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8 Oct 11

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RED

Byki 3 : 1 FK Srpska

NSL Major Division - Oak Brook Sports Core - 2 October 2011

Playoffs, here we come!

Two years in the Major Division, two years in the playoffs. The Byki could not have anticipated such a start to their residency in the NSL's top flight, but last Sunday's comprehensive 3:1 win over FK Republika Srpska made the dream become a reality. Any questions about whether the Byki have the goods to compete in the Major Division have been answered by now. The Byki clinched third place in the Blue Section and will face SAC Wisla in the quarterfinal round on October 16.

Joe Gambino's team has had to fight and claw for every point this season. Injuries have taken their toll and the uncertain commitment of some players has made filling out the lineup sheet a complicated weekly exercise for the coach. But the core group of players have held things together and gutsy performances like this one were the norm.

The Byki took the lead after 15 minutes following a sequence of superb ball movement. Martin Herholdt found Kristian Buur on the left flank. Buur floated the ball towards the goal and Marek Ciszewski finished things off with a spectacular sliding header.

That early strike kept Srpska at bay and gave the Byki confidence to keep pushing forward. At the half hour mark, Buur made a nifty run down the left wing and dropped the ball for Ivan Torossian. The striker sent a looping cross in for Todd Trowbridge, whose one-touch shot barely missed the target.

Ten minutes later, Gabi Dziekiewicz played a long pass up the right flank for Ryan Russ, who blazed past the defender and crushed a shot that the keeper did well to save. Torossian was in good position for the putback, but was unable to pull the trigger.

Further Byki pressure to close out the half put them firmly in control. In the 44th minute, sweeper Alex Guzman surged through the middle of the field and dished off to Buur on the left. The keeper desperately tipped Buur's attempt over the bar. Moments later, Herholdt made a strong run down to the end line. The goalie came out to challenge and Herholdt crossed the ball into the middle, where a trailing Srpska defender knocked the ball into his own net for a 2:0 Byki lead.

That goal might have been enough to bury Srpska, but the visitors came out with confidence to start the second half. They controlled possession for long stretches and were rewarded in the 59th minute. The winger on the right side sent a low cross towards the near post and a teammate redirected it past Martin Bertels.

But the Byki took the air out of Srpska's balloon just five minutes later. In a lightning-quick counterattack, Herholdt and Torossian sliced up the Srpska defense and Herholdt broke into the clear inside the box. The keeper came out and deflected the ball towards the goal line. Herholdt never slowed down and fired a shot from an impossible angle to give the Byki a 3:1 lead. That goal put the Byki in the driver's seat and there would be no miracle comeback from Srpska.

In the post-season, the Byki face a win-or-go-home situation. Getting to the playoffs was a genuine season-long battle. Now that they've qualified, the Byki must realize that, at this juncture, any team can win one game.



Stare Byki FC
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Byki 1 : 4 Assyrian FC

NSL 1st Division - Oak Brook Sports Core - 2 October 2011

Byki drop a pair to end season

The Blue Team wrapped up their 2011 season last Sunday when they faced Assyrian FC in two separate matches. The first match consisted of a 19-minute interval that never got played on May 8 in the first week of the season. The lights at Assyrian FC's home field failed to come on and the referee terminated the match due to darkness. The Byki were down 4:1 at the time the match was suspended and made a game of it last Sunday, pulling back two goals to lose 4:3. The sides then squared off in the regularly scheduled game and the Assyrians won that one as well, by a 4:1 scoreline. The Byki finish the season at 6-1-9.

Coach George Gorecki told his team that they were going to go for broke in the 19-minute mini game. Going into Sunday's action, the Byki still had a chance to qualify for the playoffs. But they would have to win both games versus Assyrian FC and hope that relegated Gremio FC could topple NK Prijedor. "I figured that we had nothing to lose by doing something risky," Gorecki said. "So I asked the players to push hard for 19 minutes and see what happens. They did a very good job and we almost got back into the game."

The 3-4-3 formation caught the Assyrians unaware and the Byki needed just three minutes to pull a goal back. Matt Fleming won the ball in midfield and sent it wide to Ohad Garnon, who spotted Anthony del Priore making a run. Del Priore accelerated past his man and calmly flicked the ball over the onrushing goalkeeper.

Byki pressure clearly rattled the Assyrians. In the 85th minute, Garnon sent in a cross from the right side that hit the bar. Chris Koenig followed up with a shot that the keeper blocked with a frantic, sliding kick save. One minute from the end, Roman Kramarz crossed the ball into the area for Koenig, who slipped the ball to Jeremy Slate. The striker turned with the ball and made no mistake from close range to bring the Byki to within 4:3.

