

Depleted Byki drop 2nd in a row

The Byki and Lemont FC did battle at Winnebago last Sunday and the visitors broke a 2:2 deadlock with a goal late in the second half. The Byki are now winless in their last four matches, seeing their record fall to 1-1-3 for the season.

Striker Zach Dance played a role in both Byki goals, but had to pack it in at halftime after his balky hamstring prevented him from continuing. With only two subs on the bench, the Byki wilted in the heat and the enterprising Lemont squad worked hard to find a winning score.

Lemont snatched the early advantage when a free kick in the second minute eluded the entire Byki defense. A Lemont player crossed the ball in toward the far post from the left wing and several players from both teams gave chase. No one could get there in time before the ball bounced in front of the goal line and rolled into the back of the net. It was the second week in a row that a Byki opponent converted an early free kick into a goal.

The Byki wasted no time responding. In the tenth minute, Matt Fleming found Ahmed Goudeaux open at the far post with an accurate cross served up from the right corner. Goudeaux's header went just over the crossbar.

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Two minutes later, however, Goudeaux's aim was inchperfect. Dance worked like crazy to win a loose ball deep in the left-wing corner and slid a square pass into the middle of the box. Goudeaux met the ball in stride and nailed a first-time shot into the corner of the goal to make it 1:1.

Lemont put a scare into the Byki in the 14th minute, but goalkeeper Ryan Eliasek made a desperate foot save on a 100% chance from close range. The ball kept bouncing around in front of the Byki goal and the defense eventually managed to clear.

The Byki took the lead in the 26th minute. Stopper Chris Rose pushed forward to help the attack and crossed the ball into the mixer from the left flank. Dance sneaked through an opening and speared the ball into the top netting.

Lemont leveled the score six minutes later when a looping cross from the left side floated into the goal just inside the far post.

The heat became an increasingly significant factor as the match wore on. After Dance injured his hamstring due to a hard foul late in the first half, coach George Gorecki had limited options for replacements.

Lemont enjoyed the lion's share of possession after the break. "You could see the tide slowly turning in their favor," said Gorecki. "Our guys were working hard, but it wasn't enough to keep pace."

Eliasek came up with a spectacular save in the 51st minute. Lemont caught the Byki napping when they took a quick restart and a forward sprinted into the box, with only Eliasek to beat. Eliasek read the shooter's angle perfectly to make the save.

Lemont scored the game-winner in the 73rd minute. They came rapidly on a counterattack on the left side. A Lemont player danced his way past three Byki defenders and beat Eliasek with a shot from a very sharp angle.

BYKI SCORING SUMMARY

Goudeaux 2 (Dance); 12th; 1:1. Dance 7 (Rose); 26th; 2:1.

BYKI LINEUP (4-5-1): Eliasek – Samp, Delaunay, Rose, Moore, C – Bouzoukis, Mansur, P Jr, Goudeaux, Stanley, Fleming – Dance (c). Bench: Ciszewski, Gambino, Ruiz.



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Late score douses Byki comeback

A pair of second-half goals from Ivan Torossian appeared to cap off a tremendous Byki rally after Khaboor had taken a 3:1 lead. Khaboor regained their composure and crafted an 87th-minute winner to walk away from Winnebago last Sunday with a 4:3 victory. The Byki fall to 2-0-3 for the season.

The Byki did a great job of turning their fortunes against a hard-running Khaboor side. In the final assessment, however, the Byki defense proved to be far too leaky to keep pace with Khaboor. When a team score three goals in a match, they have to find a way to win the game.

Much of the first half was a territorial scrum between the penalty areas. Neither side could successfully impose their will on the other and no clear-cut scoring chances challenged the goalkeepers.

That changed in the 29th minute when Khaboor led a counter along the right flank. The Byki lost their defensive shape and Khaboor suddenly had open space behind the backline. Jorge de la Cruz raced off his line to force the issue, but the Khaboor striker calmly tucked the ball underneath de la Cruz for a 1:0 lead.

