



BOUNCINGS

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Byki

1 : 1

Magic

Red Team - NSL 1st Division
Conkey Forest Preserve - 7 September 2008

No trick up their sleeves

The Byki Red Team's ambitions to reach the top levels of the 1st Division's Championship Section took a slight detour last Sunday at Conkey Forest Preserve when they were held to a 1:1 draw by Das Magic. The result leaves the Byki at 6-3-3, eight points behind second-place FC Steaua Chicago, as the race for promotion sorts itself out.

The Byki had a quite a bit of ground to make up to get into the top two of the Section and draws are no way to climb the table. With time running out on the season, this was a match in which the Byki had to secure all three points.

And while the Byki may look back and see the game as an opportunity lost, credit must be given to a Magic side that combined youthful skill with the hustle of older, experienced players. Das Magic did a good job in keeping the Byki bottled up and had just enough attacking spark to maintain an edge to the contest.

The Byki probed the Magic defense early and Luis Arredondo unhinged them with a well-placed ball over the top. Josh Taylor raced past the last defender and crushed a hard shot that the keeper did well to save in the 18th minute.

Das Magic replied six minutes later. They executed a crafty play from a free kick on the left side near the goal line. A Magic player unexpectedly crossed the ball towards the near post, where an unmarked teammate nearly beat goalkeeper Joe Gambino.

In the 35th minute, Das Magic caught the Byki defense off-balance. Gambino came out to control the play, but arrived too late. An open shot looked like it was headed for the back of the net, but the Byki defenders regrouped and sent the ball to safety.

Six minutes before the interval, the Byki rushed forward on the counter, despite being outnumbered 3 v 5. The mismatch didn't concern striker Ivan Torossian, who dribbled across the face of the penalty area to create an opening. He drilled a shot, forcing the goalie to make a diving save.

Gambino was not happy with his team's performance and

wanted everyone to get more physical with a Magic team that was taking too many chances with their aggressive defending. The Magic were taking the Byki out of their possession game and the Byki were having trouble getting back to that style of play.

The Byki grabbed the lead in the 52nd minute after Conor Casey boomed a free kick from the right wing into the mixer. The Magic defense allowed the ball to drop in the box and Kevin Biggs knocked a header over to Torossian, who made no mistake when he smashed a decisive side volley into the back of the net.

The Byki were hardly done celebrating before Das Magic created an equalizer. Letting their guard down, the Byki left players unmarked and a shot from the top of the box beat Gambino to knot things at 1:1.

The game went back and forth for the last half hour, with both teams seeking the goal that would put them over the top. Biggs looked to link up with Torossian once again in the 57th minute. He slipped the ball to Torossian, who got behind the defense and fired a shot that the keeper tipped over the bar.

Das Magic had a great opportunity to go ahead in the 66th minute. A free kick from 25 yards out got over the wall and had Gambino beaten, but the ball clanged off the crossbar.

In the 72nd minute, the Magic defense had its own nervous moment. Taylor passed to Biggs on the right side of the box. Biggs cut back across the middle and sent the ball to Torossian, who shot towards the far post. The goalie was nowhere to be found, but a defender saved the day by clearing the ball away.

Das Magic replied with two great opportunities off the counter. They caught the Byki defense in moments of confusion, but the Byki dodged bullets when the resulting shot attempts missed the target.

The pot boiled over a bit when a Magic player was sent off following a second bookable offense in the 80th minute.

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The player had gotten his first caution after getting tangled up with Arredondo, and then got the second for a foolish handball. But Das Magic did not bunker down for the draw. Five minutes from the end, they caught the Byki backpedaling on the counterattack and Gambino made a tremendous save on a hard shot from the right side of the area.

Gambino has warned his players that nothing could be taken for granted at this point in the season. Even though the Byki had beaten Das magic 2:0 back in May, teams are now clawing and scratching for every point. The Byki have to be

ready for a tough battle every Sunday.

