

Byki on back foot all night

The Byki Over 30 Team saw their record drop to 2-0-2 last Thursday when they fell 5:1 to Belmont Street Elite. The young, aggressive Belmont squad controlled the tempo of the match throughout and capitalized on Byki mistakes.

Belmont came into the game with an unblemished record as they sat atop the Rec League table. With 41 goals scored in their four games, they had been buzzing their way through the opposition and racking up some gaudy scores along the way. They Byki knew that they had a tough game on their hands and tried their best to prepare. Coach Wei Zhang reminded the players that the key to this game would be defense. Although Belmont had scored tons of goals, they also had given up 11 goals. If Byki could shut them down with defense, then anything could happen.

It didn't take long for Belmont to show why they were the leaders of the league, as their speed and skill were immediately evident. They converted a corner kick in expert fashion only a few minutes into the contest. The Byki did a good job of marking every Belmont player in front of their goal, but were surprised when the ball was played outside

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the box. A Belmont player had made a run from midfield and fired a long shot through the crowded penalty area for a 1:0 lead.

The long-range bombs from Belmont kept coming. The Byki were not used to this style of play, since long shots are usually not the best choice in this setting. Belmont, however, showed good marksmanship and kept their shots close to the target. As a result, the Byki had to adjust their defense by extending it to the halfway line.

The Byki remained solid on defense and stayed within one goal of Belmont, repelling several promising attacks by their opponents. After having settled down, the Byki now began organizing their own attack. They moved the ball quickly and made early passes and were able to create a few half-chances. Their finishing was not up to par, however, as they fought to nab an equalizer.

With 3:00 to go, a Belmont player on the right side passed the ball to a teammate at the top of the box. Despite having a Byki defender on his back, the Belmont player broke into the clear and shot past Ryan Eliasek for a 2:0 lead at the break.

Several Byki players needed the halftime break to get the frustration out of their system. Zhang wasn't too worried about the way the game was going. "Belmont is a good team, but our fullbacks did a good job of marking their forwards," he said. "All we needed to do is to be patient and play our game."

But Belmont maintained their control of the match in the second half. After four minutes, a Belmont player shot and was denied by the post. A teammate pounced on the rebound and put it into the net to make it 3:0. The score went to 4:0 a few minutes later when the Byki turned the ball over in their own half, leading to a Belmont breakaway.

The Byki continued to play hard and it eventually paid off with 13:00 left. After a period of sustained pressure in the Belmont end of the field, the Byki sent the ball into the



middle from the right side. Conor Casey was wide open at the far post and was ready to head the cross into the goal, but was denied by a Belmont player who suddenly blocked the ball with his hand. The referee didn't hesitate to give a penalty kick and leading scorer Marek Ciszewski beat the goalkeeper from the spot for his ninth tally of the campaign.

The Byki would get no closer and Belmont capped things off by notching an insurance goal with 2:40 to play to make the final score 5:1. Eric Tower conceded afterwards that the better side had come out on top. "Overall, we did OK against a team that had athleticism and skill," he said. "We held them to the fewest goals they'd scored, and one thing we did very well was to prevent them from controlling the play in our half. However, we don't have the skill or fitness to keep up with such a young team for an entire game."

Wei Zhang contributed to this story.

BYKI SCORING SUMMARY

1st: None.

2nd: Ciszewski 9 (pk); 12:00; 1:4.

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

Byki Stats OVER 30 TEAM, SCHAUMBURG OVER 40 TEAM, SPORTSZON								
Player	G	Α	Pts	Player	G	Α	Pts	
Ciszewski	9	2	11	Demarets	5	1	6	
Jedrzejowski	2	1	3	Ahrens	2	4	6	
Parra	1	2	3	Siepiora	2	1	3	
Garcia	2	0	2	Wiecek	0	2	2	
Hunter	1	1	2	Farhan	1	0	1	
Elmkinssi	0	2	2	Gambino	1	0	1	
Pedlow	1	0	1	Kleine	1	0	1	
Tower	1	0	1	Marvin	1	0	1	
Frischmann	0	1	1	Cooper	0	1	1	
Lane	0	1	1	Mansur, Sr	0	1	1	
Goalie	Min	GA	GAA	Goalie	Min	GA	GAA	
Eliasek	200	14	3.50	Mansur, Sr	7	0	0.00	
Current record: 2-0-2			Neighbors	21	2	4.00		
				Farhan	98	27	11.57	
	Current record: 0-1-2							

Byki

Byki offense oversleeps

Coaches Bernhard Kleine and Sal Farhan changed the formation of the Over 40 Team to a 3-2 after defensive mistakes abounded in their 14:1 shellacking by Reszki on November 6. The initial returns on that change weren't looking very favorable last Monday, as the Byki were staring at a 7:0 deficit to start the second half of their match versus SportsZone. But the old-timers dug deep and played with tremendous heart after the break, eventually falling 9:6.

