

Swarming Byki blank Thunder B

It took a while for the Byki to get the job done, but in the end, they engineered a thorough 5:0 dismantling of Chicago Thunder B last Friday. Matt Fleming scored one goal and assisted on two others, while Andy Lane contributed a double. With seven points from their last three matches, the Byki have shaken off the effects of a mid-season slump, during which the team lost four in a row. The Byki stand at 4-2-7 with three games left in the campaign.

Thunder sit at the foot of the Red Section table, having conceded a whopping 77 goals going into last week's game. Coach George Gorecki did not want his team to get too revved up by looking at the standings, but preferred that the Byki impose their will on Thunder right from the start. The players executed perfectly, assuming full control of the match early on. Although the goals didn't come until later, there was little doubt as to how the game would turn out.

Russ Haynes, who leads the team in goals this winter, wasted no time putting pressure on Thunder's goal. It took only seven seconds for Minos Bouzoukis to thread the needle



with a brilliant through pass to free Haynes, who dribbled past one defender and then watched his shot clang off of the goalpost.

The Byki controlled possession for long stretches. Thunder committed numerous unforced errors, allowing the Byki to come forward at will. The Byki took few chances on defense and simply waited for Thunder to come at them. The result was the same almost every time: a turnover to the Byki.

Lane broke the ice midway through the first half. Josh Taylor dribbled the ball into the corner and tried to play a quick pass off the short boards. A defender deflected the ball to Lane in the middle, whose shot was saved by the keeper. The rebound came right back to Lane, who made no mistake on the second attempt.

With 4:11 to go in the half, the Byki put massive pressure on the Thunder goal, and second Byki tally appeared to be imminent. Haynes fired a hard shot that the keeper blocked. Zach Dance came after the rebound and narrowly missed the target. The deflected ball came back to Dance, but his subsequent shot was blocked also. The Byki very nearly increased their lead in the dying moments of the half, but botched a 3 v 1 counter by over-passing, rather taking a shot at goal.

At halftime, the Byki knew that they were the better side, but a one-goal margin was slim enough to give Thunder some hope if the bounces started going their way. The players were determined to maintain their focus and were confident the goals would come.

Those goals might come in rapid-fire fashion, thanks to all of the shots the Byki began to create. The Thunder defense appeared comfortable sitting back and absorbing pressure, but that pressure meant that they had to rely on their goalie to keep them in the game. The netminder performed admirably, coming up with saves that made several Byki question, "How did he do that?"

Haynes felt the frustration during his first shift of the



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second half. Bouzoukis found him with a delicious diagonal pass and Haynes nailed a first-time shot that the keeper managed to cover. Seconds later, Dan Stanley slid the ball to Haynes on the left side. Haynes measured his shot, but the keeper displayed excellent reflexes to make the save.

The Byki ramped up the pressure and the goals were not far behind. With 10:18 left in the game, Dance worked a 2-on-2 with David Green. Dance dribbled down the left side and squared the ball to the unmarked Green, who sent his shot over the glass.

That near-miss set the table for the goal explosion. Just 1:21 later, the Byki picked apart the Thunder defense with some precision passing. Gabi Dziekiewicz won a loose ball and passed it off to Fleming. The midfielder faked a shot to freeze the defense and zipped a pass across the box to Haynes, who made easy work of the play with a first-time shot.

The score went to 3:0 moments later. Paul Mansur led a counterattack along the boards and sent a pass into the middle of the area. Two Thunder players clumsily tried to clear the ball and left it on a platter for Chris Moore, who pounced on the loose ball from short range.

Haynes nearly sneaked in a second tally with 5:44 left. He sent a shot off the boards from the deep corner and the crazy spin of the ball caught the goalie on the wrong foot. Just as the ball looked set to cross the line, the keeper made a desperate lunge to keep the ball in play.

