



BYKI BOUNCINGS

9 Jun 07



WI Jets

2 : 2

Byki

A Team - NSL 1st Division
Summit Park - 3 June 2007

Byki unable to put away 10-man Jets

The Byki held a numerical advantage over the West Indies Jets for most of last Sunday's match, but the best they could do was share the spoils in a 2:2 draw played at Summit Park. Dan Stanley paced the Byki with a goal and an assist. The Byki sport a 1-1-1 record for the season.

The Jets dropped down from the Major Division for 2007, a level at which they had been competing for several years. They haven't exactly looked like strong candidates for promotion, coming off of consecutive defeats to Lemont FC and Royal FC. Against the Byki, they displayed speed and aggressiveness, which helped throw the Byki out of their rhythm, but it was not enough to put them over the top.

The pressurizing style of the Jets was well-suited for the cramped field at Summit Park. With little space to operate and little time to make decisions on the ball, Byki players sprayed hurried passes in every direction. The field also intersected a baseball diamond, putting a sizeable portion of the pitch on the infield dirt, which definitely annoyed the Byki. "The field may not have been the greatest," said coach George Gorecki. "But it beats playing at Washington Park,

where these guys used to play."

The 17-strong Byki squad was surprised to see the Jets line up for the kickoff with just ten players. It's not the most successful recipe for a team who want to contend for promotion. Before long, the Jets had their full complement of 11 players, but that only lasted until the 32nd minute, when a Jets player earned his second caution of the day and was sent off by the referee.

The Byki got off to a dream start, despite a last-minute lineup shuffle that was due to several players arriving late. Chris Moore started the play from his left fullback position with a long pass down the wing for Stanley. A Jets player and Stanley fought for the ball in the corner and Stanley came out the winner. He dropped a pass back for midfielder Minos Bouzoukis, who hit a blistering 20-yard shot that kissed the inside of the near post before settling into the back of the net, giving the Byki the lead after just two minutes.

The Jets leveled the affair in the tenth minute. A hard run down the right wing led to a corner for the Jets. The ensuing cross landed in the six-yard box, resulting in a mad scramble. Amid the mayhem, goalkeeper Ryan Eliasek got kicked in the hand and stopper Joe Gambino sustained a foot injury. After several whacks at the loose ball, the Jets finally knocked the ball in.

The short-passing game of the Byki was disrupted by the insistent marking of the Jets, reducing the Byki to a dump-and-chase style of play. Striker Zach Dance was often left on his own to try win high balls and fend off the challenges of two or three defenders, all of whom were bigger and stronger. "We had a hard time adjusting to their aggressiveness," said Gorecki. "We solved things a bit better in the second half, but our rhythm was never really there in a consistent way."

At the half-hour mark, a Jets striker was called for offside for what seemed like the tenth time. He showed his disdain for the referee by blasting the ball over the Byki goal after

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the whistle, which prompted the arbiter to put his name in the book. Two minutes later, the striker was sent to an early shower after he was caught stamping on the foot of Todd Mayer as the players jostled for position prior to a Jets free kick.

The Byki had one other good scoring chance right before the halftime whistle. The Byki defense cleared the ball upfield for John Gwin, who headed the ball along to Dance. The striker immediately took the ball to goal and his hard shot was punched away by the keeper.

The Byki expected to come out roaring in the second half, but it was the Jets who snagged the lead in unexpected fashion in the 47th minute. The Byki defense tried to head a long ball away from goal, but they headed it the wrong way. The ball landed at the feet of a Jets player, who beat Eliasek from short distance for a 2:1 lead.

Things improved for the Byki as they turned the intensity up a notch. In the 57th minute, Jeff Samp put pressure on the goalie when the Jets sent a weak pass in his direction. Portly and mostly immobile, the keeper won the ball, but feebly cleared the ball to Matt Fleming, who was on the right side

of the penalty area. Fleming floated a cross to the far post for Stanley, who scored on a spectacular header. As the Jets were reacting to the ball coming from right to left, Stanley adroitly headed the ball back to the right side of the goal.

Despite being a man down, the Jets didn't let their foot off the gas. In the 62nd minute, they earned a free kick just outside the box and curled a free kick around the Byki wall. Eliasek leapt across the face of goal to keep the ball out.