Dominic Demarets' hat trick went wasted, but the Byki showed that good discipline in the back and quick ball movement can pay big dividends. "The 3-2 system is a good idea for our group," said George Gorecki afterwards. "Maybe some of the guys had trouble adjusting at the beginning."

Calling it troublesome was an understatement. SportsZone players were open all over the place. The Byki made the classical defensive mistakes of not staying goal-side, not following players who made runs and getting caught too far upfield from their own goal. In short, everything that they could have done wrong, the Byki did wrong.

The only change at the break came when Fleet Neighbors offered to relieve the beleaguered Sal Farhan, who had been between the pipes for 27 opposing goals scored in just two and a half games. "I figured Sal could help us more in the field than I could," noted the astute Neighbors.

It only took 2:57 before Farhan's help was evident. He worked a quick give-and-go with Rich Ahrens, who was at the top of the arc. Ahrens knocked the ball to the right, and Farhan crushed a shot that the keeper deflected into the net.

SportsZone responded with a long-range shot that Neighbors could only wave at, making the score 8:1. For his part, Neighbors made several excellent saves to deny certain SportsZone goals.

The Byki closed to within 8:2 midway through the second half when Demarets gained control of a rebound of a Sportszone shot. He then went on a coast-to-coast jaunt, bulling past the last defender to beat the diving keeper.

Barely three minutes later, the Byki broke out on a 4 v 2 counterattack. Ahrens, who leads the team in assists, made a strong run down the right flank. He cut the ball back into the middle for George Siepiora. The goalie came out to cut down the angle, but it was easy work for Siepiora to get him off-balance and slide the ball home to make it 8:3.

The Byki scored three times in the final 4:19 to make things interesting, albeit too late. Smart passing set up the fourth Byki tally. Joe Gambino worked the ball to Stef Wiecek, who laid it off to Bob Marvin. The lanky striker dribbled out of the corner and blasted a shot into the upper 90.

Demarets capped the scoring for the Byki in the final minute of play. With 0:35 to go, he and Paul Mansur engineered a neat 2 v 1. Demarets took the ball straight to goal, feinted the keeper to the turf and knocked the ball in to make it 9:5. The enterprising Demarets then took advantage of sloppiness by Sportszone defenders in their end by stealing the ball and shooting handily past the prone netminder.

The Over 40s don't seem to have a problem scoring goals. Prior to this season, they had netted six goals in a match just twice in the four years that the team have been in existence. They've scored six twice already in the first three games of this campaign. This renewed emphasis on defense is necessary to complement a team that have shown they can score goals.

BYKI SCORING SUMMARY

1st: None.

2nd: Farhan 1 (Ahrens); 2:57; 7:1. Demarets 3; 9:59; 8:2. Siepiora 2 (Ahrens); 13:04; 8:3. Marvin 1 (Wiecek); 16:42; 8:4. Demarets 4 (Mansur); 20:25; 9:5. Demarets 5; 20:50; 9:6.

BYKI LINEUP (3-2): Farhan – Gorecki, Kleine, Cooper – Ahrens, Marvin. **Bench:** Castillo, Demarets, Gambino, Jacobs, LaForrest, Mansur, P Sr Neighbors, Siepiora, Wiecek.

SCHAUMBURG REC LEAGUE November 9, 2006

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	G P	W	D	L	GF	GΑ	Pts
Belmont St Elite	5	5	0	0	46	12	10
Galaxy	5	4	0	1	31	22	8
Inter Puma	5	3	1	1	26	14	7
Stare Byki FC	4	2	0	2	17	14	4
Chi Town FC	4	1	2	1	16	19	4
Stingers	5	2	0	3	22	38	4
Medicare FC	4	1	0	3	15	29	2
Hellfish	4	0	1	3	15	23	1
United	4	0	0	4	19	36	0

SPORTSZONE OVER 30 LEAGUE

November 13, 2006

www.chicagosportzone.com

	G P	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
Reszki	3	3	0	0	32	12	9
SportsZone	3	2	0	1	27	22	6
Hellas SC	3	0	1	2	17	26	1
Stare Byki FC	3	0	1	2	13	29	1