

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

## ***Press Release***



**Maryland Find Pride in Second-Half Performance Against Select  
Haddonfield, NJ—July 7th, 2010**



The Maryland Pride visited Haddonfield to claim all three points, though a solid first-half performance by the Jersey Select proved that the squad could have claimed a draw over the visitors, despite the Pride's tenacity.

"I think tonight we got what we've been deserving," said Steve Knapman, the head coach of the Pride. "We've played very well all season but little mistakes have cost us vital points and wins. In tonight's game, the focus of the players enabled us to play well all over the pitch and we got the deserved win"

Select players put early pressure on the Pride defense, though the visitors proved to be strong at the back, notably through the centre-back partnership of Emily Janss and Megan Watson. On the counter, the Pride had a number of close chances, including one from Dianna Berrara, who forced a stretching save from Alex Post. Hayley Howe hit the crossbar and Anabel Jiminez also tried her luck, though the Select remained resolute.

The back line of Janss, Watson, Bailey Bodelt and Howe continued to push forward to force the Select to sit back in their zone, though a lack of clear-cut chances brought on by the Select's impressive tackling and a restriction in chances stopped the Pride from converting, ending the first half 0-0.

Erwin van Bennekom, the co-head coach of the Select, said after the game: "I thought we played really well in the first half. We restricted their chances and kept the pressure on. It was a big improvement since our last game and we showed that the younger players on our team continue to put in hard work along with the more experienced members of the team."

Knapman continued: "We changed our formation in the second half and we saw they had three at the back, and we knew we were possessing the ball well so we also pushed three up front. It gave us more width and we needed to get behind the five midfielders."

After 62 minutes, the Pride got their breakthrough. Blazing down the right wing, Amy O'Sullivan crossed the ball across the face of goal, allowing Berrara to fire it home near to the back post. It would be added to only five minutes later when Karyn Farrar helped out fellow forward Stephanie Eyler by passing the ball forward before Eyler struck the underside of the crossbar, which allowed the ball to bounce into the back of the net. A stalemate developed for the closing 15 minutes as the Pride locked down a 4-4-2 formation, closing down more Select opportunities.

All the players had a good game tonight," said Knapman. "Many of our holding players and defenders allowed other players to play freely around them. We have one game left against Chesapeake and hopefully we'll go into it positively and with confidence like tonight. The goals we scored against the Select will help us move forward."

Meanwhile, van Bennekom added: "The pride are a solid team and they put us under a lot of pressure, but the girls were great tonight and I think we improved a lot after our last game."

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.