

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

## ***Press Release***



**Select Restrict League Leaders to One-Goal Advantage in Season Closer**  
**Lancaster, PA—July 9th, 2010**



The Jersey Select team improved on their last result against the Lancaster Inferno dramatically but were unable to prevent the loss against the table-toppers, losing 1-0 in their final game of the 2010 WPSL season.

On the wrong side of 7-0 in a one-way game at home last month, the Select were looking to win back pride against the leaders of the East Mid-Atlantic Conference, who have remained unbeaten over nine games, even overcoming last year's national champions the Long Island Fury 1-0 away from home.

A goal from Erin Hench was enough to separate the teams. In a quality display, the striker latched onto a shot that was cleared off the line, firing in off the rebound. Despite this, the Select were able to record a shutout in the second period after an extremely solid team display, finishing a tough season on a high despite the loss.

Erwin van Bennekom, the co-head coach of the Select, was extremely happy with the display despite the loss, believing that it proved the squad was building a great base for the team next season. "The girls did very well this weekend," he said. "The average age gap between the squads was about four years - we were playing a young and relatively inexperienced squad compared to the Inferno, but it didn't show on the pitch tonight. Everyone responded well and I think we could have got more from the game, though Lancaster were effective and impressive."

Many things had changed since the last tie against the league leaders, he explained. One was how the girls kept hold of the ball. "We were giving away possession within the first five or six seconds of getting the ball last time we played the Inferno, though the girls really worked hard together this time around and it was reflected in the scoreline," van Bennekom continued. "Communication was much better, particularly at the back, and [keeper] Alex Post had great conversations with the defense in the second half."

However, it would ultimately be the strength and experience of the Inferno that led to the win for the home team. "I think they were a very physical team and tried to use this presence to break down our squad," the head coach added. "We restricted a lot of the team's opportunities and they sometimes got a little frustrated, though we were unable to do the same at the other end and really pressure Lancaster at the back."

Many players stood out to van Bennekom during the game. He explained that many of them put in some of the best solo performances of the season, notably Madison Clemens, Brenna Rubino and Sarah Senoyuit. "The players were able to find space but also close it down when the Inferno got the ball. Passing was a lot more fluid and on the break, we looked very promising."

Despite a 1-7 record for the 2010 campaign, van Bennekom was happy with the girls in the Select's inaugural season. "Things are never easy in the first year," he continued. "We found that the league was filled with big, strong teams with lots of experience of this level of football. Our team learned as they went along, especially given that they are younger than most squads in the WPSL."

He added: "We have a good mixture of young and old players and we believe that we're creating an excellent environment for younger players in the league. We will show what we've learned next year."

The [Jersey Select](#) are members of the [Women's Premier Soccer League](#), the highest level of women'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.