



BOUNCINGS

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18 Nov 08



Byki

5 : 13

Mexico

Over 30 Blue Team - CPSL Over 30 Division
Max McCook - 11 November 2008

Byki continue to leak goals

The defensive woes continued last Tuesday for the Byki, who absorbed a 13:5 pounding at the hands of a talented Mexico squad. Mexico jumped out to a 2:0 lead in the first two minutes, were 5:0 up by the middle of the first half, and cruised the rest of the way. The Byki regained their equilibrium by the end of the half and put out a respectable effort for the remainder of the contest, but the early deficit was too much to overcome. The Byki are 1-0-3 for the season.

Mexico put high pressure on the Byki from the outset and the jittery Byki gave away a corner kick within the first minute of the game. George Gorecki lost track of his man as he made a run to the near post and side-volleyed past Dean Fukar. Moments later, Gorecki was sleeping yet again on a corner and the score went to 2:0.

After seeing improvement against the James Joyce team in the previous match, the Byki had to be disappointed to begin this match in such panicky fashion. The Byki were clearly unnerved by the pressure from Mexico and they had major difficulties maintaining control of the ball. This gave Mexico extra possessions and they transformed Byki

turnovers into a rain of shots on Fukar's goal.

The Byki finally put together some offense after they had fallen behind 3:0. Eric Tower drilled a shot from distance that gave the sprawling goalkeeper difficulty. Moments later, Doug Towsey sent Tony Gallo into the clear with a nice through pass, but Gallo shot wide.

After Mexico beat the Byki on the counter on two occasions, they were up 5:0. The Byki staged a rally late in the first half, thanks to some hard work and hustle. Tower passed the ball to Gallo, who dribbled through the heart of the Mexico defense and fired past the keeper with 4:48 left in the half.

A couple of minutes later, Tower put pressure on a Mexico player in his half of the field and forced him to cough up possession. Tower did not hesitate and slotted home to bring the Byki to within 5:2.

Mexico got those goals back quickly to start the second half. They went 6:2 up when they cracked a shot towards goal right from the opening kickoff. Fukar reacted late to the shot, which found its way home just under the crossbar. The Mexico team clearly knew how to take advantage of this particular Max McCook field, which was outfitted with standard-sized outdoor goals. In previous matches, the teams were shooting at smaller goals.

The Byki cut the deficit to 8:4 when Paul Mansur slipped a pass to Tower, who put a move on his defender and drove a hard shot past the beaten goalie. After the Byki defense gave away another goal because they allowed the Mexico attackers too much space, the Byki replied immediately. Newcomer Pete Stamatakos stole the ball from a Mexico defender and scored easily from close range.

Three more goals by Mexico put the result beyond doubt. The Byki, however, still had some fight left in them. Midway through the second half, Mansur sent a corner kick into the middle of the box. Towsey got control of the ball and swung it over to Tower, who smashed a delicious half-volley into

Sponsor Corner

The Byki have two bars sponsoring the club during the indoor season:

Roosters Barn & Grill
122 W Lake St in Bloomingdale

Slager's on 47th
9308 47th St in Brookfield

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the back of the net. Tower has definitely been on fire at Max McCook. Last week, he had a hat trick of assists and followed that up with a hat trick of goals against Mexico.

The Byki were always going to have a hard time with Mexico, given their talent level and their fitness. But they have no excuses for their mental lapses or their timid defensive play. Their effort has to be present for the entire 50-minute duration of the game and not allow silly goals to bury the squad before it's too late.

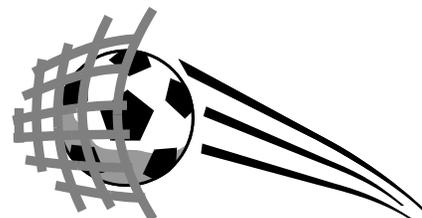
BYKI SCORING SUMMARY

Gallo 2 (Tower); 20:12; 1:5. Tower 2; 23:30; 2:5. Tower 3 (Mansur); 29:00; 3:7. Stamatakos 1; 32:53; 4:8. Tower 4 (Towsey); 38:03; 5:11.

BYKI LINEUP (3-2-1): Fukar – Gorecki, Zadlo, Brough – Wiecek, Bolesta – Piotrowski. **Bench:** Cooper, Gallo, Hartenstein, Mansur P Sr, Neighbors, Stamatakos, Tower, Towsey.



