

Byki title hopes hanging by a thread

The Over 30s dropped their second straight game last Thursday, losing 5:2 to Orange FC. At 5-1-2, the Byki have 11 points and trail Orange and the Wings, both of whom have 12 points. The Byki have only one more game left next Thursday, versus the Wings. Orange and Galaxy (who are on 10 points) both have two games left. In order for the Byki to finish first, they need to beat the Wings, Orange must lose both of their games, and Galaxy need to lose at least once. The path to clinching second place overall is a bit more straightforward, but the Byki still need help from the results of other games.

Orange demonstrated that they are currently the class of the Schaumburg Rec League and they showed it versus the Byki. "Orange is a pretty good team; actually, they're a decent team with two excellent players," said Eric Tower after the match. "They were a much younger opponent with some real speed."

The Byki were on even terms with the youngsters in the early part of the contest, as neither side could create any serious chances. After eight minutes, Tower stole the ball

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from an Orange player and then had it stolen back moments later, leading to an Orange counterattack. Goalkeeper Wei Zhang turned back the initial challenge, but the ball rattled around the Byki penalty area. Despite the efforts of a couple of Byki players, they were unable to clear. Eventually, an Orange player took a shot from the right side. The ball hit the near post and deflected to the far side, where an unmarked Orange player tapped it into the open goal for a 1:0 lead.

Minutes later, the Byki got the equalizer when sniper Marek Ciszewski scored his 14th goal of the campaign. Ciszewski and running mate Dan Jedrzejowski put high pressure on the Orange defenders, resulting in a turnover. Ciszewski did the rest, slotting home to make it 1:1.

The sides went into the break deadlocked, but Orange wasted little time taking control of the match once the teams returned to the field. Orange banged in three goals in a span of five minutes early in the second half. The Byki learned the hard way that speed kills.

The Orange striker, a player who was fast and technically gifted, caused the Byki most of their problems. On Orange's third tally, the striker hit the afterburners to get into space. The Byki blocked his shot, but the rebound went to an unmarked Orange midfielder, who supported from the center and slammed the ball home.

Once the Orange forwards began pressing the Byki, the situation went from bad to worse. High pressure caused Tower to send a weak pass to Brett Frischmann. The Orange player, seemingly coming out of nowhere, intercepted the pass, igniting a breakaway where two Orange players came speeding toward Zhang. One quick pass later, Orange were in the driver's seat with a 5:1 lead.

The Byki got their final goal in the dying moments in somewhat dubious fashion. After the Orange goalkeeper had made a save, he ran into Ciszewski, who was standing in the vicinity. The keeper, irritated by Ciszewski for some reason, began yelling at the referees to make Ciszewski move.

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Ciszewski stayed planted, and was clearly doing nothing to impede the goalie. This prompted the goalkeeper to hurl the ball at Ciszewski. The referee rightly cautioned the netminder, but then bizarrely awarded a penalty kick to the Byki after time had run out. Ciszewski converted the spot kick to make the final score 5:2.

Orange did a very good job of making sure one player was always on Ciszewski and then collapsing another player on him when the Byki tried to get him the ball. Orange plugged up the middle of the field, allowing the Byki to move the ball around to the wings. Once the Byki got into the

Byki

3:6

Galaxy

Over 30 Team - Schaumburg Rec League The Sport Center - 1 March 2007

Defensive Galaxy stifle Byki attack

The Over 30 Team tasted defeat for only the second time in their last 14 matches when they dropped a 6:3 decision to Galaxy on March 1. Galaxy played a conservative, defensive game and waited to exploit Byki mistakes on the counterattack. The Byki were unable to find a way to consistently break down the well-organized Galaxy defense and saw their record drop to 5-1-1.

Galaxy's strategy paid off handsomely, as they raced out to a 3:0 lead at halftime. They took their chances well and it left the Byki in a real pickle to formulate a comeback. Galaxy broke the ice with a shot from long distance that glanced off of Eric Tower's shoulder, preventing Wei Zhang from making the save. Two nice shots that found the corner of the Byki net increased the Galaxy lead to three goals.

The Byki had few answers for Galaxy's defensive formation. With as many as five and six players pulled back in front of their goal, Galaxy practically dared the Byki to break through. The approach used by the Byki to solve this defense was entirely ineffective. Rather than bring more players forward and force Galaxy to defend them, the Byki tried jamming passes into the teeth of the defense. Things improved after halftime and the Byki finally found their shooting range. But the deficit that they had created was too much to overcome.

