



BOUNCINGS

10 May 08



Srpska

4 : 2

Byki

Red Team - NSL 1st Division
Homer Glen - 4 May 2008

Serbs exude class, double up Byki

FK Republika Srpska maintained their perfect record last Sunday when they dispatched the Byki Red Team 4:2 in Homer Glen. It was the second consecutive win for the Serbs over a Byki side; they beat the Blue Team 5:4 on April 27. The Serbs capitalized on Byki errors in the first half and took their chances well. The Byki rebounded in the second half and began playing up to their potential, but the problems in the first half were simply too much to overcome.

The Serbs have not shown any signs of letdown from their highly successful indoor season, which was their introduction into the NSL. They earned promotion to the Major Division for the 2008-09 indoor season and their current form puts them on pace to do a rare double as they seek entry into the Majors next spring.

Srpska scored an early goal when the Byki made a crucial defensive mistake in their end of the field. A Srpska player punished the Byki by beating Nicoara Talpes with a shot from outside the box.

The Byki created their first good scoring chance in the 20th minute when Kevin Biggs heaved a long throw-in over everyone, finding Russ Haynes open in front of the net. Haynes's header from six yards narrowly missed the target.

The Byki were caught flat-footed in the 35th minute on a Srpska corner kick. The Byki left a Srpska player unmarked in front of the goal area and he blasted home for a 2:0 lead.

Coach Joe Gambino gave a halftime talk that was part tirade and part motivation. The Byki got the message and they increased their intensity and used a physical approach to get back into the game. This resulted in many more scoring opportunities, as Paul Gibbs, Luis Arredondo, and Minos Bouzoukis imposed themselves in the middle of the field.

The Byki cut the deficit in half in the early moments of the second stanza. Another powerful throw-in from Biggs proved dangerous, leaving Bouzoukis to tap in from three yards.

Unlike their performance versus the Blue Team when they blew a 2:0 lead, the Serbs were not about to let the Red Team back into the contest. They made it 3:1 shortly after the Byki goal, converting a breakaway situation. Talpes charged off of his line to challenge for the ball, but the Srpska striker smartly chipped the ball over Talpes to score from 25 yards.

The Byki maintained the attacking pressure. Arredondo's corner kick found Abraham Ruiz unmarked just two yards from the goal, but Ruiz somehow contrived to put it over the bar. It was clearly an opportunity that was easier to score than to miss.

Srpska put a stranglehold on the match when the Byki botched an offside trap and the Serbs converted a counterattacking opportunity to go up 4:1. The Byki

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nabbed a consolation goal two minutes from the end when Arredondo sent a free kick into the area and Josh Taylor slotted home from ten yards.

In both of their games so far, the Red Team have been up-and-down. Playing one strong half per game is not enough to remain competitive in the 1st Division.

Russ Haynes contributed to this story.

BYKI SCORING SUMMARY

Bouzoukis 1 (Biggs); 50th; 2:1. Taylor 1 (Arredondo); 88th; 4:2.

BYKI LINEUP (4-4-2): Talpes, N. – Towsey, Casey, Black, Dziekiewicz – Bouzoukis, Torossian, Taylor, Arredondo – Haynes, Biggs. **Bench:** Daniel, Gibbs, Rose, Ruiz.

Jets

6 : 3

Byki

Blue Team - NSL 1st Division
Summit Park - 4 May 2008

Byki let victory slip from their grasp

After the Byki Blue Team scored two quick goals to start the second half to take a 3:1 lead against the West Indies Jets at Summit Park last Sunday, the game should have been well in hand. Their first win of the season should have been assured, but the Jets had other ideas, going on a five-goal rampage in the final 21 minutes to grab a 6:3 win. The stunned Byki are now 0-0-3 for the season.

The Byki have had no problem scoring goals this season. Newcomers Sergio Benavides and Richard Sodeinde have formed a formidable strike partnership. On Sunday, Sodeinde scored twice, while Benavides contributed a goal and an assist. Despite being second in the 1st Division in scoring, the Byki have conceded a whopping 14 goals in three matches.