Time ran out on the Byki, but not before they put a serious jolt into Assyrian FC.

Some of the players believed that the high-pressure strategy might be effective in the regular match. Gorecki wasn't so sure that the Byki could maintain that kind of pace over the course of a full game, especially considering that Koenig and Alan Stevens would have to depart early, leaving the Byki with just one substitute on the bench. "I knew that we didn't have the fitness to go all out for 90

minutes," said Gorecki. "As it turned out, Alan and Chris leaving had a significant effect on us, and the Assyrians adjusted accordingly."

Indeed, the Assyrians needed only 11 minutes to break the ice. A counterattack along the right wing beat a poorly conceived offside trap by the Byki and keeper Aaron Barsotti had no chance.

The Byki had a great opportunity to level the score ten minutes later when they played the ball into the mixer, leading to a mad scramble in front of goal. Joe Gambino was in an ideal spot to slot the ball home, but his handbag got in the way and the resulting shot was easily saved by the goalkeeper.

The Assyrians asserted themselves just before the break. A 44th-minute shot from short range hit the post and the Assyrians followed that up when a player dribbled in from the right side during stoppage time to make it 2:0.

The second half belonged to the Assyrians, but Barsotti's heroics prevented the deficit from getting any worse until the very end. Barsotti made a tremendous save on a shot from 20 yards and went one better when he snuffed a breakaway attempt in the 79th minute.

But one player was not enough to hold off the onslaught. Things only became more difficult for the Byki when Gambino and Tim Havlat both had to leave the game due to injury, leaving the Byki to play with ten men for the final 15 minutes. Assyrian FC made it 3:0 in the 81st minute when a player dribbled past three Byki to create an open shot. Barsotti saved that one, but was powerless when the defense failed to clear the ball. The second attempt found the upper corner of the goal.

The Byki avoided the shutout with five minutes to go. Kramarz made a forceful run deep into the left corner and crossed the ball into the box. Sebastian Warnsmann made his Byki debut a memorable one when he turned and blasted the ball just inside the near post. The Assyrians scored a little more than a minute later to seal the double victory over the Byki.

"Our 6-1-9 record may not be that impressive on first glance," said Gorecki. "But seeing that we lost our first four matches, we were 6-1-5 the rest of the way. It shows that we have good players who can compete at this level."

Byki 2 : 5 International

PSLC Over 40 Division - Kuba Sport Center - 5 October 2011

Late goals win it for Inter

The Over 40 Team wrapped up the regular season last Wednesday when they dropped a 5:2 decision to International FC in a lively encounter at the Kuba Sport Center. Goals from Steven Pedlow and Jim Jacobs were not enough to hold back an Inter squad who were better at keeping the ball than were the Byki.

The match served as a warm-up for the teams, who will meet this Sunday in the first match of group play in the PSLC's Cup tournament.

The Byki snatched the lead midway through the first half. Sven Dahlquist sent a pass to Pedlow, who went on a long, snaking run through the Inter defense. Upon reaching the penalty area, he cut back against the last defender and drilled his fourth goal of the season into the upper corner of the far post.

The lead lasted but five minutes. Goalkeeper James Vlahakis was the victim of confounding field lighting on a corner kick and mis-directed his punched ball into his own goal. The lights at the Kuba Center are set too low and the

glare has caused many problems for players trying to locate balls played in the air.

Things became testy in the 36th minute. Dahlquist played a diagonal ball into the box from the left wing and Mariusz Gorski had made the run from the right side. The keeper dove out to intervene and crashed face-first into Gorski's knee. The impact broke the keeper's nose, prompting Inter's players to complain that Gorski did not try hard enough to avoid the collision. Truth be told, it was a play where two players were competing for the ball and the Inter goalie found himself in a tough spot.

Inter took a 2:1 lead into the break when the Byki left the entire right side of their defense open, allowing an Inter player to waltz freely into the box.

The Byki improved their ball possession significantly in the second half. The first half had been a jumble of hit-and-hope, which led mostly to Pedlow trying to beat three players on his own. After the break, the Byki began looking like a soccer team for a change.

The equalizer came in the 55th minute, as fullback Jing Geng pushed forward on the right side. He crossed the ball in for Jacobs, who was in an ideal position to head the ball home.

Inter regained the lead five minutes later, when the Byki conceded their second own goal of the night. Dahlquist tried to head a ball clear, but instead redirected it past the helpless Vlahakis. As time wore on, Byki energy seemed to fade and Inter pounced to score two well-taken goals and put the result on ice.