The Byki put the result beyond any doubt with a pair of goals scored in a span of 0:33. With 3:10 left, the Byki came fast on the counter. Fleming found Lane in the clear and the striker hammered the ball past the goalie to make it 4:0. Fleming put a wrap on the affair when he went on a dribbling jaunt after receiving a pass from Jeff Samp. With defenders backing away, Fleming cut loose with a shot from distance. The goalie was in good position, but he allowed the ball to sail through his hands. It was an unfortunate way to end the game for the Thunder goalie because his numerous saves prevented the game from being a blowout early.

"Our guys really did the job tonight," said Gorecki. "We made our opponent adapt to us and our execution was outstanding."

BYKI SCORING SUMMARY

1st: Lane 2; 8:40; 1:0.

2nd: Haynes 10 (Fleming); 29:03; 2:0. Moore 2; 30:26; 3:0. Lane 3 (Fleming); 34:50; 4:0. Fleming 8 (Samp); 35:23; 5:0.

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

Byki

4:4

Ballpark

Over 30 Team - Schaumburg Rec League The Sport Center - 22 February 2007

Byki settle for draw, race tightens

The Byki Over 30s saw their nine-game winning snapped last Thursday when they split the points with Ballpark FC in a 4:4 draw. The outcome was a major disappointment for a team that had seemingly been playing on cruise control. In the end, the Byki failed to display the killer instinct necessary to put away a lesser opponent.

The old-timers are now 11-1-1 in their last 13 matches and still retained their grip on first place, thanks to the Wings dropping their second straight game. The Byki have three games left, all against championship contenders. Their biggest challenge is likely to come from Orange FC, who trail the Byki by three points, but have played one fewer game. The Byki will take on Orange on March 8, following up this week's tussle with fourth-place Galaxy. Byki victories in those two matches will clinch the Rec League championship. (It should be noted that the Schaumburg League still uses the antiquated system of awarding two points for a win. When asked why the League was not in step with the rest of the soccer world, facility director George Grey replied, "We're using the same software as a similar facility in Elgin and it gives two points for a win.") But victory will not be a given, following the team's lackluster performance versus Ballpark. Poor trapping and an inability to deal with Ballpark's defensive pressure proved to be insurmountable obstacles for the Byki. The Byki might have been guilty of looking past Ballpark and the final three games, but nabbing that point at least allows the Byki to keep their fate in their own hands.

The biggest lesson that the Byki can take away from this game is that it is oftentimes easier to be the hunter than the hunted. Knowing that the Byki were leading the table, Ballpark put in the extra effort to stay on even terms.

The frequent Byki turnovers eventually led to Ballpark taking the early lead. The difference in his squad was evident almost immediately to coach Wei Zhang. "This is almost the only time that I can remember that the other team has scored first on us," he said.

The Byki fought right back, however. With 4:54 gone, Doug Towsey received a pass from Matt Treter. Despite having a defender on his back, Towsey managed to turn and shoot. A defender screened the goalie and he could not react in time to make the save, as Towsey neatly tucked his shot into the lower corner.

Misery continued for the Byki and it only took one minute for Ballpark to regain the lead. But the Byki clawed their way back into the contest. With 10:00 left in the first half, Marek Ciszewski had the ball in the middle of the Ballpark penalty area and passed it back to Brett Frischmann. The midfielder's shot deflected off of a defender and sailed past the goalkeeper, giving Frischmann six goals for the season.

Ballpark took advantage of a Byki mistake late in the half, leading to cheap goal. Jing Geng played a restart at the sideline to Eric Tower, who was running off the field to for a sub. A grateful Ballpark player intercepted the pass and scored easily.

The Byki were obviously not happy with their performance at halftime. Zhang told team to calm down and start passing the ball the way they're supposed to. The chat struck the correct chord, as the Byki regrouped and scored twice in the opening minutes of the second frame to snatch a 4:3 lead.

