



BOUNCINGS

21 Oct 06



Byki

2 : 1

Melrose

B Team - NSL 2nd Division
Hawthorne Sports Complex - 15 October 2006

B Team make a date with destiny

The Byki continued their march to the 2nd Division's Overall Championship last Sunday with a resounding 2:1 victory over Melrose Park at Hawthorne Sports Center in Cicero. The Byki broke the game open after a tight and scoreless first half with two well-taken goals. They were clearly the better team on both sides of the ball and thoroughly earned the result. They will face Lemont FC on Sunday in the final.

The Byki had not played a competitive match since September 24 and there was some concern that the long layoff could make the team rusty for the playoffs. They didn't play on October 1 when Tilza FC forfeited the final regular-season game and then had a free weekend on October 8 when the second- and third-place teams squared off to determine the semifinalists that would join the Byki and Lemont, the two Sectional champions. The Byki had worked hard to schedule at least one friendly match against an idle team, but were unable to find any takers, so the best they could do is to continue training as usual.

The team did not miss a beat when they took the field

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gives the Byki 10% cash back on all Byki visits. Whenever you visit Roosters, mention to your server that you're with the soccer team and the Byki win!

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versus Melrose. A 17-strong squad arrived early at Hawthorne to get acclimated to the synthetic surface and it was evident even during the warm-up that the Byki entered the match determined and focused.

Melrose, who finished second behind Lemont in the Red Section, had dispatched Real Independiente 1:0 in the quarterfinals. They were one of two teams who had beaten the Byki during the regular season, so the Byki had plenty of motivation to avenge that loss. The Melrose club adopted an odd policy for 2006 after having lost 13 games in the 1st Division in 2005. They managed to avoid relegation, but decided to relegate themselves by voluntarily dropping down to the lower tier. If their thought was to build up confidence by beating up on the weaker teams in the 2nd Division, it was a strategy that was flawed from the outset. Their approach obviously blew up in their faces, as Melrose will spend 2007 in the 2nd Division once again.

Sunday will mark the second time that a Byki team have competed for a championship since the club joined the NSL in 1996. The Byki won the 2nd Division's Overall Championship in 1998, and were promoted to the 1st Division for the 1999 season. The Byki A Team have made the playoffs on three other occasions.

When the playoffs get down to the last four teams, it's pretty clear that anyone can win and the games are going to be closely contested. The semifinal versus Melrose was a game of two halves. The Byki dominated possession in the first half, but could not translate their advantage into goals. Scoring chances were more abundant in the second half and Melrose had difficulty dealing with Byki pressure. The Byki used their deep bench to wear down a Melrose squad that rarely made any substitutions. Once they broke the deadlock, the Byki looked dangerous at nearly every turn.

The Byki employed an aggressive defensive strategy whenever Melrose's fullbacks had the ball. It was evident from the outset that the high pressure gave them trouble and

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it forced Melrose onto the back foot. As a result, Melrose's offense was severely blunted and they resorted to hoofing the ball forward at every opportunity. The Byki backline have always welcomed such a strategy, so the numerous errant passes from Melrose quickly became turnovers at the feet of the Byki.

The Byki created the first good scoring chance of the contest in the fourth minute. A couple of quick passes in the midfield sprang Enda McGrath from his deep-lying position for a run on the right side of the box. He appeared to have a step on his marker, but could not quite turn the corner to get square to the goal, and sent his shot narrowly over the bar.

The Byki saw more of the ball than Melrose, but were unable to create gaps in the Melrose defense. They needed to utilize the wings better and open up more space. Too often, the Byki continued to cram the ball into the middle of the field, playing right into the hands of the Melrose defense.

The only other decent chance of the first half came in the 28th minute, when the Byki earned a free kick near the goal line in the channel to the right of the Melrose keeper. Todd Mayer crossed the ball into the mixer and McGrath tried to get a shot on goal, but the crowd in the middle blocked his attempt.

The Byki were forced to revamp their lineup at halftime when stopper Tony Gallo was the victim of an elbow to the head as he challenged for a ball in the air. The encounter left him bloodied, and he was forced to sit out the rest of the match when he determined that his nose was broken. Striker Chad Daniel was slotted into Gallo's spot for the second half.

The Byki had defended with their usual efficiency in the first half. Melrose's rare forays into Byki territory were easily neutralized by a back four that played with a high level of teamwork. Goalkeeper Ryan Eliasek was having a pretty uneventful afternoon, always a good sign.

