



BOUNCINGS

4 Jan 08



Byki

2 : 3

West Bosnia

A Team - NSL 1st Division
Odeum - 28 December 2007

Byki best effort not good enough

The Byki picked a good time to play their best football of the season last Friday when they took on perennial powerhouse West Bosnia SC. Despite having only three substitutes on the bench, the Byki played a smart game and were looking good with a 2:0 lead early in the second half. But the roof caved in soon afterwards and the Bosnians scored three unanswered goals to run off with a 3:2 victory.

A dejected locker room told one side of the story, but the display on the field gave a solid view of the kind of team the Byki can be. Their inability to hold things together at the end may have been the result of fatigue or inexperience, but they demonstrated that they can take on an elite team and play with them on even terms.

West Bosnia are a familiar opponent for the Byki, but the sides have not met in indoor play ever since the Bosnians earned promotion to the Major Division in 2004. West Bosnia are back in the 1st Division in 2007-08 because they voluntarily pulled back after their club's management reportedly chose to stop paying out money to individual players. Knowing that it would be difficult to compete with

the NSL's top clubs, the Bosnians returned to the 1st Division with a revamped outlook.

The Byki looked confident and played with poise in the opening phase of the match. It was a welcome turnaround from the chaotic and disjointed performances that have plagued the team so far this season. The first good chance to break the ice came with 8:42 left in the first half. With the Byki working the ball smartly on the power play, Gabi Dziekiewicz threaded an exquisite pass up the middle from the halfway line, finding Jeff Samp unmarked in the penalty area. Samp turned immediately and shot quickly, but the keeper was in the right spot and snared Samp's shot attempt.

The Byki found the back of the net with 3:21 left. Dan Stanley led a Byki counterattack and fed Samp on the right side of the West Bosnia penalty area. Samp saw Abraham Ruiz making a move to the far post and dissected the defense with a brilliant diagonal pass. Once Ruiz managed to get the ball under control, he slid it home for his second goal in as many matches.

The half ended with another near-miss for the Byki. Stanley teed one up from outside the arc, but was denied by a diving save from the goalkeeper. The Byki had played some solid soccer at both ends in the first and were richly rewarded for their efforts.

They went two goals to the good after 1:39 of the second half. After the Bosnians sent the ball out of play from their own box, the Byki got a free kick at the top of the arc. Striker Kevin Biggs espied a loose defensive wall by the Bosnians and crushed the free kick through the space, finding the corner of the goal. Biggs leads the team with four goals scored this season.

The two-goal deficit appeared to rouse the Bosnians from their slumber, and suddenly, it was one-way traffic toward the Byki goal. The Bosnians got an undeserved break to set up their first goal. Keeper Ryan Eliasek came out to cut off the angle on a near-post shot and got tangled up with the

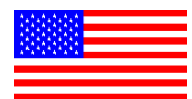
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shooter to win possession of the loose ball. With both players on the turf, the referee inexplicably signaled a two-minute penalty on Eliasek. The Bosnians needed only seconds on their power play to send a pass into the box for a simple tap-in to make it 2:1.

Moments later, the Bosnians won a header battle at the top of the arc and drilled a hard shot on frame, where Eliasek came up with a tough save. Eliasek was bailing out his teammates again after a costly turnover at the Byki red line when he dove to keep the ball out of the goal.

West Bosnia found their equalizer with 7:47 to go in the match. A West Bosnia striker held the ball under fierce pressure by the Byki defense and somehow spotted an open teammate at the far post. He passed the ball into the teammate's path, leaving Eliasek stranded.

The Byki thought that they had regained the lead with 3:27 to go. Eliasek threw the ball long to Biggs, who ran wide with it. He sent the ball to the top of the box for Samp. With the keeper out of position after expecting Biggs to shoot,

it was a simple task for Samp to hammer the ball into the empty net. A West Bosnia defender dove in front of his goal and miraculously got his head in the path of Samp's shot.

Just 0:44 later, the Bosnian comeback was complete. Their striker launched a long-range bomb from the red line that screamed into the upper corner of the goal. The Byki put the Bosnians under considerable pressure at the end, but they could not find an equalizer, and cruelly walked off the field with nothing to show for their outstanding effort.

Samp was one player not interested in moral victories. "We're up 2:0 with ten minutes left," he snapped afterwards. "We have to put that game away."