"It wasn't the ideal outcome," said Gorecki. "But our goal every week is to come away from the game with points, and we did that. The 1st Division has a lot of good teams and we'll need to improve on both sides of the ball to earn a place in the top six."

BYKI SCORING SUMMARY

Bouzoukis 1 (Stanley); 2nd; 0:1. Stanley 3 (Fleming); 57th; 2:2.

BYKI LINEUP (4-4-2): Eliasek – Daniel, Delaunay, Gambino, Moore, C–Mansur, P Jr, Mayer, Goudeaux, Bouzoukis – Stanley, Dance (c). **Bench:** Battles, Ciszewski, Fleming, Gwin, Rose, Samp.

L. Shore B

2 : 2

Byki

Over 30 Team - NSL Over 30 Division
Montrose & Cumberland - 2 June 2007

Over 30s still seeking 1st win

The Byki old-timers had to scratch and claw their way out of a jeopardy situation last Saturday when they took on Lake Shore B. After a desultory first half, the Byki broke their scoreless streak with two well-taken goals in the second half, the final one coming just two minutes from the end to cap off a 2:2 draw. It's always good to get a point, but the Byki must feel regret at not nabbing all three.

The match was played on a jungle of a pitch at Montrose and Cumberland. The field is always one of the NSL's most awful venues and the situation was made worse by the League's refusal to do any field maintenance beyond the normal grass-cutting done by the forest preserve district. As a result, the grass was as high as eight inches in some places, not exactly a recipe for flowing football.

The appalling conditions were a boon to Lake Shore, as a lousy field can be the great equalizer for a team with the modest technical level that the home side bring to the game. Lake Shore didn't win any style points for their effort, but they deserve credit for putting away their chances.

The Byki dominated possession for long stretches, yet had little to show for it on the scoreboard. Lake Shore put very little pressure on the Byki in the midfield. They really clamped down in the final third, and that's where the Byki

attack often ground to a halt.

The Byki wasted no time getting right into the action. After just four minutes, Brett Frischmann stole the ball 25 yards from the Lake Shore goal. Frischmann dribbled the ball to the arc and fired a shot that hit the post. The keeper fumbled the rebound out to the right flank, where Bo He crossed the ball to the far post. Running mate Peng Liu went full stretch on a diving header, but He's pass was just a little too long.

Lake Shore suddenly snatched the lead six minutes later on their first successful movement in the Byki half of the field. After the Byki got caught in possession 30 yards from goal, Lake Shore made a neat little pass into the penalty area. Sweeper Wei Zhang and goalie Dan Blanco both converged on the ball from opposite directions, but a Lake Shore striker got there first and softly chipped the ball past Blanco in the empty net.

The Byki were forced to change keepers at the half-hour mark after Blanco dislocated a finger following a Lake Shore shot. Jim Cook stepped in between the pipes and was greeted by a shot from the right wing that glanced off of the bar. Four minutes later, a Lake Shore player broke behind the Byki backline and Cook made an exceptional one-on-one save.

At the break, Zhang wanted to reinforce the idea of playing calmly and not forcing passes into difficult positions. The Byki came out with renewed effort in the second half and momentum had visibly shifted.

In the 47th minute, He took the ball in from the left side, angling into the box. He made a square pass to Liu, who dropped the ball to Luis Arredondo. The midfielder drilled a hard shot that forced the keeper to make a diving save.

Two minutes later, Arredondo intercepted a short Lake Shore goal kick and dished the ball to Liu. With the keeper out, a desperate clearance off the line by a defender denied an equalizer. On the ensuing corner kick, Arredondo curled in a tantalizing ball to far post for Liu, and his attempt was narrowly wide of the target.

The Byki leveled the affair in the 56th minute. Nick Elmkinssi crossed the ball into the box from the left wing and a Lake Shore defender handled the ball, leading to a penalty kick. Elmkinssi adroitly converted the spot kick to make it 1:1.

That tally might have led to an avalanche of Byki goals, but Lake Shore had other ideas. In the 62nd minute, Cook once again saved the day for the Byki. Lake Shore played the ball over the top, leaving Zhang twisted around, which sprang the Lake Shore player on a clear break. Cook displayed

remarkable reflexes with a diving stop from short range.

