



BOUNCINGS

7 Oct 06



FC Romania

5 : 2

Stars

A Team - NSL 1st Division
Conkey Forest Preserve - 1 October 2006

Romanians catch Byki looking ahead

The Byki took a tumble in their regular-season finale last Sunday when they were pasted 5:2 by Red Section leaders FC Romania. The result had no bearing on playoff possibilities, as both sides had already locked up their post-season tickets. But the Romanians left little doubt as to which team is the odds-on favorite to lift the title of Overall Champion in the 1st Division.

Injuries depleted the Byki lineup severely and late-arriving players forced coach George Gorecki to suit up for the second time this season. "It's hard to play one of the top teams under these conditions," Gorecki commented afterward. "I'm just glad we got a full squad out there sooner rather than later."

Jeff Samp, Andrew Dennis and Ahmed Goudeaux were held out of the lineup in order to get healthy for the playoffs. Based on the side's performance against the Romanians, the Byki will definitely need all hands on deck if they want to make a successful showing in the post-season.

The Romanians played a patient game of possession, constantly probing the Byki defense for openings, and rarely wasting their chances. Oftentimes they were content to make the Byki chase the ball and the Byki dutifully complied for long stretches in the first half.

The Byki had few good scoring chances in the first half. In the 15th minute, Gorecki stole the ball at midfield and slipped a pass to Zach Dance, who immediately took off on a winding run toward goal. After juking past several defenders, Dance had an opening from ten yards, but shot over the bar.

The Romanians parlayed their attacking pressure into two quick goals in the middle of the first half. They played a quick 1-2 at the top of the Byki area to spring their striker into space. Jorge de la Cruz charged hard to cut down the striker's angle and even managed to get a hand on the shot. The Romanian striker, however, picked his spot perfectly and rammed the ball past the powerless de la Cruz. Three minutes later, the Romanians went 2:0 up and looked to be in control of the tempo.

The rapid-fire goals shook the Byki out of their torpor and they began marking their opponents better. By the end of the first half, the Byki started utilizing the open space on the wide Conkey Forest Preserve field. A simple sequence of passes nearly produced a goal six minutes before the break. Pierre Delaunay brought the ball up the left flank and sent a pass to Brian Nash, who turned and immediately looked to play the ball into the middle. Nash found Joe Gambino on the doorstep of the goal and fed him a square pass. Gambino shot first-time from close range, but the keeper was well-positioned to make the grab.

The Byki wanted to keep that momentum going in the second frame. The Romanians, however, had other plans and upped their lead to 3:0 in the 46th minute. After a Byki turnover in midfield, the Romanians countered right away along the left side. They crossed the ball into the mixer, where it deflected off of stopper Chris Rose and trickled past de la Cruz.

One good turn deserves another, as the Byki forced the Romanians to gift them a goal in the 67th minute. As the Byki pushed hard down the left wing, Dance sent a low, hard cross to the near post. A Romanian defender reached the ball first and mis-kicked his clearance into the back of his own net.

The remainder of the match was an end-to-end hodgepodge. Fatigue affected both sides; the Byki had no capable substitutes, and the Romanians had played a make-up game a day earlier. The scoring opportunities came heavily at both ends of the field.

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The Romanians went 4:1 up in the 71st minute when they laced a free kick past the diving de la Cruz. The Byki defensive wall did their keeper no favors, as two players ducked out of the way of the ball after it was shot.

Three minutes later, the hilarity continued when all four of the Byki backline inexplicably pushed into Romanian territory. The Romanians cleared the ball to midfield, where their striker was far behind the defense, yet remained onside because he received the ball in his own half of the field. He easily converted the breakaway as he lobbed the onrushing de la Cruz from long distance.

De la Cruz was kept busy for the final ten minutes of the match. With his teammates tiring, he made several magnificent saves to try to keep the score from getting totally out of hand.

The Byki pulled back a goal in the final minute. Minos Bouzoukis floated a cross into the box for Gambino, who headed the ball along to Nash. The striker found himself alone on the left side and centered the ball to Dance, who made easy work of the tap-in for his 13th goal of the campaign.

The Byki need to shake off this result and demonstrate that it was an anomaly. "We've played strongly in the first 15 games of the season," noted Gorecki. "This defeat was disappointing, but it does not take away from everything we've accomplished so far, and that's led to the third-best record in the 1st Division."

