



BOUNCINGS

30 Sept 06



Byki

2 : 2

Stars

A Team - NSL 1st Division
Winnebago - 24 September 2006

Byki & Albanians trade goals

The Byki provided a strong showing versus Blue Section leaders Albanian Stars when they found a late equalizer to split the points last Sunday at Winnebago. The Albanians had already booked passage to the Major Division for 2007, so the match was a pretty good measuring stick for two teams who could hook up in a semi-final tilt on October 15. The draw leaves the Byki at 9-4-2 for the season.

When a team's fate is already locked up late in the season, it is not uncommon for games to wind up as forfeits, because oftentimes clubs with no hope prefer to stay home. This was certainly the case last Sunday, as the Byki-Albanians match was the only one in the 1st Division that was not a forfeit result.

The sides definitely didn't approach the game as though there were nothing at stake. The match had a load of scoring opportunities for both teams. The Albanians, however, displayed a measure of poor sportsmanship after the Byki had leveled the score just moments before the final whistle. "They said they weren't playing their hardest," noted Matt Flaming. "Yeah, right. Just after we wiped the field with their

asses in the second half."

The Byki brought a robust squad to Winnebago, but they tried to find a balance between playing at their normal level and not extending too far to stay healthy for the post-season. Several players came into the game with niggling injuries and hope to be in peak form for the playoffs.

The first good chance of the contest came in the 21st minute, when an excellent through pass beat the Albanians' offside trap. Zach Dance was off to the races down the right wing and fired a shot just wide of the far post.

The Byki snatched the lead four minutes later. Fleming sprang Dance with a nifty pass and Dance was off on another dribbling jaunt. He slithered past two defenders, kept his balance when a third defender tried to trip him, and finished the play adroitly by sliding the ball past the keeper at the far post.

The Albanians replied in the 33rd minute when they converted their high pressure into a well-taken goal. The Byki were already scrambling on defense when they conceded a corner kick. They were still off-kilter when they were unable to clear the ball and a strong shot from 20 yards beat a diving Jorge de la Cruz.

The Byki were on the verge of becoming unglued in the final minutes of the first half. More Albanian pressure after another corner forced the Byki to desperately clear the ball off their goal line in the 37th minute.

Just before the break, both teams had great chances to take the lead. A clever pass inside the Byki penalty area left an Albanian striker open for a shot, but de la Cruz made a tremendous save from short range. The Byki countered moments later when Minos Bouzoukis sent Dance into the clear with a superb through pass. Dance had the keeper all alone on his angled shot, yet the netminder showed great reflexes to push Dance's shot aside.

The Byki turned up the heat in the first portion of the second half, but had nothing to show for it. A combination

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of good goalkeeping and substandard finishing prevented the Byki from taking the lead.

In the 48th minute, Fleming sent a corner kick into the mixer. The ball wound up on the foot of Joe Gambino, who struck the ball first-time. An alert Albanian defender did well to back up his keeper and cleared the ball off of the line.

Ten minutes later, Dance floated in a cross from the right flank for Dan Stanley, who was unmarked at the top of the box. Stanley turned and fired a shot on frame, but the keeper tipped the ball to safety.

At the hour mark, the Byki looked genuinely dangerous. Fleming played a quick free kick from the halfway line to Stanley, who was sprinting into space on the right. Stanley delivered a quality cross for Gambino in the middle. Gambino, however, could not get a foot to the ball. "Dan's cross was so good that it nutmegged both the defender and me," Gambino said afterwards.

The go-ahead goal looked ready to be rung up in the 66th minute. Stanley made his presence felt yet again when his cross from the right wing sneaked past the defense for Dance. The striker collected the ball while slightly off-balance and looked to have the keeper beaten with a bouncing shot. The sprawling goalie got a hand to the ball to knock it out, prompting several Byki players to claim that the ball had crossed the line. The referee was in poor position to make the correct call and let play go on.

The match looked destined for a 1:1 scoreline when the Albanians scored a dodgy goal in the 88th minute. They passed the ball behind the Byki defense, where two Albanians looked to be offside. The referee saw nothing wrong and the Albanian forward dribbled past de la Cruz to knock the ball into the net.

