



BOUNCINGS

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31 Dec 08



Byki

2 : 2

Wisla 0-30

Senior Red Team - NSL 2nd Division
Odeum - 19 December 2008

Stirring comeback nets point for Byki

The Byki were faced with an intriguing challenge on December 19 when they took on the oldtimers from SAC Wisla. The Byki and Wisla have met many times on the field, but it was always old guys versus old guys. Knowing that the Wisla's players don't like to run, coach Joe Gambino wanted the Byki to push the pace. They accomplished that, yet found themselves down by two goals in the final six minutes. The Byki put extra effort into their task and scored two terrific goals in the late going to salvage a 2:2 draw.

The Byki lucked out when the NSL scheduled the match on the Odeum's north field. Most 2nd Division contests are played on the small field upstairs, an environment that favors older teams who may not be able to keep pace with younger opponents. Because Wisla place such a high emphasis on possession soccer, playing the game on the upper field would have taken away the advantage of pace from the Byki.

And it was the Byki who dominated possession in the first half of the contest. "We had something like 70% of the possession in the first half," lamented Gambino. "And no goals to show for it." Indeed, the Byki were actually beating

Wisla at their own game. Wisla were content to keep two players back on defense at all times and play for the counter. With the Byki able to keep the ball for long stretches, Wisla counters were few and far between. But the patience and discipline from Wisla prevented the Byki from denting the Wisla goal.

Chris Rose got the ball rolling in the second minute of the match when the Byki stole the ball and Rose fired a hard shot from just inside the red line. Wisla's keeper was well-positioned to make the save.

A few minutes later, Minos Bouzoukis found Jeff Samp in the box with a terrific pass. Samp turned his defender the wrong way to get free for a shot and was denied by a tremendous diving save by the goalie.

The Byki had two outstanding chances to grab the lead, but failed to put the ball away. With 4:35 left in the half, Josh Taylor received the ball in the left corner and faked his defender out of his socks to get free in the Wisla penalty area. Taylor looked set to give the Byki the lead, but the keeper had a miracle up his sleeve to keep the game scoreless. With 0:58 to go, Paul Mansur led a 2 v 2 counterattack and sent the ball to Jason Sphar. Sphar took his chance well and the goalkeeper did his job with a spectacular leg save.

The Byki had to feel good about their start to the match, yet had to feel frustrated at not capitalizing on potent scoring opportunities. Allowing Wisla to hang around was a flawed strategy because their experience could allow them to sneak away with the three points.

The Wisla turnabout began in the middle of the second half resulted in a quick 2:0 lead. Gambino made his first challenging save of the night with 10:08 left in the game when a Wisla player created a nice opening in the Byki box. Just seconds later, the Byki lost their composure on defense and a shot from the left corner slithered past Gambino to make it 1:0.

The Byki laid a big egg defensively with 7:58 left.

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



Determined to get an equalizer, they pushed too many players forward and got caught on the counter. After Wisla won the ball, they played it quickly to their striker, who was alone at midfield. He sprinted in alone on Gambino, who came off his line aggressively. The striker had easy pickings when he feinted Gambino to the turf and slid the ball into the gaping net.

The situation looked desperate for the Byki. Their first-half momentum had completely disappeared and they were staring in the face of an imposing two-goal deficit against a team who knows how to effectively kill a game.

But the Byki came back in the only method possible: move the ball quickly to break down the Wisla defense. A slick series of one-touch passes with 5:54 to go halved the Wisla lead. Samp started the play on the right flank by sending the ball to Rose in the box. Rose flicked the ball along to the far post for Ray Najera, who slammed a first-time shot into the back of the net.

With some zip in their step, the Byki continued their

onslaught. With 3:15 to go, Jesus Martinez fed Andrew Slaga on the left side. Slaga went straight to goal and drilled a hard shot that the keeper was fortunate to save.

The equalizer came just 0:40 later. Slaga dribbled past his man in the corner and found Taylor at the far post. Taylor won the ball and fired past the helpless goalie to make it 2:2.

“It was a good effort at the end to get the tie,” said Gambino. “My post-game speech would have been a lot different if we had lost.” The draw puts the Byki at 2-1-2 for the season, squarely in the middle of the Blue Section table.

BYKI SCORING SUMMARY

Najera 1 (Rose); 32:06; 1:2. Taylor 4 (Slaga); 35:25: 2:2.

BYKI LINEUP (2-1-2): Gambino – Rose, Bouzoukis – Samp – Taylor, Martinez. **Bench:** Dziekiewicz, Mansur, P Jr, Najera, Slaga, Sphar.

