



# BOUNCINGS



www.starebykifc.org



27 Jan 17

Stare Byki	<b>3</b>	National Soccer League 1st Division
Blast	<b>3</b>	The Odeum 20 January 2017

## Byki nab a point in fantastic finish

What started out as a tight, closely-contested match between the Byki and Chicago Blast last Friday turned into a wild roller coaster ride at the end. The Byki overcame a 3:1 deficit, scoring twice within 0:34, deep into the second half. They were only inches away from getting all three points, pummeling the Blast goal in the final seconds of the game. The draw leaves the Byki at 1-1-6 on the season.

Neither side was willing to give in during the first half, as the Byki demonstrated a level of resiliency that has been noticeably absent this season. "It was a typical First Division match in the NSL," said coach George Gorecki afterwards. "These teams have skill and soccer smarts. If you're not on your game, teams jump all over you. The Blast did that to us early in the second half and we gave it right back to them at the end."

Defensively, the Byki put in as clean a performance as one could expect in the first half. Their marking was tight and their organization prevented the Blast from finding any space to exploit.

The Blast, however, have a strong recent pedigree in the NSL, despite a roster dominated by teenagers. Last season, while competing in the then-Second Division, they topped their Section. Coached by NASL legend Aleks Mihailovic, the Blast play with a degree of poise and discipline (not to mention technical skill) rarely seen in youth teams.

The Byki had the only clear scoring chances of the first half. The zipped one- and two-touch passes between four players in an impressive sequence with 2:56 left. Mike Stamatinos found Amit Khankari in the left corner. Khankari centered for Bryan de Rama, who dropped the ball back for Stamatinos, who drilled a shot that ricocheted off the glass above the crossbar.

Ben Rodriguez stole the ball at midfield with 0:20 to go and swept past two defenders before firing a rocket that was snagged by the keeper.

Things broke down badly for the Byki to start the second half. The Blast counterattacked by launching a long ball deep

into the Byki end, creating a 2 v 2 situation. The Byki botched the marking badly, leaving an open man at the far post. His shot from close range, giving Ray Najera no chance.

The Byki were napping less than two minutes later. The Blast created a goal from nothing, thanks to Byki marking that was sadly lacking in communication. The Byki faced a crucial turning point; if they did not score the next goal in the match, the Blast might easily find a way to pull away and put the result to bed.

The Byki did find that next goal, and they relied on top scorer Joe Sauerma to get the job done. Alan Stevens cleared a long pass to midfield to Sauerma, who took off on a jaunt, shedding defenders in his wake. The Blast goalkeeper blocked Sauerma's attempt and then tried to clear the ball out of the right corner. Sauerma won the ball, however, and crushed a shot into the upper 90 from a tough angle with 10:09 to go.

Momentum swung strongly to the Byki a couple of minutes later, when a Blast defender blocked a shot with his arm, leading to a Byki penalty kick. The keeper stuck out a leg to block de Rama's spot kick and maintain the 2:1 lead. The miracle save left the Blast with a penalty to kill, but the disorganized Byki hardly looked like a team playing a man up. The Byki created one good chance in the sequence, when Andy Sokolowski stole the ball and fired a low shot that slammed off of the post.

But fickle momentum swung right back to the Blast, who boldly came on the counter during the Byki power play. Disorganization ran rampant for the Byki at the other end, as they found themselves outnumbered, and the Blast

**STARE BYKI FC**  
**High-Low Game Fundraiser**  
**Week 20 winners**  
**\$150 - Colleen O'Brien**  
**\$75 - Mike Borotraeger**

**Raffle winners**  
**\$500 - George Gorecki**  
**\$250 - Mark Kramer**  
**\$125 - Peter Nowobilski**  
**\$125 - Brian Wilke**

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ruthlessly converted the play into a 3:1 lead.

“That power play looked like it would kill off any chance for us to get back into the game,” said Gorecki. “The saved penalty kick, the bumbling power play, our inattention to a potential counterattack, a lot went wrong in those two minutes. But our guys kept fighting.”

The Byki pushed more players forward in the closing minutes and cracks began to show in what had been a poised Blast team. The Byki got one back with 1:53 left in the match. Sokolowski scrapped to win the ball after a shot caromed off of the back boards. The ball bounced to de Rama in the middle of the box and his well taken side volley made it 3:2.