The Byki weren't about to let a game that they controlled for long stretches get away on such a weak goal. They ramped up the pressure in the final minute and got their just reward. Dance sent a cross from the right side to the far post, where both Gambino and Gabi Dziekiewicz had been left unmarked. Dziekiewicz soared high to meet the ball with his head and his momentum bundled him into the back of the net along with the ball. "I didn't know Gabi could get that high," said Gambino. "I was afraid he would hit his head on the crossbar."

The Byki have nearly locked up the third-best record in the 1st Division. Undefeated FC Romania are the only side with fewer losses than the Byki. The team are eager to demonstrate their full potential in the post-season.

BYKI SCORING SUMMARY

Dance 12 (Fleming); 25th; 1:0. Dziekiewicz 1 (Dance); 89th; 2:2.

BYKI LINEUP (4-4-2): de la Cruz – Dennis, Elliott, Taylor, Rose – Bouzoukis, Delaunay, Samp, Fleming – Gambino, Dance (c). **Bench:** Ciszewski, Dziekiewicz, Smart, Stanley.

Byki

0 : 0

Podrinje

B Team - NSL 2nd Division
Winnebago - 22 September 2006

Another clean sheet for B Team

The Byki and FK Podrinje battled to a scoreless draw last Sunday at soggy Winnebago. The game was a back-and-forth affair, and a draw was probably a fair indication of the way the teams competed. A month ago, the match promised to have a bit of drama, as Podrinje still clung to slim hopes of catching the Byki in the Blue Section. But the Byki victory over Real, coupled with the three points that they will gain this Sunday due to Tilza FC's suspension by the NSL, rendered the match versus Podrinje meaningless in the race for promotion. The Byki will finish the regular season at 10-4-2, the best record ever for the B Team, and exceeding the 10-2-4 mark of the 1999 team.

Although the Byki had the Section's top spot wrapped up, coaches Joe Gambino and Russ Haynes did not see the Podrinje match as having no value. In their previous meetings this season, the Byki won by forfeit following a successful protest, and the sides played to a 2:2 stalemate in the second encounter. Gambino and Haynes wanted to send a statement

to Podrinje, in case the Bosnians had designs on plotting a playoff upset.

But Podrinje have proved themselves to be a worthy opponent for the Byki. No other team in the post-season should overlook Podrinje, who play a very effective, if inelegant, style. All three matches between the Byki and Podrinje have featured hard play, crunching tackles and a constant barrage of long balls played over the top of the Byki defense.

The first half of the game was a struggle between the penalty areas. The Byki defense held up their end, as usual, thwarting the unimaginative attacks thrown at them by Podrinje. At the other end, the Byki were having difficulties playing through the clutching and grabbing of the aging and immobile Podrinje fullbacks.

Each side created one good scoring chance in the first frame. Podrinje came on the counter in the 17th minute, when a pass from the right side caught the Byki a step slow. An

open Podrinje forward squandered a great opportunity when goalie Ryan Eliasek snuffed his shot from short range.

Three minutes later, Josh Zwickl sent a long pass down the right wing for Ivan Torossian, who zinged a low cross into the middle. Kevin Biggs smartly dummied the ball through for Russ Haynes, who was unmarked eight yards from goal. Haynes fired a first-time shot high over the crossbar.

Things opened up in the second half. One minute in, Biggs launched a long throw-in into the area, where Luis Arredondo was wide open. Arredondo put his header tantalizingly over the bar.

In the 50th minute, Biggs took the ball inside with a quick turn and fired a shot on frame. The keeper reacted well and deflected the ball away from the goal.

The Byki had a golden opportunity midway through the second half. Haynes somehow found open space with the ball at the edge of the Podrinje goal area and fired a shot that pinged off of the far post. With the keeper out of position and the defense in a jumble, Abraham Ruiz tried to knock the ball in, but could not gain control.

Podrinje created a decent chance in the 76th minute when they floated a free kick into the Byki penalty area. The Byki had left a striker unmarked and he nearly punished that mistake with a first-time blast. If his aim had been better, Podrinje

would have had the lead.

The Byki came back two minutes later on a quick counterattack. Chad Daniel made a long run down the left flank and then suddenly cut inside toward the goal. With two defenders left in his wake, he nailed a hard shot that the keeper saved.