BYKI bits & pieces



The National Soccer League wraps up each outdoor season with a banquet, where awards for the league's champions and best performers are handed out. Byki Senior Teams head coach **Joe Gambino** won the 1st Division's

Coach of the Year award on the heels of the Red Team's third-place finish in 2008. In the post-season tournament, the Byki made it as far as the semifinals before being eliminated. It was the second time in the three years that Joe has won a Coach of the Year award. In total, Byki coaches have been named Coach of the Year four times since the club joined the NSL in 1996.

Some of Joe's teammates were kidding him about winning the award, seeing that the Blue Team had such a poor record. Clearly, the NSL's Executive Board were looking at the Red Team's performance and rightly recognized Joe's ability to get a Byki team high into the standings. Con-

gratulations to Joe on a well-deserved award!

Byki goalkeeper Erik Tice had a short stint with the club during the 2008 outdoor season. Erik was in Chicago for the summer working as an intern for the US Soccer Federation. During that time, he hooked up with the Byki and provided some short-term stability at a position that was a frustrating headache for both Senior teams.

Earlier this fall, Erik dropped BB a note about his exploits at Cazenovia College in New York. Erik was named Student-Athlete of the Week in the North Eastern Athletic Conference for the week of October 6. During that period, Cazenovia won both of their matches, beating some tough competition. Erik was a key contributor, playing 135 minutes and conceding just one goal. He made 13 saves over the two matches. Erik preserved the shutout against SUNY Oswego when he came on as a second-half substitute and then followed that up with nine saves in a 2:1 victory over SUNY Cobleskill.

For the season, Cazenovia finished with a record of 8-2-9, good for sixth place in the conference. Erik compiled two shutouts and Cazenovia went 4-1-1 when he stood between the pipes. His GAA for the season was 1.34.



Joe (center) accepts his award. He is flanked by NSL VP Emsud Ejupovic (left) and NSL Secretary Erik Bouzoukis (right).



Joe and Lemont FC's John Flood (right), who won Manager of the Year, compare plaques.



This week in Byki history



The Byki Kick Off 25 Years of Great Soccer

Once the Byki had played their inaugural match in June 1983, many players from the original squad wondered what the future would hold. The team had been training two or three times per week in preparation for The Big Game, but with the game behind them, what was next? The same question was on the minds of the young whippersnappers who had challenged the Byki in The Big Game. Very few players in that group were really serious soccer players, so ringleader Edi Pinkowski had hoped that he and his best teammates could somehow hook up with the Byki.

The group continued to play pick-up games in parks for the remainder of the summer and the fall, as George Gorecki searched for an appropriate league for the Byki. He contacted the Metropolitan Soccer League, who replied with a nice letter and a long list of membership requirements that the fledging club could never hope to fulfill. George told his mates that he would recommend that they begin play in an indoor recreational league. With



Edi Pinkowski (left) stops an opponent dead in his tracks.

the costs and the logistics of playing simplified by having everything under one roof, the Byki found the C League at Soccer City in Palatine.

The Byki approached their task with a high level of seriousness. They pooled their money to pay for the registration fee, as well as renting field time at Soccer City to prepare for their first competitive season. George figured that the team could use a full-time coach, rather than continue with him in the role of player-coach. The Byki sought out Frank Tomczyk, who was the father of Liz Tomczyk, the

club's biggest fan in those days. Mr. Tomczyk knew the game and did a good job of whipping players into shape. His downfall was that he cared too much. Watching Byki players make foolish passes, not hustle on defense and oftentimes look clueless on the field took a toll on Mr. Tomczyk's nerves. After seeing the Byki compete that first season, who could blame him?

It was at this time that the club gained its first sponsor, the last Chance Saloon. The Last Chance was owned by the brother-in-law of original Byk Corky Siemaszko. We put the Last Chance logo on the backs of our shirts in exchange for \$100 and the promise to drink beer at the joint after the games. Yes, the Byki were in the big time.



Andy Wojtkowski leads the attack at Soccer City.

The Byki kicked off the season on November 9, 1983 when they faced the Wauconda Chiefs. It was a hard-fought game all around, but the Chiefs came away 2:1 winners. We played with a decided lack of intelligence in this game and we adapted poorly to the indoor game. Indoor soccer has its own strategies and tactics, a fact that unfortunately escaped us. We had problems when we tried to play indoor soccer with an outdoor soccer mentality. We were, in effect, faced with learning a whole new game. The Chiefs didn't necessarily have more talent than we did; they just played the game the way it was meant to be played. Our indoor soccer naïveté would continue to work against us.

The Byki wound up a disappointing 2-2-4 in their first season of real competition. Lessons were learned and then put to good use as the club sought better leagues and better players.