



BOUNCINGS

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19 Dec 08



Gremio

4 : 1

Byki

Senior Red Team - NSL 2nd Division
Odeum - 14 December 2008

Byki one step behind Gremio

The Byki got caught up in high-pace game against Gremio FC last Sunday and wound up on the wrong end of a 4:1 scoreline. The difference between the two teams in this match was that Gremio took their chances well, while the Byki were constantly stymied when they attacked. The defeat drops the Byki to 2-0-2 for the indoor season.

The squad have shown great discipline as the season has progressed and it looked as though Gremio would provide a stiff challenge for the Byki. To their credit, Gremio put the Byki under pressure and made the game difficult throughout.

Neither side had carved out a significant advantage in the early minutes of the contest until Gremio found a slim opening and took full advantage. The Byki were a bit tardy on a line change and got caught in a 2 v 2 situation in their end of the field. Ball watching in the defense didn't help, as a Gremio player slipped the ball to an unmarked teammate in the box. With goalkeeper Joe Gambino at his mercy, he slid the ball home to make it 1:0.

Gremio went up 2:0 with 7:47 left before the break when they scored an absolutely unstoppable goal. A Gremio player

lined up a free kick at the Byki red line and scorched a shot into the upper 90. The powerful drive left the Byki wondering what had just hit them.

The Byki kicked up their effort on offense in the last three minutes of the first half. After a smart sequence of passes, things opened up for Jason Sphar, who let loose with a shot from long distance. The keeper alertly stuck his hand out to tip the ball to safety.

With 1:29 left, Jeff Samp took a quick restart at midfield and sent Kvar Black on a run up the left wing. Black drove a hard shot off the boards, resulting in a desperate scramble in the Gremio penalty area. Kevin Biggs got a foot to the ball, but the keeper made the difficult save.

With time running out, Minos Bouzoukis made an insightful pass to the hard-running Josh Taylor on the flank. Taylor put everything into a blast that the goalie was lucky to save.

At halftime, Gambino told his players to keep up the intensity and look for goals. At the same time, he reminded everyone of the importance of balance on defense because there was no reason to take excessive risks being just two goals down.

Gremio needed just 1:28 after the break to extend their lead. They shot a free kick from the red line low and hard off the boards. No one could control the rebound, but a Gremio player stuck his foot into the right spot to make it 3:0.

Things got desperate for the Byki with 8:15 left in the match. After conceding a weak turnover in their half, the Byki set up Gremio for a quick 2 v 1 move on the Byki goal. Gambino came out hard to challenge the shooter, resulting in a shot off the boards. No Byki were around to follow up on the play and a Gremio player knocked the ball home for a 4:0 lead.

The Byki bravely tried to come back, but simply didn't have enough time to climb out of the deep hole that they had

Sponsor Corner

The Byki will hold the drawing for their raffle fundraiser at

Roosters Barn & Grill

122 W Lake St in Bloomingdale
On Saturday, January 17, 2009
Social night begins at 6:30 PM

Raffle tickets are \$20

<http://www.starebykifc.org/raffle08>.

Stare Byki FC: Friends, Passion, Soccer



dug. With 5:58 left, Chris Rose nailed a hard shot from the right wing that came off the boards. The rebound wound up at the red line for Sphar, who hit the ball first time. The Gremio goalie made a tremendous kick save to keep the Byki off the scoresheet.

The Byki conjured up a consolation goal with 5:02 to go. Andrew Slaga started the play along the left wing with a simple pass to Black in the corner. Black spotted Biggs alone in the middle and made a square pass to the striker. With the

keeper committed to Black, it was easy pickings for Biggs to knock the ball home for his third goal of the campaign.

BYKI SCORING SUMMARY

Biggs 3 (Black); 32:58; 4:1.

BYKI LINEUP (2-1-2): Gambino – Bouzoukis, Black – Samp – Taylor, Biggs. **Bench:** Dziekiewicz, Martinez, Rose, Slaga, Sphar.

Real B

3 : 1

Byki

Over 30 Red Team - NSL 2nd Division
Odeum - 14 December 2008

Late collapse disgusts Byki

Just when a draw looked like the inevitable outcome, the Byki oldboys let the match slip out of their grasp. Real Independiente B scored twice in the last 1:28 to walk away 3:1 winners last Sunday in 2nd Division action. Whether it was the wear and tear of playing two games in three days, or whether the Byki broke apart at the worst possible moment, the end result was an angry group of players who were convinced that the better team did not win.

Coach George Gorecki has been juggling his lineup every week in these first four games. While most of the moves have worked reasonably well, the bottom line remains that the Byki are not equipped to run at the same pace as a group of 20-year-olds. “We played well for 36 minutes and things broke down for the final two,” said Gorecki afterwards. “Our guys were fighting for the points until the very end, but I can’t say for certain how much gas they had left in the tank.”

The teams traded salvos in a scoreless first half. Dan Jedrzejowski’s steal with 7:55 gone sprang Maciej Kekus on a counterattack. Jedrzejowski played a long pass for Kekus in the corner, and a hard shot from Kekus required a big save from the Real goalkeeper.

