



# BOUNCINGS



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17 Jan 14



Stare Byki	<b>2</b>	National Soccer League
Assyrian B	<b>4</b>	Odeum North Field 3 January 2014

## Byki look to bounce back

After a disastrous four-game skid to start the season, the Byki sought to improve their defensive posture when they faced ANCI Assyrian B on January 3. Bolstered by a full squad of players for the first time this season, the Byki showed marked improvement in protecting their goal, despite a 4:2 setback. They stand at 0-0-5 for the season so far.

Coach George Gorecki changed his formation to a three-man backline and the players responded with a first half of robust defending en route to a 1:0 lead at the break. "We really needed to focus more on defense and discipline," said Gorecki. "The first half was a good example of how we should be playing. We had some breakdowns in the second half and we didn't generate enough offense to compensate."

The Byki made a bid to snatch the early advantage when midfielder Daniel Zielinski played a pass directly into the box for Maciek Kekus. Moved back to his favored striker position after starting the season on defense, Kekus attempted to flick the ball past the keeper at the 1:45 mark.

A back-and-forth first half remained goalless, thanks to the Byki holding their marks. Goalkeeper Amit Khankari did well to cover up any breakdowns and controlled balls played into his box.

The Byki went into the lead with 7:54 left in the half. Sam Onaissi chased down a clearance on the right side near the halfway line. He accelerated into space to spearhead a 2 v 3 counterattack. Despite being outnumbered, Onaissi found a streaking Jordan Stopka on the left flank. Stopka's drive just missed the right goalpost, but the resourceful Onaissi was in the perfect spot to tap home the loose ball.

Chris Koenig nearly doubled the lead for the Byki just seconds before the halftime whistle. The Assyrian goalkeeper pulled a rabbit out of his hat to prevent the ball from getting past him.

When the teams changed ends, the Byki brought in the other half of their goalkeeper tandem, with Cesar Avalos taking over for Khankari. Avalos didn't receive the same kind of defensive discipline from his teammates that Khankari did,

as the Assyrians needed just 10 seconds to knot the score when the Byki left an Assyrian player unmarked on the doorstep of the goal.

Avalos came up big four minutes later when the Byki were defending an Assyrian power play. Mike Stamatinos blocked a shot, but the resulting loose ball caused mayhem inside the Byki penalty area. Avalos came fast to smother the ball.

The Assyrians found space behind the Byki defense with 11:30 left, but Avalos was in the right spot to intervene.

A bit of skullduggery resulted in the go-ahead goal for the Byki with 10:55 left. Peter Wood played the ball to Rigo Ortiz in the middle of the field. Ortiz audaciously tried to chip the ball over the keeper from that distance and succeeded, primarily thanks to an unrecorded assist from Kekus. When Ortiz sent the ball towards the goal, Kekus astutely positioned himself so as to block the goalie's view of the ball. As the ball came in, Kekus executed a precise balletic move to get out of the way. The distracted goalie allowed the ball to bounce right in front of him and made a complete hash of things, helplessly watching the ball trickle past him into the back of the net.

The Assyrians gained control of the contest with a pair of goals 0:40 apart. Already on the power play, the Assyrians gained a free kick at the top of the penalty arc when Avalos punted the ball out of his area. The Assyrians tied things up when the deflected free kick rocketed past Avalos. The score went to 3:2 for the Assyrians when one of their players dribbled coast to coast, slaloming past three Byki defenders, none of whom could find a way to keep the opponent under control.

Avalos was left out to dry with 5:15 to go on an Assyrian counterattack, but would not be beaten, registering two massive saves back to back. The Assyrians wrapped up the three points with a fourth goal with 2:10 remaining. They outnumbered the Byki on the counterattack and made easy work of the clinching goal.

**BYKI LINEUP (3-1-1):** Khankari – Stamatinos (c), Banbor, Stopka – Zielinski – Kekus. **Bench:** Avalos, Koenig, Mehagic, Onaissi, Ortiz, Wood.

### BYKI SCORING SUMMARY

1:0 – Onaissi 1 (Stopka); 11:06.  
2:1 – Ortiz 1 (Wood); 27:05.

**Byki Man of the Match:** Peter Wood

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Byki O-40	<b>3</b>	Odeum Over 40 League
Albania FC	<b>8</b>	Odeum North Field 13 January 2014

## Defense-less Byki leak goals

By Steven Pedlow

The Over 40 Team were missing their defense last Monday and miscues in the back resulted in an 8:3 loss to Albania FC. With all of their regular defenders out for one reason or another, the Byki converted three midfielders into defenders, but the marking was not tight enough and the bounces off the boards fooled the Byki defense multiple times in the defeat. The Byki attack was not much better. The consensus in the locker room after the game was that the attacking players needed to move more and not just sit on the wings and make things easy for the Albania FC defense.