Their quarterfinal opponent will be Chicago Thunder, who are the other team to have defeated the Byki this season. They used team speed to great effect to take advantage of a depleted Byki squad that day. With nearly everyone available for the playoff match, the Byki will be in great position to avenge that setback.

BYKI SCORING SUMMARY

FC Romania own goal; 67th; 3:1. Dance 13 (Nash); 90th; 5:2.

BYKI LINEUP (4-4-2): de la Cruz – Haynes, Dziekiewicz, Rose, Gorecki – Bouzoukis, Delaunay, Stanley, Dance (c) – Gambino, Nash. **Bench:** Elliott.

Arabian FC	5 : 0	Byki	Over 30 Team - NSL Over 30 Division Ridegeland Park - 30 September 2006
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Shorthanded Byki say farewell to 2006

The Byki old-timers ended the 2006 season with whimper, as an overmatched nine-man squad fell 5:0 last Saturday to Arabian FC at Ridgeland Park in Burbank. The Byki finished up with a 4-1-11 record, losing their last four contests of the season.

The Arabians, obviously in a good mood, loaned two of their players to the Byki for the game, allowing them to compete with a full side of 11 players. Neither of the guest players were eligible for Over 30 play due to being underage, but the referee allowed the unique arrangement, based on agreement of both teams.

Player-coach Eric Tower was dismayed by the quality of the field. "It was miserable," he groused afterwards. "It was far worse than Montrose & Cumberland." The Arabians countered the poor quality of the field by constantly playing the ball in the air. To their misfortune, the Byki never adjusted to the conditions, another factor that contributed to their poor play.

Tim LaForrest made an unexpected debut in goal, as the Over 30s had no other viable candidate to step in. LaForrest and his teammates held up their end as well as they could, keeping one of the best teams in the Over 30 Division to a 3:0 lead at the break, with all of the goals coming in the first ten minutes. After the Byki settled down, their level of play improved

markedly. Tony Ibeagha spelled LaForrest in the second half

Overall, the oldboys had some good moments during this season. An upgraded lineup helped the team compete against some of the better sides and delivered crushing defeats to many of the weaker teams. Three Senior players, Russ Haynes, Andy Lane and Wei Zhang made substantial contributions by moving to the Over 30 circuit. As time passes, the older players in the A and B Teams will eventually find their place in the Over 30s, which will further improve the standard of play.

More work, however, is necessary to get the Byki to a point where they can realistically compete for a playoff spot. They lost all nine games against the 2006 playoff qualifiers, scoring 13 goals and conceding 39.

Eric Tower contributed to this story.

BYKI SCORING SUMMARY

None.

BYKI LINEUP: LaForrest – Ibeagha, Kleine, Pedlow, Jacobs, Parra, Soriano, Tower, Zhang.

Tilza**0 : 1** (Forfeit)**Byki**B Team - NSL 2nd Division
1 October 2006

B Team gear up for semifinal date

The B Team wrapped up their regular season with a convenient 1:0 forfeit victory over Tilza FC. The NSL had suspended Tilza several weeks ago for failing to pay their bills owed to the League. The win gives the Byki a glittering 10-4-2 record for the season, the best ever posted by the B Team.

The sledding now gets tougher, as the Byki eagerly await their semifinal encounter on October 15. Real Independiente and Melrose Park will tangle in one of the quarterfinal matches and the winner gets to take on the Byki. Ironically, Real and

Melrose are the only two teams who have beaten the Byki, so the semifinal has all the makings of a match to be remembered.

"There is no runaway consensus winner in the 2nd Division," noted George Gorecki. "We've played very well, but the three games versus Real went 1:1, 1:2, and 1:0. Lemont lost to us in May and haven't lost since. I see the race for the championship as being wide open."