Moments later, it was Real who caught the Byki on the break, but keeper Dean Fukar read the play well and made the stop.

Defender Chris Cardenas pushed forward with 6:20 to go and fired a shot from the right side that clanged off of the upper corner of the framework. Fukar did the job 1:51 later when he made a very tough save on a Real shot from the red line.

Fukar was at his best with 3:28 left. Real passed the ball long into the Byki box. Real’s striker contorted himself to trap the ball and turn to shoot. Fukar showed quick reactions to punch the ball clear.

The teams kept at it in the second half. Real made their only serious challenge on the Byki defense with 2:58 gone, as they sliced the Byki to ribbons with a series of fast and slick passes. The final pass found a Real player alone on the doorstep of the goal, but Fukar was brilliant in stoning the

scoring attempt.

A few minutes later, Jakub Banbor and Jay Brough worked a give-and-go in the right corner, freeing Brough for a shot. The keeper blocked Brough’s shot, but left the rebound in the middle of the area. Banbor followed up and he too was denied by the keeper.

Real broke the ice with 9:44 left in the match when they took advantage of sloppy play from the Byki in the back. Brough and Fukar tried to clear the ball from the corner to relieve pressure, but neither were successful. Real swung the ball into the middle and slammed a shot into an empty net.

The Byki replied within seconds. Ray Najera played the ball to Kekus in the corner to the goalie’s right. The ball took a high bounce, prompting the keeper to come out clear it away. Kekus got there first and corralled the bounce to redirect the ball into the unguarded goal to level things at 1:1.

The chance to put the game under wraps for the Byki came with 6:32 left. Delfino Zacarias, hot off of his hat trick two days earlier, brought the ball up the middle and dished to Kekus in the corner. Kekus waited for just the right moment and sent a diagonal ball back into the center for Zacarias, who hit the ball first-time. The keeper made the save of the game when he somehow blocked the shot. “That goal was a 100% goal,” said Gorecki. “I never thought the goalie would have a chance to reach it.”

Real went 2:1 up with 1:28 to go when they beat the Byki on the counter. It was one of the rare occasions when the Byki defense found themselves out of position. Real punched home a third goal in the dying seconds, as the Byki were throwing everything into attack to find an equalizer.

BYKI SCORING SUMMARY

Kekus 2 (Najera); 28:48; 1:1.

BYKI LINEUP (2-2-1): Fukar – Jedrzejowski (c), Dec – Elmkinssi, Banbor – Kekus. **Bench:** Brough, Cardenas, Lane, Najera, Zacarias.

Byki fall short vs league's elite

The up and down season for the Byki Over 30 Blue Team went on a downward swing last Tuesday when they fell to Mexico 7:2. The scoreline did not reflect the quality of play demonstrated by the Byki against arguably the top team in the CPSL, as the Byki fought gamely with a roster depleted by the nasty winter weather. The loss sends the Byki to 4-0-5 for the season.

Coach Eric Tower bolstered his squad with part-time players Don Robertson and Dave Rout, who live in the vicinity of Max McCook. Both players have filled in for the Byki on nights when the roster was thin. They were joined by seven regular players who managed to overcome the oppressive travel conditions. No player had a tougher commute than Kris Zadlo, who was flying in from Utah late in the day, following a business trip.

Tower set out a fairly simple game plan. Knowing that Mexico likes to pressure fullbacks into making mistakes, the top priority was to eliminate turnovers in the Byki end of the field. Offensively, the Byki wanted to shoot as often as possible, given that the Mexico goalie was a bit shaky in the first meeting between the sides.

Because Mexico only had one substitute and the Byki had just two, Tower knew that ball movement would be crucial. In the end, the difference in the game still hinged on poor Byki turnovers. The Mexicans kept three players back at all times, which meant that the Byki generally had to rely on individual work to create chances.

The game started well enough for the Byki. In the first minute, Rout stripped the ball from a Mexico striker and took advantage of the space that the Mexicans allowed him in the midfield and he dribbled right up the middle. Seeing that the defenders were dropping back, Rout astutely fired an ambitious shot that curled wide of the post.

Moments later, a Byki turnover handed the ball to Mexico, resulting in a shot from just outside the box. Fortunately the Byki were saved by the crossbar.

The game then appeared to settle into a back and forth contest, with Mexico attacking with three players against the Byki, while consistently keeping three defenders back. Clearly, the Mexicans were going to use patience to force the Byki to cough the ball up in their end. These smart and simple tactics worked well for Mexico, particularly because the Byki defensive group of Robertson, Rout, Brian Cooper and Fleet Neighbors did an excellent job of denying Mexico the ball during the run of play. Mexico finally got on the board at the 5:20 mark after a miscue gifted them a ball in front of the Byki goal. The Mexican forward wasted no time slotting the

ball past a stranded Dean Fukar.

