



BOUNCINGS



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RED

Adria B 1 : 0 Byki

NSL 1st Division - The Odeum - 18 March 2012

Playoff victory eludes Byki

When the final whistle blew at the Odeum's south field last Sunday, the Byki stared at yet another quarterfinal exit from the NSL's indoor playoffs. The nine players in uniform gave their full effort and their only blemish on the day versus RWB Adria B was Adria's power-play goal with 5:08 left in the game. "This performance was what I was talking about when I said that our team could compete with everyone in the 1st Division," said a dejected George Gorecki afterwards.

Although there is no shame in playing your best and still not winning, things don't hurt any less when it's all over. The teams were evenly matched over the duration of the contest and Adria proved to be just a bit better. Adria subsequently lost to Assyrian FC in the semifinal by a narrow 5:4 score, and the Assyrians defeated Hellenic United for the 1st Division title.

It was disappointing for the Byki to not have their full lineup for the most important day of the season, but the term "full lineup" is an elusive one. There was hardly a matchday in the previous 16 where Gorecki could have said that he was fielding his ideal lineup. "Missing players are the reality of amateur soccer," said Gorecki. "You try to create a squad with enough depth so that the team can still perform well, no matter who is out there."

Defense was the area where the Byki excelled versus Adria. Two days earlier, in the season finale against Assyrian FC, the Byki defense resembled a sieve in a 7:2 loss that could hardly be described as a confidence builder going into the playoffs. The players rallied together, tightened their marking and improved their communication. Goalkeeper Amit Khankari was called upon to make only a handful of difficult saves.

The match was a stark contrast to the regular-season tilt between the sides. The Byki raced out to a 4:0 lead in that

one, only to see Adria climb back into it at 5:5. Marek Ciszewski scored two goals in the final 5:20 to give the Byki a nervous, but well deserved 7:5 win. Knowing that Adria had that level of offensive firepower gave the Byki plenty to think about.

The Byki came close to taking the lead with 8:42 left in the first half. Todd Trowbridge stole the ball at the Adria defensive line and slid a pass over to Ciszewski, who slammed a shot off of the back boards. The ball ricocheted into the middle of the penalty area, where Trowbridge's bouncing header was cleared away.

With 6:11 to go, the Byki raced forward on the counterattack. Ciszewski fed Ammin Mehreioskouei on the right side, and his blast required a desperate foot save at the near post by Adria's goalie.

Adria applied their own brand of pressure just before the halftime break. They worked the ball patiently in the Byki defensive zone until they found an open man in the left corner. Khankari dove to smother the sharp-angle shot. With 0:37 left, an Adria player turned into open space in the area and seemed sure to score, but Paul Mansur kicked the ball off the line. Moments later, Mansur received an elbow to the cheek, which busted him open and required a quick trip to the paramedic to stanch the bleeding. Mansur returned shortly

Byki Stats

RED TEAM, NSL 1st DIVISION

Player	G	A	Pts
Ciszewski	11	5	16
Stopka	7	3	10
Kekus	5	2	7
Mansur	3	4	7
Herholdt	2	5	7
Banbor	4	2	6
Koenig	3	4	7
Mehreioskouei	4	2	6
Guzman	3	2	5
Stamatinos	0	4	4
Trowbridge	1	2	3
Uriza	2	0	2
Stevens	1	1	2
Bouzoukis	1	0	1
Garnon	0	1	1
Team goals	1	x	x

Goalie	Min	GA	GAA
Uriza	1	0	0.00
Stopka	3	0	0.00
Khankari	246	14	2.16
Najera	323	27	3.18

Final record: 7-3-7

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after the start of the second half.

The see-saw nature of the contest continued through the second half. Neither defense was willing to budge and nerves would be tested as long as the 0:0 scoreline persisted.

Adria got their breakthrough when Alex Guzman was sent to the penalty box for a hard challenge. "That was a tough call in a game where the referees were letting the players play," said Gorecki. "Tackles like that sometimes result in the blue card, sometimes they are normal fouls. Alex felt badly about the blue card, but I would not have wanted him playing with any less intensity. It's just the way it goes sometimes." A good side like Adria know how to work the man advantage and it didn't take long for them to find an unmarked player in the corner to Khankari's right and the shot from close range gave Khankari no chance.

The Byki ramped up their attack, but Adria held firm. The Byki went into a six-attacker formation for the final minute, with Lazaro Uriza replacing Khankari in goal. A scramble inside the Adria penalty area was the closest the Byki would come to getting an equalizer.

BYKI LINEUP (3-2): Khankari – Guzman, Mansur, Trowbridge – Ciszewski, Mehreioskouei. **Bench:** Garnon, Stevens, Uriza.

BYKI SCORING SUMMARY

None.