Byki Stats

RED TEAM, NSL MAJOR DIVISION

Player	G	A	Pts
Ciszewski	5	2	7
Herholdt	5	2	7
Mehreioskouei	5	2	7
Stamatinos	1	4	5
Russ	3	1	4
Torossian	3	1	4
Dziekiewicz	0	4	4
Trowbridge	1	2	3
Buur	0	3	3
Taubman	2	0	2
Temmerman	2	0	2
Lupou, Mike	0	2	2
Barsotti	1	0	1
Gambino	1	0	1
Geraghty	1	0	1
Taylor	0	1	1
Team goals	4	x	x

Goalie	Min	GA	GAA
Lupou, Marty	540	9	1.50
Bertels	405	10	2.22
Barsotti	225	7	2.80
Gambino	225	8	3.20
McMann	45	7	14.00

Current record: 6-3-7

BLUE TEAM, NSL 1ST DIVISION

Player	G	A	Pts
Koenig	6	1	7
Del Priore	3	3	6
Garnon	0	5	5
Slate	4	0	4
Stevens	1	2	3
Karam, L	2	0	2
Simas	2	0	2
Havlat	1	0	1
Mirza	1	0	1
Pirahmadi	1	0	1
Warnsmann	1	0	1
Gambino	0	1	1
Kosinski	0	1	1
Kramarz	0	1	1
Mansur	0	1	1
Team goals	1	x	x

Goalie	Min	GA	GAA
Padda	5	0	0.00
Bertels	971	21	1.95
Simas	85	2	2.12
Gambino	225	7	2.80
Barsotti	154	7	4.09

Final record: 6-1-9

O-30 TEAM, PSLC O-30 DIVISION

Player	G	A	Pts
Kekus	10	3	13
Kramarz	3	2	5
Samp	3	0	3
Torossian	2	1	3
Pirillis	1	1	2
Fleming	0	2	2
Lane	0	2	2
Worek	0	2	2
Banbor	1	0	1
Zaskowski	1	0	1
Dec	0	1	1
Gibbs	0	1	1
McGrath	0	1	1
Team goals	3	x	x

Goalie	Min	GA	GAA
Bertels	540	21	3.50
Najera	360	16	4.00
Vlahakis	360	18	4.50
Fukar	90	5	5.00

Current record: 4-1-11

O-40 TEAM, PSLC O-40 DIVISION

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

Goalie	Min	GA	GAA
Vlahakis	1440	38	2.38
Muehlbauer	90	3	3.00
Fukar	90	6	6.00

Current record: 1-6-11

BYKI SCOREBOARD

RED

Byki 3 : 1 FK Srpska

NSL Major Division - Oak Brook Sports Core - 2 October 2011

BYKI LINEUP (4-4-2): Bertels – Guzman, Stamatinos, Dziekiewicz (c), Mansur – Herholdt, Buur, Russ, Trowbridge – Torossian, Ciszewski.

BYKI SCORING SUMMARY

1:0 – Ciszewski 5 (Buur); 15th.

2:0 – Own goal; 45th.

3:1 – Herholdt 5; 64th.

Byki Man of the Match: Gabi Dziekiewicz

BLUE

Assyrian FC 4 : 3 Byki

NSL 1st Division - Techy Prairie Park - 8 May 2011

BYKI LINEUP (4-4-2): Bertels – Barsotti, Garnon, Stevens (c), del Priore – Havlat, Koenig, Simas, Buur – Gambino, Slate. **Bench:** Fleming, Kmit, Kosinski, Kramarz, Stopka, Warnsmann.

BYKI SCORING SUMMARY

3:1 – Koenig 1 (del Priore); 26th.

4:2 – Del Priore 3 (Garnon); 74th.

4:3 – Slate 4 (Koenig); 89th.

Byki Men of the Match: Martin Bertels and Anthony del Priore

BLUE

Byki 1 : 4 Assyrian FC

NSL 1st Division - Oak Brook Sports Core - 2 October 2011

BYKI LINEUP (4-4-2): Barsotti – Havlat, Kosinski, Stopka, Stevens (c) – Kramarz, Kmit, Fleming, del Priore – Koenig, Warnsmann. **Bench:** Gambino, Garnon, Slate.

BYKI SCORING SUMMARY

1:3 – Warnsmann 1 (Kramarz); 85th.