For a change, it was the opponents who were without subs at the start of the game. Albania FC eventually gained three subs, one less than the Byki, but by the end of the game, fitness also played a role in the game's result, as Albania FC did a better job in the second half of supporting the attack with numbers as well as defending quick breaks.

Three minutes into the game, the Albanians took the lead when an attacker dribbled around a Byki defender to create just a foot of space and placed a perfect shot into the corner of the net. Three minutes later, the Byki engineered a good-looking attack, as Matt Fleming led a 2-on-2 break with Paul Gibbs. Gibbs took a pass from Fleming, moved centrally to get an open shot and clinically finished to make it 1:1. Less than a minute later, a defensive giveaway led to a two-on-none break and Albania slotted the ball past Byki goalkeeper Rick Bolesta.

The Albanians made it 3:1 ten minutes into the contest. They sprang a 3-on-2 break and had time to make several passes to find the open man at the back post for the easy finish.

The Byki managed to reduce the deficit back to one a few minutes later. Charles St. Clair took a pass from Eric Muehlbauer and dribbled up the right wing and centered to Andy Lane. Albania had two defenders right on Lane, so he backheeled a pass to Steven Pedlow, whose shot took a slight deflection past the Albania FC keeper to make the score 3:2.

With 23 minutes left, Bolesta made a great save, but the ball stayed in play and bounced off the boards. The bounce fooled a Byki defender and an Albanian striker was first to the ball and scored from a tight angle to make it 4:2. Halfway through the game, Sal Farhan made a kick save during a wild free-for-all to keep the score at 4:2.

Unfortunately, the game turned mostly one-sided in the second half as the Albanian team displayed their superior fitness. With 17 minutes left, a Byki defender was turned easily by a dribbling attacker, who finished well to make it 5:2. Two minutes later, another Bolesta save led to a tricky bounce, confounding the Byki defense and an Albanian

attacker had time to head the ball into the empty net to make it 6:2.

With five minutes left, Albania FC made it 7:2 when an attacker was able to dribble past the last defender for a breakaway goal. Their last goal was possibly the worst, as the Byki defense could not clear the ball. In the mad scramble, the Albanian striker busted the ball through two defenders into the corner of the Byki net.

In the final minute, the Albania FC goalkeeper was finally punished for his wandering ways when he coughed up the ball to Dominic Demarets on the right wing. Demarets' shot missed, but Mitch Posada was there to take the ball off the back boards and score into the empty net to make it 8:3.

**BYKI LINEUP (2-2-1):** Bolesta – Lane, Pedlow – Muehlbauer, St Clair – Demarets. **Bench:** Farhan, Fleming, Gibbs, Posada.

### BYKI SCORING SUMMARY

1:1 – Gibbs 4 (Fleming); 6:10.

2:3 – Pedlow 6 (Lane); 14:42.

3:8 – Posada 1(Demarets); 39:15.

# Byki Stats

## FIRST TEAM, NSL 1st DIVISION

Player	G	A	Pts
Jimenez	4	1	5
Stopka	1	2	3
Kekus	2	0	2
Sabo	0	2	2
Onaissi	1	0	1
Ortiz	1	0	1
Hurley	0	1	1
Stamatinos	0	1	1
Wood	0	1	1
Zielinski	0	1	1

Goalie	Min	GA	GAA
Banbor	1	0	0.00
Khankari	94	12	4.85
Avalos	95	19	7.60

Current record: 0-0-5

## O-40 TEAM, ODEUM O-40 LEAGUE

Player	G	A	Pts
Pedlow	6	1	7
Gibbs	4	1	5
Demarets	1	4	5
Fleming	1	3	4
Lane	1	3	4
St Clair	2	1	3
Ciszewski	1	1	2
Fink	1	0	1
Huck	1	0	1
Posada	1	0	1
Gorecki	0	1	1
Jedrzejowski	0	1	1
Muehlbauer	0	1	1
Vlahakis	0	1	1
Team goals	3	x	x

Goalie	Min	GA	GAA
Farhan	2	0	0.00
Vlahakis	40	5	5.00
Bolesta	210	41	7.81
St Clair	14	4	11.43
Muehlbauer	16	5	12.50

Current record: 1-0-6

Tricycles	<b>6</b>	Odeum Over 40 League
Byki O-40	<b>5</b>	Odeum North Field 6 January 2014

## Seesaw match turns for Trikes

A fast start and a fast finish for the Over 40s was not enough to secure victory over Tricycles SC on January 6. Dominic Demarets led a five-goal Byki attack with a goal and three assists, as the Byki finally knew what it was like to have a full bench of substitutes. Teamwork on defense was a huge problem all night for the Byki, who were severely stretched as the Tricycles counterattacked with little opposition.

The Byki raced out to a 2:0 lead in the first 91 seconds of the contest and it seemed that they were poised to have a different outcome than the heavy losses that they had incurred so far this season.