Byki Man of the Match: Todd Trowbridge

Ammin Mehreioskouei had two good chances a couple of minutes apart. The keeper had to dive to get a hand to Mehreioskouei's shot from long range. During the same shift, the striker drilled one from the right corner and the keeper spilled the rebound. Paul Mansur tried to pounce, but his attempt was blocked.

The Byki were late to the party on another Assyrian counterattack with 6:44 left in the half. They attacked the Byki 3 v 1, making short work of an easy opportunity.

The Byki replied just 1:18 later. Jordan Stopka led the play along the right wing and found Mehreioskouei in the corner. He fired immediately and the ball rebounded to Marek Ciszewski in the penalty area. His delicate header drifted into the back of the net to cut the lead to 2:1.

Mehreioskouei stole the ball with 2:33 left and sent a diagonal ball into the box for Maciek Kekus. The goalie made a great save at a crucial moment.

The Byki had to score the next goal to keep pace, but the Assyrians had other ideas. They went 3:1 up in the first minute after the break, controlling the ball with ease, as the Byki defended passively. The patient Assyrians worked the ball around until they found the open man and that was that.

Three minutes later, the same play repeated itself. The Byki looked helpless and the Assyrians pounded home their advantage. By the middle of the second half, the score had swelled to a disconcerting 7:1.

The Byki pulled back a consolation goal with 6:33 to go when Chris Koenig blasted a shot off the back boards. The ball ricocheted back into the middle of the area for Alex Guzman, who made no mistake with a first-time shot into the back of the net.

BYKI LINEUP (3-2): Khankari – Guzman, Stopka, Trowbridge – Kekus, Mehreioskouei. **Bench:** Buur, Ciszewski, Garnon, Koenig, Mansur.

BYKI SCORING SUMMARY

2:1 – Ciszewski 11 (Mehreioskouei); 13:34.

7:2 – Guzman 3 (Koenig); 31:27.

Byki Man of the Match: Ammin Mehreioskouei

RED
Assyrian FC 7 : 2 Byki
NSL 1st Division - The Odeum - 16 March 2012

Assyrian FC flex their muscles

The Byki ended the NSL regular season on March 16 with a disjointed effort against Assyrian FC, who broke open a close game with a three-goal splurge to start the second half and walked off 7:2 winners. The Assyrians, who had clinched promotion weeks earlier, ended the season undefeated. The only blotch on their record was a draw versus Shlama FC.

The Byki played like a team looking ahead to the playoffs. They gave the Assyrians far too much and space to operate and ultimately paid the price.

The Assyrians controlled the tempo in the first half and the Byki were matching them stride for stride. The Assyrians opened the scoring at the 4:17 mark when they outpaced the Byki on the break and converted a shot from the left corner.

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MAJOR DIVISION

Red Section	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts	Blue Section	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
B-H Lilies Royal	16	8	3	5	53	50	27	RWB Adria A	16	16	0	0	103	26	48
FK Kozarac	16	7	5	4	64	46	26	Albanian Stars	16	13	0	3	89	30	39
Tricycles SC A	16	6	4	6	45	55	22	Hellenic United Blue	16	9	1	6	58	43	28
SAC Wisla	16	6	2	8	64	65	20	CKS Warta A	16	8	0	8	64	61	24
KF Tirana	16	3	3	10	54	75	12	FK Republika Srpska A	16	5	2	9	51	78	17
B-H Lilies	16	2	2	12	58	106	8	Chicago Pride	16	2	0	14	35	103	6

FIRST DIVISION

Red Section	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts	Blue Section	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
Assyrian FC	16	15	1	0	84	29	46	Hellenic United White	16	13	1	2	74	23	40
Stal Mielec	16	10	0	6	73	48	30	RWB Adria B	16	9	3	4	72	46	30
Stare Byki FC	16	7	3	6	48	48	24	Zaglebie SC	16	9	0	7	56	34	27
Shlama FC	16	4	4	8	43	61	16	Winged Bull A	16	8	1	7	43	51	25
Gremio FC B	16	4	2	10	52	74	14	West Bosnia SC	16	4	1	11	34	82	13
CKS Warta B	16	2	0	14	32	72	6	FK Republika Srpska B	16	2	2	12	31	74	8

SECOND DIVISION

Red Section	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts	Blue Section	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
Gremio FC A	16	13	1	2	75	25	40	NK Prijedor	16	13	2	1	68	22	41
HNK Primorac	16	11	2	3	80	46	35	FC Kosova	16	11	3	2	80	50	36
Chicago Inter Yellow	16	9	2	5	59	45	29	Tricycles SC B	16	7	4	5	50	41	25
Naperville Strikers	16	6	0	10	49	66	18	Chicago Dynasty FC	16	6	3	7	52	45	21
Chicago Inter Blue	16	2	3	11	44	82	9	Pitbulls SC	16	6	0	10	53	70	18
Winged Bull B	16	0	0	16	26	93	0	Chicago Inter White	16	1	2	13	33	84	5