



BOUNCINGS



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16 Jan 15

**2014 PSLC
Over 40
CHAMPIONS**

Byki 0-30	4	Premier Soccer League Over 30 White Division
Levski	5	The Odeum 9 January 2015

Seesaw tips to Levski

Last Friday's back-an-forth battle between the Byki Over 30s and Levski Chicago was on edge throughout, as momentum shifted significantly over the course of the match. Levski raced out to a 3:0 lead, the Byki caught up just after halftime, and the sides battled furiously for second-half supremacy. Levski scored the deciding goal with 4:57 left to break a 4:4 tie.

The match was a complete turnabout from the previous encounter between the teams, a 9:2 win for Levski on December 19. The addition of striker Sergio Benavides to the roster proved crucial in the rematch. Benavides scored twice and assisted on another.

The contest started off poorly for the Byki, who conceded two goals in the first 3:46. The squad looked confused regarding their roles and positions, and the organized Levski team pounced immediately. Levski got on the board when they won a tussle for possession in the deep corner and zinged a pass through the goal area. The Byki were guilty of extreme ball-watching, as a Levski player calmly tapped into an empty net. Just 1:20 later, the Byki were slow to recover on defense, as Levski swooped in 3 v1.

Levski netted a third goal with 5:35 left in the half. A long shot caromed off the back boards out of the reach of goalkeeper Joe Meadow. The Byki defense reacted in flat-footed fashion, and a Levski player gratefully slid the ball home to make it 3:0.

The Byki finally found their rhythm in the dying moments of the first half. Chris Hurley won the ball at midfield and dished off to Benavides on the right wing. Benavides executed a very tight pass along the back boards and the ball squirted into the middle, where Hurley was in the perfect spot to slam home his first goal of the season.

The Byki utilized every last second of the first half and Levski paid a steep price for going passive right before the horn. Dan Jedrzejowski controlled the ball near midfield and faced no pressure at all. He sent a speculative pass into the mixer and Benavides, with his back to the goal, deftly

redirected the ball with the most delicate of headers past a stunned group of Levski defenders.

Momentum remained with the Byki after the break and they engineered an impressive equalizer only 1:51 into the second half. They played a series of patient passes in the middle third of the field, resisting the temptation to force the ball into a crowded penalty area. Hurley made a run into space on the right side and Esau Melendez delivered a perfectly weighted pass into the space. Hurley banged a pass of the boards and Marek Ciszewski was first to the ball in the middle of the box, slamming home the goal to knot things at 3:3.

"I didn't think that Esau was going to make that pass," said Hurley afterwards. "Once I saw the ball coming to me, I thought, 'I better not screw this up.'"

The game had turned on its head, transformed from a first-half mismatch into a dogfight for the three points. Levski eventually righted the ship and regained the lead midway through the second half. A Levski player at midfield sent a low pass up the gut to a teammate posting up in the box. The striker flicked a back-heel shot through the maze of players and the ball found the back of the net to make it 4:3.

The Byki were all in and had no plans to fold their tents. They crafted a second equalizer by masterfully executing a counterattack with 5:40 to go. Maciek Kekus stole the ball at the halfway line, and a 3 v 1 emerged for the Byki. Kekus sent the ball to Hurley, who sprinted past the last defender. With the keeper rushing off his line, Hurley calmly dished to the supporting Benavides, who tapped into the empty net.

PSLC OVER 30 DIVISION

January 9, 2015

www.pslchicagoland.com

	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
RWB Adria	4	4	0	0	27	12	12
Chicago Rangers FC	4	3	1	0	17	12	10
Torino FC	5	2	1	2	22	23	7
Levski Chicago 2014	5	2	1	2	26	22	7
Stare Byki FC	5	1	0	4	14	30	3
Romania SC	5	0	1	4	19	26	1



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Levski demonstrated their quality when they went back in front just 0:43 later. A free shot from 10 yards found the top right corner of the goal. All that was needed was for a Byki defender to have stepped up to intervene.

For the most part, the Byki played a clever game against a strong opponent. Better organization at the start would have helped to eliminate the unnecessary giveaway of early goals.

BYKI LINEUP (2-2-1): Meadow – Melendez, Kekus – Hurley, Ciszewski – Benavides. **Bench:** Champagne, Gorecki, Jedrzejowski, Najera.

BYKI SCORING SUMMARY

1:3 – Hurley 1 (Benavides); 17:59.
2:3 – Benavides 1 (Jedrzejowski); 18:54.
3:3 – Ciszewski 3 (Hurley); 20:51
4:4 – Benavides 2 (Hurley); 32:20.

Byki Men of the Match: Sergio Benavides

Wisloka	6	National Soccer League 1st Division
Stare Byki	1	The Odeum 9 January 2015

Woeful defending sinks Byki again

The old saying in sports goes, “Defense wins championships.” For the Byki First Team, finding enough defensive know-how to even win a game would be nice right about now. The team slumped to their sixth defeat in as many matches when Wisloka Chicago laid a 6:1 thumping on them last Friday.

The poor showing at the defensive end of the field has been a chronic problem for the Byki and coach George Gorecki changed the team’s formation in hopes of better defining roles at both ends. New approach, same outcome, unfortunately.

The late arrivals of several players in the 12-man squad proved problematic and the Byki played in disjointed fashion for most of the first half. They were lucky to be down only 2:0 at the half.

