



BOUNCINGS



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9 Dec 13



NSL

Albania FC **4 : 3** Byki

12-06-13

Comeback falls short

As Byki all-time leading goalscorer Marek Ciszewski lined up a late penalty kick last Friday, the Byki looked set to overcome a three-goal deficit versus Albania FC and snare a point in the NSL's curtain-raising match. The portly Albanian goalie, who had stymied the Byki all night, had other ideas and parried away Ciszewski's attempt with a stunning reflex save to preserve his side's 4:3 victory at The Odeum.

In a match that featured a mix of good and bad for the Byki, it appeared that their grit and heart might be enough to squeeze out a draw. "I didn't know what to expect tonight," said coach George Gorecki afterwards. "I was pleasantly surprised by the positive aspects of our game and I think that the players got a pretty good idea of the areas that we have to improve going forward. We played well enough to get something out of this game."

The first half was a tight contest, with the Albanians netting the lone goal in the final minute. The Byki were reasonably well organized and goalkeeper Amit Khankari bailed out his teammates with several timely saves in a sharp debut. Two difficult saves in the first nine minutes bolstered the Byki as they sought to find an attacking rhythm.

They came to life with 6:40 left in the half. Mike Stamatinos dropped a pass back for Daniel Zielinski, who dribbled into an opening and fired on frame, forcing a diving stop from the keeper.

Moments later, Rigo Ortiz stole the ball at the Albanian defensive line and slotted a pass for striker Geo Jimenez. The keeper read the play perfectly and smothered the ball at Jimenez' feet.

With 4:53 left, the Byki came fast on a 3 v 2, as Jimenez found Ciszewski on the right side. Ciszewski's blast caromed off of the goalpost.

Khankari came up big with 2:2 left, stoning an Albanian forward with a point-blank save. But he was powerless to stop a 2 v 1 situation with 0:56 to go. The Byki got caught with too many players forward and a turnover had disastrous consequences.

The Byki had an early flurry to start the second frame, as Maciek Kekus fired from long range. The shot was blocked, but the ball remained loose in the box for Jimenez, whose attempt was grabbed by the goalie.

Albania FC took control of things with two goals in rapid-fire fashion. They went up 2:0 at 5:41 into the half when a player dribbled across the middle and took advantage of an opening created when Chris Hurley slipped and fell. He buried his shot past a diving Khankari.

Just 1:55 later, the Albanians were up by three when they converted a 3 v 1 counterattack. Tony Sabo seemed to have the play under control when he shepherded the attacker into the corner, but he shot anyway. The shot was blocked and the rebound was knocked home for a 3:0 advantage.

The Byki pulled one back with 9:49 to go. High pressure by the Byki forwards resulted in a turnover, and Zielinski slipped a pass to Jimenez, who snaked in alone. The keeper made a tough save on Jimenez, but the striker had the last laugh when he pounded the rebound into the back of the net.

The Albanians responded with a goal of their own just 0:54 later, but it only seemed to energize the Byki. With 7:46 to go, Ciszewski cut loose from the right side and the keeper did well to protect his near post. Moments later, Sabo stole the ball to ignite a 2 v 2 situation. He sent the ball to Kuba Banbor, who shot immediately. The keeper got a hand to it and then managed to cover up from a prone position on Sabo's rebound attempt.

Stamatinos set up Jimenez for his second strike of the night with 5:13 to go. Jimenez shot from downtown and a slight deflection left the keeper rooted in place.

The Byki got to within 4:3 with 3:48 left. As Sabo maneuvered to find an opening, he faked a shot and instead slid the ball to Kekus, who made no mistake with an authoritative blast.

Sabo was involved in the play leading to the fateful penalty kick. He led the counter after intercepting a pass and passed through the box, trying to find Ciszewski. The

WE ARE THE BYKI - Friends - Passion - Soccer

ball hit the outstretched arm of an Albanian player and the referees immediately pointed to the spot. Ciszewski struck the penalty with power and aimed for the post. The Albanian goalie made the best save of the night to preserve the 4:3 scoreline. The Byki remained on the power play for the remainder of the match in their quest for an equalizer.

“Scoring chances were plentiful for our team,” noted Gorecki. “Our finishing has to be more accurate and we can’t be this loose in defense. These are things that will get better with more practice.”

BYKI LINEUP (2-1-2): Khankari – Stamatinos, Sabo – Ortiz – Jimenez, Zielinski. **Bench:** Banbor, Ciszewski, Hurley, Kekus.

BYKI SCORING SUMMARY

3:1 – Jimenez 1 (Zielinski); 28:11.
 4:2 – Jimenez 2 (Stamatinos); 32: 47.
 4:3 – Kekus 1 (Sabo); 34:12.

Byki Man of the Match: Tony Sabo

came at the Byki in waves. The Byki had few answers to the problems posed by Olimpiacos and found themselves down by six by the midpoint of the contest.

Olimpiacos built their lead with a range of scoring plays. They were quite adept at moving the ball around to find the open man and they also peppered the Byki goal with shots from long range. Goalkeeper Rick Bolesta had a busy night, yet made several outstanding saves in situations where an Olimpiacos goal appeared imminent.

The Byki broke the ice from a set play midway through the game. George Gorecki banged a free kick from the right flank off of the back boards. The carom froze the goalie and Steven Pedlow swooped in to knock the ball home to make it 6:1.

Olimpiacos shrugged off that blemish by slamming home another five goals over the next ten minutes.