BYKI SCORING SUMMARY

Torossian 5 (Biggs); 52nd; 1:0.

BYKI LINEUP (4-4-2): Gambino – Black, Casey (c), Rose, Dziekiewicz – Domek, Taylor, Fleming, Arredondo – Biggs, Torossian. **Bench:** Daniel, Huell, Ruiz.

Byki Stats

RED TEAM, NSL 1st DIVISION

Player	G	A	Pts
Haynes	7	2	9
Torossian	5	3	8
Taylor	4	0	4
Biggs	1	3	4
Arredondo	0	3	3
Ruiz	2	0	2
Bouzoukis	1	1	2
Daniel	1	1	2
Samp	0	2	2
Bridge	1	0	1
Domek	1	0	1
Dziekiewicz	1	0	1
Boghicev	0	1	1
Casey	0	1	1
Team goals	3	x	x

Goalie	Min	GA	GAA
Tice	180	0	0.00
Gambino	540	9	1.50
Talpes, N.	270	8	2.67

Current record: 6-3-3

BLUE TEAM, NSL 1st DIVISION

Player	G	A	Pts
Benavides	4	2	6
Sodeinde	5	0	5
Bai	1	1	2
Ciszewski	1	1	2
Fleming	1	1	2
Sphar	1	1	2
Delaunay	1	0	1
Gallo	1	0	1
McGrath	1	0	1
Ogundipe	1	0	1
Stanley	1	0	1
Frischmann	0	1	1
Kanver	0	1	1
Team goals	9	x	x

Goalie	Min	GA	GAA
Boone	180	5	2.50
Tice	90	3	3.00
McGrath	90	3	3.00
Solis	180	6	3.00
Gambino	270	12	4.00
Jacobson	90	4	4.00
Klimaszewski	90	4	4.00

Current record: 3-0-10

O-30 TEAM, NSL O-30 DIVISION

Player	G	A	Pts
Kekus	7	5	12
Dec	2	1	3
Elmkinssi	2	1	3
Winter	2	1	3
Banbor	1	2	3
Cardenas	2	0	2
Frischmann	1	1	2
Jacobs	1	1	2
Jedrzejewski	1	1	2
Silverstein	1	1	2
Gibbs	0	1	1
Team goals	4	x	x

Goalie	Min	GA	GAA
Klimaszewski	80	2	2.00
Zacarias	80	2	2.00
Fukar	400	12	2.40
Lopez	160	8	4.00
Blanco	240	13	4.33
Tsipris	80	5	5.00

Current record: 4-1-8

Byki comeback not enough

The Blue Team dropped their 10th match in 13 tries last Sunday when they fell 3:2 to Khaboor FC at Lawler Park in Skokie. The Byki spotted Khaboor a three-goal lead before mounting a furious comeback in the second half. In the end, the Byki could not conjure a third tally and their prospects look as grim as ever.

Manager Tony Gallo had expected a full roster of 18 players for this game, but had to scramble at the last moment, as only 14 actually showed up. Goalkeeper Steve Meinke was set to make his debut with the club, but came up with a late injury. Two other debutantes were complete no-shows. Enda McGrath, still recovering from injury, hadn't intended to suit up, but stepped in at goalkeeper.

The small field at Lawler Park is conducive to Khaboor's quick-hit, direct style of play. They load up their forward line with speedy players, lump the ball from the back to bypass the midfield, and then it's off to the races. Without any referee's assistants in 1st Division matches, the man in the middle is often in poor position to detect offside on these long passes and Khaboor's strategy leads to loads of stinging counterattacks.

The tactic left the Byki particularly vulnerable, given the number of new players in uniform the past few weeks. On Sunday, six of the players on the Byki roster had played two games or fewer with the club.

Khaboor grabbed the lead when they lofted a free kick into the Byki area from 40 yards. Khaboor overloaded the box with attackers and the Byki defense failed to account for all of them. A Khaboor player jumped through the crowd to head the ball home from 15 yards.