Lake Shore regained the lead a minute later when a Byki defender handled the ball in the box. Cook was powerless to stop the penalty and now the Byki had to find yet another equalizer.

They left that task until nearly the very end, but it was a goal worth waiting for. Zhang launched a long pass from the back to He, who headed the ball along to Ernesto Garcia. When He continued to run toward the goal, Garcia dropped the ball back to him. He spotted Dan Jedrzejowski making a run on the right of the box and slid a well-timed pass into his path. Jedrzejowski picked his spot and crushed a shot that nestled just inside the far post.

The Byki didn't play the greatest of games, but a defeat would have been a cruel result for a team that fought their way through tall grass and the clutching and grabbing of the Lake Shore defenders.

BYKI SCORING SUMMARY

Elmkinssi 1; (pk); 56th; 1:1. Jedrzejowski 1 (He); 78th; 2:2.

BYKI LINEUP (4-4-2): Blanco – Zhang, Geng, Song, Pedlow – Frischmann, Jedrzejowski, Elmkinssi (c), Arredondo – He, Liu. **Bench:** Cook, Garcia, Gorecki, Moore, P, Silverstein.

Byki Stats

A TEAM, NSL 1st DIVISION

Player	G	A	Pts
Dance	6	0	6
Stanley	3	1	4
Bouzoukis	1	2	3
Gwin	1	1	2
Fleming	0	2	2
Goudeaux	1	0	1
Mansur, P Jr	0	1	1
Mayer	0	1	1
Moore, C	0	1	1

Goalie	Min	GA	GAA
Eliasek	270	8	2.67

Current record: 1-1-1

B TEAM, NSL 1st DIVISION

Player	G	A	Pts
Lin	1	1	2
Harake	1	0	1
Torossian	1	0	1
Colwell	0	1	1
Gallo	0	1	1
Goalie	Min	GA	GAA
Drake	180	3	1.50
de la Cruz	90	2	2.00

Current record: 1-0-2

O-30 TEAM, NSL O-30 DIVISION

Player	G	A	Pts
Elmkinssi	1	0	1
Jedrzejowski	1	0	1
Regueiro	1	0	1
Garcia	0	1	1
He	0	1	1
Goalie	Min	GA	GAA
Mansur, P Sr	40	0	0.00
Cook	90	1	0.89
Blanco	190	9	3.79

Current record: 0-2-2

Byki blanked by newcomers

The Byki suffered their second shutout in three matches when FC Steaua Chicago came away with a 2:0 victory at Conkey Forest Preserve on May 20. The Byki squandered numerous potent scoring chances in the first half and then paid the price when the home team cashed in on theirs in the second half. The defeat drops the Byki to 1-0-2 on the season.

The match marked the return of goalkeeper Jorge de la Cruz, who took a leave of absence from the club during the indoor season. De la Cruz provided a strong effort in the nets, giving the B Team a much-needed boost.

With a win and two draws in the early season, Steaua had made a very positive start to their maiden season in the NSL. As debutantes in the League, no one knew much about them and what kind of challenge they would present.

The Byki got off to a strong start. In the first minute of the contest, Ahmad Harake passed the ball to Enda McGrath. The midfielder saw an opening and cracked a beautiful shot from 25 yards, but was denied by the crossbar. Five minutes later, the speedy Jwo-Horng Lin raced in on a breakaway, with only the keeper to beat. The Steaua goalie, however, was equal to the task and snuffed Lin's shot attempt.

In the 28th minute, Russ Haynes and Brett Frischmann worked a nifty give-and-go to send Frischmann into the clear. Frischmann touched the ball past the onrushing goalkeeper, but sent his shot wide of the target. Haynes had a great chance to give the Byki the lead right before the break, but the keeper made a nice save on a shot from the edge of the area.

Despite all of the opportunities that the Byki created, the lack of finishing was a crucial shortfall. "The way we dominated possession, we could have been up 3:0 at the half," lamented coach Joe Gambino. Steaua had done good job to absorb the pressure and then sought to take care of business in the second half.

