



# BOUNCINGS

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13 Feb 09



Byki

8 : 1

Montenegro

Senior Red Team - NSL 2nd Division  
Odeum - 6 February 2009

## Goal-hungry Byki lay the smackdown

After beating up on Montenegro 8:1 in Week 2 of the indoor season, the Byki made Friday's return encounter a matching bookend when they trounced the hapless Montenegrins by the same 8:1 score. Kevin Biggs, Minos Bouzoukis and Jason Sphar each notched a pair of goals, improving the Byki to 4-2-4 for the season, good for fourth place in the 2nd Division's Blue Section.

Despite the gaudy final result, the game had some dicey moments before the Byki assumed a dominant hold on the contest. When the Byki jumped out to a two-goal lead in the first five minutes, the players assumed a laid-back attitude and figured the rest of the game would be a breeze. But Montenegro proved to be pesky on the counter and the Byki only made certain of the outcome with a five-goal blitz in the span of 5:09 in the second half.

In fact, Montenegro had the first good scoring chance of the game at the 3:40 mark. With the Byki pushed too far forward, they got caught on a breakaway from midfield. Goalkeeper Joe Gambino came out to challenge the shooter and was saved by the goalpost. The Byki turned that around just seconds later, as Bouzoukis set up Biggs, who scored on a powerful blast from distance. When Sphar controlled a loose ball on the left flank only 1:02 later, his strong drive made it 2:0 and put the Byki in the driver's seat.

But the Byki must have seen stars in their eyes and a chance to fatten up on personal stats at that point. Shots came flying in from all angles and all positions, as the Byki got selfish and ravenous when they saw the severe limitations of the Montenegro goalkeeper, who was obviously an emergency stand-in. The extra pass was nowhere to be found and Montenegro were still in the game.

The Byki made it 3:0 with 7:54 left in the first half when the flawlessly executed a 2 v 1 counterattack. Jeff Samp stole the ball at the Byki red line and accelerated

into space, joined by Jesus Martinez. The pair exchanged passes, luring the keeper off of his line. Martinez dished to Samp, who faked the last defender and slotted home.

Montenegro pulled one back with 4:52 to go. A clever dribble move by the winger on the right opened things up and Gambino had no chance on a shot that found the far post.

Gambino gave his squad a pretty stern lecture at halftime about their poor offensive tactics. The players responded as expected and they quickly had the Montenegrins scrambling. It took a while to finally break them down, but the goals eventually came in an avalanche.

Bouzoukis started the play for the fourth Byki tally when he drew in a defender and sent a diagonal pass to Samp. Seeing Sphar open in the area, Samp supplied the service and Sphar did the rest, giving him XX goals for the campaign.

Just 0:25 later, Gabi Dziekiewicz made a slick pass to Scott Kreydich, who had made the supporting run on the left side. With the keeper at his mercy, Kreydich made no mistake for his second strike in as many matches.

The Byki were inches away from a sixth goal moments later. They executed a 3 v 2 breakout in impressive fashion. Josh Taylor found Martinez alone and the young forward feinted the keeper out of position. Martinez fired an off-balance shot that was desperately cleared off the line by a defender.

But the Byki were far from finished. With 6:05 to go, Kreydich dished the ball to the overlapping Bouzoukis, who nailed a shot at the far post to make it 6:1. Bouzoukis was it again a couple of minutes later. Andrew Slaga smartly dropped the ball back for Bouzoukis at the red line and Bouzoukis made no mistake with a dynamic blast that gave the keeper no chance.

Biggs wrapped up the scoring with a trademark shot

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from long range with 3:24 left. Taylor slipped a pass back to Biggs, who was a couple of steps inside the red line. Biggs sent a blistering drive past the beleaguered netminder.

The victory puts the Byki squarely in fourth place in the Blue Section. They have a pretty big hill to climb to reach the last playoff spot, trailing Chicago Thunder by seven points with only four matches left.

