

Red-hot Over 30s can't be stopped

The Byki oldboys extended their amazing streak to eight wins in nine matches when they trounced Medicare FC 8:2 last Thursday. The Byki had run out to an 8:0 advantage by the middle of the second half and seemed to lose interest in racking up a higher goal total, as Medicare scored their pair in the late going. Brett Frischmann led the Byki with two goals and an assist. In total, eight different Byki found the scoresheet as a result of a balanced and potent attack. At 2-0-0, the Byki sit atop the Rec League table.

The improved consistency on offense has translated into a confident Byki squad. Coaches Wei Zhang and Eric Tower have been preaching the importance of quick ball movement and running into space for a long time. But it appeared that the Over 30s were the old dogs who could not be taught any new tricks. The message has finally gotten through and the Byki have outscored their opponents 40:25 in the last nine games.

The Byki started the game slowly. It seemed that some



players didn't have a good first touch and the whole team was struggling with maintaining possession. Once the Byki got their act together, the goals began raining down on the Medicare net.

The Byki took the lead in the tenth minute of the contest when Ernesto Garcia received the ball from Ruben Parra and beat the keeper with a shot that found the right corner. Three minutes later, Jing Geng led the attack from his own half and took on two Medicare defenders. Geng's move created an opening for a shot, but a Medicare player blocked it. Ken Hunter pounced on the loose ball and knocked it home for a 2:0 lead.

Late in the first half, Frischmann got on the board when he settled a pass from Parra on his knee and then drilled a left-footed shot into the corner. With a comfortable 3:0 lead, the Byki were poised for a big second half.

The scoring parade continued after the break, as the Byki racked up five goals in a nine-minute span. That flurry effectively ended any hopes for Medicare. Rick Bolesta, who moonlights for Medicare when he's not playing for the Byki Over 40s, noted that his teammates were clearly overwhelmed. "A lot of the guys were impressed with the way the Byki controlled the ball," he said. "Afterwards, they accepted that they couldn't keep up. One guy said that he didn't feel so bad getting beaten by the best team in the league."

Marek Ciszewski started the scoring spree just three minutes into the second half. Parra made a long pass from midfield to Ciszewski, who did the rest. The score swelled to 5:0 a couple of minutes later when Garcia and Frischmann played a beautiful duet on the right wing, exchanging one-touch passes before Garcia finally finished things off with a well-taken goal.

With a comfortable lead, the Byki slowed things down by patiently passing the ball in their own half. This tactic



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induced Medicare to chase the ball to get back into the game. The strategy worked perfectly, as the desperate Medicare players spread themselves far too thinly. The Byki did not hesitate to play the ball back to Zhang in the goal and they immediately turned the Medicare players inside out with precise one- and two-touch passes.

That unselfish attitude culminated in the sixth Byki goal. Zhang received a backpass to relieve pressure and dished the ball to Tower as the Medicare striker attempted to pressure Zhang. Tower played the ball first-time to Nick Elmkinssi, who immediately played a square pass to Matt Treter on the left flank. Once the Byki had stretched the Medicare defense beyond its breaking point, it left Treter with an open path to the goal. Treter bore down on the keeper and saw his shot blocked, but followed up the rebound to notch the best goal of the night.

The Byki added two more goals to their total when Joe Youssef played provider for Geng and Frischmann to score twice within a span of 1:02.

The plucky Medicare side could have thrown up their hands at that point, but instead, kept working hard. Their industriousness paid off when they took advantage of a Byki team now looking forward more to the post-game beers than to fattening up their goal difference.

The Byki rightfully left the Sport Center field with a

feeling of satisfaction. Although they took their foot off the pedal at the end, they clearly were the dominant side and they drove that point home by hammering eight goals past Medicare. Unlike too many occasions in the past, the Over 30s did not play down to the level of the competition.

Tower really liked what he saw. "Medicare is a mix of older and younger players," he said. "As the game wore on, we finally got our passing game going and we ground them down. You can see an improved team spirit and confidence in the Over 30s. Although it's hard to gauge our progress because of the uneven competition, we've gotten on the same page for maybe the first time that I've ever seen."

Eric Tower and Wei Zhang contributed to this story.

BYKI SCORING SUMMARY

1st: Garcia 2 (Parra); 10:00; 0:1. Hunter 1 (Geng); 13:00; 0:2. Frischmann 1 (Parra); 22:20; 0:3.

