



BOUNCINGS



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4 Mar 16

**2015 PSLC
Over 40
CHAMPIONS**

Stare Byki A	3	National Soccer League 2nd Division
Inter Blue	2	The Odeum 26 February 2016

Late strikes propel Byki

The losing streak for the Byki finally came to an end last Friday, but a lot of late-game drama left the result in doubt until the very end. Two goals from Alvaro Alfaro and a late tally by Ben Rodriguez spurred the Byki to a 3:2 victory over Chicago Inter Blue. The Byki have 23 points from 13 matches and lead Inter Blue by seven points in the race for the last playoff spot in the 2nd Division's Red Section.

Inter Blue were the opponents for the Byki the last time that the Byki won a game. In that match, the Byki raced out to a 2:0 lead, allowed Inter to equalize, and then found a late winner to nab the three points. The rematch had a similar feel to it.

Coach George Gorecki had a twelve-man squad lined up on Friday morning, only to have his roster pared down to just eight players by kickoff. "It's pretty amazing how fluid our roster situation is every week," lamented Gorecki. "Hardly a week goes by without last-minute changes. It takes some getting used to."

The Byki came out gunning and Alfaro's solo effort in the fourth minute set the tone. He controlled possession under heavy pressure at the top of the arc. After patiently waiting for an opening, he sneaked a low shot into the corner for a 1:0 lead.

That lasted about five minutes. Following a three-line violation by the Byki, an Inter player smacked the ensuing free kick past a frozen Pete Chronowski.

The Byki maintained their strong pressure on Inter for the balance of the first half, but could not find the back of the net. The hustling Alfaro blocked a clearing attempt by the Inter goalie with 6:35 left. He was briefly out of position on the turnover, but recovered in time to make a kick save on Alfaro's shot from the top of the box.

Barely a minute later, Joe Sauerman came out of the deep corner to drop a diagonal pass for the supporting Kyler Mowry. The Byki newcomer hit a first-timer towards goal and Marek Ciszewski redirected the the ball off of the crossbar.

The Byki were close to a second goal with 3:26 to go.

Sauerman played a corner kick back for Ciszewski, whose one-timer to the near post was stabbed away by the goalkeeper's outstretched leg.

The Byki continued to control the tempo after the break. Sauerman's entry pass to Ciszewski at the top of the arc set up the striker's move to goal. Ciszewski blasted a low drive and the keeper desperately stuck out a leg to keep the ball out.

With 8:01 to go, Rodriguez dribbled out of trouble in the corner and sent the ball back for Alfaro at the Inter defensive line. The keeper kicked away Alfaro's big bomb.

Predictably, Inter grabbed the lead against the run of play with just 4:53 left. Inter broke out on a counterattack and converted on one of the few occasions where the Byki were late getting back on defense.

Inter's lead lasted a mere 57 seconds. Alfaro chased down a long pass along the right wing and came in alone on the goalie. He went for the nutmeg, which was blocked by the keeper, but the ball remained loose on the doorstep of the goal. Alfaro kept digging away and got his deserved reward when he slid the ball into the empty net.

A draw might have suited Byki playoff aspirations, as the four-point gap in the standings would have kept Inter at bay. The Byki pushed for all three points and the effort was worth it. Rodriguez and Ciszewski moved the ball rapidly in a quick succession of give-and-go passes. Rodriguez carved out the slimmest of spaces in the right corner and sent his shot through the eye of a needle to find the left-hand post for the game-winner.

BYKI LINEUP (2-2-1): Chronowski – Sauerman, Stamatinos (c) – Mehagic, Ciszewski – Alfaro. **Bench:** Mowry, B. Rodriguez.

BYKI SCORING SUMMARY

1:0 – Alfaro 1; 3:23.
2:2 – Alfaro 2; 34:10.
3:2 – B. Rodriguez 3 (Ciszewski); 37:07.

Byki Men of the Match: Alvaro Alfaro and Mike Stamatinos.



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Stare Byki B	4	National Soccer League 2nd Division The Odeum 26 February 2016
Torino FC	4	

Byki nab first point of the season

In a matchup of genuine Over 30 teams, the Byki and Torino FC did battle last Friday, and the sides split the points in a dramatic 4:4 draw. The result represented the first positive result of the season for the Byki, who were a whisker away from getting all three points. Ray Najera paced a balanced Byki attack with a pair of goals. Reggie Champagne and Maciek Kekus each contributed a goal and an assist, while Juan-Carlos Carrillo added a pair of assists. The Byki don't have enough games left to climb out of the Blue Section cellar, but they demonstrated how successfully they can play when they share the ball.

The NSL's 2nd Division is a mix of teams; ambitious teams who want to reach the 1st Division, high-school teams looking for serious competition, and Over 30 teams who simply want to play. After locking horns with teenagers seemingly every other week, the Byki finally found an opponent playing at a pace similar to their own.

Last-minute roster deletions shaved the Byki squad from eleven down to eight players at kickoff, but the Byki displayed real teamwork nonetheless. No real openings in either defense were created until the closing minutes of the first half.

Kekus turned his defender and shot right away, but the keeper, positioned high in his penalty area, steered the attempt off to the side.

Moments later, Najera stepped in to intercept a pass, igniting a 2 v 1 breakout with Steven Pedlow. The winger bore down the right flank to fire on goal, thwarted by a well-positioned keeper.

The Byki broke into the lead with 6:36 left. Alan Stevens found Champagne running into space on the right wing. After getting tied up in the corner, Champagne came away with the ball and centered for Najera. A scramble in the box ensued, with Najera knocking home the loose ball.