Ten minutes later, the Byki dodged a bullet as Khaboor put pressure on from the left wing. A well-placed ball was flicked along and the subsequent shot barely missed the goalpost.

Coach Joe Gambino must have done something at halftime to inject new life into his squad. They came roaring out of the gate and Khaboor unexpectedly found themselves on the back foot. In the 51st minute, fullback Justin Williams won a loose ball and made a strong run into the open field. He sent a looping cross into the middle, where Brett Frischmann's adept little header sent the ball into Enda McGrath's path. McGrath struck a first-time shot from eight yards and leveled the affair at 1:1.

But momentum quickly swung back to Khaboor, who scored

twice in the span of six minutes. They retook the lead in the 58th minute when they converted a free kick from the left side with an open header at the far post. The score went to 3:1 in the 64th minute when an outstanding through pass split the Byki defense 25 yards from goal, leading to a breakaway. De la Cruz was powerless to stop the clever lob flicked over his head.

The Byki, however, were not conceding anything. In the 69th minute, Frischmann made a nice steal in the Khaboor end of the field. Frischmann dribbled toward the goal and drew in the defense. At just the right moment, he laid the ball off for Torossian, who nailed a shot from short range to bring the Byki to within 3:2.

The second equalizer for the Byki came eight minutes later. With a free kick given outside the box on the left side, Torossian curled the ball around the wall and into the upper corner of the far post. The short goalkeeper had no chance, as he flailed helplessly for the ball. "We didn't take enough high shots to challenge the goalie," said Gambino. "I asked Ivan if he thought he could put the ball in the upper 90, and he said he could."

Khaboor never gave up and their persistence was rewarded three minutes from time. Their striker went on a weaving run through the fatigued Byki defense and beat de la Cruz with a sharp-angle shot at the far post.

BYKI SCORING SUMMARY

McGrath 1; (Frischmann); 51st; 1:1. Torossian 2; (Frischmann); 69th; 2:3. Torossian 3; 77th; 3:3.

BYKI LINEUP (4-4-2): de La Cruz – Bant, Williams, Gallo, Casey (c) – McGrath, Colwell, Torossian, Peng – Lin, Harake. **Bench:** Freeman, Frischmann, Zwickl.

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A TEAM, N	SL 1st [oivisi	O N	B TEAM, N	SL 1st	DIVIS	IO N	O-30 TEAM, N	SL 0-3	30 D I V	' IS 10 N
Player	ver GAPts		Pts	Player	G	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·			G	Α	Pts
Dance	7	1	8	Torossian	3	0	3	Garcia	2	1	3
Stanley	3	1	4	Frsichamann	0	3	3	Elm kinssi	1	0	1
Bouzoukis	1	2	3	Haynes	2	0	2	Jedrzejowski	1	0	1
Goudeaux	2	0	2	Lin	1	1	2	Moore, P.	1	0	1
Gwin	1	1	2	Harake	1	0	1	Regueiro	1	0	1
Fleming	0	2	2	McGrath	1	0	1	Arredondo	0	1	1
Mansur, P Jr	0	1	1	Colwell	0	1	1	Frsichmann	0	1	1
Mayer	0	1	1	Gallo	0	1	1	He	0	1	1
Moore, C	0	1	1								
Rose	0	1	1	Goalie	Min	G A	GAA	Goalie	Min	G A	GAA
				Drake	180	3	1.50	Mansur, P Sr	4 0	0	0.00
Goalie	Min	G A	GAA	de la Cruz	270	7	2.33	Cook	170	6	2.82
Eliasek	450	13	2.60	Current	record:	2-0-3	Blanco	270	12	3.56	

Byki

Byki have a good plan, Wisla still win

The Byki old-timers have faced Wisla many times over the last ten years and many of those encounters have been rather lopsided. The first meeting between the two resulted in an easy 5:0 win for Wisla a few weeks ago, so it was quite a task for coaches Wei Zhang and Eric Tower to come up with a plan to help their team stay competitive for Round 2 last Saturday.