2nd: Ciszewski 3 (Parra); 3:00; 0:4. Garcia 2 (Frischmann); 5:00; 0:5. Treter 1; 10:00; 0:6. Geng 2 (Youssef); 11:28; 0:7. Frischmann 2 (Youssef); 12:30; 0:8.

BYKI LINEUP (2-3-1): Zhang – Geng, Tower – Treter, Elmkinssi, Jedrzejowski – Garcia. Bench: Ciszewski, Frischmann, Hunter, Parra, Pedlow, Youssef, Zelinski.





Demar

Over 40 Team - Sportszone Over 30 League Sportszone - 22 January 2007

4 goals + 4 minutes = easy win

It took the Byki a while to break the ice, but scoring the first goal opened the floodgates and the Over 40 team coasted to a dominating 4:0 victory over Team Demar last Monday. All four tallies were scored in a span of 3:43 late in the second half, as the pesky Demar squad dodged several bullets along the way in their attempt to get something from the game. Dominic Demarets led the way for the Byki with two well-taken goals.

Coach Bernhard Kleine used his 15-strong roster to full advantage. With the emphasis on short shifts and rapid substitution, the Byki eventually wore down Demar, whose players were barely moving by the middle of the second half. With all of the Byki buying into Kleine's system, it was just a matter of time before the Byki would prevail.

The game probably would have been a double-digit cakewalk for the Byki if their finishing had been better. They hit the framework three times and were thwarted by several miracle saves from the two Demar goalkeepers.

The Byki threw out the first salvo 4:23 into the contest

when Joe Gambino and Bob Marvin executed a slick 1-2 combination. Marvin fired a hard shot from the right corner that the keeper did well to save. Just 2:32 later, Demarets' free kick from the top of the arc grazed the post.

Demar created scant few chances in the match. Their only decent opportunity in the first half came when they caught goalie Sal Farhan wandering outside of his box. A shot from midfield looked worrisome with Farhan out of position, but the ball rebounded off of the boards.

The Byki began to tighten the screws at the end of the half. Good pressure by Demarets and Kleine in the Demar end of the field created a 2 v 2 situation after Kleine made the steal. He fired low and hard, but was denied when his shot hit the post.

With 1:22 left, Gambino alertly put a free kick at the top of the arc into play for Stef Wiecek on the right flank. Wiecek drilled a first-time shot that the keeper saved. Demarets was hungry to score with 0:37 left as he dribbled through the penalty area, but a big save kept the match

goalless at the break.

The Byki maintained their discipline in the second half and the game merely got easier for them. The Byki went on the power play after the Demar goalie handled the ball outside of his area. The power play started off sluggishly for the Byki, whose spacing was unbalanced. But they finally got everyone on the same page and forced a Demar turnover. Gambino won possession of the ball and sent a simple pass into the box for George Siepiora. After faking one defender to clear a path, Siepiora induced the keeper to the turf and handily slotted the ball inside the post for a 1:0 lead.

There would be no letdown after that strike. Just 0:58 later, Marvin took the ball down the left side and centered the ball for Kleine, who crushed a first-time rocket past the befuddled keeper. With 7:07 left in the game, Marvin was at it again, making a solo run and beating two defenders. With everyone faked out, a goal seemed inevitable, but Marvin's shot hit the post.

The Byki put the game on ice with 6:49 left. Matt Treter made a steal and carried the ball into the middle of the field. He gave the ball up to Demarets, who had made the run on the left. When Treter ran to the middle of the box to support Demarets, he drew the attention of a defender and the Demar goalie. With the keeper anticipating a pass to Treter, Demarets took aim and beat the keeper at the near post. The result was put beyond any doubt with 5:55 to go. With some Demar players fancying themselves as dribbling wizards, the Byki made them pay for their carelessness by keeping the pressure high. Gambino and Demarets were all over a Demar player who thought he could dribble through them, rather than making a safe pass back to his keeper. As the Demar player tried to make a move, Demarets stuck his foot out, deflecting the ball back towards the Demar goal. With the keeper on the wrong foot, the ball calmly rolled into the back of the net for a commanding 4:0 lead.