Despite running on fumes by the end, the plucky Byki kept pushing for more goals. With 2:11 left in the game, Andy Lane dribbled along the left side and pulled a pass back for Matt Fleming in front of the penalty area. Fleming dribbled into the middle and sent a powerful shot past the keeper, who could only wave at the ball.

Pedlow finished off the scoring in the final minute. The Byki summoned enough energy to push forward on a 3 v 2 counterattack, led by Fleming. His diagonal pass was perfectly timed and Pedlow made no mistake from close range.

Player-coach Pedlow was unbowed afterwards. He conceded that Olimpiacos were the better side, but “we held our own for stretches. They could have beaten us by a much bigger margin.”

BYKI LINEUP (2-2-1): Bolesta – Pedlow, Muehlbauer – Lane, Fleming – St Clair. **Bench:** Gorecki.

BYKI SCORING SUMMARY

6:1 – Pedlow 1 (Gorecki); 19:42.
 11:2 – Fleming 1 (Lane); 37:09.
 12:3 – Pedlow 2 (Fleming); 38:37.

Byki Man of the Match: None given.

Odeum

Olimpiacos 12 : 3 Byki 0-40

12-02-13

Over 40s overwhelmed

The return of the Over 40 Team to The Odeum and their rec leagues resulted in a blowout defeat last Monday, 12:3 to Olimpiacos. The Byki struggled all evening with just one substitute on their bench and were eventually overcome by fatigue.

Various Byki teams were regular participants in Odeum indoor leagues, starting way back in 1984. The Over 40s had been playing indoors there for several years, until they decided to quit in 2006 after discovering that Odeum timekeepers were shortening matches by as much as 10%. After trying to work out the problems with Odeum management and not getting any satisfaction, the Byki let their wallets do the talking and bolted.

What followed was a circuitous path through various other rec leagues in the area, none of them well organized. The Over 40s played in the Miro Indoor Soccer League’s Over 35 Division last winter and appeared set to return this fall. That plan fell through when the league became fully booked and the oldboys decided to give The Odeum a try, rather than wait for a spot to open up in the Miro League in January.

With such a meager lineup on opening day, the Byki would need a lot of defensive discipline. The Olimpiacos side, however, were a very tough nut to crack and they

| FIRST TEAM, NSL 1st DIVISION | | | | O-40 TEAM, ODEUM O-40 LEAGUE | | | |
|------------------------------|-----|----|------|------------------------------|-----|----|-------|
| Player | G | A | Pts | Player | G | A | Pts |
| Jimenez | 2 | 0 | 2 | Pedlow | 2 | 0 | 2 |
| Kekus | 1 | 0 | 1 | Fleming | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| Sabo | 0 | 1 | 1 | Gorecki | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| Stamatinos | 0 | 1 | 1 | Lane | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| Zielinski | 0 | 1 | 1 | | | | |
| | | | | | | | |
| Goalie | Min | GA | GAA | Goalie | Min | GA | GAA |
| Banbor | 1 | 0 | 0.00 | Bolesta | 40 | 12 | 12.00 |
| Khankari | 37 | 4 | 4.11 | | | | |
| | | | | | | | |
| Current record: 0-0-1 | | | | Current record: 0-0-1 | | | |

NATIONAL SOCCER LEAGUE STANDINGS

December 6, 2013
www.nslchicago.org

MAJOR DIVISION

| Red Section | GP | W | D | L | GF | GA | Pts | Blue Section | GP | W | D | L | GF | GA | Pts |
|-------------------|----|---|---|---|----|----|-----|------------------|----|---|---|---|----|----|-----|
| SAC Wisla | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 3 | 3 | RWB Adria A | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 1 | 3 |
| Chicago Fire U-23 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 6 | 5 | 3 | CKS Warta | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 2 | 3 |
| Tricycles SC A | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 4 | 5 | 0 | Chicago Stars | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 4 | 3 |
| KF Tirana | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 3 | 4 | 0 | Ethnikos Chicago | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 3 | 3 |
| Albanian Stars | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 4 | 0 | ANCI Assyrian A | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 5 | 6 | 0 |
| RWB Adria B | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 4 | 0 | Zaglebie SC | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 3 | 5 | 0 |

FIRST DIVISION

| Red Section | GP | W | D | L | GF | GA | Pts | Blue Section | GP | W | D | L | GF | GA | Pts |
|--------------------|----|---|---|---|----|----|-----|--------------------|----|---|---|---|----|----|-----|
| Albania FC | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 3 | 3 | Lancer FC | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 7 | 2 | 3 |
| Chicago Dynasty FC | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 2 | 3 | Stal Mielec | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 7 | 2 | 3 |
| ANCI Assyrian B | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 4 | 4 | 1 | Tricycles FC B | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 2 | 3 |
| Chicago Inter | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 4 | 0 | Jagelliona Chicago | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 4 | 4 | 1 |
| FC Kosova | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 7 | 0 | Stare Byki FC | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 3 | 4 | 0 |
| Gremio FC | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 7 | 0 | HNK Primorac | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 0 |

ODEUM OVER 40 LEAGUE

December 2, 2013

| | GP | W | D | L | GF | GA | Pts |
|---------------|----|---|---|---|----|----|-----|
| Albania FC | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 13 | 1 | 3 |
| Olimpiacos | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 12 | 3 | 3 |
| Asteras | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 8 | 4 | 3 |
| Jake's Stars | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 3 | 3 |
| Torino FC | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 3 | 4 | 0 |
| Tricycles SC | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 4 | 8 | 0 |
| Stare Byki FC | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 3 | 12 | 0 |
| FC Pints | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 13 | 0 |