



# BOUNCINGS



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RED

Thunder 3 : 1 Byki

NSL 1st Division - The Odeum - 25 February 2011

## Thunder play too rough for Byki

When Chicago Thunder came to the Odeum last Friday intent on playing a physical brand of soccer, the Red Team had to contend with tough challenges throughout. Their task was made more difficult due to the uneven refereeing, which resulted in frustration for the Byki, who lost their focus, and ultimately, their discipline. The Byki were called for four blue cards in the match. First-place Thunder maintained their lead in the Blue Section, while the Byki remained fourth in the Red Section following their 3:1 defeat.

"I expected Thunder to play a fast-tempo, counterattacking style," said coach George Gorecki. "We did well to eliminate their fast-break opportunities. But Thunder came in hard on every challenge and our players didn't get the calls from the officials that they thought they deserved and things kind got out of control for us. The referees did not have their best day, but you have to overcome that. Our mental toughness could have been better."

The Byki nearly snatched a shock lead after just 20 seconds. Marek Ciszewski swung a terrific diagonal pass from the halfway line to the sprinting Todd Trowbridge on the right wing. Trowbridge swept in towards the goal and fired a hard shot that was repelled by the diving goalkeeper.

The game was played at a fast pace and both sides were desperate to get on the board first. The Byki won that race with 11:59 left in the half. Mike Stamatinos had space in the offensive zone and blasted a big shot from long distance. The keeper tried to punch the ball clear, but he deflected it to Mike Frantz, who was alone in the area. Frantz made no mistake with a deft half-volley and the Byki were in business.

That lead lasted all of 1:32 when Mike Lupou bumped a Thunder player in the box as he was setting up to shoot. The referees blew for a penalty kick and sent Lupou to the sin bin. Goalie Marty Lupou saved the spot kick, but was powerless to prevent the shooter from knocking the rebound home to

level things at 1:1. Thunder took the lead with 3:58 to go when a shot from the left corner found the far post.

The chances were numerous for both sides after the break. The Byki were inches from equalizing after just 1:27. Mike Lupou hit a wicked first-time shot from the Thunder defensive line. The ball headed for the far post, where Labeat Rrahmani was waiting for the tap-in. The Thunder goalie came up with a miracle dive to keeper the ball out.

During a penalty kill 2:02 later, Marek Ciszewski dribbled out of a crowd to the goalie's right and surprised the keeper with a shot that he could only save with his feet.

The Byki were on the power play with 11:27 left and Matt Ahrens's shot from the right corner appeared destined for the back of the net, but the ball deflected off of the goalie's arm and then the post before being cleared away.

Thunder scored the clincher with 5:58 to go. The Byki gave the ball away in the back third, prompting a 3 v 2 counterattack. Turnovers in the defensive end of the field have plagued the Byki all season long.

"Thunder did what was necessary to win the game," said Gorecki afterwards. "Our guys played their hearts out, but it turns out sometimes that heart simply is not enough. Using your head is the shortest path to winning a soccer match and this was our biggest failing tonight."

**BYKI LINEUP (2-2-1):** Marty Lupou – Mike Lupou, Stamatinos (c) – Ciszewski, Trowbridge – Rrahmani. **Bench:** Ahrens, Barsotti, Frantz, Kuqi, Lopez.

**BYKI SCORING SUMMARY**  
0:1 – Frantz 1 (Stamatinos); 7:01.

**Byki Men of the Match:** Marty Lupou and Todd Trowbridge



Stare Byki FC  
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Soccer



OVER 30

Grove Utd 3 : 1 Byki

Barrington O-30 League - Barrington Field House - 21 February 2011

### Byki come too late to the party

As if the Over 30s didn't have enough problems to tackle in the Barrington League, a nasty coating of freezing rain in the area delayed the arrival of five players and the shorthanded Byki were already two goals in arrears to Grove United by the time they had their full squad. The bad weather, however, doesn't excuse the inability of the Byki to control the ball en route to a 4:1 defeat. The Byki are 1-0-6 for the season.

With just eight players at kickoff, the Byki were simply not in position to hold the aggressive Grove squad. A turnover in midfield led to a breakaway situation for the first goal. A Grove player blocked Steven Pedlow's attempted clearance inside the 18 and the ricochet left goalkeeper Rick Bolesta helpless to block the ensuing shot to make it 2:0.

Once the Byki roster was fully intact, Joe Gambino took over for Bolesta between the pipes, while Marek Ciszewski was installed at striker to pair with Maciek Kekus. Paul Gibbs'

arrival at sweeper helped to stabilize the back four.

Ciszewski brought the Byki back to within 2:1 in the 23rd minute. He shed several defenders during his long and winding dribbling run and capped off a brilliant individual play with a simple finish.