BYKI SCORING SUMMARY

Ruiz 2 (Samp); 15:39; 1:0. Biggs 4; 20:39; 2:0.

BYKI LINEUP (2-1-2): Eliasek – Rose, Bouzoukic – Samp – Stanley, Biggs. **Bench:** Dziekiewicz, Ruiz, Sphar.

Byki

1 : 4

Arabian FC

Over 30 Team - NSL Over 30 Division
Odeum - 28 December 2007

Byki giveaways lead to loss

The Byki Over 30s lost their seventh game in a row last Friday when they fell 4:1 to a tough Arabian FC side. The have now played everybody in the Over 30 Division once and the task facing the Byki is the stark reality of navigating a minefield at the Odeum every Friday night.

For the fourth match in their last five, the Byki have played on level terms with their opponent in the first half, only to see things fall apart in the second frame. It happened again against Arabian FC, but the Byki spent a majority of the contest trying to recover from unforced turnovers that were too numerous to count.

The Arabians have been one of the more powerful sides in the Over 30 Division since their club stopped organizing a team in the NSL's Senior Divisions. Under the name Jerusalem Jets, the team was a solid mid-table club in the Major Division. But once the group got old together and new recruitment was not successful, the Arabians set their focus on Over 30 play and their quality has been obvious.

The Byki have faced the Jets many times when the Jets were still playing in the 1st Division, and Friday's encounter was certainly a reunion of old foes well-known to one another. The Byki never did beat the Jets in Senior competition, and this last match very much had the feel of those previous games.

The Arabians had the first serious chance in the early moments of the contest. A quick counterattack broke down the Byki defense, and with keeper Ray Najera off his line to intervene, an Arabian goal seemed inevitable. Defender Wei Zhang was in the right place, however, and cleared an Arabian shot to safety.

The Byki settled down on defense and did a good job of plugging up the openings in the back. The Arabians played patiently, although many of them did not appreciate the physical marking employed by many of the Byki.

Things turned for the Byki in the eighth minute of the contest when they unexpectedly snatched the lead. Steven Pedlow played a simple pass along the wing to Dan Jedrzejowski. The midfielder looked ready to move the ball to a teammate, but saw the defense backing away. When he spotted an opportunity to shoot, Jedrzejowski fired immediately, catching the Arabian keeper by surprise.

The lead didn't last long, as the Arabians drew level with 9:35 left in the half. They swung the ball smartly from left to right and found the open man as the Byki scrambled to cover. The shot from just outside the box gave Najera no chance.

Najera made several sharp saves to keep the Byki in the chase. Overall, the team were doing a good job of keeping

the Arabians bottled up. The biggest problem for the Byki, however, was having to spend so much time defending. Rather than play a patient game of ball possession, the Byki attacked as though they had been shot out of a rifle. The rapid and numerous giveaways kept the Byki on the back foot and they really had to be grateful for the 1:1 scoreline at the break.

The Byki reminded one another the importance of maintaining possession, but the team failed to execute the simple game plan. A good side like Arabian FC can only be held in check for so long and the Arabians eventually found the cracks in the Byki defense that would lead to more goals.

The Byki created a flurry in front of the Arabian goal in the first minute of the second half when Marek Ciszewski and Pedlow worked a nice give-and-go play to open up the Arabian defense. The keeper came out fast to break up the play.

Moments later, the Arabians got the lead when they caught the Byki sleeping on a free kick at the top of the arc. The Arabian striker slipped the ball inside the box with a quick pass and scooted behind the Byki defensive wall to receive a slick return pass. He then blasted a first-time shot past the sprawling Najera.

The score went to 3:1 with 12:50 to go. An Arabian player worked hard to dig the ball out of a scrum in the corner and

passed to a teammate at the near post. With his back to the goal, the Arabian player deftly flicked the ball over his defender and the stunned Najera.

Najera came up with two brilliant saves in the final minutes, but his teammates weren't doing enough to get back into the game. The momentum was definitely with the Arabians, and the Byki were helping by consistently giving the ball away.

The Arabians closed out the scoring with 4:48 to go. A long pass from midfield looked like it was headed over the glass above the Byki goal. The ball stayed in play, however, and the alert Arabian striker slid the ball into the corner of the goal.

With a clear view of the job that lies ahead, the Byki must now secure the points that they need to finish in the first six and qualify for the playoffs.

BYKI SCORING SUMMARY

Jedrzejowski 1 (Pedlow); 35:44; 8:00; 1:0.

