



# BOUNCINGS

26 Apr 08



Stars

4 : 2

Byki

Red Team - NSL 1st Division  
Albanian Center - 20 April 2008

## 2nd-half letdown sends Byki reeling

The Byki Red Team started out looking sharp in their season opener against the Albanian Stars last Sunday, leading to a 1:0 advantage at the break. The Albanians, playing on their home field in Berkeley in front of their raucous fans, stepped up the pressure in the second half and pounded four goals past the Byki defense, notching a 4:2 victory.

After a successful outdoor season in 2007, when both Byki Senior teams showed that they could compete in the 1st Division, the club sought ways to maximize the talent level within the organization. Joe Gambino suggested that it might help to have one coach oversee both teams, rather than have separate coaches for each team. George Gorecki, who is the club's Director of Coaching, got the ball rolling by putting Gambino in charge. Gambino ran the Byki squad that played in the 1st Division indoors, while Gorecki moved over to coach the Over 30s. For the outdoor season, Gambino enlisted the help of Tony Gallo, Russ Haynes and Dan Jdrzejewski to run the Senior teams. The club also decided to rename the teams Red and Blue to indicate their equivalent nature, because both are playing in the same competition. "Our goal

all along is to build two strong teams," said Gambino.

With only a very brief pre-season period to get the teams ready, Gambino opted to place most of the club's experienced players in the Red Team, acknowledging that it would likely be easier to create team chemistry with players who are familiar with one another. The Blue Team roster is a combination of Byki veterans and newcomers. From all appearances, both teams look capable, but the maturation process doesn't happen overnight.

The Byki came roaring out of the gates versus the Albanians. In the third minute, Josh Taylor had a great chance to score, but the Albanian keeper made a sprawling save to deny him. Midway through the first half, Jeff Samp put Russ Haynes into the clear with a pass through the Stars' defense. All Haynes had to do was lob the onrushing goalie, but the netminder timed his jump just right and blocked Haynes's attempt.

The Byki defense was solid in all aspects. The Albanians had the better of possession, but were unable to create any real scoring chances. Nico Talpes made his outdoor debut in goal and did a nice job marshaling a group of defenders that were new to him.

The Byki got their reward five minutes before the break. Ivan Torossian received a throw-in on the left flank and crossed the ball into the box. Haynes got to the ball first and worked himself free of the sweeper, slotting home from 12 yards. The goal unnerved the Stars, which is a reaction that is normally music to Gambino's ears.

During the interval, Gambino told the team not to let up, to keep switching the field and to keep attacking. He also emphasized the need for the defense to push forward to prevent the Albanians from having too much space.

As the second half began, the Byki promptly forgot what Gambino had told them. The Byki came out flat, which was just the tonic to re-invigorate the Stars, and they really brought on the attack. In one sequence, an Albanian forward cracked

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a tremendous shot from outside the box. It appeared destined for the goal when Talpes made an absolutely amazing save, leaping backwards and reaching high to knock the ball away.

In the 55th minute, the Stars broke into the box, forcing Talpes to come off his line. He brought down the Albanian forward, leading to a penalty kick, which the Stars handily converted. Momentum shifted to the surging Albanians, who took the lead five minutes later. As the Byki tried to play the ball out of defense, they made an errant pass across the middle. A Stars player intercepted and fired past Talpes to make it 2:1. The game might have gotten completely out of hand shortly thereafter, when Doug Towsey tripped an Albanian player in the box, which resulted in another penalty. Talpes, however, put on his Superman cape and made a spectacular save to keep the Byki in the match.

The Byki leveled the score in the 75th minute. Fullback Conor Casey got into the attack and won a header over the short Stars keeper. The ball fell to Nate Bridge, who tapped home from six yards out. The Byki had a great chance to regain the lead, but George Thomas' short header went straight at the keeper.