The match began in wild fashion, as both sides pushed hard for the opening goal. In the seventh minute, Matt Fleming's dangerous corner kick found Yang Bai for an open header. The portly Jets' keeper barely got a hand to Bai's header, sending it off the crossbar. A massive scramble in the box ensued and the Jets managed to clear the ball.

Four minutes later, it was high anxiety in front of the Byki goal. A Jets player shot from close range and was denied by the bar. The desperate Byki eventually sent the ball to safety.

The Byki drew first blood on 20 minutes. Benavides worked hard to put pressure on a Jets defender, forcing a turnover 30 yards from goal. Sodeinde sprinted through the defense to win the ball and easily slotted past the sprawled goalkeeper.

It took the Jets only six minutes to equalize when they floated a cross in from the right wing. The ball got over the outstretched arm of Gerardo Solis, who was making his debut in the Byki goal.

The Byki had the better of play in the first half, but

only had an even scoreline to show for it. Their mission in the second half was to keep up the pressure and demonstrate their superiority.

It took the Byki just two minutes to regain the lead. Solis punted a ball downfield for Benavides, who controlled the ball on the left side. Surrounded by three defenders, Benavides spotted Fleming making a run on the right wing. Benavides astutely passed the ball square to Fleming, who read Benavides' next move perfectly. Fleming served up a cross to the near post, where Benavides nodded the ball into the upper corner of the goal.

The Byki went 3:1 up in the 50th minute. The hard-working Enda McGrath won possession of the ball at the halfway line and dished off to Benavides in the middle. Benavides put Sodeinde through with a spectacular defense-splitting pass. With only the keeper to beat, Sodeinde fired home his second tally of the contest.

With momentum on their side, the Byki were inches away from a fourth goal just after the hour mark. Jason Sphar bent in a corner kick towards the near post. Tony Gallo came through unmarked and slammed a first-time shot off of the post.

But the Jets were not ready to pack it in. In the 65th minute, they had a chance to shoot at an open net, but Sphar was in the right spot to back up Solis and cleared off the line. Four minutes later, the Jets closed to within 3:2 when the Byki defense could not reach a ball over the top and Solis was late coming off his line. The Jets player ran into the clear and slid the ball into the empty goal.

The goal sparked the Jets for two more goals in the span of seven minutes. They got the equalizer when the Byki defended a long throw-in poorly. They allowed the Jets to pass the ball across the box and a shot at the far post found the back of the net.

The Jets incredibly went into the lead in the 78th minute when Bai hauled down a Jets player as he dribbled to goal. The referee immediately blew for a penalty and the Jets player sent Solis the wrong way on the spot kick.

Not satisfied with merely being ahead, the Jets kept their offense revved. Three minutes from time, the Jets came free into the box on the counter. With Solis beaten, defender Matt Freer gave a slight jersey tug to the Jets player, who fell in a heap. Not only did the referee award a penalty on the play, he harshly sent off Freer for a last-man foul. Solis saved the penalty kick, but the shooter got the rebound first and fired past the diving Solis for a 5:3 lead. The Jets added

an insurance goal right at the end to complete the scoring.

The Blue Team have the elements of being a good side, but each player has to understand the importance of a defense-first attitude.

BYKI SCORING SUMMARY

Sodeinde 1; 20th; 0:1. Benavides 3 (Fleming); 47th; 1:2. Sodeinde 2 (Benavides); 50th; 1:3.

BYKI LINEUP (4-4-2): Solis – Bai, Delaunay, Gallo, Bant – McGrath (c), Stanley, Fleming, Lane –Benavides, Sodeinde. **Bench:** Abubakar, Ciszewski, Freer, Sphar.

Jets

6 : 1

Byki

Over 30 Team - NSL Over 30 Division
Washington Park - 3 May 2008

Jets drop early bombs on Byki

The Byki oldtimers dropped their third in a row in the new season when they were flattened by the West Indies Jets 6:1 last Saturday at Washington Park in Chicago. The Jets pounced on the Byki early, scoring four times in the first 21 minutes. The Byki recovered their form after the break, but they could not climb out of the deep hole that they created in the first half.