#### BYKI SCORING SUMMARY

Biggs 4; (Bouzoukis); 3:56; 1:0. Sphar 2; 4:58; 2:0. Samp 2 (Martinez); 11:06; 3:0. Sphar 3 (Samp); 29:45; 4:1. S. Kreydich 2 (Dziekiewicz); 30:10; 5:1. Bouzoukis 4 (S. Kreydich); 31:55; 6:1. Bouzoukis 5 (Slaga); 33:46; 7:1. Biggs 5; (Taylor); 34:36; 8:1.

**BYKI LINEUP (2-1-2):** Gambino – Dziekiewicz, Taylor – Samp – Sphar, Martinez. **Bench:** Biggs, Bouzoukis, Kreydich, S. Rose, Slaga.

Byki

1 : 3

Pitbulls

Over 30 Red Team - NSL 2nd Division  
Odeum - 6 February 2009

## Emotions hot, teamwork disappears

The Over 30 Red Team had a big task ahead of them last Friday when they faced the top team in the Red Section, Pitbulls SC. The Pitbulls have yet to taste defeat and the Byki were looking to avenge a hard-fought 2:0 loss in the first meeting between the teams. The rematch was also played at a high level of intensity and the Pitbulls prevailed once again in a bruising 3:1 victory.

The match hung in the balance for the entire first half, where the teams were separated by an early fluke goal for the Pitbulls. The Byki looked organized on defense and were creating dangerous scoring chances. But all of that smart play went out the window in the second half and no comeback was in the cards for the Byki.

Many Byki were frustrated with the overly physical style of the Pitbulls players. The frustration boiled over as the 1:0 deficit eventually increased to 3:0 and the Byki strayed from their accustomed game plan. The mistakes on both sides of the ball multiplied and the game could not be recovered.

The Pitbulls have been the revelation of the 2nd Division this winter. Previously known as a rough-and-tumble team that seemed to create more suspended players than goals, the Pitbulls have added several skilled players and a good goalkeeper. Their style will never be mistaken for flowing football, but ten wins and a draw in their first eleven matches is a significant accomplishment for a team that has been competing in the NSL for only a couple of years.

The Pitbulls snatched the lead after just 5:41 when the Byki could not overcome defensive confusion on a ball played long out of the back. It was a simple play to get the ball out of danger, but the Byki slipped up to fall behind 1:0.

Neither team could find any breaches in the other's defense for most of the first half. But things changed in

the final eight minutes, as the pace picked up and more goals seemed certain.

The Byki sprang a 3 v 2 counterattack, as Chris Cardenas led the way up the left wing. He fired a hard shot, but the keeper was well positioned to make the save. The Pitbulls immediately raced back the other way. They played a square pass into the middle of the Byki penalty area and keeper Dean Fukar slid out to slap the ball away from the feet of a Pitbulls striker. Krzysztof Bajorek turned the play right back at the Pitbulls and drilled a shot from the red line that the keeper did well to block.

The Byki created two terrific chances with five minutes left before the break. Maciej Kekus fed Robert Dec as he made a run on the left side during a counterattack. Dec went far post with his shot and the keeper parried the ball away. Kekus regained possession at the top of the arc, but his shot was repelled, thanks to the keeper's sharp reflexes.

Steven Pedlow made a strong bid to bring the Byki level with 1:34 to go. With the Byki on the power play, Bajorek sent a kick-in back for Pedlow, who boomed a first-time shot that the keeper tipped over the glass.

The Byki needed to maintain the same level of intensity in the second half in order to have a chance to get back into the contest. The Pitbulls threw a wet blanket over that strategy when they increased their margin to 2:0 just 2:29 into the second half. Fukar stopped one attempt as he stabbed his foot out to make the save, but the Byki couldn't clear the ball and open shot from the left side of the box gave Fukar no chance.