Byki Man of the Match: Aaron Barsotti

OVER 40

Byki 2 : 5 International FC

PSLC Over 40 Division - Kuba Sport Center - 5 October 2011

BYKI LINEUP (4-4-2): Vlahakis – Towsey, Geng, Gorecki (c), Safford – Weslar, Dahlquist, Dec, Posada – Jacobs, Pedlow. **Bench:** Cooper, Gorski, Muehlbauer.

BYKI SCORING SUMMARY

1:0 – Pedlow 4 (Dahlquist); 22nd.

2:2 – Jacobs 2 (Geng); 55th.

Byki Man of the Match: Steven Pedlow

NATIONAL SOCCER LEAGUE STANDINGS

October 5, 2011

www.nslchicago.org

MAJOR DIVISION

Red Section	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
RWB Adria	15	15	0	0	75	11	45
SAC Wisla	14	8	3	3	51	30	27
Albanian Stars	15	6	5	4	34	30	23
FC Steaua	16	5	3	8	32	43	18
Jahbat FC	16	4	4	8	32	44	16
Khaboor FC	16	0	2	14	18	70	2

Blue Section	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
Hellenic United Blue	14	11	0	3	61	26	33
Gazelle SC	16	10	1	5	48	35	31
Stare Byki FC Red	16	6	3	7	34	41	21
CKS Warta A	15	5	3	7	20	48	18
Hellenic United White	14	4	3	7	21	29	15
FK Republika Srpska	15	2	3	10	24	43	9

FIRST DIVISION

Red Section	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
Brusfa FC	16	11	3	2	57	21	36
Assyrian FC	16	12	0	4	64	38	36
NK Prijedor	16	8	2	6	37	31	26
Stare Byki FC Blue	16	6	1	9	23	37	19
Independiente FC	16	5	1	10	34	40	16
Gremio FC	16	1	1	14	19	69	4

Blue Section	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
Deportivo Colomex	16	13	1	2	56	24	40
Das Magic	16	8	3	5	52	35	27
Chicago Thunder	15	6	3	6	39	40	21
West Indies Jets SC	16	4	6	6	30	40	18
CKS Warta B	16	5	1	10	18	37	16
Winged Bull B	15	4	2	9	23	40	14

SECOND DIVISION

Red Section	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
Bosphorus FC	14	11	1	2	42	14	34
Lamaso FC	14	8	2	4	37	23	26
FC Moldova	14	8	1	5	30	19	25
Chicago Dynasty FC	14	7	3	4	22	14	24
FK Podrinje	12	0	1	11	5	40	1

Blue Section	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
FC Kosova	15	12	3	0	63	21	39
Lemont FC	15	10	2	3	61	23	32
Turkish FC	15	7	1	7	39	37	22
Chicago Thunder B	15	4	0	11	29	80	12
DePaul FC	13	3	0	10	22	35	9
West Bosnia SC	13	0	0	13	5	49	0

PREMIER SOCCER LEAGUE of CHICAGOLAND

October 5, 2011

www.pslchicagoland.com

OVER 30 RED DIVISION

	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
St Charles Celtics Red	16	14	0	2	71	21	42
Bulgaria FC	16	13	1	2	48	13	40
Torino FC	14	9	2	3	46	20	29
Balkan 30+	16	9	0	7	38	36	27
FC Tarnovia	16	4	2	10	24	45	14
Stare Byki FC	16	4	1	11	24	60	13
Hellenic United AC	17	3	3	11	25	49	12
Chicago Celtic	17	2	3	12	21	53	9

OVER 40 GREEN DIVISION

	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
Champions FC	17	14	0	3	103	24	42
Botev Chicago	18	11	2	5	44	25	35
International SC	16	11	0	5	41	39	33
FC DePaul	16	8	2	6	35	50	26
Park Ridge Rogues	18	7	3	8	38	49	24
St Charles Celtics Blue	17	7	3	7	35	47	24
Hellenic United AC	17	6	5	6	41	34	23
Real Wilmette	17	6	5	6	33	34	23
Stare Byki FC	18	1	6	11	21	47	9
St Charles Celtics Green	18	1	2	15	15	57	5

OVER 40 BLUE DIVISION

	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
Gato Verde	16	13	1	2	68	18	40
Real FC	16	9	5	2	41	32	32
MOFG	16	8	4	4	35	23	28
Pampas OT	16	8	2	6	31	31	26
Villains SC	16	7	3	6	38	26	24
Naperville Strikers FC	16	6	1	9	34	38	19
Windy City United	16	6	1	9	32	41	19
Torino FC	15	4	2	9	42	53	14
St Charles Celtics Orange	15	0	1	14	9	68	1