At halftime, the Byki analyzed the areas that needed improvement and agreed that increased play on the flanks would work in their favor. It didn't take long for the Byki to see how the shift in strategy would cause loads of problems for Melrose.

In the 47th minute, the Byki cleared a corner kick to midfield and initiated a quick counter. Striker Kevin Biggs received the ball at midfield on the left side and immediately spotted Dan Stanley making a bold run on the right. Biggs sent a delicious diagonal pass that ripped through the heart of the Melrose defense, hitting Stanley in stride. Stanley took one touch and blasted a shot from 15 yards over the bar.

That foray clearly unnerved the Melrose defense. Just moments later, Abraham Ruiz pounced on a weak backpass to the Melrose goalie and waltzed in alone to slide the ball into the empty net for a 1:0 lead. George Gorecki, subbing for coach Joe Gambino on the sidelines, told the team at halftime that the game could easily be decided by one goal and it would be crucial that the Byki score first. "Once we got on the board, things opened up for us," said Gorecki. "The players did a great job of attacking the open space."

The Byki turned up the pressure. In the 51st minute, Stanley ran free on the left wing and fired a cross to the near

post. The goalie commanded all of his effort to keep the ball out of the net.

Melrose suddenly got back into the contest a minute later. They sent a looping free kick towards the Byki goal, and Eliasek dove to push the ball away. He only got a piece of it, however, and the ball trickled over the goal line to even the score.

Melrose might have thought that the goal was going to give them new life, but it was really only a minor blip for the Byki, who kept coming forward as though nothing had happened. In the 59th minute, Conor Casey sent a pass up the right wing to Biggs. The striker drove a commanding cross into the middle that gave the Melrose netminder huge trouble. He slapped at the ball, resulting in a massive scramble in the Melrose box. The desperate defenders somehow managed to clear the ball away. Eleven minutes later, Ruiz narrowly missed adding to his goal total when the keeper needed to come up with a great save to knock Ruiz' header out of danger.

The Byki took the lead in the 72nd minute. Midfielder Luis Arredondo threaded a delicate through pass for Josh Zwickl, who had cut in from the right wing. With the keeper charging off of his line and the Melrose defense confused, Zwickl chipped the ball over everyone's head. The ball rebounded off of the far post, where the hustling Ari Pirrillis took care of business to give the Byki the lead they so richly deserved.

In the 75th minute, Mayer shot from a wide position on the right. The keeper was clearly beaten on the play, but Mayer's shot went just over the crossbar.

The Byki then entered lockdown mode and secured the result. The players did not stray from the original game plan of marking aggressively. "I'm glad the guys didn't simply drop back and try to defend in numbers," said Gorecki. "We got the goals from applying high pressure, so it was a good move to maintain that attitude."

Sunday's title clash versus Lemont promises to be a nail-biter. Lemont lost just once this season, and that came against the Byki back in May. Lemont came into that match a little but cocky, proclaiming on their website that the Byki wouldn't beat them based on talent. After a 4:1 shellacking in which the Byki had to use their third-choice goalkeeper, the chirping got very quiet from the Lemont end. Lemont rebounded from that loss to go 10-2-0 the rest of the way. The Byki and Lemont sport the best defenses in the 2nd Division and both survived tough encounters in the semifinals. After several seasons of battling, Lemont finally made a big push and finished at the top of the table in the Red Section. The Byki made their own significant push in 2006 and now stand one step away from the 2nd Division crown.

BYKI SCORING SUMMARY

Ruiz 8; 48th; 1:1. Pirrillis 3 (Zwickl); 72nd; 2:1.

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

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MAJOR DIVISION

Red Section	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts	Blue Section	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
Winged Bull	16	10	2	4	42	21	32	RWB Adria	16	13	1	2	43	16	40
Honduras SC	16	10	1	5	39	24	31	KF Ulqin	16	10	4	2	34	17	34
Jahbat FC	16	8	3	5	33	24	27	SAC Wisla	16	9	2	5	30	15	29
CKS Warta	16	6	3	7	30	31	21	Gazelle SC	16	8	5	3	33	18	29
BH Lilies	16	4	3	9	28	44	15	NK Prijedor	16	3	1	12	19	47	10
West Indies Jets	16	1	3	12	7	32	6	FK Kozarac	16	0	0	16	10	59	0