Rather than ratchet up their effort, the Byki became unglued. Players started holding the ball too long and extending their shifts on the field. Grumbling among teammates turned into hostility every time the Byki lost possession. "It would have been a good time to calm things down and work our way back into the game," said coach

George Gorecki. "A two-goal deficit is not impossible to overcome, but we lost our way rather quickly."

The Pitbulls tightened their grip on the game five minutes later when they upped the score to 3:0. The Byki got caught with a huge gap in their midfield as the Pitbulls countered and there was no stopping an easy chance from short range.

The Byki got on the board with 10:37 to go. Jakub Banbor took a re-start at the top of the arc and sent the ball to Bajorek on the left side. Bajorek went deep into the corner and zipped a delicious diagonal pass into the goal area, where Kekus, slammed the ball home first-time.

It was a disappointing result, but the Byki played with heart and intensity for most of the match. They still have an opportunity to show the kind of soccer that defines a successful style of play, and the fundamental aspect of that style is to make teamwork their top priority.

#### BYKI SCORING SUMMARY

Kekus 7 (Bajorek); 27:23; 1:3.

**BYKI LINEUP (2-2-1):** Fukar – Dec, Winter – Jedrzejowski (c), Kekus – Banbor. **Bench:** Bajorek, Cardenas, Ciszewski, Lane, Najera, Pedlow.

# Byki Stats

#### SENIOR, NSL 2nd DIVISION

Player	G	A	Pts
Taylor	8	5	13
Bouzoukis	5	2	7
Martinez	4	2	6
Sphar	3	3	6
Black	2	4	6
Biggs	5	0	5
Slaga	2	2	4
Kreydich, S	2	1	3
Lubeck	2	1	3
Samp	2	1	3
Dziekiewicz	0	3	3
Najera	1	0	1
Rose	0	1	1
Team goals	1	x	x
<b>Goalie</b>	<b>Min</b>	<b>GA</b>	<b>GAA</b>
Gambino	380	29	2.90

Current record: 4-2-4

#### O-30 RED, NSL 2nd DIVISION

Player	G	A	Pts
Kekus	7	3	10
Banbor	2	4	6
Ciszewski	4	0	4
Zacarias	3	0	3
Bajorek	1	2	3
Brough	1	2	3
Winter	1	2	3
Dec	2	0	2
Cardenas	1	1	2
Elmkinni	0	1	1
Najera	0	1	1
Silverstein	0	1	1
<b>Goalie</b>	<b>Min</b>	<b>GA</b>	<b>GAA</b>
Fukar	380	26	2.60
Najera	38	6	6.00

Current record: 3-1-7

#### O-30 BLUE TEAM, CPSL

Player	G	A	Pts
Zacarias	3	2	5
Brough	2	2	4
Stirrat	3	0	3
Piotrowski	2	1	3
Tower	2	1	3
Towsey	1	0	1
Fukar	0	1	1
Gorecki	0	1	1
Qualiardi	0	1	1
Team goals	1	x	x
<b>Goalie</b>	<b>Min</b>	<b>GA</b>	<b>GAA</b>
Fukar	250	40	8.00

Current record: 1-0-4

United

10 : 0

Byki

Over 30 Blue Team - CPSL Over 30 Division  
Max McCook - 10 February 2009

# Blanked Byki collapse at end

The Over 30 Blue Team dropped their fourth decision in five tries last Tuesday when they were shut out 10:0 by United. The match featured a bevy of Byki giveaways, which were gleefully accepted by United's sharpshooting forwards, who took their chances incredibly well, firing like experienced marksmen. The match also marked the third time that the Byki have conceded ten goals in a game this session.

Despite the embarrassing scoreline, the Byki actually put up a solid, if unspectacular, defensive front for most of the match. United scored their last six goals in the final ten minutes of the contest. The real problem for the Byki was their decided lack of offensive spark. Outside of a few isolated opportunities, the Byki attack had a toothless quality to it. They rushed the ball all over the place and their dreadful trapping led to frequent turnovers. The Byki were on the back foot for most of the game and really needed a few goals to balance the scales a little bit.