Podrinje could have taken all three points five minutes from time. They came hard on the counter down the right side and sent a pass into the middle. Conor Casey slipped as the ball came in and the Podrinje striker had Eliasek at his mercy. Eliasek saved the point-blank shot and then amazed everyone by being in the right position to clean up the rebound, as the striker tried to head the ball past Eliasek.

Hard-nosed defense, stellar goalkeeping and timely scoring have been the main ingredients for a successful season. The B Team will seek to use these characteristics to maximize their success in the playoffs.

BYKI SCORING SUMMARY

None.

BYKI LINEUP (4-4-2): Eliasek – Towsey, Lane, Gallo, Casey (c) – McGrath, Torossian, Zwickl, Haynes – Ruiz, Daniel. **Bench:** Arredondo, Biggs, Lewkowicz, S. Majak, Pirrilis.

Byki

1 : 4

Hellas

Over 30 Team - NSL Over 30 Division
Winnebago - 23 September 2006

Byki get waterlogged vs. Hellas

On a day that would have been great if the Byki had been ducks, the oldtimers dropped a 4:1 decision to Hellas SC at Winnebago. The game was played in a downpour that eventually left the last 20 yards of the west end of the field ankle-deep in water. The teams did their best to play through the relentless conditions, but even the simplest soccer moves were nearly impossible to execute.

The Byki and Hellas have played some spirited matches in the past. The Hellas squad is certainly an upgrade over previous seasons, having clinched a playoff spot weeks ago. They raised eyebrows all across the Over 30 Division when they downed powerful Wisla 4:2 early in the campaign.

The game started out on even terms. Hellas had most of the possession in the first half, but the Byki had the more dangerous chances. Both Russ Haynes and Nick Elmkinski drilled hard shots from distance, forcing the Hellas keeper to make tremendous diving saves to keep the ball out of the net.

Hellas, however, found a way to take the lead into the break. In the 35th minute, a Hellas striker put a move on

Steven Pedlow on the right side. Pedlow gave chase and bumped the striker, who fell at the first hint of contact. The referee took the bait and pointed to the spot, not taking into consideration that anybody could slip and fall on the slick field. Several Byki complained that the foul had occurred outside the box. Hellas converted the questionable call into a 1:0 lead.

The lead was hardly a solid one. In these conditions, mistakes and slip-ups happen all the time, so the Byki had confidence that they could get back into the game. Hellas had other ideas, however. They increased their lead to 2:0 three minutes into the second half. After a throw-in deep in Byki territory, they executed a quick 1-2 in the box, freeing their striker to blast the ball past a diving Dan Blanco at the near post. With the field getting worse and worse, the two-goal lead was looking huge.

The Byki managed to get back into the contest in the 52nd minute. Russ Haynes tried to dribble through the muck in the Hellas penalty area and was brought down by a Hellas

defender who collided with him. When Haynes landed in a huge puddle, it was clear that the referee had a great opportunity to even out the penalty given to Hellas in the first half. The defender went ballistic when the referee awarded the penalty and was lucky to get away with only a caution, given the profane nature of his tirade toward the referee. Haynes sealed the deal when he blasted the spot kick into the back of the net.

Hellas showed their worth when they shook off that call and scored twice in the last 15 minutes to ensure victory. It went to 3:1 in the 65th minute when a 25-yard chip floated

into the upper 90 and then 4:1 seven minutes later when a well-placed shot following an indirect free kick gave Blanco no chance.

BYKI SCORING SUMMARY

Haynes 9; (pk); 52nd; 1:2.

BYKI LINEUP (4-4-2): Blanco – Ibeagha, Gorecki, Kleine, Pedlow – Zhang, Geng, Jacobs, Elmkinssi (c) – Hunter, Haynes. **Bench:** Bolesta, LaForrest, Parra.

