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BLUE

Gremio 1 : 2 Byki

NSL 1st Division - Argo HS - 21 August 2011

Byki, playoffs? Really?

When the Blue Team began the season with three losses by a combined score of 12:2, no one in the squad was thinking about the playoffs. At that point, keeping heads above water was the primary concern. Following Sunday's 2:1 nail biter over Gremio FC, the Byki had reversed their early season woes to an impressive 15 points in the ensuing seven matches. Although they have yet to climb into the top three of the Red Section, they are close enough to smell the sweet aroma of the postseason.

Bolstered by solid defending from an ever stronger back four and getting stellar goalkeeping from Martin Bertels, the Byki are looking better every Sunday. Their confidence level is growing at even faster rate and they overcame a stuttering offensive performance and some dodgy refereeing to take home all three points.

The Red Section of the NSL's 1st Division has become a five-team battleground. Brusfa FC and Assyrian FC are poised to duke it out for the top spot in the group, while NK Prijedor, Independiente FC and the Byki will be fighting for the third and final playoff spot. Prijedor and Independiente have 17 and 16 points, respectively, while the Byki are on 15. The Byki have played two fewer matches than those two teams and will be facing each of them before the end of the season, which means the Byki have their fate in their own hands.

Coach George Gorecki expected a tough match out of Gremio, who would be doomed to relegation with anything less than a victory. "Desperate teams won't always play according to form," he said. "Gremio did a nice job in keeping possession, but their finishing was not up to the level that they needed."

The Byki snatched the early lead after only 14 minutes. After the Gremio defense cleared a corner kick to the right flank, fullback Mike Kosinski was in the right spot to put the ball back into the danger area. He looped a ball into the box and Jeremy Slate sneaked in alone. The keeper made a late

move to intervene, but Slate made no mistake from short range.

A rare defensive lapse allowed Gremio to equalize just two minutes later. The Byki were sleeping on a long ball lumped in towards the goal, leaving Bertels one on one with the Gremio striker.

The Byki were opportunistic in the 26th minute. Gremio cleared a corner kick to Slate, standing just outside the area. He sent the ball back in, although it was unclear whether he was shooting or passing. The keeper wasn't clear about it either and dropped the easy ball inside his goal area. Alan Stevens was in the right spot to tap the ball home for a 2:1 advantage.

"I didn't think that we played the greatest first half," said Gorecki. "We let them have too much time on the ball. I wanted the players to take firm control of the game."

The Byki looked much sharper to start the second half. Anthony del Priore intercepted a lazy pass in the Gremio end of the field and dribbled towards the penalty area. Seeing the keeper coming out, del Priore tried to chip the ball in, but went slightly over the target.

The increased aggressiveness from Matt Fleming, Tim Havlat and Kosinski prevented Gremio from building any attacking rhythm. But the Byki were unable to increase their lead and Gremio remained confident of an equalizer. As time wore on, the midday heat began to wear on the Byki, and by the final quarter of an hour, the Byki chose to make a defensive stand.

Bertels came into another level in the endgame. He tipped a hard shot from 20 yards over the bar in the 70th minute and punched away a long-range bomb in the 87th minute. Tension was at its highest level in the final minute of play, when the referee harshly concluded that del Priore had tripped a Gremio player in the Byki penalty area and immediately pointed to the spot. "It was as though the referee was looking for an excuse to give them a penalty," noted Greg Zaskowski, who saw the play from the bench area. Bertels managed to block the penalty attempt with his trailing leg and the Byki cleared



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the rebound to safety to preserve the win.

The Byki have five matches remaining, in addition to finishing off the time left in their May 8 match versus Assyrian FC, which was abandoned due to darkness. Every game is a big game from now on and gaining every point will be crucial.

BYKI LINEUP (4-4-2): Bertels – Mansur, Kosinski, Stevens (c), Garnon – Havlat, Padda, Fleming, Del Priore – Koenig, Slate. **Bench:** Najera, Zaskowski.

BYKI SCORING SUMMARY

0:1 – Slate 3 (Kosinski); 14th.

1:2 – Stevens 1; 26th.

Byki Men of the Match: Martin Bertels and Mike Kosinski

on a breakaway that appeared to be offside to the Byki defense.