A disputed goal with ten minutes to go put the Albanians back in front. With the Byki rooted in front of their goal, the Stars somehow found room to operate in the penalty area. After dribbling past three Byki, the striker's shot beat Talpes, but the Byki tried desperately to clear the ball before it crossed

the line. The referee ruled that the play was a goal, prompting an argument from the Byki. "The referee was 35 yards from the play," lamented Gambino. "I asked him how he could be sure that the ball crossed the line."

The Stars remained aggressive, and they put the game away in the dying minutes as the Byki pushed forward to get a second equalizer. The Stars launched a long clearance out of defense to their striker. Two Byki went to defend the striker, who quickly sent the ball to an open teammate. The Albanians moved the ball swiftly and the Byki were unable to recover. Three quick passes, and the ball was in the back of the net for an unassailable 4:2 lead.

It really was a game of two halves for the Byki. They had the chances to put the game away in the first half, and a lack of fitness let them down in the second half.

*Russ Haynes and Eric Tower contributed to this story.*

#### BYKI SCORING SUMMARY

Haynes 1 (Torossian); 40th; 0:1. Bridge 1 (Casey); 75th; 2:2.

**BYKI LINEUP (4-4-2):** Talpes, N. – Towsey, Casey, Dziekiewicz, Black – Bouzoukis, Torossian, Samp, Bridge – Haynes, Taylor. **Bench:** Daniel, Rose, Thomas.

Magic

3 : 2

Byki

Blue Team - NSL 1st Division  
Marist HS - 20 April 2008

## Magic bump Byki in opener

The Byki Blue Team, a mixture of new players and Byki veterans, kicked off the 2008 season with a visit to Marist HS last Sunday to take on newly promoted Das Magic. The Byki had a fast start to the match, but the Magic were simply too strong, and came away 3:2 winners. The Byki played smart soccer for long stretches, yet it became clear that the squad still need time to jell.

Head coach Joe Gambino has been spending his off-season trying to figure out how he will fit in playing time with his new coaching duties. He got a direct answer to his question on Sunday, when the Blue Team were without a goalkeeper. Gambino gamely stepped between the pipes, although it was apparent it was not the place he wanted to be. Late-arriving players and no-shows further complicated Gambino's lineup choices. It was a frustrating way to start the season, as the Byki were certainly more capable than they showed.

Things began brightly enough for the Byki. Soon after the opening kickoff, Marek Ciszewski received a pass from Matt Fleming and cut to the inside. He let loose with a shot

from just outside the box that had the keeper beaten, but the ball clanged off the crossbar.

But it didn't take long for the Byki to rectify things. Two minutes later, Ciszewski and strike partner Sergio Benavides hounded the Magic backline into hurried clearances and bad passes. After taking possession at midfield, the Byki played the ball toward the Magic area, where the goalkeeper had come out to catch the ball. When the keeper allowed the ball to bounce, Ciszewski was all over him like a cheap suit. Ciszewski blocked his clearance and the ball landed at the feet of Benavides, who calmly slid the ball into the empty net.

Das Magic shook off the early nerves and brought things level in the 12th minute. They parlayed a long throw-in on a narrow field into a scoring play when the inattentive Byki defense let the ball bounce inside their area. A Magic player kicked the ball through the forest of legs and found the back of the net.

Emboldened by their equalizer, Das Magic turned up the

pressure and nearly took the lead in the 16th minute. A long lob from the left wing left Gambino stranded, and the Byki were relieved when the ball nicked the back post on the way out.

The Byki still hadn't learned the lesson of defending the long throw-in, as the hosts nearly grabbed the lead in the 34th minute. Das Magic had a clear chance to score, but Tony Gallo, who had warned his teammates to defend the throw-in as though it were a corner kick, positioned himself on the post and headed the ball to safety.

Gambino gave his players an earful during his halftime chat. He emphasized the need to mark aggressively on defense and to be more patient with the ball in possession. After giving up the tying goal, the Byki had resorted to a direct style of play that led to nothing, and merely frustrated many of the players.