Byki Stats

A TEAM, NSL 1st DIVISION				B TEAM, NSL 2nd DIVISION				OVER 30 TEAM, NSL			
Player	G	A	Pts	Player	G	A	Pts	Player	G	A	Pts
Dance	12	6	18	Ruiz	7	2	9	Haynes	9	7	16
Fleming	2	7	9	Daniel	3	4	7	Soriano	6	2	8
Goudeaux	6	1	7	Haynes	5	1	6	Garcia	5	2	7
Delaunay	2	3	5	Stanley	3	3	6	Elmkinssi	2	3	5
Ciszewski	3	1	4	Pirrilis	2	3	5	Ibeagha	3	1	4
Samp	2	2	4	Arredondo	3	1	4	Parra	3	1	4
Dziekiewicz, G	1	1	2	Lane	0	4	4	Jacobs	1	1	2
Nash	1	1	2	McGrath	3	0	3	Pedlow	1	1	2
Wolfe	1	1	2	Walker	3	0	3	Lane	0	2	2
Taylor	0	2	2	Gallo	1	1	2	Tsipris	0	2	2
Bouzoukis	1	0	1	Cardenas	0	2	2	Wager	1	0	1
Gambino	1	0	1	Biggs	1	0	1	Gorecki	0	1	1
Zwickl	1	0	1	Lewkowicz	1	0	1	Regueiro	0	1	1
Daniel	0	1	1	Anane	0	1	1	Tower	0	1	1
Majak, W	0	1	1	Mansur, P Jr	0	1	1	Zhang	0	1	1
Team goals	2	x	x	Team goals	1	x	x	Team goals	1	x	x
Goalie	Min	GA	GAA	Goalie	Min	GA	GAA	Goalie	Min	GA	GAA
de la Cruz	1170	22	1.69	Orris	335	0	0.00	Blanco	1120	38	2.71
Gambino	90	2	2.00	Zwickl	135	1	0.67	Hardin	80	5	5.00
Current record: 9-4-2				Current record: 9-4-2				Current record: 4-1-10			

NATIONAL SOCCER LEAGUE STANDINGS

September 24, 2006

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MAJOR DIVISION

Red Section	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts	Blue Section	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
Winged Bull	14	10	1	3	40	18	31	RWB Adria	14	12	1	1	42	15	37
Honduras SC	14	9	0	5	38	24	27	KF Ulqin	15	10	3	2	32	15	33
Jahbat FC	15	7	3	5	32	24	24	SAC Wisla	15	8	2	5	29	15	26
CKS Warta	14	4	3	7	28	31	15	Gazelle SC	14	7	4	3	32	18	25
BH Lilies	15	4	3	8	28	43	15	NK Prijedor	15	3	1	11	19	46	10
West Indies Jets	14	1	3	10	7	30	6	FK Kozarac	15	0	0	15	10	58	0

FIRST DIVISION

Red Section	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts	Blue Section	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
FC Romania	14	13	1	0	75	19	40	Albanians FC	15	11	1	3	40	24	34
Stare Byki FC	15	9	4	2	35	24	31	Royal FC	14	8	2	4	41	22	26
Deportivo Colomex	15	7	4	4	42	27	25	Chicago Thunder	15	8	2	5	39	37	26
Winged Bull B	15	6	3	6	39	40	21	West Bosnia	15	6	2	7	24	28	20
Transilvania Vampires	15	2	3	10	24	46	9	HNNK Hrvatska	15	5	1	9	32	41	16
SC BiH	15	0	0	15	10	49	0	Turkish FC	15	2	1	12	23	67	7

SECOND DIVISION

Red Section	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts	Blue Section	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
Lemont FC	13	11	1	1	34	13	34	Stare Byki B	15	9	4	2	33	12	31
Melrose Park SC	13	9	1	3	43	31	28	FK Podrinje	15	7	6	2	43	23	27
GR-04	13	5	2	6	38	50	17	Real Independiente	15	5	4	6	23	29	19
CKS Warta B	14	4	1	9	29	34	13	Tilza FC	15	1	3	11	12	28	6
								Lake Shore SC	15	2	0	13	27	62	6

OVER 30 DIVISION

Red Section	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts	Blue Section	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
Winged Bull	14	12	0	2	55	16	36	SAC Wisla	15	12	1	2	62	19	37
Arabian FC	15	11	3	1	51	25	36	Hellas SC	15	9	2	4	48	32	29
Gato Verde	15	8	0	7	26	30	24	Lake Shore A	13	9	2	2	37	18	29
Stare Byki FC	15	4	1	10	32	43	13	West Indies Jets	15	7	2	6	23	31	23
Melrose Park SC	13	2	0	11	8	52	6	CD Taximaroa	15	5	1	9	26	20	16
Lake Shore B	16	1	0	15	8	43	3	Tanners SC	15	2	0	13	18	65	6