Byki Stats

A TEAM, NSL 1st DIVISION

Player	G	A	Pts
Dance	13	6	19
Fleming	2	7	9
Goudeaux	6	1	7
Delaunay	2	3	5
Ciszewski	3	1	4
Samp	2	2	4
Nash	1	2	3
Dziekiewicz, G	1	1	2
Wolfe	1	1	2
Taylor	0	2	2
Bouzoukis	1	0	1
Gambino	1	0	1
Zwickl	1	0	1
Daniel	0	1	1
Majak, W	0	1	1
Team goals	3	x	x

Goalie	Min	GA	GAA
Gambino	95	2	1.89
de la Cruz	1255	27	1.94

Current record: 9-4-3

B TEAM, NSL 2nd DIVISION

Player	G	A	Pts
Ruiz	7	2	9
Daniel	3	4	7
Haynes	5	1	6
Stanley	3	3	6
Pirrilis	2	3	5
Arredondo	3	1	4
Lane	0	4	4
McGrath	3	0	3
Walker	3	0	3
Gallo	1	1	2
Cardenas	0	2	2
Biggs	1	0	1
Lewkowicz	1	0	1
Anane	0	1	1
Mansur, P Jr	0	1	1
Team goals	2	x	x

Goalie	Min	GA	GAA
Orris	335	0	0.00
Zwickl	135	1	0.67
Eliasek	880	11	1.13

Current record: 10-4-2

OVER 30 TEAM, NSL

Player	G	A	Pts
Haynes	9	7	16
Soriano	6	2	8
Garcia	5	2	7
Elmkinssi	2	3	5
Ibeagha	3	1	4
Parra	3	1	4
Jacobs	1	1	2
Pedlow	1	1	2
Lane	0	2	2
Tsipris	0	2	2
Wager	1	0	1
Gorecki	0	1	1
Regueiro	0	1	1
Tower	0	1	1
Zhang	0	1	1
Team goals	1	x	x

Goalie	Min	GA	GAA
Blanco	1120	38	2.71
Ibeagha	40	2	4.00
Hardin	80	5	5.00
LaForrest	40	3	6.00

Final record: 4-1-11

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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	16	10	2	4	42	21	32	RWB Adria	16	13	1	2	43	16	40
Honduras SC	16	10	1	5	39	24	31	KF Ulqin	16	10	4	2	34	17	34
Jahbat FC	16	8	3	5	33	24	27	SAC Wisla	16	9	2	5	30	15	29
CKS Warta	16	6	3	7	30	31	21	Gazelle SC	16	8	5	3	33	18	29
BH Lilies	16	4	3	9	28	44	15	NK Prijedor	16	3	1	12	19	47	10
West Indies Jets	16	1	3	12	7	32	6	FK Kozarac	16	0	0	16	10	59	0

FIRST DIVISION

Red Section	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts	Blue Section	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
FC Romania	16	14	2	0	83	24	44	Albanians FC	16	11	1	4	40	31	34
Stare Byki FC	16	9	4	3	37	29	31	Royal FC	16	9	3	4	51	25	30
Deportivo Colomex	16	8	4	4	47	27	28	Chicago Thunder	16	9	2	5	40	37	29
Winged Bull B	16	6	3	7	39	45	21	West Bosnia	16	7	2	7	25	28	23
Transilvania Vampires	16	3	3	10	25	46	12	HNNK Hrvatska	16	5	1	10	32	42	16
SC BiH	16	0	0	16	10	50	0	Turkish FC	16	2	1	13	23	68	7

SECOND DIVISION

Red Section	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts	Blue Section	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
Lemont FC	14	11	2	1	36	15	35	Stare Byki B	16	10	4	2	34	12	34
Melrose Park SC	14	9	2	3	45	33	29	FK Podrinje	16	7	7	2	46	26	28
GR-04	14	5	3	6	41	53	18	Real Independiente	16	6	4	6	24	29	22
CKS Warta B	14	4	1	9	29	34	13	Tilza FC	16	1	3	12	12	29	6
								Lake Shore SC	16	2	0	14	27	63	6

OVER 30 DIVISION

Red Section	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts	Blue Section	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
Winged Bull	16	13	0	3	58	20	39	SAC Wisla	16	13	1	2	63	19	40
Arabian FC	16	12	3	1	56	25	39	Lake Shore A	15	11	2	2	49	23	35
Gato Verde	16	9	0	7	28	30	27	Hellas SC	16	10	2	4	54	35	32
Stare Byki FC	16	4	1	11	32	48	13	West Indies Jets	16	7	2	7	26	39	23
Melrose Park SC	15	2	0	13	8	55	6	CD Taximaroa	16	5	1	10	26	21	16
Lake Shore B	16	1	0	15	8	43	3	Tanners SC	16	2	0	14	21	71	6