Wisla B

2 : 1

Byki

Over 30 Red Team - NSL 2nd Division
Odeum - 19 December 2008

Oldboys can't catch youngsters

The other half of the rare Byki-Wisla doubleheader at the Odeum on December 19 pitted the Byki Over 30s against Wisla's B Team. Nearly all of the players on the Wisla roster are teenagers and they displayed good technique, pace and discipline en route to a 2:1 victory. The Byki played a disjointed first half before getting their act together after the break. Despite Wisla's early advantage, the Byki were not far away from nabbing an equalizer.

“I thought that the Wisla team did a very good job,” noted Byki coach George Gorecki. “The NSL has had a few high school teams play indoors and most of them are out of their depth at this level. Give credit to Wisla's coaches for getting the players up to standard quickly.”

Most of the Byki troubles can be traced back to a lack of preparation. Several players arrived just before kickoff or after the game started, making it difficult to get the player rotations settled. At one point, players were substituting almost at random. “It was a miracle that the confusion didn't cost us any goals or a time penalty,” said Gorecki.

The Byki put Wisla on notice early. Steven Pedlow started a flurry with 1:53 elapsed when he shot from the red line. The Wisla defense blocked it and the ball deflected into the corner. Maciej Kekus chased it down and shot immediately. The ball ricocheted right back to him and he shot again from closer range. Wisla blocked that attempt as well. Jakub Banbor followed up the play with a shot that just missed the

far post. A few minutes later, the Byki counterattacked, presenting Robert Dec with an open shot. The keeper made a smart kick save to keep things scoreless.

Wisla started to turn the tide by the middle of the first half. Catching the Byki standing still on defense, Wisla created a free shot in the box, but the striker drove the ball wide of the target.

With 9:37 before the break, a Wisla player faked his way into the clear on the right wing. He hit a tremendous shot from a tough angle to make it 1:0.

Things didn't look very promising 3:33 later. With the Byki pushing too many players forward, Wisla broke out on a 2 v 1 counter. They passed the ball expertly to set up the open man for a shot, but keeper Dean Fukar read the play perfectly. He cut off the angle, forcing the Wisla player to shoot right at him.

Wisla went 2:0 up with 1:54 left. A Wisla player dribbled free in the right corner as the Byki stood still on defense. A big blast just under the crossbar gave Fukar no chance.

“We had a nice start to the match, but we lost our way quickly,” said Gorecki. “We were slow when they countered and then we stood around and watched the ball as they shot all over the place.”

It took the Byki most of the second half to get their game on track. With 5:42 left in the game, Jay Brough intercepted a Wisla pass and dribbled past a defender before sliding the

ball to Kekus in the right corner. Kekus took aim, but the goalie made a sprawling save.

The Byki pulled one back with 3:45 to go. Kekus bulled his way out of the corner on the left side. He drilled a shot at the near post that the keeper blocked. The ball rebounded to the top of the penalty area, where Banbor made no mistake with a first-time blast.

The Byki were now in the hunt for an equalizer. A Wisla handball just outside the box with 2:02 remaining led to nervous moments for the Wisla defense. Marek Ciszewski played the restart to Kekus in the deep corner, who shot immediately. The goalie made an outstanding reflex save.

Seconds later, the Byki had Wisla off-balance. A pass from the left corner went diagonally into the box, but the sliding Pedlow arrived too late to punch the ball home.

Afterwards, the Wisla coach seemed grateful to escape with a victory. He told the local Polish media that his team had to endure some nervous moments in the second half, possibly because Wisla's players did not take the Byki seriously after going up by two goals. Wisla's coach said that the Byki were his toughest opponent so far this season.

BYKI SCORING SUMMARY

Banbor 3; 34:15; 2:1.

BYKI LINEUP (2-2-1): Fukar – Jdrzejowski (c), Brough – Dec, Banbor – Kekus. **Bench:** Cardenas, Ciszewski, Elmkinssi, Lane, Pedlow, Silverstein.

Byki

4 : 2

AYSO

Over 30 Blue Team - CPSL Over 30 Division
Max McCook - 23 December 2008

Byki end season even-stein

The Over 30 Blue Team played a balanced game in the season finale on December 23, downing AYSO 4:2. Seven different Byki figured into the scoring, as the team ended the first session at 5-0-5.

