BYKI BOUNCINGS
www.starebykifc.org
21 Feb 14

Stare Byki	4	National Soccer League
Gremio FC	6	Odeum North Field 14 February 2014

Potent attack, not enough goals

The Byki offense came to life last Friday, as they stunned Gremio FC with a three-goal barrage in the first 11 minutes of the contest. Unfortunately, the team's defensive woes continued, as slack marking made life easy for Gremio, who walked off with a 6:4 victory. The Byki remain winless in 10 matches this season.

The attacking outburst was a welcome sign for a team that had displayed the potential for scoring goals, but whose finishing has not always been on the mark. "We really had good ball movement tonight," remarked coach George Gorecki. "It's a style that is conducive to success. We just have to clean up our defensive game and, admittedly, that is a big project for us."

The continuing problems at the defensive end might have been related to fatigue, as the Byki were only able to dress nine players for the match. With a lineup slanted towards older players, the Byki engines may well have run low on fuel before the end.

Gremio made a bid to take control of the match in the first two minutes when a Byki player was dispossessed in the back third, leaving goalkeeper Amit Khankari to face a two-on-none situation. He came off his line forcefully, and that was enough to distract the Gremio player with the ball. A pass to his teammate should have resulted in a 1:0 score, but the second Gremio player somehow missed a gaping goal.

The Byki responded swiftly, as Ben Rodriguez swept along the right wing 0:37 later and smashed a blistering long-range shot off the underside of the crossbar. "I thought I had it for sure," said Rodriguez. "The goalie didn't even move."

The Byki ran the counterattack to perfection in the first half, netting two goals in the span of 1:53. Daniel Zielinski led a 3 v 2 break at midfield, sliding a pass to Marek Ciszewski. The midfielder found Alen Mehagic, who knocked home his first goal of the campaign.

The score went to 2:0 when Juan Rodriguez headmanned the counter, sending a pass to son Cristian, whose blast gave the keeper no chance. The goal was the first father-son scoring combination in Byki history.

Three minutes later, Mehagic passed the ball to Ciszewski in the right corner, and his centering pass was deflected out in front of the penalty area, where Zielinski crushed a first-time shot that went just wide of the target.

The Byki upped the lead to 3:0 with 8:39 left before the break. Khankari found Ciszewski making a run into the center circle and hit him with a long pass up the middle. Ciszewski deftly turned his defender, giving Ciszewski nothing but open space in front of the Gremio keeper. Ciszewski calmly slid the ball past him for his fourth goal of the season.

A 4:0 lead escaped the Byki by inches with 4:36 to go. Kuba Banbor's free kick found Zielinski, who laid off for Ciszewski in the corner. The keeper made a tremendous near-post save to deny Ciszewski.

Gremio cut into the lead just before halftime. They took a restart from the penalty arc, passed the ball to an open player on the left wing and his shot beat the diving Khankari

Byki Stats

FIRST TEAM, NSL 1st DIVISION

Player	G	A	Pts
Ciszewski	5	1	6
Jimenez	4	1	5
Rodriguez, C	2	3	5
Sabo	1	3	4
Stopka	1	3	4
Rodriguez, J	1	2	3
Kekus	2	0	2
Koenig	2	0	2
Onaissi	1	1	2
Wood	0	2	2
Mehagic	1	0	1
Ortiz	1	0	1
Hurley	0	1	1
Khankari	0	1	1
Stamatinos	0	1	1
Zielinski	0	1	1

Goalie	Min	GA	GAA
Stopka	5	0	0.00
Stopka	1	0	0.00
Khankari	277	42	5.76
Avalos	241	37	5.83
Zielinski	2	1	19.00

Current record: 0-0-10

O-40 TEAM, ODEUM O-40 LEAGUE

Player	G	A	Pts
Farhan	1	0	1
Siervo	0	1	1

Goalie	Min	GA	GAA
Bolesta	40	5	5.00

Current record: 0-0-2

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at the near post.

Gremio quickly got momentum on their side in the second half. They scored two goals in just 1:45 to level the score. On both occasions, the Byki defense slumped too far back in their end and allowed Gremio shooters to pick their spot. "The third goal was the worst," snorted an exasperated Gorecki. "We left a guy open at the defensive line and he just toe-poked it into the goal."