FIRST DIVISION

Red Section	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts	Blue Section	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
FC Romania	16	14	2	0	83	24	44	Albanians FC	16	11	1	4	40	31	34
Stare Byki FC	16	9	4	3	37	29	31	Royal FC	16	9	3	4	51	25	30
Deportivo Colomex	16	8	4	4	47	27	28	Chicago Thunder	16	9	2	5	40	37	29
Winged Bull B	16	6	3	7	39	45	21	West Bosnia	16	7	2	7	25	28	23
Transilvania Vampires	16	3	3	10	25	46	12	HNNK Hrvat	16	5	1	10	32	42	16
SC BiH	16	0	0	16	10	50	0	Turkish FC	16	2	1	13	23	68	7

SECOND DIVISION

Red Section	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts	Blue Section	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
Lemont FC	14	11	2	1	36	15	35	Stare Byki B	16	10	4	2	34	12	34
Melrose Park SC	14	9	2	3	45	33	29	FK Podrinje	16	7	7	2	46	26	28
GR-04	14	5	3	6	41	53	18	Real Independiente	16	6	4	6	24	29	22
CKS Warta B	14	4	1	9	29	34	13	Tilza FC	16	1	3	12	12	29	6
								Lake Shore SC	16	2	0	14	27	63	6

OVER 30 DIVISION

Red Section	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts	Blue Section	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
Winged Bull	16	13	0	3	58	20	39	SAC Wisla	16	13	1	2	63	19	40
Arabian FC	16	12	3	1	56	25	39	Lake Shore A	15	11	2	2	49	23	35
Gato Verde	16	9	0	7	28	30	27	Hellas SC	16	10	2	4	54	35	32
Stare Byki FC	16	4	1	11	32	48	13	West Indies Jets	16	7	2	7	26	39	23
Melrose Park SC	15	2	0	13	8	55	6	CD Taximaroa	16	5	1	10	26	21	16
Lake Shore B	16	1	0	15	8	43	3	Tanners SC	16	2	0	14	21	71	6

SCHAUMBURG REC LEAGUE

October 12, 2006

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Red Section	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
Belmont St Elite	1	1	0	0	8	3	2
Stingers	1	1	0	0	10	6	2
Galaxy	1	1	0	0	5	3	2
Chi Town FC	1	0	1	0	3	3	1
Inter Puma	1	0	1	0	3	3	1
Medicare FC	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Stare Byki FC	1	0	0	1	3	5	0
United	1	0	0	1	6	10	0
Hellfish	1	0	0	1	3	8	0

Byki Stats

A TEAM, NSL 1st DIVISION				B TEAM, NSL 2nd DIVISION				OVER 30 TEAM, NSL			
Player	G	A	Pts	Player	G	A	Pts	Player	G	A	Pts
Dance	14	6	20	Ruiz	8	2	10	Haynes	9	7	16
Fleming	2	7	9	Daniel	3	4	7	Soriano	6	2	8
Goudeaux	6	1	7	Haynes	5	1	6	Garcia	5	2	7
Delaunay	2	3	5	Pirrilis	3	3	6	Elmkinssi	2	3	5
Ciszewski	3	1	4	Stanley	3	3	6	Ibeagha	3	1	4
Samp	2	2	4	Arredondo	3	1	4	Parra	3	1	4
Nash	1	2	3	Lane	0	4	4	Jacobs	1	1	2
Dziekiewicz, G	1	1	2	McGrath	3	0	3	Pedlow	1	1	2
Wolfe	1	1	2	Walker	3	0	3	Lane	0	2	2
Taylor	0	2	2	Gallo	1	1	2	Tsipris	0	2	2
Bouzoukis	1	0	1	Cardenas	0	2	2	Wager	1	0	1
Gambino	1	0	1	Biggs	1	0	1	Gorecki	0	1	1
Zwickl	1	0	1	Lewkowicz	1	0	1	Regueiro	0	1	1
Daniel	0	1	1	Anane	0	1	1	Tower	0	1	1
Dennis	0	1	1	Mansur, P Jr	0	1	1	Zhang	0	1	1
Majak, W	0	1	1	Zwickl	0	1	1	Team goals	1	x	x
Team goals	3	x	x	Team goals	2	x	x				
								Goalie	Min	GA	GAA
Goalie	Min	GA	GAA	Goalie	Min	GA	GAA	Blanco	1120	38	2.71
de la Cruz	1375	28	1.83	Orris	335	0	0.00	Ibeagha	40	2	4.00
Gambino	95	2	1.89	Zwickl	135	1	0.67	Hardin	80	5	5.00
				Eliasek	970	12	1.11	LaForrest	40	3	6.00

Final record: 9-5-3

Current record: 11-4-2

Final record: 4-1-11