The oldboys have won two of their last three matches, the most promising stretch of success in the Over 40 Team's four-year history. The players can't take anything for granted after this limited string of good play. If they stick to the plan, International Harvester and Demar will remain in the Byki rearview mirror. And continued discipline will serve the Byki well as they seek to overtake SportsZone, the 800-pound gorilla of the Over 30 League.

BYKI SCORING SUMMARY

1st: None.

2nd: Siepiora 1 (Gambino); (pp); 11:22; 1:0. Kleine 5 (Marvin); 12:19; 2:0. Demarets 7 (Treter); 14:11; 3:0. Demarets 8; 15:05; 4:0.

BYKI LINEUP (3-2): Farhan – Gorecki, Treter, Cooper – Gambino, Demarets. **Bench:** Ahrens, Bolesta, Kleine, LaForest, Mansur, P Sr, Marvin, Neighbors, Siepiora, Wiecek.

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A TEAM, NS	G 15t 0		ON Pts	B TEAM, SOC	CER CIT	Y C L	EAGUE	E OVER 30 TEA	M,SCH G	AUA	Pts	OVER 40 TE	G G	A	ZONE
Fleming	5	A 4	<u>9</u>	Pirrilis	1	0 0	<u>- ris</u> 1	Ciszewski	3	2	<u> </u>	Demarets	8	2	
Haynes	6		7	Lane	0	1	1	Youssef	3	2	5	Kleine	5	3	8
Dance	4	2	6	Lano	Ū		<u> </u>	Parra	1	4	5	Gambino	3	2	5
Mayer	3	2	5	Goalie	Min	GA	GAA	Garcia	3	0	3	Marvin	1	2	3
Mansur, P Jr	0	5	5	Gambino	40	5	5.00	Frischmann	2	1	3	Bolesta	2	0	2
Bouzoukis	1	2	3	Curre	nt record:	0-0-1		Geng	2	1	3	Ahrens	1	1	2
Dziekiewicz, G	1	2	3					Treter	1	2	3	Neighbors	1	1	2
Stanley	2	0	2					Hunter	1	0	1	LaForest	0	1	1
Ciszewski	1	1	2					Towsey	1	0	1	Mansur, Sr	0	1	1
Green	1	1	2					Zelinski	1	0	1	Treter	0	2	2
Moore	1	1	2					Jedrzejowski	0	1	1	Siepiora	1	0	1
Rose	0	1	1					Zhang	0	1	1	Wiecek	0	1	1
Goalie	Min	GA	GAA					Goalie	Min	GA	GAA	Goalie	Min	GA	GAA
Gambino	38	2	2.00					Zhang	100	3	1.50	Neighbors	5	0	0.00
Eliasek	133	11	3.14					Current	record:	2-0-0		Farhan	121	10	3.47
de la Cruz	171	19	4.22									Curren	nt record:	2-0-1	

FK BD

A Team - NSL 1st Division Odeum - 19 January 2007

Byki turnovers lead to poor goals

season began the second half of play. They committed a bevy of senseless giveaways and responded poorly to an aggressive FK Bosanska Dubica squad as they fell 3:2. The Byki are now 2-1-6 for the season.

It was a match in which few things went right for the Byki. Their poor passing and failure to create space killed any chance of winning the game. Dubica played hard and denied the Byki time to trap the ball and make passes. With opponents constantly closing hard on them, the stagnant Byki were easy targets for turnovers and Dubica put lots of pressure on Ryan Eliasek and the Byki goal.

Dubica opened the scoring just 3:38 into the contest. The Byki defenders were too slow to react to Dubica's rapid ball movement and their striker slammed a shot past Eliasek from the arc. The Byki expected to shake off that early salvo, but never got into a consistent rhythm. They created exactly one decent scoring chance in the entire first half. Paul Mansur and Minos Bouzoukis worked a clever 1-2 play that provided Mansur with an open shot, but the Dubica keeper made a fine diving save.

The pace of the match was more than the Byki could handle, but the players could not figure out how to get things back under control. Dubica nearly made it 2:0 just 4:02 into the second half when the Byki committed a costly turnover in midfield, which led to a Dubica breakaway. Eliasek made a tremendous save to deny the scoring chance. But he was left hung out to dry 0:15 later when a blistering volley by a Dubica player gave him no chance.