After one minute, Ciszewski had the ball in the middle and found Ken Hunter on the right flank. Hunter passed the ball across the box for Ruben Parra and the diminutive striker slotted home for his side's third equalizer of the night. Moments later, Parra returned the favor to Hunter. Controlling the ball on the left side, Parra found Hunter open in the box and Hunter did the rest to give the Byki an improbable lead.

But gaining the lead was not enough to rekindle the magic to continue the winning streak. Turnovers were a nagging problem all night and Ballpark converted a miscue into their fourth goal.

Dropping a crucial point this late in the season should put things clearly into focus. "If we play like this again during any of our next three games, we'll get crushed," commented Tower afterwards. "This needs to be a wakeup call."

Eric Tower and Wei Zhang contributed to this story.

BYKI SCORING SUMMARY

1st: Towsey 2 (Treter); 4:54: 1:1. Frischmann 6 (Ciszewski); 15:00; 2:2. **2nd:** Parra 5 (Hunter); 26:00; 3:3. Hunter 3 (Parra); 27:00; 4:3.

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

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A TEAM, NS	L 1st [DIVISI	ON	B TEAM, SOCC								OVER 40 TE	AM,SP	ORTS	ZONE
Player	G	Α	Pts	Player	G	Α	Pts	Player	G	Α	Pts	Player	G	Α	Pts
Fleming	8	7	15	Haynes	6	1	7	Ciszewski	12	7	19	Demarets	29	3	32
Haynes	10	1	11	Moore	2	3	5	Parra	5	5	10	Kleine	7	6	1:
Dance	4	4	8	Biggs	4	0	4	Garcia	8	1	9	Marvin	6	5	1
Mansur, P Jr	0	7	7	Torossian	2	1	3	Frischmann	6	2	8	Gambino	5	4	9
Mayer	3	3	6	Stanley	0	3	3	Geng	4	4	8	Siepiora	4	3	-
Lane	3	0	3	Ciszewski	1	1	2	Hunter	3	3	6	Ahrens	1	4	:
Green	2	1	3	Lane	1	1	2	Treter	2	4	6	Farhan	1	4	1
Moore	2	1	3	Mansur, P Jr	1	1	2	Youssef	3	2	5	Mansur, Sr	1	3	
Samp	2	1	3	Arredondo	1	0	1	Jedrzejowski	1	3	4	Bolesta	3	0	;
Stanley	2	1	3	Gambino	1	0	1	Zelinski	1	3	4	Neighbors	1	2	:
Bouzoukis	1	2	3	Pirrilis	1	0	1	Elmkinssi	0	4	4	Treter	1	2	:
Dziekiewicz, G	1	2	3	Smart	1	0	1	Towsey	2	1	3	LaForest	1	1	:
Ciszewski	1	1	2	Daniel	0	1	1	Zhang	0	1	1	Cooper	0	2	:
Rose	1	1	2	McGrath	0	1	1					Wiecek	0	2	:
Taylor	1	0	1	Team goals	3	х	х	Goalie	Min	GA	GAA	Gorecki	0	1	
Gambino	0	1	1					Hardin	48	2	2.08				
				Goalie	Min	GA	GAA	Zhang	252	12	2.38	Goalie	Min	GA	GA/
Goalie	Min	GA	GAA	Eliasek	75	9	4.80	Current	record:	5-1-0		Neighbors	5	0	0.00
Eliasek	276	20	2.75	Gambino	125	17	5.44					Farhan	331	40	5.08
Gambino	47	4	3.23	Current	record:	2-0-4						Currer	nt record:	5-0-3	
de la Cruz	171	19	4.22												

Byki can't match up with SportsZone

Over 40 coach Bernhard Kleine figured that last Monday's tangle with undefeated SportsZone would be his team's last chance to catch the leaders. After an 11:6 drubbing by SportsZone, the squad could see quite clearly the magnitude of the gap between the sides. The Byki are now 5-0-3, which is a respectable record. But all three defeats came at the hands of SportsZone, who now have a comfortable six-point lead over the Byki, despite having played one fewer match.