The Byki came out in a defensive 5-4-1 formation, which took much of the sting out of the Wisla attack. The home team had most of the possession, but the Byki didn't care. They sought to keep things tight and build confidence. Overall, the plan paid dividends, as the Byki held the Over 30 champions to a single goal, scored from a free kick, for the first 70 minutes of the contest. Ultimately, Wisla demonstrated why they are perennial contenders and scored two nice goals in the final ten minutes to seal the result.

The real problem for the Byki was what to do on offense. Once they had figured out how to clog the Wisla midfield effectively, they started creating turnovers. But impatience set in and some players started launching long balls at the first opportunity. This failed gambit often left striker Ernesto Garcia to go alone versus three or four defenders. A frustrated Zhang tried to remind everyone that the Byki were trying to play short passes on the ground to maintain possession. When their ball movement was good, the Byki actually looked like they knew what they were doing.

The Byki crafted the first good scoring chance in the sixth minute. Luis Arredondo played a quick throw-in to Garcia, who was unmarked at the right edge of the penalty area. He turned and ran straight at goal and the keeper made an excellent save to snuff out the breakaway.

Wisla took the lead in the 11th minute when they struck a free kick from 25 yards past the Byki wall. The ball was hit hard and accurately and Dan Blanco had no chance to make the save. Blanco canceled out a great chance a minute later when he saved a shot at the near post after a Wisla striker came in alone on a breakaway following a long pass from the midfield.

But the Byki settled down after that flurry and that single goal was the only thing separating the sides as they went into the break. Although the Byki were not putting many shots on frame, they had to be pleased with their defensive effort, which was organized and aggressive.

The second half was a continuation of the first, but the Byki looked a bit more enterprising as the game wore on. Despite the one-goal lead, Wisla looked content to spray the ball around and make sure that they kept things tidy in the back.

Wisla upped the lead to 2:0 in the 70th minute when they rushed forward on a 3 v 2 counterattack. They played the ball smartly to the open man, but Blanco made a marvelous foot save on a shot from short range. The rebound came back fortuitously to the Wisla striker, who pounded the ball into the empty net.

The Byki saw new life just minutes later. Jon Silverstein launched a dangerous cross into the middle of the box and Arredondo and the goalie fought for the ball in the air. Arredondo somehow poked the ball over the keeper and Preston Moore rushed in to shoot at the goal. A defender cleared the ball away, but not before it had crossed the line. The referee ignored the vehement protests from several Wisla players.

Wisla clinched the game with a goal in the 78th minute as they came once again on the counter. The Byki were outnumbered again, committed to pushing players forward. Wisla's attackers played a couple of simple passes in the box to create an opening and then knocked the ball into the unguarded goal.

BYKI SCORING SUMMARY

Moore 1; (Arredondo); 75th; 2:1.

BYKI LINEUP (5-4-1): Blanco – Zhang, Geng, Tower, Silverstein, Pedlow (c) – Song, Hunter, Treter, Arredondo – Garcia. **Bench:** Cook, Frischmann, Gorecki, Moore, P., Najera.



Byki veteran Enda McGrath had a memorable Father's Day last Sunday. Despite the B Team losing a tight 4:3 decision to Khaboor, Enda scored his first goal of the season to level the score at 1:1 early in the second half. That's a pretty good day already for a guy who doesn't score a lot of goals.



But Enda got a real treat when his young daughter **Maeve** showed up to the game dressed in her own little Byki shirt. The shirt was the brainchild of Enda's wife **Ciara**, who had placed an order for a Byki patch through the club's

website. After battling through some electronic glitches, **Matt Treter** delivered the patch on Saturday. Ciara then sewed the patch onto a red baby blouse to give it that authentic look. She further personalized Maeve's outfit when

she had the number 16 ½ put on the back. Enda has worn the number 16 on his shirt, a number made famous by former Manchester United midfielder and Ireland international **Roy Keane.** Coincidentally, both Enda and Keane play the same position on the field.