Wisloka, a club who compete outdoors in the Polish Soccer League, were a well-organized team. The Byki were unable to exploit weaknesses in their back line, and Wisloka were sufficiently experienced to not ignore the gifts the Byki handed over on defense.

After grabbing the early lead 3:54 into the contest, Wisloka doubled their advantage in the middle of the first half. Awarded a free kick in the deep corner, they played a nifty diagonal pass back into the middle, where an unmarked player at the top of the arc fired past Joe Meadow.

The only legitimate scoring chance for the Byki in the first half came when Jordan Stopka headed a pass along for Mclain Roth, who snapped off a quick shot that the keeper did well to save.

The first half ended in a big ruckus when Marek Ciszewski

got into a verbal tangle with someone in the Wisloka contingent. After Ciszewski had collided with a Wisloka player near their bench, the referee gave Wisloka a free kick. Ciszewski jawed at the referee briefly and then the Wisloka guy chose to throw in his two cents. It was never clear whether he was a Wisloka coach or spectator, but he climbed up high enough from outside the field that his head was sticking over the glass and he started hurling insults in Polish towards Ciszewski. This incensed Ciszewski and the whole situation devolved into a big mess. During halftime, the referees had their hands full sorting out who did what. When the dust finally settled, Ciszewski received a two-minute time penalty, someone from Wisloka got four minutes in the sin bin, and the loudmouth who climbed over the boards received a red card.

The start to the second half went no better for the Byki than the first half did. Starting out playing with four field players per team, Wisloka came close to going 3:0 up when a player slalomed past two Byki. Meadow, however, was on his game and made a spectacular save.

The ensuing power play was nothing short of dismal for the Byki, who conceded a goal on a shorthanded Wisloka counterattack. The Byki exposed themselves by pushing all five players into Wisloka’s end of the field. When they lost possession, the race was on, and the outcome was inevitable.

Once the Byki got a better idea of how to play their positions, the offense started to find a rhythm. On another power-play situation, Roth won the ball in the corner and banged a pass off the back boards, finding striker Miles Marmo open in the box. Marmo’s first-time shot went over the glass.

The Byki pulled one back with 12:19 to go. Marmo centered the ball for Roth in the penalty area. Roth flicked the ball towards the goal and the resourceful Cristian Rodriguez managed to sneak the ball over the line past the sprawled goalie.

That goal, however, did not provide the necessary spark. Wisloka got that one back with 8:54 left when confusion arose over which team was given the ball on restart after the ball went outside the field. The Byki thought the ball was theirs, but Wisloka took the free kick instead. The referee never gave a clear indication as to which team was in possession until the ball was already in play. Late to the party, the Byki could only watch as Wisloka made it 4:1.

Wisloka scored twice more in the final 3:55. On both occasions, the Byki left themselves at risk defensively and Wisloka knew exactly what to do when presented with the opportunity.

BYKI LINEUP (1-3-1): Meadow – Ciszewski – Zachariah, Roth, Zudic – Marmo. **Bench:** Champagne, Mehagic, B. Rodriguez, C. Rodriguez, J. Rodriguez, Stopka.

BYKI SCORING SUMMARY

3:1 – C. Rodriguez 1 (Roth); 25:41.

Byki Man of the Match: None given.

NATIONAL SOCCER LEAGUE STANDINGS

January 9, 2015

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	22	8	15	RWB Adria	5	5	0	0	39	8	15
CKS Warta A	6	3	1	2	20	16	10	Chicago Fire U-23	6	3	1	2	19	14	10
Lancer SC	6	2	1	3	18	23	7	Chicago Stars	5	2	2	1	17	16	8
AAC Winged Bull	6	2	0	4	15	30	6	SAC Wisla A	5	1	0	4	16	19	3
Bosnia i Hercegovina	5	2	0	3	15	16	6	Berber Stars	5	1	0	4	8	20	3
Tricycles SC A	6	1	1	4	11	30	4								

FIRST DIVISION

Red Section	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts	Blue Section	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
SAC Wisla B	6	5	0	1	45	14	15	Gremio FC	6	5	1	0	28	17	16
CKS Warta B	6	5	0	1	24	16	15	Dabrovia	6	4	1	1	36	17	13
Jagiellonia Chicago	6	5	0	1	39	12	15	Olympiacos Chicago	6	4	0	2	18	14	12
Bosnia United	6	4	0	2	27	27	12	Albania FC	6	4	0	2	33	21	12
Wisloka Chicago	6	3	1	2	26	22	10	Chicago Dynasty FC	6	3	2	1	21	16	11
HNK Primorac	6	3	0	3	18	23	9	Stal Mielec	6	3	2	1	25	23	11
Assyrian FC	6	3	0	3	33	28	9	FC Tryzub	6	3	1	2	28	20	10
FC Kosova	6	3	0	3	29	21	9	FC Goon Squad	6	3	1	2	24	22	10
SC Krajina-Chicago	6	2	1	3	19	41	7	Los Chasquis	6	2	1	3	21	18	7
Chicago Inter Yellow	6	1	0	5	19	38	3	Chicago Inter Blue	6	0	1	5	8	35	1
Tricycles SC B	6	1	0	5	17	36	3	Chicago Blast U-18	6	0	0	6	11	24	0
Stare Byki FC	6	0	0	6	10	28	0	ANCI Niniveh FC	6	0	0	6	10	36	0