW JERSEY SOCCER GROUP

Press Release



Blaze Fall Short Against Erie in Rematch
South Brunswick, NJ - June 25th, 2010



The Erie Admirals were able to overcome the New Jersey Blaze once more in a 2-1 victory Friday, though the game would not prove to be as easily won as their previous meeting at the beginning of the month in what was quite an evenly-matched tie.

It would be the Blaze that would strike first on home territory, getting a much-needed early goal after several games where the squad fell behind early, only to have to fight back for a result. Nonetheless, the Admirals - who now top the Keystone Conference of the National Premier Soccer League with a 6-1 record - were able to maintain their composure and come back from behind.

Additionally, Erie also scored all three goals. After just nine minutes, the ball was whipped into the box by captain and South Brunswick local Coron Short. His ball took a deflection off a defender and past Dan Mudd, handing the Blaze a 1-0 advantage early. "A brighter start definitely helped and we knew what their game plan would be, so we were better prepared this time around," said head coach of the Blaze Rob Napier.

Ansgar Otto used his renowned pace to attack the flanks against Erie, while Lee Selby excelled in getting hold of loose balls and attacking the midfielders that came his way to win the ball back. Cory Bachstein, meanwhile, proved to be a rock at the back, showing determination against threats coming forward.

However, the Admirals would eventually get on top of the game again. "It was very disappointing that two lapses in concentration ultimately made the difference," said Napier, addressing the comeback goals. "We were punished for not being able to convert the balls at the other end."

The first came from Afrim Latifi, who powered the ball into the back of the net after 23 minutes following a free kick that was not cleared. It would soon be followed before the end of the half by another set-piece display by the Admirals, though this time it would be Erik Beattie with the final ball, converting the goal with a crisp header past Blaze keeper Kevin Davis.

However, the second half would prove to be one during which the Blaze grew stronger, closing the match yet again on a high - though ultimately not getting the vital second goal. "We were winning more first and second balls than in the last game," Napier continued. "We played some dangerous balls into the box, while showing improvements in communication and desire for the ball."

A number of substitutes made the most of their opportunities in the closing stages of the game. Alexis Gallice, the French midfielder who came on for fellow countryman Mathieu Larroutourou, played a number of good crosses into the area, while Moises Iniguez had a couple of excellent chances, though was denied by Mudd.

The head coach was pleased with the overall performance, as the club continues to build its strengths as its inaugural season progresses. "We'll be focusing on the positives from tonight, while also tweaking the elements of our game which need improving," Napier concluded. "Our performance was good tonight, even though we didn't get anything to show for it. If we perform in the same way against Buffalo, I'm confident we can get all three points."

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.