Kleine came in with an aggressive game plan that called on the Byki to put SportsZone under pressure. With a 14-man roster, it seemed like a good idea, as the Byki have used the tactic successfully to wear down other opponents. The difference, however, lies within the technical superiority that SportsZone possess. SportsZone used it to full advantage, forcing the Byki into numerous fundamental defensive mistakes.

The six-goal output by the Byki was impressive enough, but when goalkeeper Sal Farhan leads the way with a goal and two assists, you know that something is wrong somewhere. Some Byki thought that the six goals, added to several near-misses, put them nearly on level footing with SportsZone. "I think it would be foolish if anyone feels that this game was within reach once SportsZone built up a lead," said George Gorecki. "We scored some good goals, but SportsZone had dialed down the intensity after they knew they were in control."

SportsZone needed just 7:49 to sprint out to a 3:0 lead. Their quick ball movement, willingness to run into space, and deadly shooting accuracy sent the Byki reeling. Far too often, Byki defenders were backing up as SportsZone attackers sprinted at will up the middle. With no help in the midfield, the Byki defense became sitting ducks.

After two more goals put SportsZone 5:0 up, the Byki staged a mini rally. With 5:15 left in the first half, Farhan took a pass from Gorecki and immediately sent the ball long for Dominic Demarets. The striker found a path through the defense and beat the keeper for his 28th goal of the campaign.

Just 0:54 later, Farhan alertly cut the lead to 5:2. After making a save, he put the ball on the ground and began dribbling upfield. Seeing the SportsZone keeper way out of his box, Farhan lobbed the ball over his head into the goal. It was a spectacular effort and was only the second time a

Byki goalie has scored during open play. Manou Chahmirzadi was the first when he threw the ball into an empty net at the Odeum's upper field in an Over 30 game in January 2003.

SportsZone added another tally late in the first half and put their stamp on the match with three more goals in the first 4:08 of the second half. Turnovers and poor marking were the reasons that the Byki now found themselves impossibly behind.

The Byki kept plugging away, however. With 15:55 left in the game, the Byki worked the ball into the SportsZone end of the field with some concise passing. Brian Cooper received the ball wide on the right and sent the ball off the boards into the middle. The carom left the ball at the doorstep on the near post, resulting in a scramble for possession. Paul Mansur was knocked down in the melee, but somehow slid the ball into the net from a prone position.

Moments later, the Byki made it 9:4 when Farhan sent a long clearance to Joe Gambino, who rumbled past a defender and deposited the ball nicely past the diving keeper. SportsZone showed they were still mildly interested and scored a pair of goals within 3:29 to take an 11:4 lead.

George Siepiora led the counter with 6:15 left and found Kleine open at the SportsZone red line. Kleine sprinted past a defender and was confronted by the onrushing keeper. Kleine coolly slotted the ball just inside the post. Demarets wrapped up the scoring when he drilled a free kick past the defensive wall after the goalkeeper had been given a time penalty for handling the ball just outside his area.

The Over 40s are destined for a second-place finish in the Over 30 League. They'll get to meet SportsZone one extra time in the playoffs. Maybe they will devise the winning formula by then.

BYKI SCORING SUMMARY

1st: Demarets 28 (Farhan); 15:55; 1:5. Farhan 1; 16:39; 2:5. **2nd**: Mansur 1 (Cooper); 26:05; 3:9. Gambino 5 (Farhan); 28:08; 4:9. Kleine 7 (Siepiora); 35:45; 5:11. Demarets 29 (pp); 40:03; 6:11.