The midseason break is around the corner and the Byki are organizing their second annual 3 v 3 tournament. The event will be held

on July 14-15 at Winnebago. **Vitaly Tsipris** is in charge once again and he expects to top last year's very successful tourney. Eight teams participated in 2006 and Vitaly is confident that the number of competing teams will be at least double that. With invitations sent to all NSL teams, the games could be very spirited.

After learning a few lessons from last year, there are a few changes in store this time around. The games will be spread over two days, as opposed to cramming everything into one day. Although this will require a two-day commitment from the players, they won't have to spend long hours waiting for their games to be played. Team rosters were expanded from four players to five. The hot conditions in last year's tournament were rather draining, so everyone should benefit by having an extra sub available.

Tournament information was sent to all players and everyone is encouraged to get the word out. The more, the merrier; invite everyone you know! The structure of the tournament will depend on the number of teams entered. If enough older teams register, the competition will be split into Open and Over 30 Divisions.

And don't forget that a 50/50 raffle is part of the tournament as well. All teams get two tickets for the raffle just for signing up. More tickets are available for purchase to increase your chances of winning. Tickets are \$3 apiece, or two for \$5. Even if you won't be playing, be sure to get in on the raffle by buying some tickets.

NATIONAL SOCCER LEAGUE STANDINGS

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MAJOR DIVISION

FIRST DIVISION

	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts		GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
CKS Warta	6	4	2	0	19	14	14	Royal FC	6	5	1	0	24	8	16
Honduras SC	7	4	1	2	17	12	13	Deportivo Colomex	6	5	0	1	15	9	15
HNNK Hrvat	7	4	1	2	19	13	13	FC Steaua Chicago	6	4	2	0	18	7	14
RWB Adria	4	4	0	0	12	4	12	Lemont FC	7	4	2	1	17	11	14
SAC Wisla	6	3	1	2	17	8	10	Khaboor FC	6	4	1	1	17	9	13
FC Romania	6	3	1	2	22	20	10	Chicago Thunder	6	4	0	2	20	8	12
Gazelle SC	5	2	2	1	8	7	8	Stare Byki B	5	2	0	3	8	10	6
B-H LIlies	7	2	1	4	11	15	7	FK Kozarac	6	2	0	4	12	21	6
Jahbat FC	7	2	1	4	16	19	7	Stare Byki A	5	1	1	3	14	13	4
KF Ulqin	6	2	0	4	12	15	6	West Indies Jets	6	1	1	4	9	16	4
NK Prijedor	8	1	2	5	8	19	5	West Bosnia SC	6	0	0	6	5	20	0
Albanian Stars	7	0	2	5	8	23	2	Turkish FC	7	0	0	7	8	35	0

SECOND DIVISION

Red Section	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts	Blue Section	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
Das Magic	6	5	1	0	27	11	16	CKS Warta B	6	4	1	1	14	8	13
FK Podrinje	6	3	1	2	15	10	10	Real Independiente	6	4	0	2	19	16	12
GR-04	5	2	0	3	22	15	6	FC Kosova	6	3	0	3	17	12	9
Los Chasquis	6	2	0	4	19	35	6	Juanacatlan	7	2	0	5	10	19	6
Pitbulls SC	4	0	1	3	5	17	1	FC Transilvania	6	1	2	3	11	16	5

OVER 30 DIVISION

Red Section	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts	Blue Section	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
Tanners SC	6	3	2	1	17	19	11	Arabian FC	7	6	0	1	31	13	18
Lake Shore A	6	3	1	2	24	18	10	SAC Wisla	5	4	1	0	22	7	13
Gato Verde	7	2	3	2	18	9	9	Hellas SC	5	3	1	1	16	15	10
Jahbat FC	5	1	1	3	14	26	4	Stare Byki FC	6	0	2	4	6	18	2
West Indies Jets	5	0	2	3	6	16	2	Lake Shore B	6	0	1	5	8	21	1