



# BOUNCINGS



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8 Jan 16

**2015 PSLC  
Over 40  
CHAMPIONS**

Bosnia B	<b>2</b>	National Soccer League 2nd Division
Stare Byki A	<b>2</b>	The Odeum 3 January 2016

## Extra effort clinches valuable point

Nothing trumps teamwork when a group of players is pushed to the extreme. A seven-man Byki squad went into their first-place showdown with Bosnia-Herzegovina B last Sunday and earned a valuable point in a 2:2 draw. The sides remained joint leaders of the 2nd Division's Blue Section after five matches.

With three players unexpectedly missing from the lineup, the Byki found themselves in a squeeze, having just one substitute on the bench. Given the quality of their play, the shortened lineup appeared to have little detrimental effect. "The guys were all on the same page and worked extremely hard for one another," noted coach George Gorecki afterwards. "It was great that we earned a point, and with a bit more luck with our finishing, we might have grabbed all three points."

The Bosnians were handed an early advantage when Byki captain Mike Stamatinos earned a blue card for boarding. The Byki held tight defensively and killed the penalty efficiently.

A controversy popped up midway through the first half when Joe Sauerman tangled with an opponent as the pair fought for possession at midfield. Sauerman held off the challenge, despite being grabbed all the way through, and then lashed out at the Bosnian player after passing the ball to a Byki teammate. One of the officials caught the aftermath of the play and sent Sauerman to the sin bin. Gorecki wasn't pleased. "Both players were getting physical and the whistle could have blown at any point to put a stop to it," he complained. "Instead, the referees took the 'let them play' attitude, and then felt compelled to take action only when Joe reacted badly to being held. That's poor game management."

The Byki shrugged that off and found a way to go into the lead 0:33 into the penalty kill. Marek Ciszewski and Stamatinos led a mini counterattack, and a rocket from Stamatinos gave the Bosnian goalkeeper no chance.

The score went to 2:0 just moments after Sauerman was

released from the penalty box. Alen Mehagic won the ball in the Byki end on the right side and sent a long pass to Sauerman, now positioned at the top of the Bosnian penalty area. He turned quickly to shoot and the keeper did well to block the attempt. The ball remained loose in the box and Sauerman poked it home to double the lead.

The Byki nearly gave that one back just 1:17 later when Pete Chronowski was caught flat-footed, thanks to a weak backpass. The loose ball wound up with a Bosnian at the top of the box, who came in firing. Chronowski was equal to the task and snuffed out a golden scoring chance. Things were tidy in front of Chronowski's goal in the first half, but he was called upon to do much more in the second half, as fatigue became a bigger factor for the Byki.

The Byki had an excellent chance to put in the dagger 4:30 into the second half, as Bryan de Rama and Ciszewski came forward on the break. De Rama fed Ciszewski, who turned and shot immediately. The keeper came up with a huge kick save and then denied de Rama's rebound attempt.

The Bosnians halved the deficit moments later. A weak dribbler from the deep left corner sneaked underneath Chronowski.

The Byki were content to keep things tight in the back and allowed the Bosnians to maintain possession. The Byki were very organized and Chronowski was on top of his game whenever things broke down.

The Bosnians, however, managed to carve out the equalizer with 6:16 to go, as they came fast on the break. The Byki failed to contain the Bosnians as they brought the ball upfield, and a shot from the right wing found the back of the net.

The remainder of the match was a test of Byki concentration. They needed to maintain their stout defensive stance and continued to seek counterattacking opportunities. The Bosnians piled on the pressure, but created little more

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than half chances down the stretch.

Their frustration reached its apex at the final whistle, when Bosnia's player-coach moaned about goals that went against his team, asserting that "the referees are afraid of George [Gorecki]." Apprised later of that fatuous assertion, Gorecki quipped, "Maybe I won't show up for the rematch with them so the referees can do their job calmly. And when we beat them, it will be because we outplayed them."

**BYKI LINEUP (2-2-1):** Chronowski – Sauerman, Stamatinos (c) – Borta, De Rama – Ciszewski. **Bench:** Mehagic.

#### BYKI SCORING SUMMARY

0:1 – Stamatinos 1 (Ciszewski); (sh); 10:32.

0:2 – Sauerman 1; 12:21.

**Byki Men of the Match:** Pete Chronowski and Joe Sauerman

Stare Byki B	5	National Soccer League 2nd Division
Los Chasquis	6	The Odeum 3 January 2016

## Victory elusive despite goalfest

The Byki B Team had spent the first four weeks of the indoor season searching for goals and finally broke out last Sunday in a big way, pumping home five against Red Section leaders Los Chasquis. But key breakdowns on defense undermined the goal explosion, as Los Chasquis came out on top 6:5 in a seesaw battle. The Byki remain winless after five matches.

Much of the team's success against Los Chasquis came as a result of improved ball movement, a sign that the players were learning to play together cohesively. The other part of the story was the depleted Chasquis team, who dressed just six players. Despite a lack of substitutes, they showed excellent teamwork.

The Byki got a gift in the early minutes, when a Chasquis player innocently passed the ball back towards his goalie. The keeper, however, was nowhere to be found and the ball rolled into the empty net for a 1:0 Byki lead.

The Byki gave that one right back only moments later, an annoying habit that kills the momentum that the team have built up.

But the Byki came right back to regain the lead 2:19 later. Alan Stevens sent the ball to Maciek Kekus, who slipped through two Chasquis players and uncorked a wicked shot from the right flank that ticked the inside of the left post before settling into the back of the net.

