



BOUNCINGS



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4 Feb 11

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RED

Byki 5 : 0 Warta B

NSL 1st Division - The Odeum - 4 February 2011

Byki climb back into playoff hunt

The Red Team got their attacking ideas in perfect order in the second half of their encounter with CKS Warta B last Friday, pouring home four goals to punctuate a 5:0 wipeout. Klemens Kuqi went from goalscorer to provider, as he registered a goal and three assists. Marek Ciszewski contributed two goals and an assist, helping the Byki to improve their record to 4-3-4 and nudging them past Hellenic United for the third and final playoff spot in the Red Section.

The Byki shook off the disappointment of not beating Stal Mielec in their previous match and really took it to Warta. "Even though we had beaten Warta pretty easily in our first match with them, they have improved their squad," said coach George Gorecki. "They made a game of it in the first half, but our sharp passing in the second half put us in control."

Ciszewski wasted no time putting the Byki in front. Mike Lupou moved the ball along the right side and found Ciszewski in the middle. Ciszewski headed the ball home for a 1:0 lead at the 1:49 mark.

A Warta player nearly evened the score 0:48 later, as his wicked shot from the right wing caught keeper Marty Lupou flush on the side of his face. Lupou was stunned momentarily, but regained his composure before Warta could reorganize their attack.

The framework became Warta's friend with 14:11 left in the half and both teams shorthanded. Matt Ahrens found Labeat Rrahmani alone in the area and Rrahmani shot quickly, only to see his shot ricochet off of the inside of the far post.

With 6:13 to go, Jesus Martinez astutely played a corner kick into the Warta goal area. The ball found open space on the far side, but the hustling Bryan Lopez was unable to reach it in time for the tap-in.

Ciszewski set up Kuqi with a terrific pass with 1:16 left. Ciszewski lofted the ball from midfield and Kuqi sprinted past the last defender. The Warta goalie came fast off his line to smother the shot at the top of the penalty area.

The Byki put the game on ice when they scored three times

in the first 6:23 of the second half. One of the best goals of the night came right after the interval, as the Byki executed some slick one-touch passing. Todd Trowbridge sent the ball to Kuqi at the top of the arc and Kuqi slipped the ball to the overlapping Lopez. The keeper came out to challenge, but Lopez slipped the ball underneath him and then jumped over him in a celebratory somersault.

Moments later, the score went to 3:0. Ciszewski banged a left-wing shot off the boards at the near post. The ball rebounded to the far post, where Kuqi slid home his 18th tally of the season, tying the Byki indoor record for goals scored in NSL play. Russ Haynes bagged 18 in the 2002-03 season and Kuqi still has at least five games to better that mark.

The Byki put their clamps on the contest with 12:37 to go. Rrahmani slammed a shot off the boards and the rebound came to Kuqi at the top of the area. He dropped a soft pass back for Rrahmani, who made no mistake with a first-time blast.

Any notions of a Byki collapse were dispelled with 7:26 left. Catching Warta in an inopportune line change in defense, Kuqi collected Marty Lupou's long clearance with his chest and pushed the ball into Ciszewski's path. With the keeper at his mercy, Ciszewski coolly slotted the ball past the advancing netminder to seal the deal at 5:0.

Things don't get any easier for the Byki. They will face first-place teams in their next two matches and those results will go a long way in determining what kind of team the Byki really are.

BYKI LINEUP (2-2-1): Marty Lupou – Barsotti, Mike Lupou – Ciszewski, Trowbridge – Kuqi. **Bench:** Ahrens, Gambino, Lopez, Martinez, Rrahmani.

BYKI SCORING SUMMARY

1:0 – Ciszewski 4 (Mike Lupou); 1:49.

2:0 – Lopez 1 (Kuqi); 21:09.

3:0 – Kuqi 18 (Ciszewski); 22:23.

4:0 – Rrahmani 3 (Kuqi); 25:23.

5:0 – Ciszewski 5 (Kuqi); 30:34.

Byki Men of the Match: Klemens Kuqi and Bryan Lopez



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OVER 30

Byki 1 : 3 Grove Utd

Barrington O-30 League - Barrington Field House - 7 February 2011

Byki drop doubleheader

A weary group of oldtimers thought that they could double their pleasure last Monday at the Barrington Field House when they took on Grove United and Sterling FC in back-to-back matches. Instead, the Byki doubled their misery, losing 3:1 to Grove and dropping the nightcap 5:1 to Sterling.

The problems that have plagued this group in all but one game this season continued unabated on Monday. The Byki were guilty of plenty of mistakes in all phases of the game and those mistakes proved costly.

Against Grove, the Byki were behind after only 24 seconds. A bad Byki pass gave the ball away in the defending third and a smart through ball caught the backline flatfooted. Goalkeeper Rick Bolesta saved a close-range shot, but was powerless to do anything about the rebound.

The Byki responded smartly, evening the score a minute later. Maciek Kekus made a long run along the left wing and whipped a square pass into the six-yard box. Andy Lane redirected the pass, leaving the goalie rooted in place.

But that was the end of the joy for the Byki, who rarely challenged the Grove goal after that. The Byki shifted their defense to a flat back four and the results were a disaster. Both opponents ran wild through the gaps and Bolesta had a much busier evening than he would have liked.

Grove hit the bar twice in the first 14 minutes of the match. The first instance came on a long free kick that glanced off of the top of the crossbar. The second came when a Grove player received a pass that split the Byki defense. Bolesta came out and jockeyed the Grove player wide. His shot hit the bar and a teammate's follow-up on the sitter went over.