United wasted no time grabbing the lead after 0:50. A long heave by the keeper found a forward up front, who flicked the ball into space over the last Byki defender. He turned right into the path of the ball and slotted past a helpless Dean Fukar.

United made it 2:0 four minutes later. Fukar made a sprawling save at the near post on a powerful shot, but no Byki were anywhere near the ball to clear it. A resourceful United player dinked a soft header over the prone Fukar.

It went to 3:0 a few minutes later when a booming blast from midfield found the back of the net. United took complete control 6:58 before halftime when they parlayed a Byki turnover into a 2 v 1 counterattack. A United player dribbled along the right flank and squeezed a shot between Fukar and the post.

"United's players were all very good shooters who had a nose for the goal," said George Gorecki. "The minute we gave them any kind of space, they were cranking away shots on goal."

Byki marking improved considerably in the second half and this turnabout allowed the Byki to finally put some pressure on the United goal. With 4:26 gone, Tony Gallo brought the ball through the center and laid it off to Jay Brough on the right side. With his back to the goal, Brough made the smart play, one-touching a pass back into the middle. Gallo read Brough's intentions perfectly and fired hard shot that forced the keeper to go full stretch to make the save.

Just 1:28 later, Gallo stole the ball and gave it to Eric Tower, who dribbled himself into the open and drilled a hard shot that the lunging keeper pushed out for a corner.

United were not about to let the Byki get any more confidence and began to ratchet up the offensive pressure. They began breaking down the Byki defense systematically and the score swelled to a gaudy 6:0. United then pummeled the Byki into submission, piling up four goals in a span of 3:52. As the match neared its conclusion, it would have been appropriate for someone on the Byki bench to have waved a white flag.

"United have a lot of very good players," conceded Tower afterwards. "Once they started breaking us down, we had no way to come back."

## BYKI SCORING SUMMARY

None.

**BYKI LINEUP (3-2-1):** Fukar – Cooper, Gambino, Neighbors – Stirrat, Gallo – Brough. **Bench:** Bolesta, Piotrowski, Robertson, Stamatakos, Tower, Towsey.

## NATIONAL SOCCER LEAGUE STANDINGS

February 6, 2009  
[www.nslchicago.org](http://www.nslchicago.org)

## **MAJOR DIVISION**

Red Section	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts	Blue Section	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
RWB Adria A	11	9	2	0	43	21	29	Deportivo Meridienne	11	10	0	1	44	19	30
Albanian Stars	11	5	2	4	32	23	17	FK Kozarac	11	8	0	3	45	26	24
B-H Lilies	11	4	2	5	30	34	14	HNNK Hrvat	11	7	0	4	37	30	21
RWB Adria B	11	4	1	6	32	41	13	Podlasie	11	4	1	6	24	31	13
FK Republika Srpska	11	3	2	6	26	35	11	NK Prijedor	11	4	0	7	30	33	12
CKS Warta A	11	1	1	9	15	41	4	SAC Wisla	11	1	1	9	17	41	4

# FIRST DIVISION

Red Section	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts	Blue Section	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
Tricycles SC	11	11	0	0	47	14	33	Stal Mielec	11	7	1	3	45	27	22
Zaglebie SC	11	7	1	3	34	22	22	Capitol Czarni Jaslo	11	6	3	2	40	18	21
Real Independiente	11	6	0	5	33	30	18	CKS Warta B	11	7	0	4	43	36	21
West Bosnia SC	11	4	2	5	34	31	14	Jahbat FC	11	4	3	4	43	44	15
Albanian Stars B	11	3	0	8	34	57	9	CD Taximaroa	11	3	1	7	24	34	10
HNNK Hrvat B	11	0	1	10	25	57	1	Deportivo Colomex	11	2	0	9	20	52	6

## **SECOND DIVISION**