The Byki were to have played River Plate to wrap up the campaign, but the River must have run dry, because their sad-sack team were no-shows. When AYSO's opponent also failed to turn up for their match, CPSL chief Oscar Ponce hastily paired the Byki with AYSO for the third meeting between the teams this season.

The Byki pretty much had their way with AYSO in the first two matches, but the third encounter had a little extra bite. AYSO player and former Byk Charlie Cohen allowed things to boil over and got into confrontations with Dean Fukar and Eric Tower. Cohen had already had run-ins with Tower in the previous matches, but really went over the edge this time and was lucky to have not been sent off.

The confident Byki had little doubt that they would come away victors versus AYSO, but may have treated their adversaries with an attitude that was a bit lax. AYSO used aggressive marking tactics and managed to stay within a goal or two of the Byki for the entire contest. Without some excellent goalkeeping from Fukar, the Byki could have found themselves in some trouble.

The Byki snatched the early advantage. Tower launched a long bomb at the AYSO goal. The ball crashed off of the crossbar and a mad scramble in the goalmouth ensued. Jay Brough finally gained control of the ball and knocked it into the net for a 1:0 lead.

AYSO leveled the affair 4:11 later. The Byki gave the ball away at midfield and an insightful through pass split the defense. The shot from short range gave Fukar no chance.

A few minutes later, both teams had players removed for penalties stemming from a confrontation between Cohen and Fukar. The two came in hard for a ball that had eluded Fukar's control as he tried to dribble out of danger. After the players collided, they were bundled in a heap on the field and Cohen began flailing away with punches at Fukar. The referee restored order quickly, but inexplicably gave yellow cards to both players. "The referee did what most refs do in that situation," said George Gorecki. "He took the coward's way out and punished both players, when it was obvious that Charlie should have been tossed for throwing punches. When Dean asked the referee why he was being penalized, the referee said he should have walked away from the situation. Yeah, easier said than done, when you're getting pummeled for no reason."

The Byki regained control of the contest midway through the first half as they were killing a penalty. Five one-touch passes resulted in the most elegant goal of the night. Fukar started the play with a free kick in the Byki end to Nick Elmkinssi, who sent the ball to Ted Piotrowski. The striker returned the ball to Elmkinssi, who found Dave Rout in the open. Rout sent a simple pass for Elmkinssi, who finished off the play for his fourth goal of the season.

The crossbar denied the Byki a second time with 6:30 left in the first half. Elmkinssi's corner kick found Doug Towsey, whose open shot hit the bar. Pete Stamatakos followed up,

but his shot attempt was cleared to safety.

Cohen was sent to the sin bin for a second time late in the first half. He recklessly slid in underneath Tower as Tower dribbled into the clear, giving the Byki a four-minute power play. The Byki made it 3:1 after Tower latched onto Piotrowski's corner kick and drilled a shot that deflected off of a defender before settling into the back of the net. Tower led the Byki with 14 goals for the season, easily the most prodigious offensive output of his Byki career.

The Byki had ample opportunities to put the result beyond any doubt in the second half. Byki shots hit the framework twice and an incredible save from the AYSO keeper blunted another certain scoring chance. Failure to capitalize allowed AYSO a sliver of hope and they nearly made things nervous for the Byki at the end.

Brough made a bid for his second goal of the night when he redirected Elmkinssi's hard drive at the net with 8:53 gone, but his shot glanced off the bar. Just 1:57 later, Tower and Brough came fast on a 2 v 1 counterattack. Tower drew the defender toward him and stroked a lovely diagonal pass to Brough, who filled the space on the left side. Brough struck his shot hard, but the beleaguered AYSO goalie made the save of the game, diving full stretch to block the ball.

Moments later, Tower touched the ball over to Towsey on a re-start. Towsey measured his blast carefully, but could only rattle the crossbar. Predictably, AYSO pulled to within 3:2

with 6:20 left in the game, taking advantage of their good luck and by hustling to put pressure on the ball.

There were no nerves from the Byki, who continued to move the ball smartly from side to side to avoid the ballhawking AYSO players. The Byki wrapped up the three points 3:08 from the end. Gorecki drove a corner kick low and hard into the mixer, where Paul Mansur stuck his leg out to re-direct the ball past the stationary AYSO defenders. "I know George likes to put the ball in that spot," said Mansur afterwards. "So I just got there first."

The Byki experienced a range of ups and downs this season. Things looked quite shaky at the start, as veteran players shook off the rust and newcomers adapted their games to fit in with their teammates. The Byki eventually settled their defense to back up the solid and consistent Fukar in the nets. As the season wore on, the Byki discovered that the quickest path to the goal is to make the early and easy pass, and the scoring chances began to materialize.

