



BOUNCINGS

23 Sept 06



Real

0 : 1

Byki

B Team - NSL 2nd Division
Winnebago - 17 September 2006

PROMOTION!

The B Team made history last Sunday when they squeezed out a narrow 1:0 victory over Real Independiente at Winnebago. The win secures the top spot in the Blue Section for the Byki, which means that the B Team will be competing in the 1st Division in 2007. It is the first Sectional championship for the club since 1998, when the current A Team moved up from the 2nd Division. That 1998 side also won the 2nd Division's overall championship.

The B Team go into this Sunday's encounter with second-place FK Podrinje with a four-point lead over their Bosnian rivals. Although a four-point lead with two games to play may not appear to be an unassailable advantage, the Byki already know that the October 1 finale versus Tilza FC will be a forfeit win. Tilza have been suspended by the NSL for failure to pay their debt on time. With those three points in the bag, the Byki effectively have a seven-point edge over Podrinje, rendering the match's outcome a moot point. Coaches Joe Gambino and Russ Haynes still want to maintain their side's sharpness going into the post-season, so no letdown is expected when the Byki tackle Podrinje on

Sunday.

Teamwork is the key word to describe the B Team. Gambino and Haynes have suited up 29 players this season, leaving no stone unturned to find the best possible squad every Sunday. This unprecedented depth has served the B Team well. The wealth of substitutes in every match has helped the Byki maintain a high level of play and has played an important role in wearing teams down late in matches. That depth was in evidence against Real as the Byki had 17 players in uniform.

After suffering a narrow loss to Real the week before, Gambino and Haynes sent a clear message to the players that a win in this match meant the championship would be secured. The players got the message. Thirty minutes before kickoff, everyone was warming up together and focused on the challenge at hand. Being ready to play was the key to success in this game.

The opening 20 minutes saw some good attacking play from the Byki. They spread the ball wide and stretched the Real defense to good effect. Two newcomers to the B Team, Kevin Biggs and Todd Mayer, made an immediate impact and fit into the game plan seamlessly. Mayer was particularly effective in the first half. He continually got down the wing, beating his defender and whipping several dangerous crosses into the box. Another route was the long throw-in from Biggs. On one occasion, he found Haynes at the penalty spot, but Haynes could only manage a weak attempt off his shoulder while under pressure from a defender.

It seemed as though a breakthrough for the Byki was inevitable. On 35 minutes, Conor Casey joined the attack from his fullback position. He weaved past a couple of challenges and struck a left-footed shot from 18 yards, only to miss the top corner by a few feet. The mere fact that Casey had apparently grown a left foot was a development that made his coaches happy. "The ref made a curious comment after that effort," said Haynes. "He said to me, 'Conor's a

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defender, right?" I have no idea what the ref meant by that."

The half closed out with Real constantly trying to send the ball over the top to their strong forward or to dribble past several Byki defenders. Neither approaches worked very well. The Byki defense came to play and Real didn't have a sniff at goal.

At halftime Gambino reminded the players that a tie would mean nothing. Once the Byki could score a couple of goals, Real would drop their heads and the match would effectively be over. The Byki heeded the message and started the second half with intensity. Several Byki had picked up yellow cards in the first half, but it didn't stop them from playing tough against an athletic and youthful team. Enda McGrath made a couple of crunching tackles in the center of the park that went a long way to set the tone. Apart from a few free kicks on the edge of the box, Real never really threatened, as they squandered those opportunities.

Unfortunately, things weren't going too well at the other end. The Byki were having a difficult time breaking down the Real defense to carve out any definite chances. A gilt-edged opportunity arose in the 65th minute as striker Chad Daniel was sprung down the right wing. His first touch sent the ball to the edge of the box, allowing him to beat his marker. The desperate defender, however, took Daniel down and the referee immediately pointed to the spot. The Real defender was lucky to still be on the field afterwards, as he was already carrying a yellow card.

Tony Gallo took the spot kick and watched in horror, as his shot clipped the outside of the post. Gallo was beside himself following the crucial miss, but Gambino knew that there was still plenty of soccer to be played. Realizing that the Byki had to go for the win, he switched the formation to a 3-4-3. Within two minutes, the change led to the only goal that the Byki would need.

In the 72nd minute, the ball was loose in the Real box, as several players fought to gain control. Andy Lane knocked the ball to Biggs, who was inside the goal area. Biggs took a couple of quick touches with his back to goal and carved out enough space to turn and hammer the ball into the back of the net through a maze of defenders and the goalkeeper.

