

Week 7
Lika v Biograd na Moru
Danny Rogic

People from as far as South Central Surrey showed up to witness a match full of heart and determination played between two contrasting powerhouses. The tenacious and gritty Lika youngsters took on an experienced Biograd side in a highly embroiled rivalry. Both sides came into the game with the hopes of winning the Fra Bone Prcela Memorial Plaque as League Champions and strengthening their chances of gaining the top seed going into the playoffs. Lika and Biograd both started off in their respective styles. Lika full of energy and pep while Biograd was working off the baker's dozen wobbly-pops they had the night before at the Roxy. Lika had the better of the opportunities in the first half but Biograd's seemingly unbreakable combination of John Mrsic and Ante Krapic on defence held strong once again. The Licani were really taking it to the Biogradians in the first few minutes and were somewhat unlucky not to get a great chance on goal. Biograd was trying to get into the game, but seemed to have three Lika defenders on them at any time of possession. The rough stuff became a factor later on in the half as both teams were getting frustrated with one another. But cooler heads prevailed and the zebra in the middle did his best to keep it calm. The first half ended with few golden chances for either team. Little did goalkeepers Marko Bajic and Dennis Mrsic know what was in store for them in the second half.

During the half-time interval, the Biograd boys were drinking the Pepto-Bismol and taking their Tums while the Licans were eating their protein bars and drinking their whey shakes. Both seemed to help in what proved to be a dandy of a second period.

The second half started with fireworks. Only Peter Sulentic doing his best Adanac Olympics Marathon could have outdone the second half display. Biograd's Mike "Can you go get me some Shish-Kebobs?" Baldin was proving to be a thorn in the Lican's side with his penetrating runs down the flank. Johnny Rogic was doing his best Lika impersonation while grinding like a steelworker for the ball. Lika's Marc Deluca was turning Biograd opponents like he was auditioning for "Stars on Ice" while Connor Radil was Usain Bolt-ing past any defender with the ball. Ivan Prpic was made to play more of a defensive role in the middle of the park, but did his best Houdini in making Biograd's midfield seem invisible for most of the match. A fatigued Biograd relying on long-ball tactics struck first midway through the second half. Dennis Mrsic javelined a laser-beam to brother Marin Mrsic in the opposing box. In one motion, Mrsic brought down the ball and pulled a move so dazzling that all spectators could see "The Light" for a short moment. It was mind-boggling! Mrsic then proceeded to slip the ball past the Lika goalkeeper for the go-ahead goal. Not too long after the opening goal, Lika piled on the pressure. A few counterattacks saw Marc Deluca break away from the Biograd backline only to be thwarted by Dennis Mrsic in the Biograd net. Lika's Mike Prpic also saw a good hit by him just go inches wide of the goal. Biograd was finally able to put the game away when Mike Baldin won a ball in the middle of the park and sent a perfect through-ball to an onrushing Johnny Rogic. Rogic clipped the ball over the keeper for the insurance goal.

The last few minutes fizzled out and Biograd came out on top with a 2-0 result. The win secures Biograd's top spot finish in the League and puts Lika in a chariot race for second place with Kordun, Dalmatinka Zagora and Vila Velebit. The last few weeks will surely be full of intensity as all teams look for important victories going into the postseason. Bring your umbrellas next week cause it is gonna rain goals in Richmond...