The Byki perked up a bit in the middle portion of the second half. With 12:37 to go, Matt Fleming drilled a shot from the left side that forced a tough save from the Dubica goalie. Just 2:06 later, the Byki clawed their way back into the game. Marek Ciszewski fired a hard shot from distance that caromed off of the boards. Dan Stanley was all over

The Byki fell flat last Friday night as the NSL indoor the rebound, but his short-range attempt was saved by the diving keeper. The ball was still loose in the goal area and Stanley pounced on the rebound to bring the Byki to within 2:1.

> Byki euphoria was short-lived, as Dubica went back to a two-goal lead only 1:27 after the Byki tally. Dubica's speedy forward feinted his way into the clear at the Byki red line, leaving only Eliasek to beat. He slid past Eliasek and deposited the ball into the unguarded goal.

> The Byki finally felt a sense of urgency and worked like crazy for the game's final minutes. With 5:01 left, Andy Lane was deep in the corner and dropped a pass back for the supporting Josh Taylor. The defender slammed a first-time shot, but a splendid reflex save by the keeper kept the Byki at bay.

> The score went to 3:2 when Ciszewski bulled his way into the picture. He started the play with a solid shot from long range. The ball was deflected back into the middle of the box and Ciszewski simply followed up the play by heading the bouncing ball into the corner of the net.

> The Byki continued to seek an equalizer, but a stout and well-organized Dubica defense slammed the door shut on any bid for more Byki goals. The Byki played this game as if it were the first match of the season. By the middle of the season, a team need to have their act together. The Byki have shown the capability to play smart soccer. Why they cannot bring their best game to the Odeum every Friday is a big question that needs to be answered.

BYKI SCORING SUMMARY

1st: None

2nd: Stanley 2 (Ciszewski); 8:29; 1:2. Ciszewski 1; 15:39; 2:3.

BYKI LINEUP (2-2-1): Eliasek - Dziekiewicz, Mansur, P Jr - Stanley, Fleming - Dance (c). Bench: Bouzoukis, Ciszewski, Gambino, Lane, Moore, Rose, Taylor.

Byki

B Team - Soccer City C League Soccer City - 16 January 2007

Rusty Byki get bashed

The Byki B Team might have been getting itchy to get back into the swing of things, so coaches Joe Gambino and Russ Haynes hastily assembled a group to compete in the C League at Soccer City in Palatine. The team's debut last Tuesday versus the Toe Bashers was a disjointed disappointment, as players of varying levels of fitness fell by a 5:1 scoreline.

Some of last year's B Team players are on the A Team roster in the NSL, but Gambino and Haynes did find enough committed players to field a squad for this recreational league. Things looked promising on paper, with 16 players in the fold. But things looked a lot different at last Tuesday's kickoff, as the Byki could only get ten players in uniform. It was a situation that left Gambino exasperated.

"The same thing happened at the first outdoor game [last April]," he snorted. "Russ and I told people to be there an hour before the game and we had people strolling in after kickoff." Last Tuesday, two players got lost on their way to the arena and then Gambino had to step between the pipes when goalie Jorge de la Cruz abruptly chose to call it quits for the indoor season.

The Toe Bashers, led by longtime Byk Tony Gallo, counterattacked the Byki to pieces. The fast pace of the indoor game prevented the Byki from settling into a comfortable rhythm and the Bashers were all over them. For most players, they had hardly touched a ball since the conclusion of the outdoor season in October, and the results on the field really showed it.

The Bashers got on the board late in the first half when they converted a power play opportunity. The Byki had to overcome their confusion on how to align themselves when down a man and the Bashers made easy work of the situation.

The Bashers increased their lead to 2:0 right before the break. As the Byki defense fell back too far, they allowed the Bashers too much time on the ball. They smartly dropped a pass back into space and a first-time blast gave Gambino no chance.

The Bashers went 3:0 up early in the second half, but the Byki finally had a reply. Andy Lane sent the ball into the box from the left wing, as he and Ari Pirrilis worked a give-and-go. Pirrilis did the rest, slotting the ball from short range.

The Bashers scored twice more in the late going, as the Byki were pushing more players forward to try to get back into the game.

Andy Lane contributed to this report.

BYKI SCORING SUMMARY

1st: None. **2nd:** Pirrilis 1 (Lane); 3:1.

BYKI LINEUP (2-1-2): Gambino – McGrath, Lewkowicz – Lane – Pirrilis, Daniel. **Bench:** Biggs, Casey, Moore, Smart.