Los Chasquis leveled the affair yet again with 2:57 left in the half. As the Byki were killing a penalty, they fell asleep on a free kick given at the top of their penalty area. The quick re-start found an unmarked shooter in the right corner and he fired a low shot past Amit Khankari.

The half finished with wild opportunities at both ends. Khankari thwarted a 2 v 1 situation with a massive block

with 0:56 to go. The ball went the other way, and a rapid passing sequence between Tony Sabo, Kekus and Sergio Torres unhinged the Chasquis defense. The goalkeeper stoned Torres and then blocked the rebound attempt from Kekus.

The fireworks spilled over into the second half. With 1:56 elapsed, Khankari dove full stretch to deflect a long-range bomb. The Byki took off, with Robert Filipiak leading the counterattack along the right wing. He aimed a diagonal pass to the left post for Kekus, but the pass was a bit too long. Los Chasquis cleared the ball to the top of the box, where Sabo arrived first and cranked a first-timer that the keeper did well to save.

The Byki went back on top with 13:29 left in the contest. Sabo fired from the right wing into a crowd and the ball deflected to Torres in the area, who redirected to Juan Carlos Carrillo, converting the simple tap-in on the doorstep of the goal.

Another lapse in concentration by the Byki opened the door for a third Chasquis equalizer 1:22 later.

With 10:27 left, the Byki pushed forward 3 v 3. Torres controlled the ball in the Chasquis box and dished to Kekus in the left corner. Kekus picked his spot, but the keeper miraculously blocked the shot.

With 8:59 to go, a Chasquis rocket from long range tore into the upper 90, and the leaders were up for the first time at 4:3.

But the Byki had a rapid response to make it 4:4 just 0:55 later. Kekus and Carrillo smartly worked a give-and-go in the Chasquis defensive zone. Carrillo carried the ball deep and pounded a pass off the boards for Stevens, whose powerful header ripped into the back of the net.

Los Chasquis still had some gas in the tank and found two more goals in the span of 2:11 to go up 6:4. The second goal in that sequence was most disappointing, as the Byki failed to mark a man at the back post.

The Byki were still in the hunt. With 3:16 left, Torres capitalized on a Chasquis turnover in their half of the field and took off on a snake-like run. He weaved through the penalty area, faked the keeper to the turf, and calmly rolled the ball home to bring the Byki to within 6:5.

Coach Mike Stamatinos swapped Ray Najera for Khankari and sent the Byki into six-attacker mode for the final two minutes. Los Chasquis heightened the drama when a player was shown a blue card with 1:18 left. The Byki knocked on the door of the Chasquis goal several times, but could not find another equalizer.

**BYKI LINEUP (2-2-1):** Khankari – Stevens, Sabo – Boeckeler, Torres – Kekus. **Bench:** Carrillo, Filipiak, Najera.

#### BYKI SCORING SUMMARY

1:0 – Los Chasquis own goal; 3:40.

2:1 – Kekus 2 (Stevens); 7:02.

3:2 – Carrillo 1 (Torres); 24:31.

4:4 – Stevens 1 (Carrillo); 29:01.

5:6 – Torres 1; 34:44.

**Byki Man of the Match:** None given.

# NATIONAL SOCCER LEAGUE STANDINGS

January 3, 2016

[www.nslchicago.org](http://www.nslchicago.org)

## MAJOR DIVISION

Red Section	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts	Blue Section	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
Albanian Stars	5	5	0	0	20	10	15	CKS Warta Blue	5	4	1	0	35	13	13
Chicago Stars	5	3	1	1	28	15	10	Chicago Fire U-23	5	4	0	1	32	18	12
Bosnia-Hercegovina A	5	3	0	2	18	9	9	SAC Wisla A	5	3	0	2	22	18	9
PSL Select	5	2	0	3	17	20	6	Berber Stars	5	2	0	3	19	33	6
CKS Warta Red	5	1	1	3	14	15	4	FC Tryzub	5	1	1	3	15	20	4
Tricycles SC A	5	0	0	5	10	37	0	AAC Winged Bull A	5	0	0	5	12	34	0

## FIRST DIVISION

Red Section	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts	Blue Section	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
Albania FC	5	5	0	0	30	11	15	CKS Warta White	5	5	0	0	23	14	15
HNK Primorac	5	3	1	1	22	12	10	FC Kosova	5	4	0	1	21	11	12
Wisloka Chicago	5	3	0	2	19	18	9	SAC Wisla B	5	3	1	1	27	16	10
Dabrovia	5	1	1	3	20	26	4	Olympiacos Chicago	5	1	0	4	9	16	3
Jagiellonia	5	0	2	3	15	22	2	AAC Winged Bull B	5	1	0	4	8	26	3
TSC	5	0	1	4	17	34	1	Stal Mielec	5	1	0	4	19	24	3

## SECOND DIVISION

Red Section	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts	Blue Section	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
Bosnia-Hercegovia B	5	4	1	0	26	10	13	Los Chasquis	5	5	0	0	24	12	15
Stare Byki FC A	5	4	1	0	18	8	13	Chicago Blast	5	3	1	1	28	14	10
Urahan FC	5	3	1	1	40	19	10	Chicago Inter Yellow	5	2	2	1	19	20	8
Chicago Inter Blue	5	3	1	1	18	17	10	Chicago Dynasty FC	5	2	0	3	26	17	6
Cows Cleaning	5	1	0	4	10	26	3	Torino FC	5	1	2	2	17	23	5
Villans U-18	5	0	2	3	14	28	2	Tricycles SC B	5	1	1	3	13	16	4
AAC Winged Bull C	5	0	0	5	9	35	0	Stare Byki FC B	5	0	0	5	9	26	0