The Jets grabbed the lead in the opening moments when they played a long pass over the top of the Byki defense. With the defense scrambling to catch up, goalkeeper Dan Blanco came off his line to challenge for the ball. The Jets' striker got there first and danced into the open space to poke the ball into the goal.

Moments later, the score went to 2:0 when the Byki were asleep defending a corner kick. The Jets played the ball short and a player dribbled along the goal line, attracting the attention of the Byki defense. He played a clever diagonal ball to the top of the box, where an unmarked player sprinted forward to blast a first-time shot into the back of the net.

The Jets scored what appeared to be a tainted goal in the 15th minute. Blanco tipped a shot high in the air. The ball fell back towards the goal and Blanco claimed to have reached the ball before it crossed the line. The referee, who was 35 yards from the play, was easily able to determine that the ball crossed a muddy goal line that had been obliterated by the elements. Six minutes later, the Byki gave the ball away in their own area and the Jets converted to make it 4:0.

The score swelled to 5:0 in the 33rd minute. The Jets

passed the ball cross-field to the right flank, where an open player had time and space to lob a shot over Blanco.

The Byki tried to regroup at halftime and attempted to make an effort to start playing smart soccer. They largely succeeded in turning things around, as the ball spent most of the second half in the Jets' end of the field.

The only genuine scoring chance for the Jets in the second half came in the 49th minute, when Eric Tower chased after a Jets' striker sprinting with the ball in the box. As the ball bounced up, Tower punched it out of the field, leading the referee to whistle for a penalty kick. The Jets converted the spot kick to increase their margin to 6:0.

Continued Byki pressure led to a corner kick in the 58th minute. Brett Frischmann sent in a wicked cross to the near post. Jan Winter and Jim Jacobs fought to control the ball, but it ricocheted off of a Jets defender into the back of the net.

The Byki squandered a chance to pull one back in the 73rd minute. Dan Jedrzejowski was tripped in the area after he dribbled past a defender, leading the referee to point to the spot. Jedrzejowski shot low, towards the post, but the keeper showed good reflexes to make the diving save.

BYKI SCORING SUMMARY

Own goal; 58th; 6:1.

BYKI LINEUP (4-5-1): Blanco – Tower, Geng, Gorecki, Moore – Dec, Frischmann, Jedrzejowski (c), Jacobs, Winter – Pedlow. **Bench:** Cooper, Garcia, Silverstein.



This week in Byki history



We're No. 2! Byki vets bring home hardware

The Byki Over 30 Team won its first trophy on April 12, 1999 when they lost 6:2 to Polonia in the championship match of the Odeum's Over 30 League. They finished the second indoor session with a 6-1-3 record. It was a successful winter for the old-timers, who finished in fourth in the first session at 5-2-3.

The sides fought gamely for most of the contest, but Polonia tried to cling tightly to their precarious 2:0 lead at halftime. When Polonia went 3:0 up with 12:39 left in the match, it looked like it was lights-out for the Byki. But the oldboys had other ideas.

Jeff Webb started the comeback with a pass along the boards to George Gorecki, who spotted Rick Bolesta making a run in the middle. George left a pass right in Rick's path, and Rick blasted home a first-time shot. Six minutes later, Sergio Bertoncello shot from the left wing. The shot deflected into the middle for Rick Ventimilla, who shot past the keeper to make it 3:2.

But the Byki could get no closer. Polonia got some breathing room 0:57 after the second Byki goal to go up 4:2 and then scored insurance goals at the end, as the Byki pushed more players forward.

Legovia needs OT to top Byki

The Byki played one of the best matches in the club's history on May 2, 1999 when they lost to Legovia 3:2 on a golden goal in the first round of the Illinois State Cup. Legovia were a Major Division team in the Metropolitan Soccer League and the upstart Byki, newly promoted to the NSL's 1st Division,

gave their opponents all they could handle in a tense encounter.