The score went to 2:0 shortly thereafter when a weak defensive clearance by the Byki went right back to Khaboor in the midfield. A well-placed through ball unhinged the Byki defense and McGrath had no chance.

Khaboor added to their advantage later in the first half on a long ball played over the top. A Khaboor striker got behind the Byki defense, but he brought the ball under control with his hand. The referee was not in position to make the call and Khaboor kept playing. The Byki made the mistake of

anticipating the whistle and stopped playing. When the referee allowed the play to go on, the Byki were out of position and Khaboor converted the breakaway opportunity.

It would have been easy for the Byki to simply fold their tents and play out the last 45 minutes. Instead, the players kept a positive attitude and put in the work to make a comeback.

The Byki had a bright start to the second half when they were sure they had cut the deficit to 3:1 early on. With the ball loose in the Khaboor goal area, someone from the Byki stuck a foot in to knock the ball home, but the referee disallowed the goal for offside. "With all of the bodies in front of the goal, it was like a pinball situation," lamented Gallo. "I don't know how he could be sure who was offside and onside."

The Byki kept the pressure on Khaboor and their relentless approach eventually paid dividends. In the 75th minute, the Byki worked the ball along the left side of the field and sent the ball to Babatunde Ogundipe, who made his Byki debut a memorable one. Ogundipe took the ball 30 yards from goal and went on a dribbling jaunt that ended when he deposited the ball in the goal.

The energized Byki kept their heads up and manufactured a second goal five minutes from time. Sergio Benavides sent a cross in from the left wing and found Dan Stanley at the far post. Stanley buried the header for his first goal of the season.

The Byki would come no closer, as Khaboor effectively killed off the remaining minutes.

Tony Gallo contributed to this report.

BYKI SCORING SUMMARY

Ogundipe 1; 75th; 1:3. Stanley 1 (Benavides); 85th; 2:3.

BYKI LINEUP (4-4-2): McGrath (c) – Gallo, Fetz, Perez-Griffo, Guzman – Abubakar, Mancini, Sphar, Stanley – Benavides, Sodeinde. **Bench:** Bant, Ogundipe, O'Shea.

Byki refuse to quit vs. Wisla

Moral victories aren't worth very much to a team if they can't take home all three points, and this was the way the Byki oldtimers have rationalized their past encounters with Over 30 powerhouse Wisla. The perennial champions have used the Byki as their personal footwipes since 1998, beating the Byki soundly in nearly every one of their previous 14 games. Wisla continued their streak against the Byki last Saturday when they won 3:2 at River Rd, but perhaps the Byki have turned the corner against their formidable rival.

It might have been the first time a Byki squad has faced Wisla and not felt awed and intimidated by their pedigree. Seven players in the 15-man Byki squad were facing Wisla for the first time and perhaps were wondering what all the fuss was about. The Byki had a job in mind and spent the entire 80 minutes trying to accomplish their task. They failed in the end, and both sides left the field knowing that Wisla's three points did not come without great effort.

"Some of the scores from the past have been heavily in their favor," said coach George Gorecki afterwards. "Today, we went out there to try to make them play our game. That's tough for any NSL team to achieve, but we did enough to make the game competitive until the final whistle."

The Byki played a solid defensive game in the first half, which frustrated many of Wisla's players. Rather than dominating the Byki with their usual oppressive possession game, Wisla started playing long balls out of midfield. The grateful Byki back four handled those attacks with relative ease and the team's confidence grew as the match wore on.

The first good scoring chance of the match didn't come until the 28th minute. A Wisla player crossed the ball into the middle of the Byki penalty area, where a teammate just missed sending a diving header past goalkeeper Dean Fukar. Wisla broke the ice seven minutes later, taking advantage of a rare defensive lapse by the Byki. The deflection of a blocked shot clattered through the Byki area and a weak clearance went to a Wisla player just outside the area. He picked his spot a fired past Fukar, finding the net just inside the far post.