Two good chances by the Byki failed to find the back of the net. In the 34th minute, Ciszewski and Todd Trowbridge forced a turnover and nearly capitalized when Ciszewski's shot went just wide of the post. In the 42nd minute, Mike Stamatinos floated a free kick into the mixer for Herholdt, whose header was deflected by the goalie off of the goalpost.

The Byki started well after the break. Russ stole the ball along the right wing and made a long run to the goal line. He found Ivan Torossian, who sent a curling shot towards the post. Only a desperate, full-stretch save prevented the Byki from closing the gap.

The Byki sought to move the ball faster to deal with Hellenic's pressure and this allowed the second half to be played to a standoff. Hellenic went up 4:1 in the 72nd minute when a clever pass beat the Byki defense. But the Byki replied nine minutes from the end when Torossian's 30-yard free kick attempt was spilled by the keeper. Stamatinos hustled to win the loose ball and angled a tough shot home for his first goal of the season.

BYKI LINEUP (4-4-2): Barsotti – Black (c), Dziekiewicz, Mike Lupou, Suhayda – Herholdt, Ciszewski, Stamatinos, Trowbridge – Russ, Torossian.

BYKI SCORING SUMMARY

2:1 – Ciszewski 4 (Russ); 30th.

4:2 – Stamatinos 1; 81st.

Byki Men of the Match: Martin Herholdt and Todd Trowbridge

RED

Hellenic Utd 3 : 2 Byki

NSL Major Division - Oak Brook Sorts Core - 21 August 2011

Hellenic show their class

Hellenic United's Blue Team continued to maintain their dominant position in the Major Division when they downed the Byki Red Team 4:2 last Sunday at Oak Brook Sports Core. Hellenic used an aggressive defensive style to throttle the Byki, who struggled to find an attacking rhythm until after halftime. The defeat drops the Byki to 5-1-5. They sit in third place behind Gazelle SC, trailing the Nigerians by two points.

The task for the Byki was made more difficult when only 11 players were dressed for the match. Disaster struck when Marek Ciszewski tweaked his hamstring late in the first half. Ciszewski tried to make a go of it after the break, but was hampered too much to be able to continue. That left the Byki to find a way to make up a 3:1 deficit while playing shorthanded.

Hellenic needed just ten minutes to break into the lead. A Hellenic player dribbled straight through the heart of the Byki midfield and dished off to a teammate on the right side of the Byki penalty area. Keeper Aaron Barsotti came out to cut down the shooting angle and blocked the shot. The rebound went directly back to the Hellenic player, who slipped by the prone Barsotti to knock the ball into the empty net. It was a play where Byki defensive errors were too numerous to count.

Poor marking contributed to Hellenic's second goal 12 minutes later. The Byki cleared a corner kick towards the right flank. A Hellenic player sent an unobstructed cross to the far side and an unmarked player inside the goal area finished the play with ease.

The Byki replied at the half hour mark. Martin Herholdt sent a clearance from midfield to newcomer Ryan Russ, who sprinted down the left flank. When Russ reached the box, the Hellenic keeper came out to challenge. Russ swerved towards the goal line and crossed into the middle for Ciszewski, who tapped into the unguarded goal to bring the Byki to within 2:1. Hellenic regained their two-goal lead two minutes later

Byki Stats

RED TEAM, NSL MAJOR DIVISION				BLUE TEAM, NSL 1ST DIVISION			
Player	G	A	Pts	Player	G	A	Pts
Mehreioskouei	4	2	6	Del Priore	2	2	4
Ciszewski	4	1	5	Koenig	3	0	3
Herholdt	2	2	4	Slate	3	0	3
Torossian	3	0	3	Stevens	1	2	3
Stamatinos	1	2	3	Garnon	0	3	3
Taubman	2	0	2	Karam, L	2	0	2
Trowbridge	1	1	2	Simas	2	0	2
Dziekiewicz	0	2	2	Pirahmadi	1	0	1
Lupou, Mike	0	2	2	Gambino	0	1	1
Barsotti	1	0	1	Kosinski	0	1	1
Gambino	1	0	1	Mansur	0	1	1
Geraghty	1	0	1				
Buur	0	1	1				
Russ	0	1	1				
Taylor	0	1	1				
Team goals	3	x	x				

Goalie	Min	GA	GAA
Bertels	180	2	1.00
Lupou, Marty	540	9	1.50
Barsotti	180	4	2.00
Gambino	90	4	4.00

Current record: 5-0-5

OVER 40

Celtics Green 2 : 2 Byki

PSLC Over 40 Division -East Side Sorts Complex - 21 August 2011

Disappointed with a point

The Over 40 Team were unable to get out of their rut last Sunday, scrambling their way to a 2:2 draw with cellar-dwelling St Charles Celtics Green. The Celtics are the only team that the Byki have beaten this year and they had to come back from a 2:0 deficit just to rescue a point out of this one. The Byki are now 1-5-8 for the season.