Galaxy upped the advantage to 4:0 early in the second half, but the Byki tried to fight their way back into the contest. They pulled one back when they converted a corner kick opportunity. Doug Towsey sent a hard, low ball into the middle and Dan Jedrzejowski did the rest for his second goal of the season. Tower lamented his team's inability to make better use of dead-ball situations. "Last year, we scored over a goal a game off set pieces because we drove the ball low into the box every time," he noted. "This year, some of our players insist on trying for headers."

Towsey brought the Byki to within 4:2 later in the second half when he controlled a clearance, and seeing an alley down the center of the field, dribbled right up the gut. Towsey beat a Galaxy defender before slotting the ball home.

Another Galaxy tally made it 5:2 late in the game. The Byki answered with a goal off the counter. Steven Pedlow headed a clearance to Marek Ciszewski, who took off on a dribbling jaunt. After bulling his way past two defenders, Ciszewski deposited the ball into the back of the net.

The Byki came away with more than just a defeat. Late in the game, Ruben Parra landed awkwardly and was on the turf in pain. What was originally thought to be a sprained ankle was diagnosed as a fractured fibula. There is no timetable for Parra's return to action.

"We deservedly lost to a team with a smart game plan," said Tower. "Galaxy's individual players weren't outstanding, but they played within their limits and did what they had to. In the end, we did not play our best game, but Galaxy played well and we should credit them for that."

Eric Tower, Steven Pedlow and Wei Zhang contributed to this story.

BYKI SCORING SUMMARY

1st: None. **2nd:** Jedrzejowski 2 (Towsey); 30:00; 1:4. Towsey 3; 33:00; 2:4. Ciszewski 13 (Pedlow); 36:00; 3:5.

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

offensive third, Orange tightened up their defense, preventing the Byki from getting any decent shots on goal.

Eric Tower and Wei Zhang contributed to this story.

BYKI SCORING SUMMARY

1st: Ciszewski 14; 10:00; 1:1. **2nd:** Ciszewski 15 (pk); 50:00; 2:5.

BYKI LINEUP (2-3-1): Zhang – Geng, Tower – Frischmann, Elmkinssi, Hunter – Youssef. **Bench:** Ciszewski, Jedrzejowski, Pedlow, Towsey, Treter. 6:3

Byki

B Team - Soccer City C League Soccer City - 6 March 2007

Byki have no answers for counters

The B Team dropped a disappointing 6:3 decision to the Toe Bashers last Tuesday. As they did in the first meeting between the sides, the Bashers killed the Byki on the counter. "If [goalkeeper] Ryan [Eliasek] had not made several great saves, they would have ten goals easy," snorted coach Joe Gambino. The loss drops the Byki to 3-0-5 for the season.

The Byki were not really ready to play, thanks to the late arrival of several players. The initial disorganization led to a mix-up at the back, resulting in 1:0 deficit after just two minutes. The Byki eventually got their defense together and then established a rhythm to nab the equalizer in the 12th minute. Kevin Biggs put the ball into the box for Dan Stanley, who deftly beat his marker and turned quickly, firing a hard shot past the keeper.

The Bashers played a fast-paced, counterattacking style with frequent long balls over the Byki defense. Long passes have been a problem for the Byki all season and the Bashers capitalized on some weak marking to get two more goals before the break. At halftime, Gambino said that he wanted the Byki to mark more tightly and do a better job of passing the ball around.

Things improved for the Byki at the start of the second half when Biggs, Russ Haynes and Ahmad Harake carved the Bashers defense to shreds with a dizzying combination of passes that led an opening for Harake at the top of the box. Harake's first-time shot clanged off the bottom of the post.

The inevitable breakthrough came moments later, as Chad Daniel penetrated from the back and sent a pass off the boards to Biggs, who slammed home a one-touch shot to bring the Byki to within 3:2.

The Byki had a great chance to get back into the game when they went on a power play. They felt stung by the referee, however, when Biggs was hauled down from behind on a breakaway when a defender grabbed him by his shoulders. With a Basher already in the sin bin, the referee lacked the guts to give the Byki a two-man advantage, incensing the volatile Haynes. "This guy should've got a red. He had two hands on Kevin and dragged him to the ground as Kevin was running at full speed," said Haynes. "Refereeing in this league has been a constant source of bafflement." Refereeing is always debated with passion in soccer, but inconsistency should come as no surprise when talking about rec league referees.

The Byki failed to convert on that power play. They could sense they were still in the game, but were a little too impatient. Instead of making the other team chase the ball, they pushed forward too much and too many left holes at the back. The Bashers took advantage of this lack of discipline with two quick goals to put the game out of reach.

The Bashers converted a breakaway opportunity in the final minute to go up 6:2. The Byki didn't give up however. With the last touch of the game, Daniel smacked a free kick past the keeper as both teams were walking off the field.

Gambino had expected that his players would have learned something from their first encounter with the Bashers. This game showed that more training is necessary.