Das Magic maintained the momentum after the break. Dan Jedrzejowski nearly suffered a disaster on the hour mark when he mis-hit a clearance and watched in horror as the ball smacked off of Gambino's crossbar. The home team snatched the lead in the 64th minute when a Byki turnover in their own end allowed Das Magic to make a couple of quick passes to free their striker in the box, who beat Gambino from ten yards.

The Byki roared back in style two minutes later. Ciszewski, who had shifted to a holding midfield position in the second half, threaded a superb through ball for Benavides. The new

striker turned his marker with a burst of speed and fired a hard shot that was saved by the goalie. He spilled the rebound, however, and the hustling Pierre Delaunay followed up to knock the ball home.

A tiring Byki squad conceded the winning goal in the 83rd minute. The play culminated a long sequence of Magic possession, as a shot went past Gambino to make it 3:2.

The Byki nearly got that one back three minutes from the end. Andy Lane swerved a tantalizing cross into the box for Benavides, who drilled a hard shot at the keeper, who had trouble hanging on to the shot cleanly. With the ball loose on the ground, the keeper tried to gather it in as Benavides kicked it into the goal. The referee whistled for a foul, ruling that the goalie had possession of the ball when Benavides kicked it.

A shorthanded Byki side playing together for the first time encountered some bumps in the road. They need to get on track quickly, because the other teams in the 1st Division will not be waiting for them.

#### BYKI SCORING SUMMARY

Benavides 1; 3rd; 0:1. Delaunay 1; 66th; 2:2.

**BYKI LINEUP (4-4-2):** Gambino – Gallo, Carvajal, Lane, Delaunay – Fleming, Sphar, Stanley, Zhao – Ciszewski, Benavides. **Bench:** Jedrzejowski, Sodeinde.

Gato Verde

3 : 1

Byki

Over 30 Team - NSL Over 30 Division  
Jackman Field - 19 April 2008

## Byki seek offense, fall at starting gate

The Byki Over 30 Team faced longtime rivals Gato Verde last Saturday at soggy Jackman Field in search of a strong start to the 2008 season. Although the match was a mixture of good and bad for the Byki, their biggest weakness from 2007 is still the area that needs the most improvement: better play in the attack. Gato Verde came away 3:1 winners, but the Byki did not leave the field with their heads hanging.

After Wei Zhang's untimely departure for a new job in New Jersey, George Gorecki has joined Eric Tower to run the Over 30 Team. They plan to use the same approach that Gorecki had used on the oldboys during the winter season. They are seeking the most committed players and are looking to build a squad that can learn how to play together. Once that is established, it will be easier to improve the group's talent level.

"I want every player to understand that playing your best

every Saturday is very important," said Gorecki. "And that doesn't happen by accident, it happens on the practice field. During the indoor season, the Over 30s showed me that they're committed and that allowed us to approach the games with unity and cohesion. The players who are the most committed and playing their best are the ones who will lead our team."

The muddy and rutted pitch was not the ideal playing surface, and the players had to contend with the field's significant crown, which made passes along the wings a real adventure. The Byki played solidly at both ends for the first 10 minutes, as they tried to maintain possession of the ball.

Nick Elmkinssi probed the Gato Verde defense in the 12th minute when he lofted a free kick from 40 yards for Dan Jedrzejowski on the right wing. Jedrzejowski gave chase and struck a low cross toward the near post that was blocked by

the keeper.

Disaster struck a minute later, as poor communication in defense gifted Gato Verde a goal. A long Gato Verde pass out of the back landed right in front of the Byki penalty area. Neither the retreating Byki defenders nor keeper Dan Blanco could figure out who would get the ball, so a Gato Verde forward stepped in and lobbed the ball over Blanco for a 1:0 lead.

The Byki kept things organized in defense for the rest of the first half, smothering Gato Verde scoring chances before they could become dangerous. But weak clearances, errant passes, and a rush to move the ball forward at every occasion left the Byki attack stalled in neutral.