BYKI SCORING SUMMARY

Brough 1; 2:47; 1:0. Elmkinssi 4 (Rout); (sh); 12:09; 2:1. Tower 14 (Piotrowski); 22:36; (pp); 3:1. Mansur 2 (Gorecki); 46:52; 4:2.

BYKI LINEUP (3-2-1): Fukar – Bolesta, Gorecki, Robertson – Elmkinssi, Stamatakos – Piotrowski. **Bench:** Brough, Mansur P Sr, Rout, Tower, Towsey, Zadlo.

Byki Stats

SENIOR, NSL 2nd DIVISION

Player	G	A	Pts
Taylor	3	2	5
Black	1	3	4
Biggs	3	0	3
Slaga	1	1	2
Sphar	0	2	2
Lubeck	1	0	1
Martinez	1	0	1
Najera	1	0	1
Samp	1	0	1
Rose	0	1	1
Team goals	1	x	x

Goalie	Min	GA	GAA
Gambino	190	11	2.20

Current record: 2-1-2

O-30 RED, NSL 2nd DIVISION

Player	G	A	Pts
Banbor	2	3	5
Kekus	2	2	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	190	13	2.60

Current record: 1-1-3

O-30 BLUE TEAM, CPSL

Player	G	A	Pts
Tower	14	5	19
Towsey	4	6	10
Mansur, Sr	2	4	6
Elmkinssi	4	0	4
Piotrowski	2	1	3
Brough	1	2	3
Stamatakos	1	2	3
Gallo	2	0	2
Soriano	1	1	2
Cooper	1	0	1
Gorecki	0	1	1
Rout	0	1	1
Team goals	5	x	x

Goalie	Min	GA	GAA
Fukar	500	54	5.40

Final record: 5-0-5



This week in Byki history



Stare Byki FC a Global Club

The origins of the Byki were rather modest. It was a group of friends who had a love of soccer in common. Over time, the organization grew in several directions, and the club now boasts four teams. There have been over 400 players who have worn the Byki colors over the past 25 years.

A look at the breakdown by nationality reveals that at least 36 countries have been represented within the club. Americans obviously dominate the all-time roster, but it's amazing how many different people have found this club. Here's a look at the numbers.

222: USA
29: China
23: Poland
21: Mexico
10: Iraq
9: England
6: Greece
5: Germany, Italy, Nigeria, Scotland
4: Jamaica
3: Argentina, Brazil, Guatemala, Ireland
2: Albania, France, Peru, Romania, Russia, Turkey
1: Belize, Canada, Colombia, Egypt, Ghana, India, Lebanon, Morocco, New Zealand, St. Kitts & Nevis, Spain, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Ukraine

The club's roots are Polish and the roster comprised only Polish-American players the first two years of the club's existence. Once some of the original players no longer continued playing, the

search was on to find good players, regardless of their nationality. The first player to break the Polish barrier was **Sergio Bertoncello**, who was born in Argentina. Sergio was actually a Byki opponent originally when he played for the Duo-Fast Blast. When the Blast went on hiatus in early 1985, the Byki convinced Sergio to bring his goalscoring prowess to the Byki. His services were secured when he signed a "contract" on a bar napkin at the Odeum.

Over time, the Byki began to bring new players into the club and didn't worry about nationality. Polish and Polish-American players still made up the majority of the roster through the early 1990s. By 1994, the Byki formed their first Over 30 Team and the rosters began to take shape more by networking than by looking at a player's ethnic background. Once the Byki joined the NSL and had to set their goals based on being competitive, the only thing anyone worried about was whether a player could play.

Some readers may be surprised to see that the largest foreign country represented in the Byki is China. **Jun Song** became the first Chinese Byki player in 1997 and his connections led to a massive influx of his countrymen into the club. In the opening match of the 2001 outdoor season, the Byki B Team had ten Chinese players in their starting lineup.

Most players have found the club through word of mouth. But more and more newcomers find the club through the Internet, either through searches via Google, the Byki link on the NSL website, or via recruitment postings on various social and sports sites.

CHICAGO PREMIER SOCCER LEAGUE

December 23, 2008

	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
Mexico	6	5	0	1	56	24	15
Stare Byki FC	10	5	0	5	39	52	15
James Joyce	5	4	0	1	48	26	12
Arabian Eagles	6	4	0	2	46	37	12
River Plate	5	1	0	4	30	35	3
AYSO	8	1	0	7	20	54	3