Demarets set up the first goal after just 0:50 had elapsed, hitting a booming shot from the left wing. The keeper slapped the ball down, but could not control it. A hustling Charles St Clair won the loose ball and knocked it home for his second goal of the season.

Moments later, Demarets played provider once again, threading an exquisite through pass for Dave Fink, who sprinted behind the defense. With the goalkeeper at his mercy, Fink deposited the ball into the back of the net.

The euphoria created by the sudden offensive outburst was short-lived. The Tricycles played their brand of smart soccer and ball possession and it didn't take long for them to pull back those two early goals. They needed less than 15 minutes to reverse a 2:0 deficit into a 5:2 lead. On almost every occasion, the Tricycles scoring play was the result of the Byki not getting back on defense. Goalkeeper Rick Bolesta was kept busy all night and only some terrific stops and timely interventions prevented the game from getting out of hand.

The Byki pulled to within 5:3 with 27:32 to go when an unmarked Demarets crushed a shot from the top of the arc.

The game turned ugly at the midway point when a Tricycles player executed a rugby-style tackle on Paul Gibbs. Apparently offended by the way Gibbs had dispossessed him at the other end of the field, the Tricycles player drilled Gibbs in the midsection and was promptly given his marching orders by the referee. The Byki, however, could not capitalize on the resulting five-minute power play. Unfamiliar with how to move the ball and position themselves, the Byki hardly put any pressure on the Tricycles goal.

The Tricycles upped their advantage to 6:3 with 12:59 to go when they beat the Byki yet again on the counterattack.

The Byki still had some gas in the tank and made a furious rally. With about four minutes to go, Demarets set up Gibbs, who fired home a shot home from close range. It was Gibbs again with 1:43 to go, bringing the Byki to within 6:5. Dan Jedrzejowski sent Gibbs into the open on the left side and the midfielder did the rest.

In a desperate effort to find an equalizer, the Byki replaced Bolesta with Sal Farhan in a six-attacker arrangement for the remaining time. The Byki peppered the Tricycles goal with a barrage of shots, the closest one to scoring an attempt by Steven Pedlow in the middle of the box with 0:22 left.

Clearly, the Byki had played their best game of the season so far, and having a full complement of players on the roster had a lot to do with it. With so many moving parts and many players getting accustomed to new roles and new teammates, there will be some rough patches along the way.

**BYKI LINEUP (2-2-1):** Bolesta – Fink, Jedrzejowski – St Clair, Gibbs – Demarets. **Bench:** Farhan, Gorecki, Guild, Muehlbauer, Pedlow.

### BYKI SCORING SUMMARY

0:1 – St Clair 2 (Demarets); 0:50.  
 0:2 – Fink 1 (Demarets); 1:31.  
 3:5 – Demarets 1; 12:28.  
 4:6 – Gibbs 2 (Demarets); 36:00.  
 5:6 – Gibbs 3 (Jedrzejowski); 38:17.

# NATIONAL SOCCER LEAGUE STANDINGS

January 3, 2014  
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	4	0	1	31	15	12	RWB Adria A	5	5	0	0	30	8	15
SAC Wisla	5	4	0	1	24	16	12	CKS Warta	5	5	0	0	25	12	15
Chicago Fire U-23	5	3	1	1	30	21	10	Chicago Stars	5	2	0	3	12	18	6
Tricycles SC A	5	2	1	2	22	20	7	Ethnikos Chicago	5	2	0	3	13	28	6
KF Tirana	5	0	1	4	13	22	1	ANCI Assyrian A	5	1	0	4	12	22	3
RWB Adria B	5	0	1	4	16	27	1	Zaglebie SC	5	0	0	5	7	26	0

## FIRST DIVISION

Red Section	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts	Blue Section	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
FC Kosova	5	4	0	1	26	15	12	Lancer FC	5	4	1	0	29	8	13
Chicago Dynasty FC	5	3	0	2	22	14	9	Stal Mielec	5	4	0	1	20	12	12
Albania FC	5	2	1	2	17	23	7	Jagiellonia Chicago	5	3	1	1	28	17	10
ANCI Assyrian B	5	2	1	2	16	19	7	HNK Primorac	5	2	0	3	18	25	6
Chicago Inter	5	2	0	3	15	19	6	Tricycles FC B	5	1	0	4	13	22	3
Gremio FC	5	1	0	4	19	27	3	Stare Byki FC	5	0	0	5	9	31	0

## ODEUM OVER 40 LEAGUE

January 13, 2014

	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
Asteras	6	6	0	0	45	23	18
Jake's Stars	6	5	0	1	45	19	15
Torino FC	6	5	0	1	42	12	15
Albania FC	7	4	0	3	42	27	12
Olimpiacos	6	2	0	4	39	24	6
Tricycles SC	6	2	0	4	29	29	6
Stare Byki FC	7	1	0	6	22	57	3
FC Pints	6	0	0	6	8	71	0