Gato Verde kept up the pressure and were benefactors a second time when the referee awarded a goal on a play that was clearly offside. After a poor Byki header left the ball in the Byki penalty area, a Gato Verde player got the ball first and shot right away. The Byki blocked that shot, but the player then sent the ball to the far post, where an unmarked teammate headed past Blanco to make it 2:0.

“How the referee could have missed that call is beyond belief,” said Gorecki. “He originally said that the player who

headed the ball into the goal was not involved in the play, which is the most absurd way to explain what happened.” At halftime, the referee acknowledged his error, but the goal wasn’t coming off the scoreboard.

The home side made a nice play in the 55th minute to bag a third goal. With the Byki defense scrambling, Gato Verde made several quick passes in front of the goal. Once they got the Byki off-balance, it was a simple matter to tap the ball home.

The Byki kept up the fight, however, and were rewarded five minutes before the end. Vitaly Tsipris made a great run down the right side to latch onto a terrific pass over the top. He ran directly to the goal and fired a shot that hit the upper corner of the goal. The ball rebounded back into the middle, where Jon Silverstein poked the ball into the back of the net.

#### BYKI SCORING SUMMARY

Silverstein 1; 75th; 3:1.

**BYKI LINEUP (4-4-2):** Blanco – Tower, Geng, Pedlow, Cooper – Dec, Jedrzejowski (c), Moore, Elmkinssi – Silverstein, Najera. **Bench:** Garcia, Gorecki, Tsipris, Winter.

# Byki Stats

#### RED TEAM, NSL 1st DIVISION

Player	G	A	Pts
Bridge	1	0	1
Haynes	1	0	1
Casey	0	1	1
Torossian	0	1	1
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Goalie	Min	GA	GAA
Talpes, N.	90	4	4.00

Current record: 0-0-1

#### BLUE TEAM, NSL 1st DIVISION

Player	G	A	Pts
Benavides	1	0	1
Delaunay	1	0	1
<hr/>			
Goalie	Min	GA	GAA
Gambino	90	3	3.00

Current record: 0-0-1

#### O-30 TEAM, NSL O-30 DIVISION

Player	G	A	Pts
Silverstein	1	0	1
<hr/>			
Goalie	Min	GA	GAA
Blanco	80	3	3.00

Current record: 0-0-1



# This week in Byki history



## Byki win first title

The Byki defeated the Twinkies 2:1 in dramatic fashion to win the club's first title on April 23, 1987. The Byki were 9-1-0 for the season, making it the only undefeated season in Byki history. The game offered intrigue even before the opening kickoff, when goalkeeper Tony Terracciano revealed that he had jammed his thumb two days before the game. No problem, player-coach George Gorecki turned to Henry Zajac, who was both a stellar defender and goalkeeper. Tony was slotted as a striker, which automatically made the Byki offense more potent.

The move paid early dividends, as Tony gave the Byki the lead with a brilliantly taken goal after six minutes. It was an important goal, because it well could have been enough to win the game. The Byki defense was practically impenetrable for the season, conceding just 13 goals in 10 matches.

The Twinkies fought back gamely and equalized with a penalty kick with ten minutes left in the contest. Their team was also run by a player-coach, but he had not seen any action on the field in this match. He bravely stepped onto the field to take the spot kick and expertly drove it into the back of the net.

But the Byki had one trick left up their sleeve. They scored the game-winner a couple of minutes later when Edi Pinkowski set up Doug Roth on the right side of the box. With the defense off balance and the keeper out of position, Doug turned to the inside with the ball and deposited it into the goal.

The squad was one of the best Byki teams of all time. Although other Byki teams have featured more talent, few other Byki sides functioned better together as a unit than this one. Every player knew his role and made it a point to play his best soccer every week. The team's selfless attitude carried it to places that talent could never reach.

## Jedrzejewski leads Byki to historic win

The Byki clobbered the Albanian Stars B 6:1 in the club's inaugural match in the National Soccer League on April 21, 1996. Todd Burkhalter scored a hat trick, as the Byki bid farewell to being a club that played indoor soccer only.