The Byki kept up the pressure and got their reward with 1:19 to go. With the Blast desperately unable to clear the ball out of their end, it wound up at Sokolowski’s feet at the top of the box. He drilled a shot off of the underside of the crossbar for his first goal in a Byki uniform. That strike also made him the second-youngest Byki player to score a goal; Paul Mansur Jr was the youngest, scoring his first when he was 15 years, 4 months old.

Sensing an opportunity to steal a win, the Byki kept pummeling the Blast defense in the final minute. The goalkeeper conjured an incredible kick save to deny Sauerman, who shot from the right corner. He followed that up with terrific reflexes, parrying Kyler Mowry’s big blast.

If anyone was wondering whether little things can make a big difference in a soccer match, this game really told the story. The Byki hit a post, did not convert a penalty, gave up a shorthanded goal, and were denied twice in the in the dying seconds. If any of these scenarios had gone the other way, the Byki win the game easily. It shows that everyone’s concentration must be laser-sharp at all times.

**BYKI LINEUP (2-2-1):** Najera – Stamatinos (c), Stevens – Rodriguez, Sauerman – De Rama. **Bench:** Bickel, Khankari, Mehagic, Mowry, Sokolowski

#### BYKI SCORING SUMMARY

1:2 – Sauerman 7; 27:51.

2:3 – De Rama 5 (Sokolowski); 36:07.

3:3 – Sokolowski 1; 36:41.

**Byki Men of the Match:** Alan Bickel and Alan Stevens

# Byki Stats

## FIRST TEAM, NSL 1st DIVISION

Player	G	A	Pts
Sauerman	7	3	10
De Rama	5	1	6
Rodriguez	3	2	5
Ciszewski	3	1	4
Mowry	3	1	4
Banbor	2	2	4
Kramarz	1	3	4
Sokolowski	1	2	3
Khankari	2	0	2
Stamatinos	1	1	2
Stevens	0	2	2
Kekus	1	0	1
Mehagic	1	0	1
Najera	0	1	1

Goalie	Min	GA	GAA
Stevens	2	0	0.00
Khankari	14	1	2.71
Najera	250	31	4.71
Banbor	38	7	7.00

Current record: 1-1-6

# NATIONAL SOCCER LEAGUE STANDINGS

January 20, 2017

www.nslchicago.org

## CHAMPIONS DIVISION

	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
CKS Warta	8	7	1	0	33	15	22
Albanian Stars	8	7	1	0	36	19	22
Deportivo Guerrero	8	5	0	3	28	19	15
SAC Wisla A	8	3	1	4	20	27	10
Vikings AA	8	3	0	5	24	23	9
Bosnia-Hercegovina A	8	3	0	5	28	30	9
Real Michoacan	8	1	1	6	14	26	4
Czarny Dunajec	8	1	0	7	17	41	3

## MAJOR DIVISION

	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
SAC Wisla B	8	7	0	1	54	23	21
Berber Stars	8	6	1	1	41	16	19
FC Tryzub	8	6	0	2	41	26	18
Jagiellonia	8	4	0	4	32	24	12
Albania FC	8	3	1	4	26	32	10
AAC Winged Bull	8	3	1	4	29	32	10
HDS Eagles	8	3	1	4	27	37	10
SC Unia Chicago	8	3	0	5	24	33	9
Urahan FC	8	3	0	5	29	43	9
Stal Mielec	8	0	0	8	22	59	0

## FIRST DIVISION

Red Section	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts	Blue Section	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
Vikings AA Over 30	7	7	0	0	40	10	21	Chicago Dynasty FC	8	6	1	1	40	16	19
FC United	7	6	0	1	44	20	18	HNK Primorac	7	5	0	2	40	33	15
FC Kosova	8	5	0	3	49	27	15	Matehuala FC	7	4	1	2	40	24	13
Chicago Inter Blue	8	4	1	3	25	31	13	Chicago Blast	8	3	1	4	41	35	10
Bosnia-Hercegovina B	8	1	1	6	27	52	4	SAC Wisla C	8	1	0	7	23	55	3
Stare Byki FC	8	1	1	6	30	39	4	Chicago Inter Yellow	8	0	0	8	18	75	0