Torino equalized a couple of minutes later when they came on the counter along the left wing. The Byki failed to hold their marks and an opportunistic striker banged the ball home from close range.

Goalkeeper Amit Khankari came up with an insane kick save with 2:34 to go after a Torino player created open space at the top of the box. The Byki turned the play the other way to regain the lead. Kekus and Najera executed a 2 v 1 situation with simple brilliance, exchanging quick passes to break past the Torino defender. Kekus put the cherry on the cake with the final pass, an unselfish lay-off to Najera for the easy tap-in.

The Byki sought to keep up the intensity right at the start of the second stanza, but Torino found space behind the Byki defense at the 1:42 mark. Khankari saved from close range and then went one better by stuffing the rebound.

The Byki roared back and increased their lead just 2:10 later. Raul Lopez started the play with an incisive pass to Carrillo, who charged straight up the middle. Just as the Torino defender took the bait, Carrillo slid the ball to Kekus, unmarked on the left side of the area. The sniper made no mistake, driving the ball home for a 3:1 lead.

The lead grew to 4:1 with 11:32 left, as the Byki converted a power-play opportunity. It was Carrillo as creator once again, threading the needle at midfield with an exquisite pass to Champagne. The midfielder crushed his shot past the goalie. Torino actually dominated possession during that power play, but it was the Byki who ultimately capitalized.

Although the Byki were sitting pretty with a three-goal lead, funny things can happen in the indoor game. The plucky Torino team kept battling and eventually got their reward. With 3:59 to go, a shot from the left corner made its way through a maze of legs and landed in the back of the net.

Things got serious just 1:10 later, when Torino pulled to within 4:3, thanks to a bit of luck. A long shot crashed off the back boards and then ricocheted off the back of Khankari, who had dove to make the save. Khankari tried to reach back to grab the ball before it crossed the line, but was too late.

A match that had been simmering went to full boil in the last two minutes. Carrillo's long pass put Kekus in alone on goal. A Torino player tripped Kekus, earning a two-minute penalty, and leaving the Byki with a man advantage for the rest of the match.

Kekus nearly made Torino pay dearly for the desperate foul. On the restart, he played a clever pass to Pedlow on the right side. Pedlow's opening closed quickly, however, and his shot was blocked.

Torino pushed all five players forward in an attempt to equalize. The Byki pinned themselves back on defense at a time when they needed to do a better job of ball possession to put the result on ice. A Torino player found space to turn and shoot in the Byki penalty, firing home with just 0:27 left on the clock.

BYKI LINEUP (3-1-1): Khankari – Stevens (c), Pedlow, Najera – Champagne – Kekus. **Bench:** Carrillo, Lopez.

BYKI SCORING SUMMARY

1:0 – Najera 1 (Champagne); 12:24.
2:1 – Najera 2 (Kekus); 16:52
3:1 – Kekus 3 (Carrillo); 22:22.
4:1 – Champagne 1 (Carrillo); (pp); 27:28.

Byki Man of the Match: None given.

NATIONAL SOCCER LEAGUE STANDINGS

February 26, 2016

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	13	11	0	2	65	34	33	CKS Warta Blue	13	11	1	1	76	29	34
Chicago Stars	13	10	1	2	67	37	31	Chicago Fire U-23	13	8	0	5	71	50	24
Bosnia-Hercegovina A	13	8	1	4	62	37	25	SAC Wisla A	13	7	0	6	57	56	21
PSL Select	13	6	0	7	55	40	18	Berber Stars	13	6	1	6	44	61	19
CKS Warta Red	13	2	2	9	36	59	8	FC Tryzub	13	3	2	8	39	58	11
Tricycles SC A	13	1	0	12	29	83	3	AAC Winged Bull A	13	1	0	12	26	83	3

FIRST DIVISION

Red Section	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts	Blue Section	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
Albania FC	13	10	2	1	64	31	32	CKS Warta White	13	11	0	2	56	31	33
HNK Primorac	13	9	2	2	61	35	29	SAC Wisla B	13	8	3	2	64	34	27
Wisloka Chicago	13	8	2	3	48	43	26	FC Kosova	13	7	2	4	47	37	23
Jagiellonia	13	2	2	9	37	55	8	Stal Mielec	13	5	2	6	57	47	17
Dabrovia	13	2	1	10	49	86	7	Olympiacos Chicago	13	4	1	8	35	43	13
TSC	13	2	1	10	34	63	7	AAC Winged Bull B	13	1	0	12	20	67	3

SECOND DIVISION

Red Section	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts	Blue Section	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
Bosnia-Hercegovina B	13	11	1	1	78	30	34	Chicago Blast	13	10	1	2	71	32	31
Urahan FC	13	10	2	1	90	40	32	Los Chasquis	13	9	1	3	55	38	28
Stare Byki FC A	13	7	2	4	43	40	23	Chicago Dynasty FC	13	6	1	6	60	46	19
Chicago Inter Blue	13	5	1	7	39	49	16	Tricycles SC B	13	6	1	6	47	47	19
Villans U-18	13	3	2	8	41	59	11	Chicago Inter Yellow	13	5	3	5	46	48	18
AAC Winged Bull C	13	3	0	10	29	72	9	Torino FC	13	4	4	5	49	47	16
Cows Cleaning	13	2	0	11	26	79	6	Stare Byki FC B	13	0	1	12	19	66	1