

THE NEW JERSEY SOCCER GROUP

Press Release



**Sara Keane Nets Big East Championship, All-Tournament Honors
South Brunswick, NJ--November 6nd, 2011**



There was little doubt that the Blaze's own Sara Keane would net Big East Championship All-Tournament Team honors for her efforts between the pipes for the West Virginia Mountaineers; however, what counted for the young player was a first-season conference title, which her team duly claimed after an excellent 2-0 win against Louisville today (November 6th).

Goals from forwards Blake Miller and Frances Silva, paired with an excellent defensive effort, sent #11 West Virginia past Louisville in front of 1,550 fans at Dick Dlesk Soccer Stadium in the Big East Women's Soccer Championship. It is the second consecutive title for the Mountaineers, as well as their third in five years, and meant confirmed that their last loss in a league tournament was in the semi-finals of the 2009 Championship. The victory also gives WVU an automatic berth into the 64-team Division I NCAA Championship.

Louisville were down 1-0 at the half after a well-taken penalty kick from Miller, though they really tested Keane - the Mountaineers and New Jersey Blaze starter goalkeeper - throughout the game. The first two minutes of the second half saw Keane picking a close chance out of the air following a bullet header, while she also managed to bring down Jennifer Jones' plucky distance shot a few minutes later.

Silva would net the second and final goal in the game, firing home after a beautiful cross from junior defender Bry McCarthy and claiming her eighth goal of the year. West Virginia outshot Louisville, 14-12, though coach Nikki Izzo-Brown was quick to highlight the silent strength of the defense.

"The whole back five, plus Keane, were outstanding today," said Izzo-Brown. "Special teams do special things, and it takes a special team to win back-to-back championships in this league. You'll never be disappointed by the hard work these women put on the field."

Alongside Keane on the All-Tournament Team included McCarthy - who was also named the Most Outstanding Defensive Player - as well as Silva, Miller and freshman forward Kate Schwindel.

The New Jersey Blaze are members of the National Premier Soccer League and Women's Premier Soccer League, the highest levels of 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.