"Andy got that ball to Kevin using what some have

described as his creative genius," said Haynes. "Others might have said that the ball just glanced off of his knee." Style points aside, the Byki had their goal and they weren't about to let the lead slip, despite Real battling away to find the equalizer.

But the battle would be won by the Byki and their squad's depth. "When I subbed in five guys at once at the end, one of the tired Real players complained to the ref that it was illegal," chuckled Gambino. "I've said all year long that I love to see the faces on the opposition when I sub in five or six guys late in games." When trying to keep a lead, fresh legs are very effective and the B Team owe their success in large part to the big roster and the commendable dedication of many players.

Once the referee blew the final whistle, the only thing left to was to celebrate a momentous victory. Haynes, ever the troublemaker, grouched that no post-game champagne had been chilled. "It's not like one of the coaches owns a liquor store and could've just brought some to help his team celebrate, non-alcoholic of course," he mused. Perhaps the absence of champagne was merely part of the

winning karma. When the Byki faced a promotion-clinching win versus Chicago Pampas in 1998, the Byki got clobbered by a 4:2 score in what was their only defeat of the season. Some Byki fans had put the bubbly on ice before the game in anticipation. The Byki finally locked up the top spot two weeks later.

The B Team got their big prize on Sunday. But there's still plenty more hardware out there. When the dust finally settles on the 2006 season, the Byki may well have quite a bit to celebrate.

Russ Haynes contributed to this story.

BYKI SCORING SUMMARY

Biggs 1 (Lane); 72nd; 1:0.

BYKI LINEUP (4-4-2): Eliasek – Towsey, Lane, Gallo, Casey (c) – McGrath, Torossian, Stanley, Haynes – Biggs, Daniel. **Bench:** Lewkowicz, Mayer, Pirrilis, Ruiz, Zwickl.



The happy B Team in the afterglow of their historic victory.

Byki clobber Hrvat with late goals

The Byki clinched second place in the Red Section last Sunday after a tense 4:1 victory over HNNK Hrvat at Winnebago. The Byki dominated possession for most of the game, yet found themselves mired in a 1:1 game late in the contest, thanks to some unimpressive finishing. But the home side took the match by the scruff of the neck and scored three times in the final 12 minutes to put the three points in the bag. The Byki improved their record to 9-3-2 for the season.

The match was an ill-tempered affair due to the incessant yapping of the Hrvat players. They questioned nearly every referee's decision that didn't go in their favor and the Byki didn't help matters by getting in the middle of the verbal diarrhea. The emotional spillover resulted in Josh Taylor being shown two yellow cards in succession in the 65th minute. A Hrvat player was given his marching orders 18 minutes later, but the referee showed far more tolerance for the unnecessary chatter than would have been expected.

"We were the better team on the day and I'm pleased that the score reflects how much better," said coach George Gorecki. "We could have done without our poor discipline, however. It would have been smart for us to just shut up and play."

The Byki will finish the regular season with the third-best record in the 1st Division, trailing only Sectional leaders FC Romania and Albanian Stars, both of whom clinched promotion to the Major Division on Sunday.

The Byki really played like an elite team against Hrvat. The only flaw to their game was substandard finishing. Better shooting would have put the result beyond doubt before halftime, and that might have taken some of the feistiness out of Hrvat, which likely would have led to a calmer environment on the field.

It didn't take long for the Byki to put their stamp on the match. Minos Bouzoukis intercepted a weak clearance by the Hrvat keeper 25 yards from goal. He fed the ball to Zach Dance, who dribbled through two defenders and agonized as his far-post attempt rolled just wide.

Dance was at it again ten minutes later. Fullback Rich Elliott played a long pass up the left wing for Dance, sprinting behind the defense. Dance easily beat his man and headed straight for the goal. The keeper dove at the striker's feet, forcing him to shoot wide.

Dance's presence was a constant thorn in the side for the Hrvat backline. It didn't take long for the internal sniping to begin, as Hrvat defenders argued about missed defensive assignments. After one particularly harsh exchange of F-bombs between teammates, the referee stepped in and issued a caution to settle things down.

The Byki kept up the pressure in the 19th minute. Matt Fleming sprang Dance into the clear. Dance dribbled the ball into the goal area and looked sure to score, but the goalkeeper came up with a miracle save. No Byki could pounce on the rebound, however.