That goal set the stage for a dramatic second half. The Byki offense looked a bit more imaginative than they did against the WI Jets the week before, but Gorecki was still not satisfied with his team's desire to attempt to thread 30-yard passes between three defenders to spring the strikers free. "We needed to use the width of the field better," said Gorecki. "Wisla don't like defending. They prefer to sit back and collect unforced turnovers. Those crazy long balls were just what they were looking for. We played much better when we played the ball wide."

Six minutes into the second half, the Byki had a tremendous chance to even the score. Maciej Kekus beat his

defender on the left side of the box and slid the ball into the middle for Jakub Banbor. Unmarked at the 18, Banbor turned and shot wide of the mark.

In the 53rd minute, Wisla raised havoc in the Byki area and a Wisla player went down in a heap, the victim of an obvious trip. The referee saw nothing wrong in it and waved play to go on. When the Byki could not clear the ball, it was left for Fukar to save from close range. The Byki had definitely caught a break, but it tempered the two apparent handballs by Wisla defenders in the first half that were ignored by the referee.

Two minutes later, Wisla made it 2:0. Fukar could not reach a swerving cross from a corner kick, resulting in a mad scramble. After the ball bounced off of a couple of heads and the goalpost, a Wisla player finally headed it home.

Gorecki shifted the formation to a 3-4-3 to try to find some goals and it led to a frenzied conclusion to the match. In the 70th minute, Kekus dribbled in from the left flank and crossed to Jan Winter at the far post. The timing was a bit off, and Winter sent an open header wide of the post.

In the 77th minute, the Byki bamboozled the Wisla defense, who botched an offside trap. The Byki came fast on the counter and played a long pass over the top. Although a Byki player was behind the defensive line, the pass was recovered by Banbor, who made a late dash from the back. It was a breakaway for Banbor, whose shot was desperately saved by the keeper's leg at the edge of the area. The rebound came back to Kekus, who coolly lobbed the ball into the empty net for his team-high seventh goal of the season. Wisla howled for offside, but this was one decision that the inconsistent referee got right.

Wisla got that one back in the dying moments of normal time, beating the Byki on a counterattack of their own. With too many players pushed forward, the Byki were exposed at the defensive end and Wisla made them pay.

But the Byki weren't finished. In the second minute of stoppage time, the Byki worked a dazzling passing sequence that unhinged the bunkered Wisla defense. Standing just outside the area, Banbor flicked a pass over the defenders into the open space. The Wisla keeper came out hard for the ball, but Dan Jędrzejowski got there first, knocking the ball underneath the goalie to make it 3:2.

BYKI SCORING SUMMARY

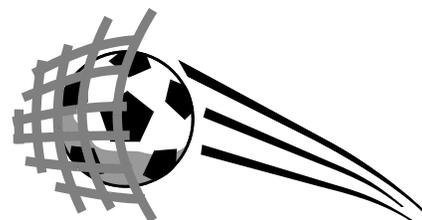
Kekus 7; 77th; 1:2. Jędrzejowski 1 (Banbor); 82nd+; 2:3.

BYKI LINEUP (4-4-2): Fukar – Klimaszewski, Pedlow, Tower, Moore – Gibbs, Winter, Jędrzejowski (c), Cardenas – Banbor, Kekus. **Bench:** Gambino, Jacobs, Silverstein, Zacarias.



BYKI

bits & pieces



Byki Bouncings has received more scarf pictures. There are nearly 150 scarf pictures on file ever since we began telling people to take their scarves along whenever they travel.

Original Byk Mark Sokolowski took a trip to Poland during the summer and supplied us with these beauties. The scarf picture was taken in Warsaw in front of the Palace of Culture and Science (*Palac Kultury i Nauki*), which is the tallest building in Poland. It was built by Poles as a gift from **Josef Stalin**.



