



BOUNCINGS

4 Jan 07



Wisla B

5 : 7

Byki

A Team - NSL 1st Division
Odeum - 29 December 2006

Goal explosion just what Byki need

The Byki rebounded from yet another shaky start, scoring five unanswered goals and turned a 4:2 deficit into a 7:4 lead in a span of 10:19. The shocking reversal propelled the Byki to their second victory of the season, as Zach Dance, Matt Fleming and Todd Mayer each contributed a pair of goals in the well-balanced attack. At 2-1-4, the Byki aren't impressing anyone yet, but nabbing seven points in their last four matches is a good way to gather momentum.

The game was not shaping up to be a pleasant one. Wisla's B Team, 3-1-2 in the early part of the season, offered a good combination of youth and skill. In previous indoor encounters, the Byki have often had trouble coping with the pace of the young teams. Although the Byki did a lot of chasing in the first half, they turned the tables on Wisla in the second frame. "By the middle of the second half, they looked really tired," Fleming said of his opponents.

Despite have twice as many as substitutes as the Byki, the Wisla players were dragging their heels as the Byki turned on their offensive afterburners. "We made quick passes and got behind their defense," said coach George Gorecki.

"Combine that with some really lethal finishing, and we dominated the game after a certain point."

Thanks to a host of late scratches, the Byki roster stood at only ten players at kickoff. The players managed their playing time intelligently, so fatigue was never a factor. But Wisla came blasting out of the gates, and it looked like it was going to be a long night for the Byki as they stared at an ungainly 3:1 deficit at the break.

The Byki went on the defensive from the outset. Wisla came strong and fast, and did not hesitate to cut loose with shots from long distance. The Byki did not help their cause by accumulating three time penalties in the first half, all of which were exasperating.

Wisla's early pressure resulted in a shot that glanced off of the post 4:11 into the game and they grabbed the lead 1:18 later as they sped past the stagnant Byki on 3 v 2 counterattack.

With 11:44 left in the half, Wisla went on the power play when Dance and David Green botched a line change and the Byki got nailed with a penalty for too many men on the field. The call left Gorecki fuming. "That was a terrible call," he said. "We didn't violate the spirit of the rule because Zach was inside the restraining line and took himself out of the play as David entered the field." During the power play, Jorge de la Cruz made two sparkling saves in succession from short range and Mayer nearly nabbed a shorthanded goal when he took on three Wisla defenders at midfield. After sprinting into the clear, Mayer drilled a hard shot that was saved by the keeper.

The Byki equalized with 9:17 to go on a cleverly executed corner kick. Mayer slipped a short pass to Fleming, who had made an anonymous run to the near post. Fleming side-footed an easy shot into the back of the net from close range.

Wisla went on the power play shortly thereafter, when Josh Taylor gave an earful to the referee from the bench after Fleming was slammed hard into the boards. "That penalty was poor discipline," said Gorecki. "But I was partially to

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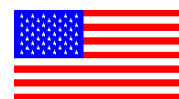
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blame. Once I started yelling at the referee for the first blue card, it set a bad example for the players. When I tell the guys to shut up and play, I should take my own advice once in a while.”

Moments later, Dance and a Wisla player took a walk to the sin bin, as the referees wanted to assert control of the match. The Byki killed off the man advantage, but the fireworks began at the end of the ensuing 4-on-4 situation. Chris Moore stole the ball at midfield and bore down on the goal from the left wing. The keeper saved his shot and Paul Mansur was poised to knock the rebound home. But the keeper reacted well and snuffed Mansur’s shot as well. That stop ignited a Wisla counter, which they converted into a 2:1 lead as the players returned from the penalty boxes.

The Byki had a great chance to tie with 3:38 left when Taylor controlled the ball in the deep corner and dropped a pass for Mayer. The midfielder found the target, but was denied by the post.

Wisla got a gift goal with 0:13 left when de la Cruz and Minos Bouzoukis collided while trying to clear a high ball out the Byki area. Neither could reach the ball, which was tapped into the empty by a Wisla player.

Gorecki wanted his team to start the second half with a clean slate and forget about the mistakes and strange occurrences of the first half. “I had no idea how the team would respond, given the weirdness of the game and our lack of subs,” he noted. “Our veteran experience was a big asset because the guys really made a huge turnabout.”

The Byki wasted little time, pulling to within 3:2 in the first 0:58 of the half. The Byki moved the ball around with precise little passes that made scoring the goal the easiest part of the process. Mayer sent the ball to Green at the top of the arc. Green turned and immediately dished to Fleming. Seeing the keeper rushing out, Fleming delicately dinked the ball underneath him for his fifth goal of the campaign. With five goals and four assists in just seven matches, Fleming has already surpassed his career-best indoor output with the Byki.

The air rushed out of the Byki balloon just 0:30 later, when Wisla converted a foolish turnover in the Byki defensive third into a goal. The Byki were down 4:2 and it looked like nothing would go right for them this night.

But it turns out that the Byki were merely warming to the task. With 3:50 gone in the second frame, Chris Moore floated a free kick from the red line into the box for Dance. The striker took a terrific first touch with his chest, allowing him to immediately get into shooting position. The Wisla goalie made a diving save to deny Dance.