The Byki tried to pick up where they left off when the

second half began. In the 50th minute, McGrath made a forceful run to the byline on the right side and sent a cross into Lin, whose shot from six yards went over the bar.

Five minutes later, Steaua made the Byki pay for their poor shooting accuracy. They put pressure on the Byki in their penalty area and the Byki were unable to clear the ball out. After several failed attempts, Steaua knocked the ball in following a scramble in front of the goal.

That tally had a massive deflating effect on the Byki. "Once they scored, our guys took the attitude that the game was lost," noted Gambino.

In the 70th minute, Steaua put the icing on the cake. When the Byki backline failed to get the ball out of danger, de la Cruz slid into the fray feet first to try to get to the ball. He collided with a Steaua striker, prompting the referee to whistle for a penalty kick. The contact might have been embellished somewhat, but players sliding at the legs of opponents will almost always get the referee's attention. The Steaua player taking the penalty sent de la Cruz the wrong way, increasing the lead to a commanding 2:0 score.

The Byki failed to establish the wings and ball control was lacking around. "We played like we hadn't played for a couple weeks," said Haynes. "They punished us for not putting the game away in the first half."

Joe Gambino and Russ Haynes contributed to this report.

BYKI SCORING SUMMARY

None.

BYKI LINEUP (4-4-2): de La Cruz – Towsey, Williams, Gallo, Casey (c) – McGrath, Peng, Colwell, Haynes – Lin, Harake. **Bench:** Frischmann, Lane, Wall, Zwickl.

NATIONAL SOCCER LEAGUE STANDINGS

June 3, 2007

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MAJOR DIVISION

	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
RWB Adria	4	4	0	0	12	4	12
CKS Warta	4	3	1	0	11	8	10
SAC Wisla	5	3	0	2	15	6	9
HNNK Hrvat	4	2	1	1	9	6	7
FC Romania	4	2	1	1	12	11	7
B-H Lllies	4	2	1	1	5	4	7
Gazelle SC	3	1	1	1	3	4	4
Honduras SC	4	1	1	2	8	11	4
Jahbat FC	5	1	1	3	11	15	4
KF Ulqin	4	1	0	3	10	11	3
NK Prijedor	4	0	2	2	5	11	2
Albanian Stars	5	0	1	4	4	14	1

FIRST DIVISION

	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
Royal FC	4	3	1	0	15	7	10
Khaboor FC	4	3	1	0	12	4	10
Deportivo Colomex	4	3	0	1	10	7	9
FC Steaua Chicago	4	2	2	0	9	6	8
Lemont FC	5	2	2	1	9	7	8
Chicago Thunder	4	2	0	2	8	5	6
FK Kozarac	4	2	0	2	10	12	6
Stare Byki A	3	1	1	1	12	8	4
West Indies Jets	4	1	1	2	7	11	4
Stare Byki B	3	1	0	2	3	5	3
West Bosnia SC	4	0	0	4	3	9	0
Turkish FC	5	0	0	5	5	22	0

SECOND DIVISION

Red Section	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts	Blue Section	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
Das Magic	4	3	1	0	16	5	10	Real Independiente	4	3	0	1	15	11	9
FK Podrinje	4	2	1	1	10	6	7	CKS Warta B	4	2	1	1	9	6	7
GR-04	4	2	0	2	18	10	6	Juanacatlan	5	2	0	3	7	13	6
Los Chasquis	4	1	0	3	8	26	3	FC Transilvania	4	1	2	1	10	8	5
Pitbulls SC	3	0	1	2	2	8	1	FC Kosova	4	1	0	3	8	10	3

OVER 30 DIVISION

Red Section	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts	Blue Section	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
Tanners SC	5	3	1	1	15	17	10	Arabian FC	5	4	0	1	20	9	12
Gato Verde	5	2	3	0	16	2	9	SAC Wisla	4	3	1	0	19	6	10
Lake Shore A	5	2	1	2	20	17	7	Hellas SC	3	2	0	1	13	13	6
West Indies Jets	5	0	2	3	6	16	2	Stare Byki FC	4	0	2	2	3	10	2
Jahbat FC	4	0	1	3	11	25	1	Lake Shore B	4	0	1	3	6	14	1