In the 27th minute, Ashley Smart made a forceful run down the right wing and found Fleming in the middle. Fleming immediately gave the ball up to Marek Ciszewski, who had galloped behind the defense. Ciszewski had only the goalkeeper to beat from five yards, but his shot missed the target.

The Byki finally got things right in the 35th minute. William Majak made a strong run up the middle. Just as the defense looked ready to converge on him, he slipped a pass to Dance, who juked past two defenders and slotted home from short range for a 1:0 lead.

Hrvat had two legitimate scoring chances off of set pieces. They floated a free kick over Jorge de la Cruz's head, but the goal was nullified because of offside. A late bid for an equalizer just before the break was denied when Hrvat's long-range free kick clanged off of the crossbar.

The Byki were the dominant side, but had only one goal to show for it. No one felt good about the safety of such a narrow lead and the players had a clear idea of what to do to turn things around.

That turnaround nearly came in the 49th minute when sweeper Andrew Dennis sent a spectacular through pass for Joe Gambino. The striker was off on a breakaway and the keeper made an astonishing kick save to rebuff Gambino.

In the 61st minute, Bouzoukis floated a free kick from midfield into the Hrvat penalty area. The ball was perfectly placed for Fleming, who had been left unmarked. The keeper was equal to the task and saved Fleming's shot.

The game began to unravel for the Byki just after the hour mark. Taylor was cautioned for delaying the game when he kicked the ball away from a Hrvat player ready to take a throw-in. Taylor complicated things by discussing the matter with the referee. After describing the referee's decisions as "ridiculous," Taylor was sent to an early shower.

Some of Taylor's teammates thought that the punishment was too harsh, given the ample salty language that the Hrvat players were tossing at the referee. The man in the middle stood firm, however. "Josh let his emotions get the better of him," said Gorecki afterwards. "The Hrvat players got under his skin and he left the referee little choice on what to do with him."

The send-off didn't faze the Byki, who just kept attacking. In the 68th minute, Fleming engineered a quick counterattack

and played the ball to the left flank for Pierre Delaunay. The winger sprinted to goal and laid a tremendous square pass to Dance, who shot first-time and was thwarted by the crossbar.

Hrvat leveled the score in the 72nd minute. A weak free kick from 20 yards rolled through a less-than-solid defensive wall by the Byki and then sneaked under a diving de la Cruz.

The Byki replied in kind. In the 77th minute, a crafty Bouzoukis pilfered the ball from a sleeping Hrvat fullback and came 1 v 1 on the goalie. The netminder anticipated well and got his leg to Bouzoukis' shot.

A minute later, the Byki turned the tables on Hrvat. They played the ball long to Dance on the right flank, who beat a poorly-conceived offside trap. Dance made it easy for the referee to see that he was onside, pointing to the lone, slow Hrvat defender before the ball even arrived. Dance bore down on the goalkeeper and then dinked a pass to Delaunay, who had followed up on the left side. Delaunay slid the ball into the empty net for a 2:1 lead.

The Byki weren't finished. Four minutes later, they induced a corner kick when Fleming stood at the flag shielding the ball. Fleming looped an awesome cross into the mixer, where the goalie came out and tried to catch the ball with his

chest. That didn't work out too well for him, and Ciszewski gratefully nodded the loose ball over the keeper's head to make it 3:1.

That tally took the air out of Hrvat's sails. Dance had two great chances in the final two minutes and converted the second one when Delaunay made a nifty pass on the left side. Dance did the rest, dribbling past a defender and the fallen goalkeeper to put the icing on the cake.

The confident Byki look poised for a successful playoff run. Fleming was raring to go well before kickoff versus Hrvat. "We'll win today and we'll be in position to get to ten wins," he said. "Ten wins is a good season." If Byki momentum continues, the team have a chance to have a truly great season.

BYKI SCORING SUMMARY

Dance 10 (W. Majak); 35th; 1:0. Delaunay 2 (Dance); 78th; 2:1. Ciszewski 3 (Fleming); 82nd; 3:1. Dance 11 (Delaunay); 89th; 4:1.

BYKI LINEUP (4-4-2): de la Cruz – Dennis, Elliott, Taylor, Rose – Bouzoukis, Delaunay, Dziekiewicz, Fleming – Gambino, Dance (c).
Bench: Ciszewski, W. Majak, Smart.