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

NATIONAL SOCCER LEAGUE STANDINGS

February 23, 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	13	9	3	1	53	24	30	SC BiH	13	12	0	1	57	23	36
FK Kozarac	13	8	2	3	53	39	26	West Bosnia SC	13	9	2	2	44	20	29
HNNK Hrvat	13	5	2	6	33	32	17	Outlanders SC	13	6	1	6	44	36	19
CKS Warta	13	4	3	6	36	47	15	B-H Lilies	13	4	3	6	37	35	15
NK Prijedor	13	3	3	7	35	53	12	SAC Wisla	13	3	1	9	31	47	10
RWB Adria B	13	2	2	9	28	51	8	Royal FC	13	2	0	11	18	62	6

FIRST DIVISION

Red Section	GP	w	D	L	GF	GA	Pts	Blue Section	GP	w	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
FC Romania	13	12	1	0	75	28	37	Albanian Stars	13	12	1	0	78	28	37
KF Ulqin	13	12	0	1	60	21	36	Honduras SC	13	12	0	1	64	16	36
Khaboor FC	13	7	2	4	41	24	23	West Bosnia B	13	9	4	0	39	17	31
FK Podrinje	13	6	1	6	43	33	19	Chicago Thunder A	13	7	3	3	54	29	24
B-H Lilies B	13	6	1	6	41	40	19	Pitbulls	13	7	1	5	40	28	22
Deportivo Colomex	13	6	1	6	38	42	19	Real Independiente	13	6	1	6	30	24	19
SAC Wisla B	13	6	1	6	34	39	19	HNNK Hrvat B	13	5	2	6	34	46	17
FK Bosanska Dubica	13	5	1	7	32	36	16	CKS Warta B	13	4	3	6	44	47	15
Stare Byki FC	13	4	2	7	41	43	14	Lemont FC	13	4	1	8	36	49	13
Oak Park Tricycles	13	2	3	8	23	41	9	Royal FC B	13	3	0	10	33	66	9
CKS Warta C	13	3	0	10	25	69	9	Lake Shore SC	13	2	1	10	24	54	7
Chicago Thunder B	13	0	1	12	10	82	1	Chicago Inter Bulldogs	13	0	1	12	22	59	1

OVER 30 DIVISION

	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
Outlanders SC	11	9	2	0	55	24	29
RWB Adria B	11	6	3	2	56	32	21
HNNK Hrvat	11	5	3	3	58	37	18
SAC Wisla	12	5	1	6	47	36	16
NK Prijedor	11	5	0	6	37	64	15
RWB Adria A	11	3	3	5	29	34	12
Hellas SC	11	0	0	11	26	81	0

SCHAUMBURG REC LEAGUE

February 22, 2007

www.parkfun.com

	G P	W	D	L	G F	G A	Pts
Stare BykiFC	6	5	1	0	47	14	11
The Wings	7	5	0	2	3 1	29	10
Orange FC	5	4	0	1	27	9	8
Galaxy	5	3	0	2	27	19	6
Medicare FC	5	2	1	2	22	25	5
Ballpark FC	6	2	1	3	22	22	5
Barrington Ortho	5	2	0	3	24	32	4
Ζοο	5	1	1	3	16	29	3
RealFC 57	6	1	1	4	16	28	3
Stingers	6	0	1	5	19	44	1

SPORTSZONE OVER 30 LEAGUE

February 19, 2007

www.chicagosportszone.com

	G P	W	D	L	G F	G A	Pts
SportsZone	7	7	0	0	77	26	21
Stare Byki FC	8	5	0	3	60	4 0	15
Team Demar	7	3	0	4	32	4 1	9
International	8	0	0	8	20	82	0

SOCCER CITY C LEAGUE

February 20, 2007

www.soccercitypalatine.com

	G P	w	D	L	G F	G A	Pts
Beer	6	6	0	0	27	13	54
Life Fitness	6	3	1	2	25	20	36
Slice	6	3	0	3	22	2 1	34
Bari FC	6	3	1	2	23	20	34
Stare BykiFC	6	2	0	4	24	26	28
Toe Bashers	6	2	0	4	19	23	27
Bachirs Finest	6	2	1	3	17	25	27
U n ite d	6	1	1	4	26	34	26