NATIONAL SOCCER LEAGUE STANDINGS

January 19, 2007 www.nslchicago.org

MAJOR DIVISION

Red Section	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts	Blue Section	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
RWB Adria A	9	6	2	1	35	18	20	SC BiH	9	8	0	1	37	14	24
FK Kozarac	9	5	2	2	34	27	17	West Bosnia SC	9	7	1	1	34	15	22
CKS Warta	9	4	2	3	26	26	14	B-H Lilies	9	3	2	4	30	28	11
NK Prijedor	9	3	3	3	29	29	12	Outlanders SC	9	3	1	5	26	28	10
HNNK Hrvat	9	2	2	5	15	22	8	SAC Wisla	9	2	1	6	23	32	7
RWB Adria B	9	0	2	7	15	34	2	Royal FC	9	2	0	7	13	44	6

FIRST DIVISION

Red Section	GP	w	D	L	GF	GA	Pts	Blue Section	GP	w	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
FC Romania	9	9	0	0	53	17	27	Albanian Stars	9	8	1	0	51	21	25
KF Ulqin	9	8	0	1	39	11	24	Honduras SC	9	8	0	1	48	13	24
Deportivo Colomex	9	6	1	2	34	24	19	West Bosnia B	9	6	3	0	25	11	21
Khaboor FC	9	5	2	2	29	15	17	Chicago Thunder A	9	6	2	1	38	16	20
B-H Lilies B	9	5	1	3	28	23	16	Pitbulls	9	4	1	4	25	22	13
FK Podrinje	9	4	1	4	31	24	13	Real Independiente	9	4	1	4	17	17	13
FK Bosanska Dubica	9	4	1	4	26	23	13	Lemont FC	9	3	1	5	26	32	10
SAC Wisla B	9	4	1	4	24	26	13	HNNK Hrvat B	9	2	1	6	21	35	7
Oak Park Tricycles	9	2	3	4	20	28	9	Lake Shore SC	9	2	1	6	13	28	7
Stare Byki FC	9	2	1	6	25	32	7	CKS Warta B	9	1	2	6	26	38	5
CKS Warta C	9	1	0	8	12	54	3	Royal FC B	9	1	0	8	18	53	3
Chicago Thunder B	9	0	1	8	7	53	1	Chicago Inter Bulldogs	9	0	1	8	18	38	1

OVER 30 DIVISION

	GP	w	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
RWB Adria B	8	6	2	0	49	21	20
Outlanders SC	8	6	2	0	44	21	20
SAC Wisla	8	4	0	4	37	29	12
NK Prijedor	7	3	0	4	25	45	9
HNNK Hrvat	7	2	2	3	29	23	8
RWB Adria A	8	2	2	4	22	26	8
Hellas SC	8	0	0	8	19	60	0

SCHAUMBURG REC LEAGUE

January 18, 2007 w w w .parkfun .com

	G P	W	D	L	G F	G A	Pts
Stare BykiFC	2	2	0	0	18	3	4
Ballpark FC	2	2	0	0	14	5	4
Galaxy	2	2	0	0	14	7	4
The Wings	2	2	0	0	9	4	4
Orange FC	1	0	0	1	3	8	0
Medicare FC	1	0	0	1	3	4	0
Barrington Ortho	1	0	0	1	4	7	0
RealFC 57	2	0	0	2	5	12	0
Ζοο	1	0	0	1	1	10	0
Stingers	2	0	0	2	4	14	0

SPORTSZONE OVER 30 LEAGUE

January 22, 2007

www.chicagosportszone.com

	G P	w	D	L	G F	G A	Pts
SportsZone	2	2	0	0	20	5	6
Stare BykiFC	3	2	0	1	22	10	6
Team Demar	2	1	0	1	9	7	3
International	3	0	0	3	7	36	0

SOCCER CITY C LEAGUE

January 16, 2007

www.soccercitypalatine.com

	G P	w	D	L	G F	G A	Pts
Toe Bashers	1	1	0	0	5	1	9
Bari FC	1	1	0	0	5	2	9
U n ite d	1	1	0	0	6	4	9
Beer	1	1	0	0	4	3	9
Slice	1	0	0	1	3	4	3
Life Fitness	1	0	0	1	4	6	3
Bachirs Finest	1	0	0	1	2	5	2
Stare BykiFC	1	0	0	1	1	5	1