Byki

1 : 3

Winged Bull

Over 30 Team - NSL Over 30 Division
Winnebago - 16 September 2006

Byki hang tough with Winged Bull

The Byki oldtimers displayed a level of teamwork and cohesion not often seen in their matches when they faced Winged Bull in their encounter last Saturday at Winnebago. The game was deadlocked at 1:1 until the middle of the second half, when Winged Bull's pressure finally led to the winning goal. They tallied a third strike one minute before the final whistle.

In their last meeting, Winged Bull crushed the Byki with ease. As perennial title contenders, Winged Bull bring a high level of talent to the field, making it difficult for a typical Over 30 team to remain competitive.

But the Byki had a smart game plan and stuck with it. They were compact in defense and did a good job of marking Winged Bull's key attacking players. Goalkeeper Dan Blanco registered several glittering saves, all of them necessary to allow his team to stay in the game.

The Byki grabbed a shock lead on five minutes. Midfielder Andy Lane saw space in the middle of the field and dribbled through the heart of the Winged Bull defense. When he reached the penalty area, he dished the ball off to Carlos Soriano. The striker hit a strange-looking lob over the outstretched arm of the keeper and suddenly the Byki were

1:0 up.

Winged Bull regrouped and got the equalizer five minutes later. A Winged Bull midfielder ripped a shot from 25 yards that rocketed into the upper corner, giving Blanco no chance. That goal appeared to be the first of many more, as Winged Bull attacked the Byki in waves. But the defense held firm, blocking shots or forcing the Assyrians to shoot errantly.

A big contributor to the defensive effort was Russ Haynes, whom coach Wei Zhang installed as sweeper. Even though Haynes is the leading scorer in the Over 30 Team, he provided a stabilizing anchor in the back and made sure of all of his tackles on Winged Bull players who slipped past their markers.

Winged Bull looked certain to take the lead in the 24th minute when they initiated a 3 v 2 breakaway. Several Byki were convinced the play was offside, but the referee allowed play to continue. Blanco made a tremendous save and Haynes was perfectly placed to block the rebound. The Byki then cleared the ball to safety.

Blanco made a huge save three minutes before the break as a Winged Bull player dribbled towards him along the goal line. The striker tried to beat Blanco at the near post from a sharp angle, but Blanco was ready for him and snuffed the

scoring attempt.

At halftime, the Byki tried to recover from the Winged Bull onslaught and find a path to a second goal. Zhang emphasized the need for everyone to realize their defensive responsibilities, and that keeping Winged Bull off the board was the top priority.

It's a good thing that the Byki paid close attention to defense, because Winged Bull came out blazing at the start of the second half. They constantly had the Byki back on their heels. The suffocating pressure made it tough for the Byki to put together any attacking sequences of their own.

The Byki nearly sneaked the go-ahead goal past Winged Bull in the 54th minute. Jim Jacobs made a long dribbling run up the left wing. None of the defenders could catch up to him, so Jacobs accelerated towards the net. His shot from an angle clinked off of the outside of the near post, allowing the beaten Winged Bull goalie to heave a sigh of relief.

But it's not easy keeping a good team down. Winged Bull showed their mettle by ramping up the pressure to the next level. As the Byki defenders scrambled all over the box to

cover their men, Winged Bull easily swung the ball around to an unmarked player on the right side, who squeezed his shot from five yards past a diving Blanco.

That goal gave Winged Bull all of the breathing room they needed. They continued to dominate ball possession, as the Byki desperately tried to find a way to get back into the game. The uphill climb, however, was too steep. The Byki could not find the momentum to build their own possession game and Winged Bull's defense rebuffed them at every turn.

Winged Bull added an insurance goal in the 79th minute to put the victory to bed and move them one step closer to clinching the Red Section title.

BYKI SCORING SUMMARY

Soriano 6 (Lane); 5th; 1:0.

BYKI LINEUP (4-4-2): Blanco – Haynes, Gorecki, Kleine, Pedlow – Lane, Hunter, Jacobs, Elmkinssi (c) – Parra, Soriano. **Bench:** Bolesta, LaForrest, Zhang.