The Byki, however, were unable to grab any momentum from Ciszewski's goal. Their sloppy and inefficient play with the ball ultimately led to their downfall. All too often, simple passing options were ignored in favor of threading the needle with impossible passes. And even when the Byki took the simple route, fundamental breakdowns, like poor traps and an unwillingness to run to space, handed the ball right back to a grateful Grove team.

Grove sealed the deal with 18 minutes to go. Gambino's short clearance went to a Grove player who chipped the ball back in over Gambino's head. The Grove player measured his shot precisely and put the ball in a spot that no one could possibly reach. A breakaway goal in the last minute was the final chapter in this disappointing performance.

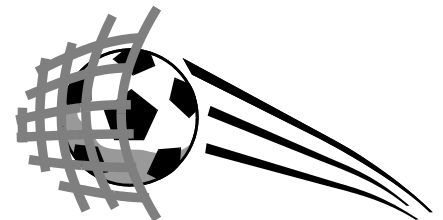
**BYKI LINEUP (4-4-2):** Bolesta – Piotrowski, Pedlow, Jdrzejewski, Gorecki – Dahlquist, Lane, Gorski, Najera – Ciszewski, Kekus. **Bench:** Gambino, Gibbs.

**BYKI SCORING SUMMARY**  
2:1 – Ciszewski 2; 23rd.

**Byki Man of the Match:** Steven Pedlow



# BYKI bits & pieces



The Byki welcomed two new fans into the ranks recently and both wasted no time sporting Byki colors. Can't start them too early, right?

cry from the 18 hours at the hospital for Landon's birth," said Jeff.



**Brynn Samp** is **Jeff** and **Kirstin's** second child, the little sister to crumb crusher Landon. Jeff reports that Brynn's arrival brought as much relief as it did joy. Brynn was born less than 90 minutes after Jeff and Kirstin arrived at the hospital. "It was a far

**Jonah** is the first child for **Josh** and **Jamie Taylor**. Jonah sports a Byki scarf for the first time and couldn't look happier. And who can blame him? He's less than two weeks old, but Jonah is already at the pinnacle of fashion excellence. The rug rat's vitals are 7 pounds, 11 ounces and 20 inches.



# NATIONAL SOCCER LEAGUE STANDINGS

February 25, 2011

www.nslchicago.org

## MAJOR DIVISION

Red Section	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts	Blue Section	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
B-H Lilies	13	7	2	4	46	51	23	RWB Adria	13	12	0	1	99	30	36
Hellenic United Blue	13	6	3	4	53	38	21	FK Kozarac	13	11	1	1	79	36	34
Tricycles SC A	13	7	0	6	42	42	21	Albanian Stars	13	8	2	3	63	42	26
Chicago Pride	13	6	2	5	53	60	20	SAC Wisla	13	5	0	8	52	59	15
CKS Warta A	13	3	2	8	41	59	11	Podlasie SC	13	1	1	11	40	80	4
KF Tirana	13	3	2	8	36	59	11	FK Republika Srpska A	13	1	1	11	31	79	4

## FIRST DIVISION

Red Section	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts	Blue Section	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
Zaglebie SC	13	10	2	1	68	26	32	Chicago Thunder	13	10	1	2	56	30	31
RWB Adria B	13	10	1	2	52	28	31	Stal Mielec	13	9	2	2	60	32	29
Hellenic United White	13	5	1	7	43	39	16	Winged Bull A	13	5	2	6	46	57	17
Stare Byki FC	13	4	3	6	38	39	15	FK Podrinje	13	5	0	8	35	38	15
CKS Warta B	13	4	1	8	30	65	13	West Bosnia SC	13	3	2	8	33	57	11
FK Republika Srpska B	13	1	2	10	34	68	5	Pitbulls SC	13	2	3	8	27	43	9

## SECOND DIVISION

Red Section	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts	Blue Section	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
Assyrian FC	13	13	0	0	74	28	39	Independiente FC	13	11	0	2	54	15	33
HNK Primorac	13	6	4	3	73	51	22	NK Prijedor	13	8	1	4	53	36	25
Gremio FC	13	6	1	6	53	44	19	Naperville Strikers	13	7	3	3	44	38	24
Tricycles SC B	13	6	1	6	38	44	19	Gremio B	13	8	0	5	36	25	24
Chicago Inter RB A	13	5	2	6	36	49	17	Turkish FC	13	4	0	9	28	47	12
Winged Bull B	13	4	1	8	40	51	13	Chicago Inter RB B	13	2	1	10	24	67	7
Chasquis	13	4	0	9	52	64	12	Chicago Thunder B	13	0	0	13	16	62	0