The game then remained a stalemate in midfield. Mexico held the Byki to a few scattered shots that were created by individual efforts. With 11:00 left in the half, Rout capped off a nice passing sequence in the midfield when he stepped up out of defense to blast a shot from outside the box soared just over the crossbar. Shortly thereafter, another Byki turnover in their defensive end provided Mexico with a great scoring chance and the Mexicans converted to make it 2:0.

Mexico hit paydirt for a third time with 7:20 left. A long ball out of the back found a Mexico player open near the touchline. The player launched an accurate cross and a Mexico forward outjumped Cooper to head home to put Mexico 3:0 up.

The Byki did not go quietly, however. With 6:00 to go, Rout swiped the ball from a Mexico player and dished to Jay Brough in the corner, who quickly passed back to Zadlo. Zadlo fired unabashedly and his shot appeared to have eyes for the goal. The ball snaked through the Mexican defenders, but the goalkeeper somehow got a hand on it, deflecting it out of bounds.

With 4:00 remaining, Mexico parlayed a Byki turnover into a goal to swell the margin to 4:0. But the Byki finally pulled one back two minutes before the break when Tower stripped the ball away from a Mexico forward and turned upfield, ignoring the pointless cries of his opponent. Mexico still had three defenders back, so Tower faked inside to draw the wing defender, then went outside and slotted the ball past the goalie to bring the Byki to within 4:1.

At halftime, Tower emphasized the need to distribute the ball more quickly out of the back and to provide outlet passes for the wing defenders, and for Byki attacking players to make runs off the ball. Although the Byki were behind on the scoreboard, they could take some satisfaction with the way they were competing in the match.

The weak turnovers were still a problem for the Byki after the break. Mexico parlayed an early mistake into another goal and increased their margin to 5:1 four minutes into the second stanza.

The Byki responded four minutes later. Fukar hoofed a long goal kick to Rout, who quickly laid the ball off to Brough. Seeing Tower lurking at the far post, Brough quickly crossed the ball in. Tower, who had his back to the goal, faked inside, drawing both his defender and the keeper inside. Tower turned to the outside and his shot easily found the back of the net, continuing his torrid scoring streak. Tower has scored in six of the eight matches he has played this

session.

But the Byki would get no closer. Mexico continued to keep three men back and waited for more Byki turnovers to fuel their attack. The Byki tried to adjust to Mexico's defensive tactics, but in many cases the passes did not find their mark. Zadlo was particularly effective at gaining control of the ball. In several instances, he hit wonderful passes to his teammates, only to see them lose the handle. Zadlo also forced another miracle save from the keeper when his shot from outside the box found its way through the Mexico defense.

Mexico scored two more goals as the game wound down to ensure the three points. Although a 7:2 final score doesn't look particularly impressive, the squad showed marked

improvement from the first encounter versus Mexico, who ran roughshod over the Byki. Tower was sanguine about the outcome. "Were it not for the turnovers and some excellent Mexico goalkeeping, the score could have been much closer," he noted afterwards.

Eric Tower and Kris Zadlo contributed to this story.

BYKI SCORING SUMMARY

Tower 12; 23:00; 4:1. Tower 13 (Brough); 33:00; 5:2.

BYKI LINEUP (3-2-1): Fukar – Robertson, Rout, Cooper – Zadlo, Mansur P Sr – Brough. **Bench:** Neighbors, Tower.

Byki Stats

SENIOR, NSL 2nd DIVISION

Player	G	A	Pts
Taylor	2	2	4
Black	1	3	4
Biggs	3	0	3
Sphar	0	2	2
Lubeck	1	0	1
Martinez	1	0	1
Samp	1	0	1
Slaga	1	0	1
Team goals	1	x	x

Goalie	Min	GA	GAA
Gambino	152	9	2.25

Current record: 2-0-2

O-30 RED, NSL 2nd DIVISION

Player	G	A	Pts
Kekus	2	2	4
Banbor	1	3	4
Zacarias	3	0	3
Ciszewski	2	0	2
Dec	1	0	1
Brough	0	1	1
Najera	0	1	1
Goalie	Min	GA	GAA
Fukar	152	11	2.75

Current record: 1-1-2

O-30 BLUE TEAM, CPSL

Player	G	A	Pts
Tower	13	5	18
Towsey	4	6	10
Mansur, Sr	1	4	5
Elmkinssi	3	0	3
Stamatakos	1	2	3
Gallo	2	0	2
Piotrowski	2	0	2
Soriano	1	1	2
Brough	0	2	2
Cooper	1	0	1
Team goals	5	x	x

Goalie	Min	GA	GAA
Fukar	450	52	5.78

Current record: 4-0-5

CHICAGO PREMIER SOCCER LEAGUE

December 16, 2008

	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
Mexico	6	5	0	1	56	24	15
James Joyce	5	4	0	1	48	26	12
Arabian Eagles	6	4	0	2	46	37	12
Stare Byki FC	9	4	0	5	35	50	12
River Plate	5	1	0	4	30	35	3
AYSO	7	1	0	6	18	51	3