Everything about the game was a new experience for the Byki: a new field, a new opponent and a new referee. But the Byki acted as though all of it were old hat and did a number on a veteran NSL team that could only cobble together nine players for the match.

Player-coach George Gorecki opted for a conservative 4-5-1 formation to protect goalie Rick Bolesta from having to face too many shots. Regular keeper Manou Chahmirzadi had injured his hand while playing in an indoor friendly match and was inserted at fullback. Not knowing what to expect from the Albanians, George thought it be best to keep things tight at the back and then see how the game would unfold.

The Byki got on the board in the 17th minute and the goal was fittingly scored by Marek Ciszewski, one of many that the ace sniper would register in his illustrious Byki career. Oddly enough, Marek was left out of the first XI because he arrived at the field just after kickoff. Yes, some things never change.

The Albanians tried to make a game of it with their short squad, but it was only a matter of time before the Byki would break through. They scored three goals in a seven-minute span late in the first half to put the game on ice. Dan Jedrzejewski had a brilliant outdoor debut, scoring a goal, and assisting on all three of Todd's goals. A funny post-script to this game: Todd's three goals in this game were the only goals he ever scored for the Byki in outdoor competition.

The Byki may have entered the match with questions about their ability to compete in a league like the NSL, but the match bolstered their confidence. After a 6-1-9 season, the Byki improved their squad in 1997, and further improvements in 1998 led to promotion to the 1st Division.

# NATIONAL SOCCER LEAGUE STANDINGS

April 20, 2008

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## MAJOR DIVISION

B-H Lilies	1	1	0	0	3	0	3
Honduras SC	1	1	0	0	2	0	3
CKS Warta	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Deportivo Colomex	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Deportivo Meridienne	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Gazelle SC	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
HNNK Hrvat	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
KF Ulqin	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Royal Chicago FC	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
RWB Adria	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Jahbat FC	1	0	0	1	0	2	0
SAC Wisla	1	0	0	1	0	3	0

## FIRST DIVISION

FK Republika Srpska	1	1	0	0	3	0	3
Albanian Stars	1	1	0	0	4	2	3
Lemont FC	1	1	0	0	3	1	3
Das Magic	1	1	0	0	3	2	3
CKS Warta B	1	1	0	0	2	1	3
FC Romania	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
FC Steaua Chicago	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Stare Byki FC Blue	1	0	0	1	2	3	0
West Indies Jets	1	0	0	1	1	2	0
Stare Byki FC Red	1	0	0	1	2	4	0
Khaboor FC	1	0	0	1	1	3	0
NK Prijedor	1	0	0	1	0	3	0

## SECOND DIVISION

Red Section	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts	Blue Section	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
Lemont FC Reserves	1	1	0	0	5	0	3	Juanacatlan	1	1	0	0	4	2	3
West Bosnia SC	1	1	0	0	4	2	3	Ultras FC	1	1	0	0	2	0	3
Deportivo Colomex B	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	Chicago Dynasty FC	1	1	0	0	1	0	3
FK Podrinje	1	0	0	1	2	4	0	FC Kosova	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
GR-04	1	0	0	1	2	4	0	Real Independiente	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Turkish FC	1	0	0	1	0	5	0	CD Taximaroa	1	0	0	1	0	1	0
								Mythos FC	1	0	0	1	0	2	0

## OVER 30 DIVISION

Red Section	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts	Blue Section	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
West Indies Jets	1	1	0	0	5	0	3	Gato Verde	1	1	0	0	3	1	3
Jahbat FC	1	1	0	0	1	0	3	Hellenic United	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Arabian FC	1	0	1	0	1	1	1	SAC Wisla	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Lake Shore B	1	0	1	0	1	1	1	Stare Byki FC	1	0	0	1	1	3	0
Lake Shore A	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	Tanners SC	1	0	0	1	0	5	0