Upon arriving in Krakow, Mark got a photo with a new friend, who is known as **The Beer Guy**. Mark had not yet unpacked his scarf (Note to future scarf picture takers: always unpack your scarf first.) and so it was an opportunity missed. The Beer Guy was advertising the offer of a free beer if you bought one at his restaurant. It was quite a deal because the beer came in one of those massive Oktoberfest steins. If you can't get a scarf picture with The Beer Guy, the next best thing has to be drinking enormous quantities of beer.



Former Byki scoring ace Zach Dance got married recently and a Byki scarf was part of the celebration. Zach left the club in the fall of 2007 when he took a job in New Jersey. It worked out well for Zach because new wife **Smruti** had preceded him to New Jersey when she got a job at a different company.

In this picture, Zach and Smruti were joined by teammates **Pierre Delaunay** (far left), **George Gorecki** (second from right) and **Wei Zhang** (far right). And you should be aware that scarf pictures like this one don't happen by accident. Zach reminded George the night before the wedding to bring a scarf to the wedding celebration.



NATIONAL SOCCER LEAGUE STANDINGS

September 7, 2008
www.nslchicago.org

MAJOR DIVISION

Championship	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts	Classification	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
Deportivo Meridienne	11	11	0	0	38	8	33	Jahbat FC	13	4	3	6	24	18	15
RWB Adria	13	10	2	1	45	22	32	Deportivo Colomex	13	2	7	4	29	32	13
B-H Lilies	13	7	2	4	37	30	23	CKS Warta	13	4	0	9	21	47	12
Honduras SC	13	6	3	4	27	21	21	KF Ulqin	12	3	1	8	15	25	10
Gazelle SC	12	5	3	4	21	13	18	HNNK Hrvat	12	2	3	7	21	36	9
SAC Wisla	13	5	3	5	20	20	18	Royal Chicago FC	12	2	1	9	21	47	7

FIRST DIVISION

Championship	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts	Classification	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
Albanian Stars	13	10	1	2	36	12	31	NK Prijedor	13	7	1	5	27	22	22
FC Steaua Chicago	13	9	2	2	40	20	29	Khaboor FC	13	4	4	5	21	24	16
Lemont FC	13	6	4	3	25	19	22	CKS Warta B	13	4	2	7	20	38	14
Stare Byki FC Red	12	6	3	3	27	15	21	West Indies Jets	12	3	4	5	29	27	13
FK Republika Srpska	13	5	5	3	32	27	20	Stare Byki FC Blue	13	3	0	10	27	37	9
Das Magic	13	5	4	4	23	27	19	FC Romania	13	0	0	13	0	39	0

SECOND DIVISION

Red Section	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts	Blue Section	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
FK Podrinje	11	5	4	2	44	28	19	Ultras FC	13	9	2	2	33	16	29
GR-04	10	6	1	3	34	23	19	Juanacatlan	13	9	1	3	38	21	28
Lemont FC Reserves	11	5	3	3	31	24	18	CD Taximaroa	13	8	1	4	42	15	25
West Bosnia SC	10	6	0	4	36	30	18	FC Kosova	12	6	1	5	40	31	19
Deportivo Colomex B	10	5	1	4	46	43	16	Real Independiente	13	5	2	6	27	23	17
Turkish FC	11	0	1	10	20	53	1	Chicago Dynasty FC	12	3	1	8	27	49	10
								Mythos FC	13	0	0	13	14	76	0

OVER 30 DIVISION

Red Section	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts	Blue Section	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
Arabian FC	13	9	1	3	53	23	28	SAC Wisla	12	10	0	2	56	25	30
West Indies Jets	13	8	2	3	33	19	26	Gato Verde	13	7	1	5	26	20	22
Lake Shore B	13	8	1	4	39	18	25	Hellenic United	12	5	1	6	26	29	16
Jahbat FC	13	6	1	6	22	38	19	Stare Byki FC	13	4	1	8	24	42	13
Lake Shore A	13	0	2	11	11	45	2	Tanners SC	13	2	0	11	12	43	6