Sloppy play by the Byki in the first half left them in a tough situation. Poor first touches, careless play in the defensive end, excessive dribbling and awful finishing were the ingredients to a really bad soccer mixture. Even though the Celtics had a hard time crossing the halfway line in the first 20 minutes, Byki ineptitude kept the game even.

The Celtics eventually went ahead when they intercepted a pass at midfield and came roaring right down the middle. Just when the Byki defense appeared to be melting, Dave Safford prevented a through pass from reaching its target. The Byki tried to play the ball out of danger with short passes, but all they managed to do was create more mayhem. A turnover inside the penalty area gifted the Celtics their 1:0 lead.

Shortly thereafter, the Celtics chipped a ball into the box. Goalkeeper James Vlahakis came out to get it, but the ball bounced off his arm and into the air. An onrushing St. Charles forward got there first and simply tapped it in the net. Player-coach Eric Tower was not happy with what he was seeing. "St Charles had taken three shots and scored two goals off lousy plays," he grouched.

Tower switched the team around and things looked brighter right away after the break. Joe Sambou shifted from sweeper to striker and Steven Pedlow was slotted in at the wing. Momentum swung decisively to the Byki, who began raining shots on the St Charles goal. As the Byki pressure mounted, Robert Dec crossed the ball from the corner. The ball cleared players at the near post and rolled towards the top of the penalty box, where Pedlow smashed the ball just inside the far post to pull the Byki back into the game at 2:1 in the 55th minute.

The Byki kept turning the screws. In the 65th minute, Dec beat a man in the box and was hammered down, prompting

the referee to award the Byki a penalty. Brian Huck stepped up and converted the spot kick to level the affair at 2:2.

The Byki continued to search for the gamewinner, but came up short yet again. The Celtics did a good job getting players behind the ball and the Byki made defending easy by constantly dribbling and ignoring simple passes to open up the space. Another draw, another two points lost.

Steven Pedlow, Eric Tower, James Vlahakis contributed to this story.

BYKI LINEUP (4-4-2): Vlahakis – Sambou, Geng, Dahlquist, Safford – Tower, Dec, Muehlbauer, Weslar – Pedlow, Posada. **Bench:** Chial, Cooper, Fukar, Gorski, Huck, Jacobs.

BYKI SCORING SUMMARY

2:1 – Pedlow 3 (Dec); 55th.

2:2 – Huck 5 (pk); 65th.

Byki Man of the Match: Steven Pedlow

Byki Stats

O-30 TEAM, PSLC O-30 DIVISION

Player	G	A	Pts
Kekus	8	3	11
Kramarz	2	2	4
Torossian	2	1	3
Pirillis	1	1	2
Worek	0	2	2
Banbor	1	0	1
Samp	1	0	1
Zaskowski	1	0	1
Dec	0	1	1
Fleming	0	1	1
Gibbs	0	1	1
Lane	0	1	1
McGrath	0	1	1
Team goals	6	x	x

O-40 TEAM, PSLC O-40 DIVISION

Player	G	A	Pts
Huck	5	0	5
Pedlow	3	1	4
Dec	1	2	3
Posada	1	2	3
Cruickshank	2	0	2
Dahlquist	2	0	2
Jacobs	1	1	2
Sambou	0	2	2
Fukar	1	0	1
Gorski	1	0	1
Zygmunt	1	0	1
Muehlbauer	0	1	1

Goalie	Min	GA	GAA
Vlahakis	90	2	2.00
Bertels	450	18	3.60
Najera	180	8	4.00
Fukar	90	5	5.00