Byki Stats

A TEAM, NSL 1st DIVISION

Player	G	A	Pts
Dance	11	5	16
Fleming	2	6	8
Goudeaux	6	1	7
Delaunay	2	3	5
Ciszewski	3	1	4
Samp	2	2	4
Nash	1	1	2
Wolfe	1	1	2
Taylor	0	2	2
Bouzoukis	1	0	1
Gambino	1	0	1
Zwickl	1	0	1
Daniel	0	1	1
Dziekiewicz, G	0	1	1
Majak, W	0	1	1
Team goals	2	x	x

Goalie	Min	GA	GAA
de la Cruz	1080	20	1.67
Gambino	90	2	2.00

Current record: 9-3-2

B TEAM, NSL 2nd DIVISION

Player	G	A	Pts
Ruiz	7	2	9
Daniel	3	4	7
Haynes	5	1	6
Stanley	3	3	6
Pirrilis	2	3	5
Arredondo	3	1	4
Lane	0	4	4
McGrath	3	0	3
Walker	3	0	3
Gallo	1	1	2
Cardenas	0	2	2
Biggs	1	0	1
Lewkowicz	1	0	1
Anane	0	1	1
Mansur, P Jr	0	1	1
Team goals	1	x	x

Goalie	Min	GA	GAA
Orris	335	0	0.00
Zwickl	135	1	0.67
Eliasek	790	11	1.25

Current record: 9-3-2

OVER 30 TEAM, NSL

Player	G	A	Pts
Haynes	8	7	15
Soriano	6	2	8
Garcia	5	2	7
Elmkinssi	2	3	5
Ibeagha	3	1	4
Parra	3	1	4
Jacobs	1	1	2
Pedlow	1	1	2
Lane	0	2	2
Tsipris	0	2	2
Wager	1	0	1
Gorecki	0	1	1
Regueiro	0	1	1
Tower	0	1	1
Zhang	0	1	1
Team goals	1	x	x

Goalie	Min	GA	GAA
Blanco	1040	34	2.62
Hardin	80	5	5.00

Current record: 4-1-9

NATIONAL SOCCER LEAGUE STANDINGS

September 17, 2006

www.nslchicago.org

MAJOR DIVISION

Red Section	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts	Blue Section	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
Winged Bull	13	9	1	3	37	17	28	KF Ulqin	14	10	3	1	31	12	33
Honduras SC	11	8	0	3	34	17	24	RWB Adria	12	10	1	1	37	13	31
Jahbat FC	13	5	3	5	26	23	18	SAC Wisla	13	7	2	4	28	14	23
BH Lilies	14	4	3	7	26	39	15	Gazelle SC	13	6	4	3	29	17	22
CKS Warta	13	3	3	7	24	29	12	NK Prijedor	13	3	1	9	18	40	10
West Indies Jets	12	0	3	9	6	29	3	FK Kozarac	13	0	0	13	10	56	0

FIRST DIVISION

Red Section	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts	Blue Section	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
FC Romania	14	13	1	0	75	19	40	Albanian Stars	14	11	0	3	38	22	33
Stare Byki FC	14	9	3	2	33	22	30	Royal FC	14	8	2	4	41	22	26
Deportivo Colomex	14	6	4	4	41	27	22	Chicago Thunder	14	7	2	5	38	37	23
Winged Bull B	14	5	3	6	38	40	18	HNNK Hrvat	13	5	1	7	32	39	16
Transilvania Vampires	13	1	3	9	23	45	6	West Bosnia	13	4	2	7	22	28	14
SC BiH	13	0	0	13	10	47	0	Turkish FC	14	2	1	11	23	66	7

SECOND DIVISION

Red Section	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts	Blue Section	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
Lemont FC	12	10	1	1	28	13	31	Stare Byki B	14	9	3	2	33	12	30
Melrose Park SC	12	8	1	3	39	28	25	FK Podrinje	14	7	5	2	43	23	26
GR-04	11	4	2	5	32	39	14	Real Independiente	14	4	4	6	22	29	16
CKS Warta B	13	4	1	8	26	30	13	Tilza FC	14	1	3	10	12	27	6
								Lake Shore SC	14	2	0	12	22	56	6

OVER 30 DIVISION

Red Section	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts	Blue Section	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
Winged Bull	14	12	0	2	55	16	36	SAC Wisla	14	11	1	2	58	17	34
Arabian FC	13	9	3	1	49	25	30	Lake Shore A	13	9	2	2	37	18	29
Gato Verde	14	8	0	6	24	26	24	Hellas SC	14	8	2	4	44	31	26
Stare Byki FC	14	4	1	9	31	39	13	West Indies Jets	15	7	2	6	23	31	23
Melrose Park SC	13	2	0	11	8	52	6	CD Taximaroa	14	5	1	8	26	19	16
Lake Shore B	15	1	0	14	8	42	3	Tanners SC	13	1	0	12	17	64	3