

Byki win in title tune-up

The Over 40s won their eight match in 12 tries when they overwhelmed Team Demar by a 7:4 score last Monday. The Byki will take on SportsZone for the Over 30 League championship on April 2 in a match that will be a difficult hill to climb. The Byki have lost all four games versus SportsZone this season.

Beating up on the sad sacks of Team Demar should have been an easy task for the Byki. But the absences of top guns Dominic Demarets and Bob Marvin forced coach Bernhard Kleine to make a major shuffle in his lineup. He re-introduced Sal Farhan to the cadre of attackers and stuck Fleet Neighbors in the goalkeeper slot. The tactics pretty much had the intended effect, although a couple of incidents involving Neighbors could charitably be called comical.

It would be a real challenge to think that anyone could make up for Demarets' 41-goal output, but Kleine picked up most of the slack with three goals and two assists. In all, seven Byki players contributed to the goal parade.

The formula to winning against Demar is to put pressure on them early. The Byki worked that part to perfection, racing



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out to a 3:0 lead in the first 11:46 of the contest. With their excessive dribbling and aimless passes, Demar are not a squad that are built for a comeback. Add to that a pint-sized goalie, and Byki victory was inevitable once they gained control of the match.

The Byki had the best of the early chances, but could not dent the back of the net. They played with confidence and aggressiveness, and Demar had few answers for the challenges that the Byki presented.

The Byki broke the ice in the eighth minute of play when Stef Wiecek played a simple ball to Farhan at midfield. Farhan spotted Rick Bolesta making a run behind the defense and threaded the needle with spectacular through ball that split the defense. With the keeper at his mercy, Bolesta flicked the ball past him for a 1:0 lead.

The Byki made it 2:0 a few minutes later. Kleine and George Gorecki put on a double-team at midfield on a Demar dribbler. Gorecki took the loose ball and scampered forward, leading a 3 v 1 break. He slid the ball to Farhan on the right wing and Farhan's shot beat the diving goalie.

It took only 0:41 for the Byki to go 3:1 up. The Byki created a flurry of chances in front of the Demar goal, leaving the wretched defenders to flail helplessly to clear the ball. Kleine dropped the ball back to Rich Ahrens, who sent a looping shot over everyone's head that floated into the back of the net.

The Byki gifted Demar a goal with 7:17 left in the half when Neighbors and Ed Castillo, returning from a long injury layoff, miscommunicated on who would control a long ball played over the top. In the end, neither one did, and a Demar player kicked the ball into an empty net.

The score went to 4:1 just before halftime. Kleine and Castillo really made the ball do the work as their precise exchange of passes left the Demar defense without any hope. Kleine got out of the corner with the ball and sent it back to Castillo, who easily slotted past the goalie.



Kleine wasn't happy that the Byki had given away the shutout opportunity in such shoddy fashion and he probably wasn't crazy about the second Demar goal, which came just 0:22 into the second frame. A long clearance led to breakaway after Matt Treter slipped on the turf.

At 4:2, Demar might have had a dream that they might somehow come back. That should have been quashed only 0:42 after their second goal, when a Demar played handled the ball in his own box. But the Byki let that opportunity slip in a big way. The Demar keeper saved Kleine's spot kick and then Demar managed to close to within 4:3 during the ensuing Byki power play when they scored a shorthanded goal that dribbled the Neighbors' legs.

The quick strikes served as a wake-up call to the Byki, who promptly regained control of the tempo. Farhan and Bolesta had gilt-edged scoring chances in rapid-fire succession, but were denied by some good saves from the keeper. The Byki made it 5:3 moments later when Wiecek sent a free kick near the left-wing boards at midfield into the Demar

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area. The wee keeper badly misjudged the ball as he raced off his line and his short arms prevented him from doing anything constructive with the dangerous cross. Kleine was in perfect position to send a soft header into the unguarded net.

A couple of minutes later, the Byki converted on the power play. Joe Gambino, coaxed into playing by Kleine after resting a sore knee for a few games, won the ball in the deep corner and sent an incisive pass through the Demar goalmouth. The ball made it all the way through to the other side, where Kleine was waiting for the simple tap-in.

Things turned a bit ugly when Treter and a Demar player got tangled up in the Byki end of the field. The Demar player came out of the collision with fists cocked and the referee saw fit to give both players red cards. A second Demar player was given his marching papers after verbally abusing the referee in the aftermath. It took about five minutes and the intervention of an off-duty referee to sort out the mess. The referee originally ruled that the Byki would play 5 v 4 for the remaining 9:30 left in the game, clearly ignorant of how red cards are handled. Once the dust had settled. the Byki went on a five-minute power play, and predictably, it was Demar who scored during the penalty when a shot from the corner whizzed past Neighbors' arm.

Demar did not pose any kind of a

legitimate threat the rest of the way, however. The Byki put a wrap on things with 1:29 to go as they elegantly played a keepaway game with the befuddled Demar defenders. Choosing just the right moment to strike, Bolesta and Kleine worked a slick combo at midfield. Just as the defense was about to converge on Bolesta, he adroitly slipped the ball to the streaking Kleine. With the keeper out, Kleine calmly found the opening and put a big, red bow on his hat trick.

BYKI SCORING SUMMARY

1st: Bolesta 4 (Farhan); 7:18; 0:1. Farhan 2 (Gorecki); 11:05; 0:2. Ahrens 3 (Kleine); 11:46; 0:3. Castillo 1 (Kleine); 19:20; 1:4. 2nd: Kleine 9 (Wiecek); 27:01; 3:5. Kleine 10 (Gambino); (pp); 30:17; 3:6. Kleine 11 (Bolesta); 40:31; 4:7.

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

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	G P	w	D	L	G F	G A	Pts
Beer	11	9	0	2	44	29	87
Life Fitness	11	8	1	2	52	30	81
Slice	11	6	1	4	39	39	68
Bari FC	11	6	1	4	47	35	65
United	11	2	3	6	43	53	51
Toe Bashers	11	3	1	7	36	45	50
Bachirs Finest	11	2	3	6	34	48	46
Stare Byki FC	11	3	0	8	35	50	45