Goalie	Min	GA	GAA
Vlahakis	1080	30	2.50
Muehlbauer	90	3	3.00
Fukar	90	6	6.00

Current record: 1-5-8

Current record: 4-1-6

NATIONAL SOCCER LEAGUE STANDINGS

August 25, 2011

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MAJOR DIVISION

Red Section	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
RWB Adria	7	7	0	0	30	7	21
SAC Wisla	8	5	2	1	33	15	17
Jahbat FC	10	3	3	4	23	24	12
FC Steaua	10	3	2	5	20	32	11
Albanian Stars	5	2	2	1	12	8	8
Khaboor FC	11	0	2	9	11	41	2

Blue Section	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
Hellenic United Blue	9	8	0	1	36	15	24
Gazelle SC	9	6	0	3	25	16	18
Stare Byki FC Red	11	5	1	5	23	19	16
Hellenic United White	9	3	1	5	13	18	10
CKS Warta A	9	2	3	4	11	23	9
FK Republika Srpska	10	1	2	7	11	30	5

FIRST DIVISION

Red Section	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
Brusfa FC	12	8	2	2	43	18	26
Assyrian FC	10	8	0	2	47	24	24
NK Prijedor	12	5	2	5	29	23	17
Independiente FC	12	5	1	6	32	28	16
Stare Byki FC Blue	10	5	0	5	14	21	15
Gremio FC	12	0	0	12	12	60	0

Blue Section	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
Deportivo Colomex	11	9	1	1	38	16	28
Das Magic	12	6	1	5	39	26	19
Chicago Thunder	11	4	3	4	30	32	15
CKS Warta B	11	4	1	6	11	25	13
West Indies Jets SC	11	3	3	5	22	30	12
Winged Bull B	12	3	2	7	17	31	11

SECOND DIVISION

Red Section	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
Bosphorus FC	9	7	1	1	26	5	22
Chicago Dynasty FC	10	5	2	3	16	11	17
Lamaso FC	8	4	2	2	25	18	14
FC Moldova	10	4	1	5	18	17	13
FK Podrinje	9	0	1	8	5	31	1

Blue Section	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
FC Kosova	10	9	1	0	51	18	28
Lemont FC	8	7	0	1	34	12	21
DePaul FC	6	3	0	3	22	14	9
Chicago Thunder B	10	3	0	7	26	56	9
Turkish FC	7	2	0	5	21	27	6
West Bosnia SC	8	0	0	8	5	34	0

OVER 30 DIVISION

	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
FC Kosova	11	10	1	0	54	18	31
Lemont FC	9	7	1	1	37	15	22
Turkish FC	9	3	1	5	25	28	10
DePaul FC	6	3	0	3	22	14	9
Chicago Thunder B	11	3	0	8	26	62	9
West Bosnia SC	10	0	0	10	5	40	0

PREMIER SOCCER LEAGUE of CHICAGOLAND

August 21, 2011

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OVER 30 RED DIVISION

	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
Bulgaria FC	11	10	0	1	38	11	30
St Charles Celtics Red	10	8	0	2	46	15	24
Torino FC	9	7	0	2	29	9	21
Balkan	11	6	0	5	23	26	18
Stare Byki FC	12	4	1	7	22	36	13
FC Tarnovia	13	3	1	9	16	38	10
Hellenic United AC	12	2	2	8	14	32	8
Chicago Celtic	12	2	2	8	14	35	8

OVER 40 GREEN DIVISION

	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
Champions FC	12	9	0	3	67	19	27
International SC	11	9	0	2	30	15	27
Botev Chicago	12	7	1	4	30	20	22
FC DePaul	12	7	0	5	26	42	21
Park Ridge Rogues	14	6	2	6	33	40	20
Real Wilmette	12	5	4	3	24	17	19
St Charles Celtics Blue	11	4	2	5	19	23	14
Hellenic United AC	11	3	4	4	26	23	13
Stare Byki FC	14	1	5	8	18	39	8
St Charles Celtics Green	13	0	2	11	8	43	2

OVER 40 BLUE DIVISION

	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
Gato Verde	11	10	0	1	50	8	30
Real FC 40+	14	8	4	2	35	27	28
Pampas OT	13	7	1	5	26	27	22
MOFG	12	6	2	4	26	19	20
Windy City United	11	5	1	5	21	19	16
Villains SC	11	4	2	5	27	22	14
Naperville Strikers FC	11	4	0	7	22	28	12
Torino FC	10	2	1	7	21	40	7
St Charles Celtics Orange	11	0	1	10	9	47	1