The Byki scoring machine revved its engines with 14:02 left in the game. Gabi Dziekiewicz made a crunching tackle

at midfield to dispossess a Wisla player and played the ball to Mayer. The midfielder deked past a defender, picked his spot and slotted the ball past the keeper at the far post.

The Byki equalized with 12:32 to go. Mayer led the attack down the left side and made a simple centering pass to Dance in the box. Dance drilled a first-time shot just under the bar to level things at 4:4.

Mayer scored a highlight-reel goal to put his team ahead midway through the second half. Fleming played a simple ball off of the back boards, angling the ricochet to wind up in the middle of the penalty area at Mayer’s feet. Mayer made a deft flick and smashed a volley past the stunned goalkeeper.

The score went to 6:4 with 5:47 to go. Dance found himself trapped in the right corner with the ball and used patience and vision to create a goal out of a situation that looked like it was nothing. He held the ball, waiting for a teammate to make a run. Suddenly, Moore flashed into the open on the left side of the box. Dance gave him the ball and Moore blasted his shot first-time just inside the post.

The Byki sealed the deal with 3:43 left when Fleming cleared the ball out of the Byki end. The pass was meant to relieve pressure, but it wound up creating pressure for the Wisla defense. Dance sprinted past the tired fullbacks to win the ball and wound up face to face with the keeper, who had sprinted out of his box to reach the ball first. The goalie appeared to be in position to win the ball, but when he pulled out of the challenge at the last second, Dance made a delicate touch to put the ball behind him. It was a simple matter for Dance to walk the ball into the net.

The result was a good sign, as the Byki see themselves as a team on the rise. To be a genuine competitor in the 1st Division, however, the team will have to give their top effort from start to finish and eliminate the shakiness that has plagued them in the early minutes of nearly every match this season.

Note: Video highlights of all of the goals from this match can be viewed at: <http://www.nslchicago.org/indoor/week7/StareBykiWislaB.wmv>

BYKI SCORING SUMMARY

1st: Fleming 4 (Mayer); 9:43; 1:1.

2nd: Fleming 5 (Green); 0:58; 2:3. Mayer 2 (Dziekiewicz); 4:58; 3:4. Dance 3 (Mayer); 6:28; 4:4. Mayer 3 (Fleming); 10:44; 4:5. Moore 1 (Dance); 13; 13; 4:6. Dance 4 (Fleming); 15:17; 4:7.

BYKI LINEUP (2-2-1): de la Cruz – Dziekiewicz, Mansur, P Jr – Bouzoukis, Fleming – Dance (c). **Bench:** Green, Mayer, Moore, Taylor.

NATIONAL SOCCER LEAGUE STANDINGS

December 29, 2006
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MAJOR DIVISION

Red Section	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts	Blue Section	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
RWB Adria A	7	5	1	1	23	14	16	SC BiH	7	6	0	1	24	13	18
FK Kozarac	7	5	1	1	28	20	16	West Bosnia SC	7	5	1	1	24	10	16
NK Prijedor	7	3	2	2	25	22	11	Outlanders SC	7	3	1	3	22	20	10
CKS Warta	7	2	2	3	20	24	8	B-H Lilies	7	2	1	4	21	22	7
HNNK Hrvat	7	2	1	4	12	17	7	Royal FC	7	2	0	5	12	30	6
RWB Adria B	7	0	1	6	12	24	1	SAC Wisla	7	1	1	5	15	22	4

FIRST DIVISION

Red Section	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts	Blue Section	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
FC Romania	7	7	0	0	41	14	21	Honduras SC	7	7	0	0	34	9	21
KF Ulqin	7	6	0	1	32	10	18	Albanian Stars	7	7	0	0	42	18	21
Deportivo Colomex	7	5	0	2	27	19	15	West Bosnia B	7	5	2	0	21	8	17
Khaboor FC	7	4	1	2	25	12	13	Chicago Thunder A	7	4	2	1	27	11	14
FK Podrinje	7	4	0	3	26	17	12	Pitbulls	7	4	0	3	20	14	12
SAC Wisla B	7	3	1	3	17	21	10	Real Independiente	7	3	1	3	12	15	10
B-H Lilies B	7	3	1	3	19	22	10	Lemont FC	7	3	1	3	24	24	10
FK Bosanska Dubica	7	3	0	4	20	18	9	Lake Shore SC	7	1	1	5	8	21	4
Stare Byki FC	7	2	1	4	22	27	7	HNNK Hrvat B	7	1	1	5	13	30	4
Oak Park Tricycles	7	1	2	4	15	24	5	Royal FC B	7	1	0	6	16	42	3
CKS Warta C	7	1	0	6	9	39	3	CKS Warta B	7	0	2	5	19	33	2
Chicago Thunder B	7	0	1	6	6	34	1	Chicago Inter Bulldogs	7	0	1	6	17	30	1

OVER 30 DIVISION

	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
Outlanders SC	6	4	2	0	37	16	14
RWB Adria B	6	4	2	0	33	17	14
NK Prijedor	6	3	0	3	23	38	9
HNNK Hrvat	6	2	2	2	27	20	8
RWB Adria A	6	2	2	2	19	20	8
SAC Wisla	6	2	0	4	27	25	6
Hellas SC	6	0	0	6	13	43	0