BYKI LINEUP (2-2-1): Najera – Tower, Zhang – Jedrzejowski, Gallo (c) – Gambino. **Bench:** Ciszewski, Fleming, Gorecki, Pedlow, Treter.

Byki Stats

A TEAM, NSL 1st DIVISION

Player	G	A	Pts
Biggs	4	1	5
Ruiz	2	0	2
Stanley	2	0	2
Talpes, C.	2	0	2
Torossian	1	1	2
Samp	0	2	2
Black	1	0	1
Goalie	Min	GA	GAA
Talpes, N.	57	3	2.00
Eliasek	205	27	5.00
Samp	4	1	9.50

Current record: 1-0-6

O-30 TEAM, NSL O-30 DIVISION

Player	G	A	Pts
Ciszewski	5	0	5
Haynes	5	0	5
Gambino	2	1	3
Jedrzejowski	1	2	3
Pedlow	1	1	2
Gallo	0	2	2
Elmkinssi	1	0	1
Fleming	1	0	1
Lane	0	1	1
Zhang	0	1	1
Goalie	Min	GA	GAA
Najera	266	45	6.43

Current record: 0-0-7

O-40 TEAM, SPORTSZONE LEAGUE

Player	G	A	Pts
Demarets	15	4	19
Marvin	3	5	8
Kleine	3	2	5
Farhan	1	3	4
Neighbors	0	3	3
Siepiora	2	0	2
Tower	1	1	2
Silverstein	0	2	2
Cooper	1	0	1
Wiecek	1	0	1
Bolesta	0	1	1
Jacobs	0	1	1
Goalie	Min	GA	GAA
Farhan	273	50	7.69
Neighbors	63	17	11.33

Final record: 1-0-7

NATIONAL SOCCER LEAGUE STANDINGS

December 28, 2007

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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	4	2	1	25	8	14	SC BiH	7	6	1	0	33	15	19
HNNK Hrvat	7	4	2	1	24	10	14	FK Kozarac	7	5	1	1	29	16	16
NK Prijedor	7	3	2	2	17	17	11	RWB Adria B	7	3	0	4	25	22	9
B-H Lilies	7	3	1	3	17	20	10	SAC Wisla	7	2	1	4	12	19	7
Albanian Stars	7	2	1	4	20	27	7	Royal FC	7	2	0	5	13	31	6
KF Ulqin	7	0	2	5	12	32	2	CKS Warta	7	1	1	5	16	26	4

FIRST DIVISION

Red Section	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts	Blue Section	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
Stal Mielec	7	5	1	1	25	13	16	Podlasie	7	7	0	0	42	9	21
FK Republica Srpska	7	5	1	1	33	11	16	Capitol Czarni Jaslo	7	5	1	1	42	11	16
Oak Park Tricycles	7	5	0	2	36	15	15	West Bosnia SC	7	5	0	2	26	18	15
Deportivo Colomex	7	4	1	2	31	16	13	HNNK Hrvat B	7	4	1	2	25	15	13
Chicago Thunder	7	4	1	2	21	11	13	CD Taximaroa	7	4	1	2	25	17	13
CKS Warta C	7	3	3	1	33	23	12	Real Independiente	7	3	2	2	10	10	11
CKS Warta B	7	4	0	3	23	21	12	FK Bosanska Dubica	7	3	1	3	40	27	10
Lake Shore SC	7	2	1	4	32	27	7	FK Podrinje	7	3	0	4	18	32	9
Montenegro SC	7	2	1	4	18	30	7	Los Chasquis	7	3	0	4	23	42	9
Khaboor FC	7	1	2	4	25	33	5	Lemont FC	7	1	0	6	15	30	3
Juanacatlan	7	1	1	5	15	38	4	Stare Byki FC	7	1	0	6	12	31	3
Chicago Inter R-B	7	0	0	7	4	58	0	Pitbulls SC	7	0	0	7	13	49	0

OVER 30 DIVISION

	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
RWB Adria	7	7	0	0	58	18	21
B-H Lilies	7	6	0	1	36	22	18
Polonia SC	7	4	0	3	39	25	12
SAC Wisla	7	4	0	3	31	29	12
Arabian FC	7	4	0	3	30	29	12
HNNK Hrvat	7	2	0	5	21	32	6
NK Prijedor	7	1	0	6	18	49	3
Stare Byki FC	7	0	0	7	16	45	0