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Gremio B 4 : 4 Byki

NSL 1st Division - The Odeum - 9 December 2011

Byki come up 3 minutes short

The NSL's 1st Division standings show that the Byki remained undefeated after three matches, but last Friday's 4:4 draw versus Gremio B sure felt like a loss. The Byki surrendered second-half leads of 3:0 and 4:1 and were stunned when Gremio scored two goals within 13 seconds in the final minute to forge a tie. The Byki are 1-2-0 for the season, good for third place in the Red Section.

"We were the better team out there," said coach George Gorecki. "The problems at the end were of our own making. When a game lasts 38 minutes, you can't stop working in the 35th. I guess that's the hard way to learn the lesson. I only hope that we remember what this result feels like and not repeat the same mistakes in the future."

The Byki had broken open what had been a closely contested match when they scored twice in the first six minutes of the second half to take a 3:0 lead. Gremio's tactics were to pack the area in front of the penalty area and leave one striker deep to cherry-pick. Smart passing and hard work ruined Gremio's strategy, but the Byki did not score enough goals to make their lead insurmountable.

Chris Koenig had two good chances in the middle of the opening frame, forcing the Gremio goalie into difficult saves. The Byki finally got on the board with 2:37 left before the break while on the power play. After a period of sustained pressure by the Byki, they culminated their effort when Martin Herholdt slipped a corner kick into a crowd of players. Alan Stevens got there first and rammed home a first-time shot.

Two quick strikes early in the second half put the Byki in the driver's seat. Koenig set up Todd Trowbridge, whose blast from the right wing gave the keeper no chance. Just 1:26 later, the Byki came fast on the break after a steal at midfield. Herholdt led the charge along the right wing and timed a perfect square pass for Marek Ciszewski, who slotted home with ease.

When Gremio pulled one back after a Byki turnover, the Byki kept looking for more opportunities. Mike Stamatinos stole the ball in Gremio's defensive third and let loose with a rocket from the right flank. The ball clanged off of the inside of the far post, as the stranded netminder heaved a sigh of relief.

The Byki got sloppy with 5:20 to go and gave the ball way, leading to a Gremio counterattack. Keeper Ray Najera saved a shot from out in front and then saved the rebound as well.

With 3:25 left, the Byki were poised to put the three points in the bank. Ciszewski won the ball deep in the right corner and passed into the middle for Ohad Garnon. A Gremio defender got in the way, but only wound up bundling the ball into his own net for a 4:1 Byki lead.

Gremio made it 4:2 just 0:38 later, when a long bomb beat a diving Najera. Things completely fell apart after that, as the Byki could not maintain possession to thwart Gremio's aggressive marking. Momentum suddenly shifted to Gremio and the Byki were desperately trying to hang on to their lead. A Gremio player easily dribbled through two Byki and deposited the ball past Najera with 0:54 to go. Another foolish turnover, and in the blink of an eye, Gremio nabbed the unlikely equalizer.

The Byki had done enough to win this game handily, but simply failed to finish the job. Dropping points to inferior teams can complicate a team's chances of making the playoffs.

BYKI LINEUP (3-2): Najera – Herholdt, Stamatinos, Mansur – Trowbridge, Banbor. **Bench:** Bouzoukis, Ciszewski, Garnon, Guzman, Khankari, Koenig, Stevens.

BYKI SCORING SUMMARY

0:1 – Stevens 1 (Herholdt); (pp); 16:23.

0:2 – Trowbridge 1 (Koenig); 23:42.

0:3 – Ciszewski 1 (Herholdt); 25:18.

1:4 – Gremio own goal; 34:35.

Byki Man of the Match: Martin Herholdt.



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OVER 40

Torino 6 : 4 Byki

Champions O-40 League - Champions Soccer Arena - 9 Dec 2011

Byki conk out in 2nd half

Just when the Byki thought that they would not be competitive in the Champions Over 40 League, they had a bright start in their match versus Torino FC last Friday. The Byki had built up a 4:1 halftime lead, but succumbed to fatigue and were unable to counter Torino's comeback effort, eventually dropping a 6:4 decision.

The Byki dressed just seven players, giving them one substitute, due to the match being played on the smaller of the two fields at Champions Soccer Arena. In their previous two matches, the Byki played on the big field, where the sides play 7 v 7.

A big contributor for the Byki was new goalkeeper Jerzy Barnas, who provided at the position. In previous matches, the Byki had relied on volunteer sacrificial lambs in goal. It was unfortunate that the Byki defense did not have the stamina to give their new netminder better support in the second half.

Torino dominated the opening minutes, but were unable to find any cracks in the Byki backline. The Byki turned their poor start around after just eight minutes. Steven Pedlow knocked a pass off of the boards for striker Brian Huck, whose shot from the right side gave the goalkeeper no chance.

Five minutes later, the Byki doubled their advantage. Mariusz Gorski drilled a hard shot was blocked by the goalie. The ball bounced directly to Sven Dahlquist, who alertly headed the ball home.

The score swelled to 3:0 in the 18th minute, when Pedlow executed a carbon copy of the first Byki goal. He caromed a pass off the boards for Gorski, who smashed the ball into the back of the net for his second goal of the season.