Legovia took the lead in the 39th minute after sending the attack down the left side and lobbing over goalkeeper Manou Chahmirzadi. The Byki struck back in first-half-stoppage time when stopper Artur Zawadzki headed home a corner kick from Robert Baczewski.

Disaster struck for the Byki early in the second half when speedy winger Richmond Nimako-Boateng was sent off for his second bookable offense. The second yellow card was a dubious one, as Richmond collided softly with the Legovia keeper, who crumpled into a heap. Soon afterwards, Legovia grabbed the lead and the shorthanded Byki looked like they were finished.

Coach Howard Hartenstein started sending more players forward in search of the equalizer. The Byki leveled the score in the 88th minute when Legovia tried to foolishly catch the Byki in an offside trap. Robert Baczewski played a ball into the empty space and Artur Methoxha scampered in from the back and lobbed the ball over the onrushing keeper to send the match into extra time.

It didn't take Legovia very long to create the winning goal and they escaped with a narrow victory. It was a day when the Byki absolutely played their best soccer against a difficult opponent and displayed a talent level that likely exceeded the players' personal expectations. "Watching that game literally took my breath away," said George Gorecki. "Our players dug deeper than they ever had before and played to the max for the entire match."

NATIONAL SOCCER LEAGUE STANDINGS

May 4, 2008

www.nslchicago.org

MAJOR DIVISION

B-H Lilies	3	3	0	0	12	2	9
Honduras SC	3	3	0	0	6	2	9
Deportivo Meridienne	2	2	0	0	11	0	6
RWB Adria	2	1	1	0	4	3	4
KF Ulqin	2	1	0	1	3	3	3
SAC Wisla	3	1	0	2	3	6	3
HNNK Hrvat	2	1	0	1	3	7	3
Deportivo Colomex	2	0	2	0	2	2	2
Gazelle SC	2	0	1	1	2	4	1
Jahbat FC	3	0	0	3	4	8	0
CKS Warta	2	0	0	2	1	6	0
Royal Chicago FC	2	0	0	2	1	9	0

FIRST DIVISION

FK Republika Srpska	3	3	0	0	12	6	9
Albanian Stars	3	2	1	0	9	3	7
Lemont FC	3	2	1	0	7	2	7
Das Magic	3	2	1	0	7	4	7
Khaboor FC	3	2	0	1	5	3	6
West Indies Jets	3	1	1	1	8	6	4
FC Steaua Chicago	1	1	0	0	1	0	3
CKS Warta B	3	1	0	2	3	8	3
Stare Byki FC Red	2	0	0	2	4	8	0
Stare Byki FC Blue	3	0	0	3	9	14	0
NK Prijedor	3	0	0	3	0	5	0
FC Romania	2	0	0	2	0	6	0

SECOND DIVISION

Red Section	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts	Blue Section	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
West Bosnia SC	3	3	0	0	13	3	9	CD Taximaraa	3	2	1	0	12	5	7
Lemont FC Reserves	3	1	1	1	9	7	4	Ultras FC	3	2	0	1	6	5	6
GR-04	1	1	0	0	7	4	3	Juanacatlan	3	1	2	0	7	5	5
FK Podrinje	2	0	1	1	5	7	1	FC Kosova	3	1	0	2	12	13	3
Deportivo Colomex B	2	0	1	1	9	12	1	Chicago Dynasty FC	3	1	0	2	8	17	3
Turkish FC	2	0	1	1	5	10	1	Real Independiente	2	0	1	1	1	3	1
								Mythos FC	2	0	0	2	2	5	0

OVER 30 DIVISION

Red Section	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts	Blue Section	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
Arabian FC	3	2	1	0	11	4	7	SAC Wisla	2	2	0	0	8	3	6
Lake Shore B	3	2	1	0	9	2	7	Hellenic United	1	1	0	0	3	1	3
West Indies Jets	3	2	0	1	12	5	6	Gato Verde	3	1	0	2	6	7	3
Jahbat FC	3	2	0	1	4	5	6	Tanners SC	2	0	0	2	1	9	0
Lake Shore A	3	0	0	3	3	10	0	Stare Byki FC	3	0	0	3	2	13	0