Two goals in the span of eight minutes put Grove in control. They made it 2:1 in the 24th minute when they intercepted a short Byki goal kick and dribbled in alone on Bolesta. The score went to 3:1 when a breakaway resulted from a pass that got behind the Byki defense in the 32nd minute.

The Byki consistently gave away possession thanks to careless and excessive dribbling in their half of the field. The situation has become a chicken-and-egg situation. Players who have the ball complain when teammates don't move into space to support them, while players who don't have the ball don't bother to show for it when they think a teammate won't give it up anyway. Things like this tend to snowball, making recovery into normal soccer sense very difficult.

BYKI LINEUP (4-4-1-1): Bolesta – Dec, Towsey, Jedrzejowski, Pedlow – Gorski, Lane, Cruikshank, Dahlquist – Kekus – Farhan. **Bench:** Barsotti, Gorecki, Neighbors, Piotrowski.

BYKI SCORING SUMMARY
1:1 – Lane 1 (Kekus); 2nd.

Byki Man of the Match: Rick Bolesta

OVER 30

Byki 1 : 5 Sterling FC

Barrington O-30 League - Barrington Field House - 7 February 2011

The second game of the night was necessitated by the presence of five teams in the league. The organizers wanted to complete the season within an eight-week timeframe and wanted to avoid bye weeks. All of the teams agreed to this arrangement before the start of the season. "Normally, playing two games would be considered excessive," noted George Gorecki. "But we're trying to use this league as preparation for the outdoor season. Two 55-minute games are a little longer than a regular outdoor match, so the concept should work pretty well."

The Byki dressed 15 players for the night. Fatigue clearly played a role in the poor performance versus Sterling, a team the Byki had beaten earlier this season. Although the break between matches could be considered halftime of a real match, the big difference was that the Byki would be facing 11 fresh players in the second half.

Sterling took the lead in the 13th minute when a long free kick crashed the underside of the crossbar and wound up in the back of the net. They took command of the contest when they scored three times in eight minutes. All three goals were the result of through passes that split the Byki defense.

The Byki offense showed signs of life in the final 15 minutes. Dan Jedrzejowski floated a delicate first-time ball into the Sterling penalty area for Sal Farhan, who had made a smart run into space. Farhan shot from a sharp angle and the keeper made a solid block at his near post.

Moments later, Kekus drove a free kick from 22 yards over the defensive wall, only to see the keeper tip the ball over the bar.

The Byki avoided the shutout by earning a penalty kick two minutes from the end. Aaron Barsotti dribbled the ball on the right side of the box and was tripped near the goal line and the referee did not hesitate to point to the spot. But when it rains, it pours. Kekus, normally very reliable from the penalty spot, was horrified to see the goalie save his attempt. The rebound came right back to Kekus, who knocked the rebound into the net.

BYKI LINEUP (4-4-1-1): Bolesta – Dec, Towsey, Jedrzejowski, Pedlow – Gorski, Lane, Cruikshank, Dahlquist – Kekus – Farhan. **Bench:** Barsotti, Gorecki, Neighbors, Piotrowski.

BYKI SCORING SUMMARY
5:1 – Kekus 3; 53rd.

Byki Man of the Match: Steven Pedlow

NATIONAL SOCCER LEAGUE STANDINGS

February 4, 2011

www.nslchicago.org

MAJOR DIVISION

Red Section	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts	Blue Section	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
B-H Lilies	11	7	1	3	40	35	22	RWB Adria	11	11	0	0	85	25	33
Tricycles SC A	11	6	0	5	38	34	18	FK Kozarac	11	9	1	1	71	30	28
Hellenic United Blue	11	5	2	4	42	32	17	Albanian Stars	11	6	2	3	53	40	20
Chicago Pride	11	5	2	4	45	53	17	SAC Wisla	11	5	0	6	48	47	15
CKS Warta A	11	2	2	7	35	52	8	FK Republika Srpska A	11	1	1	9	24	67	4
KF Tirana	11	2	2	7	29	52	8	Podlasie SC	11	0	1	10	29	72	1

FIRST DIVISION

Red Section	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts	Blue Section	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
RWB Adria B	11	9	1	1	45	23	28	Chicago Thunder	11	8	1	2	46	27	25
Zaglebie SC	11	8	2	1	58	24	26	Stal Mielec	11	7	2	2	51	26	23
Stare Byki FC	11	4	3	4	35	31	15	FK Podrinje	11	5	0	6	32	30	15
Hellenic United White	11	4	1	6	34	31	13	Winged Bull A	11	4	2	5	36	51	14
CKS Warta B	11	3	1	7	26	57	10	West Bosnia SC	11	3	2	6	29	46	11
FK Republika Srpska B	11	0	2	9	30	58	2	Pitbulls SC	11	1	3	7	22	40	6

SECOND DIVISION

Red Section	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts	Blue Section	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
Assyrian FC	11	11	0	0	66	22	33	Independiente FC	11	9	0	2	47	14	27
HNK Primorac	11	6	2	3	65	43	20	Gremio B	11	7	0	4	31	21	21
Tricycles SC B	11	6	0	5	33	37	18	NK Prijedor	11	6	1	4	41	34	19
Chicago Inter RB A	11	4	2	5	28	41	14	Naperville Strikers	10	5	3	2	36	29	18
Gremio FC	11	4	1	6	42	39	13	Turkish FC	11	4	0	7	28	41	12
Winged Bull B	11	4	0	7	31	41	12	Chicago Inter RB B	11	2	1	8	22	57	7
Chasquis	11	3	0	8	46	59	9	Chicago Thunder B	10	0	0	10	10	48	0