Russ Haynes contributed to this story.

BYKI SCORING SUMMARY

1st: Stanley 1 (Biggs); 12:00; 1:1. **2nd:** Biggs 5 (Daniel); 24:00; 3:2. Daniel 1; 39:00; 6:3.

BYKI LINEUP (2-2-1): Eliasek – McGrath, Smart – Lewkowicz, Biggs – Stanley. Bench: Burns, Daniel, Gambino, Haynes, Harake, Lane, Moore.

NATIONAL SOCCER LEAGUE STANDINGS

March 9, 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	15	11	3	1	62	30	36	SC BiH	15	14	0	1	72	28	42
FK Kozarac	15	8	3	4	59	49	27	West Bosnia SC	15	9	4	2	50	26	31
HNNK Hrvat	15	7	2	6	44	34	23	B-H Lilies	15	6	3	6	45	38	21
CKS Warta	15	5	3	7	45	56	18	Outlanders SC	15	6	1	8	49	43	19
NK Prijedor	15	3	4	8	38	59	13	SAC Wisla	15	3	2	10	35	53	11
RWB Adria B	15	2	3	10	32	57	9	Royal FC	15	2	0	13	19	77	6

FIRST DIVISION

Red Section	GP	w	D	L	GF	GA	Pts	Blue Section	GP	w	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
FC Romania	15	14	1	0	85	30	43	Honduras SC	15	14	0	1	74	21	42
KF Ulqin	15	12	1	2	63	28	37	Albanian Stars	15	13	1	1	87	33	40
Khaboor FC	15	8	2	5	47	28	26	West Bosnia B	15	10	4	1	47	22	34
FK Podrinje	15	8	1	6	51	36	25	Chicago Thunder A	15	8	4	3	63	34	28
SAC Wisla B	15	7	1	7	38	41	22	Real Independiente	15	7	2	6	33	26	23
Deportivo Colomex	15	7	1	7	43	49	22	Pitbulls	15	7	1	7	44	41	22
B-H Lilies B	15	6	1	8	43	48	19	CKS Warta B	15	6	3	6	50	51	21
FK Bosanska Dubica	15	5	1	9	35	43	16	HNNK Hrvat B	15	6	3	6	38	48	21
Stare Byki FC	15	4	3	8	44	48	15	Lemont FC	15	5	1	9	42	55	16
Oak Park Tricycles	15	3	3	9	27	46	12	Royal FC B	15	5	0	10	48	75	15
CKS Warta C	15	4	0	11	28	74	12	Lake Shore SC	15	2	2	11	31	62	8
Chicago Thunder B	15	0	1	14	16	96	1	Chicago Inter Bulldogs	15	0	1	14	27	69	1

OVER 30 DIVISION

	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
Outlanders SC	13	10	2	1	59	29	32
RWB Adria B	13	8	3	2	78	36	27
HNNK Hrvat	12	6	3	3	62	39	21
SAC Wisla	13	6	1	6	53	38	19
NK Prijedor	13	5	0	8	43	78	15
RWB Adria A	13	3	4	6	34	40	13
Hellas SC	13	0	1	12	30	99	1

SCHAUMBURG REC LEAGUE

March 8, 2007

www.parkfun.com

	G P	W	D	L	G F	G A	Pts
Orange FC	7	6	0	1	38	13	12
The Wings	8	6	0	2	37	33	12
Stare BykiFC	8	5	1	2	52	2 5	11
Galaxy	7	5	0	2	40	26	10
Ballpark FC	7	3	1	3	32	25	7
Barrington Ortho	7	3	1	3	36	40	7
Medicare FC	7	2	1	4	27	4 1	5
Ζοο	7	1	2	4	25	4 1	4
RealFC 57	7	1	1	5	19	35	3
Stingers	7	0	1	6	23	50	1

SPORTSZONE OVER 30 LEAGUE

March 5, 2007

www.chicagosportszone.com

	G P	w	D	L	G F	G A	Pts
SportsZone	8	8	0	0	87	26	24
Stare Byki FC	9	6	0	3	69	4 2	18
Team Demar	8	3	0	5	34	50	9
International	9	0	0	9	20	92	0

SOCCER CITY C LEAGUE

March 6, 2007

www.soccercitypalatine.com

	G P	w	D	L	G F	G A	Pts
Beer	8	7	0	1	34	19	66
Life Fitness	8	5	1	2	37	26	54
Slice	8	4	1	3	28	29	49
Bari FC	8	4	1	3	32	27	46
Toe Bashers	8	3	1	4	28	29	42
Stare BykiFC	8	3	0	5	30	34	4 0
United	8	1	2	5	32	44	35
Bachirs Finest	8	1	2	5	21	33	28