The lead seesawed back to the Byki with 10:52 left, the result of yet another successful counterattack. Cristian Rodriguez passed off to Ciszewski at midfield and Ciszewski accelerated into space. Before anyone could close him down, Ciszewski sent a screaming shot from just inside the defensive zone past the frozen goalie for a 4:3 advantage.

The Byki, however, could not hold Gremio back for the remaining minutes. Khankari smothered a loose ball in the box with 8:22 left and the Byki dodged a bullet a couple of minutes later when an open Gremio player headed into the netting above the glass.

Khankari deflected a free kick out of play with 4:45 to go and Gremio converted the ensuing corner kick into their second equalizer when someone stuck a foot into a goalmouth scramble and knocked the ball in.

The Byki were defensive statues 1:52 later when a Gremio shot crashed off the glass above the goal and the rebound was easily headed home for a 5:4 lead.

Zielinski replaced Khankari for the final two minutes as the Byki went to six attackers. The Byki tried to generate some end-game offense, and Chris Hurley's shot hit the bar with 0:56 to go. But the Gremio clearance led to an empty-net goal for the final margin.

BYKI LINEUP (2-2-1): Khankari – Hurley (c), Banbor – B. Rodriguez, Zielinski – C. Rodriguez. **Bench:** Ciszewski, Mehagic, J. Rodriguez.

BYKI SCORING SUMMARY
1:0 – Mehagic 1 (Ciszewski); 3:55.
2:0 – C. Rodriguez 2 (J. Rodriguez); 5:48.
3:0 – Ciszewski 4 (Khankari); 10:21.
4:3 – Ciszewski 5 (C. Rodriguez); 27:08.

Byki Man of the Match: Marek Ciszewski

Byki O-40	0	Odeum Over 40 League
Olympiacos	3	Odeum North Field 17 February 2014

Roster woes result in forfeit

Last Monday's Over 40 match never got off the ground when the Byki had just two players in uniform to take on Olympiacos. Rick Bolesta and Eric Muehlbauer were the sacrificial lambs, although Bolesta harbored some hope that he and Muehlbauer might give it a go as the Dynamic Duo. "After much debate between us, and even though we both felt confidence that we could take the game to them and kick butt, we decided to forfeit and scrimmage," quipped Bolesta. Sean Marquez and Steven Pedlow arrived shortly thereafter to participate in the scrimmage game.

Things looked grim for assembling a full Byki squad from the outset, with several players already out of action for various reasons. The latest snowstorm that swept through the area on Monday afternoon hardly helped matters for the Byki.

NATIONAL SOCCER LEAGUE STANDINGS

February 14, 2014

www.nslchicago.org

MAJOR DIVISION

Red Section	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
Albanian Stars	10	9	0	1	61	25	27
Chicago Fire U-23	10	5	1	4	50	41	16
SAC Wisla	10	5	0	5	33	37	15
Tricycles SC A	10	4	1	5	39	36	13
KF Tirana	10	1	2	7	26	38	5
RWB Adria B	10	1	2	7	29	49	5

Blue Section	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
CKS Warta	10	10	0	0	49	23	30
RWB Adria A	10	8	0	2	59	26	24
Ethnikos Chicago	10	5	0	5	27	43	15
ANCI Assyrian A	10	4	0	6	29	38	12
Chicago Stars	10	4	0	6	23	36	12
Zaglebie SC	10	1	0	9	25	58	3

FIRST DIVISION

Red Section	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
Albania FC	10	7	1	2	41	37	22
Chicago Dynasty FC	10	6	0	4	48	34	18
FC Kosova	10	6	0	4	41	33	18
Gremio FC	10	4	1	5	37	43	13
ANCI Assyrian B	10	3	2	5	27	46	11
Chicago Inter	10	3	0	7	31	48	9

Blue Section	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
Lancer FC	10	9	1	0	57	13	28
Stal Mielec	10	7	0	3	42	26	21
HNK Primorac	10	6	0	4	46	33	18
Jagiellonia Chicago	10	5	1	4	50	34	16
Tricycles SC B	10	1	0	9	20	52	3
Stare Byki FC	10	0	0	10	21	62	0