CHAMPIONS OVER 40 LEAGUE

December 9, 2011

	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
SAC Wisla	3	3	0	0	33	4	9
Champions FC	2	2	0	0	21	7	6
AAC Eagles	2	1	0	1	28	11	3
Torino FC	2	1	0	1	9	20	3
Tamayo	2	0	0	2	0	15	0
Stare Byki FC	3	0	0	3	7	41	0

Torino pulled one back two minutes later, converting a corner kick. The ball was crossed into the middle, and a Torino player used his extra-large size to fend off two Byki draped all over him and found a way to score.

The Byki regained their three-goal lead just before halftime. Eric Muehlbauer sent a corner kick off of the boards, intending to find the sprinting Pedlow in the middle. The ball never reached Pedlow, hitting the back of the keeper instead, and into the goal.

Torino made it 4:2 early in the second frame, when the referee awarded a penalty kick following Sal Farhan's high kick inside the box. The decision for a penalty was harsh, as either player could have been whistled for a foul from the play.

Torino were suitably energized after the goal and found a new gear, while the tiring Byki began to languish. "The good defense we played in the first half left us a half step slower on their next four scores," noted Muehlbauer afterwards.

The best chance for the Byki to get back into the match came when a shot from Muehlbauer clanged off of the goal post.

Eric Muehlbauer contributed to this story.

BYKI LINEUP (2-2-1): Barnas – Muehlbauer, Gorski – Dahlquist – Pedlow, Huck. **Bench:** Farhan.

BYKI SCORING SUMMARY

0:1 – Huck 2 (Pedlow); 8th.
 0:2 – Dahlquist 1; 13th.
 0:3 – Gorski 2 (Pedlow); 18th.
 1:4 – Muehlbauer 1; 22nd.

Byki Man of the Match: Sven Dahlquist

Byki Stats

SENIOR TEAM, NSL 1st DIVISION

Player	G	A	Pts
Ciszewski	1	2	3
Banbor	2	0	2
Herholdt	0	2	2
Bouzoukis	1	0	1
Mehreioskouei	1	0	1
Stevens	1	0	1
Trowbridge	1	0	1
Koenig	0	1	1
Mansur	0	1	1
Goalie	Min	GA	GAA
Najera	114	7	2.33

Current record: 1-2-0

O-40 TEAM, CHAMPIONS O-40 LEAGUE

Player	G	A	Pts
Gorski	2	0	2
Huck	2	0	2
Pedlow	0	2	2
Dahlquist	1	0	1
Muehlbauer	1	0	1
Passi	1	0	1
Dec	0	1	1
Goalie	Min	GA	GAA
Barnas	50	6	6.00
Muehlbauer	34	8	11.76
Dec	16	5	15.63
Elmkinssi	41	16	19.51
Zadlo	9	5	27.78

Current record: 0-0-3

NATIONAL SOCCER LEAGUE STANDINGS

December 9, 2011

www.nslchicago.org

MAJOR DIVISION

Red Section	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts	Blue Section	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
FK Kozarac	3	3	0	0	19	5	9	RWB Adria A	3	3	0	0	31	5	9
B-H Lilies Royal	3	2	0	1	11	9	6	Albanian Stars	3	3	0	0	23	5	9
Tricycles SC A	3	1	0	2	8	14	3	CKS Warta A	3	2	0	1	14	11	6
KF Tirana	3	0	1	2	11	16	1	Hellenic United Blue	3	2	0	1	14	13	6
SAC Wisla	3	0	1	2	11	16	1	FK Republika Srpska A	3	1	0	2	13	21	3
B-H Lilies	3	0	0	3	6	25	0	Chicago Pride	3	0	0	3	3	24	0

FIRST DIVISION

Red Section	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts	Blue Section	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
Assyrian FC	3	3	0	0	9	5	9	Hellenic United White	3	3	0	0	13	1	9
Stal Mielec	3	2	0	1	18	6	6	RWB Adria B	3	2	0	1	13	3	6
Stare Byki FC	3	1	2	0	8	7	5	Zaglebie SC	3	2	0	1	10	1	6
Gremio FC B	3	1	1	1	12	9	4	Winged Bull A	3	1	0	2	6	10	3
CKS Warta B	3	1	0	2	6	11	3	FK Republika Srpska B	3	0	0	3	0	11	0
Shlama FC	3	0	1	2	5	13	1	West Bosnia SC	3	0	0	3	0	23	0

SECOND DIVISION

Red Section	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts	Blue Section	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
Naperville Strikers	3	3	0	0	19	2	9	NK Prijedor	3	3	0	0	18	5	9
Chicago Inter Yellow	3	3	0	0	17	9	9	Chicago Dynasty FC	3	2	1	0	11	4	7
HNK Primorac	3	2	0	1	13	7	6	FC Kosova	3	1	2	0	19	7	5
Gremio FC A	3	1	0	2	4	7	3	Pitbulls SC	3	1	0	2	8	11	3
Chicago Inter Blue	3	0	0	3	8	21	0	Tricycles SC B	3	0	1	2	6	10	1
Winged Bull B	3	0	0	3	5	28	0	Chicago Inter White	3	0	0	3	2	19	0