



BYKI BOUNCINGS



www.starebykifc.org

7 March 14



Stare Byki	3	National Soccer League
Lancer FC	9	Odeum North Field 28 February 2014

Byki miscues too many to overcome

While the Byki might take some satisfaction from being only the third team all season to score as many as three goals against undefeated Lancer FC, they cannot ignore all of their obvious mistakes on the defensive side of the ball. The Byki conceded three goals on back-post runs and three more on rebounds of saved shots, as the Lancers romped 9:3 last Friday.

The situation was all too familiar, with the Byki generating lots of scoring chances, but essentially taking themselves out of the game with an inexcusable number of defensive gaffes. The Byki actually drew first blood, as Jordan Stopka and Marek Ciszewski swept in on the Lancer goal with a lightning-quick counterattack. Stopka started the play in midfield and played the ball early to Ciszewski on the right side. Ciszewski accelerated into space, faked the goalkeeper to the turf, and sent a roller towards the goal. Stopka continued the supporting run and smashed the ball into an empty net for his second tally of the season.

The lead last lasted less than five minutes. The Lancers bottled up the Byki in their end and took control of a weak clearance to find an unmarked player at the far post for the easy tap-in. The Lancers took the lead for good two minutes later when an open man in the box slotted past Amit Khankari.

Tony Sabo looked set to level things with 5:04 left before the break when he stole the ball at midfield and went straight to goal. He fired a rocket from the right side of the area, forcing the Lancer keeper to dive full stretch.

Moments later, the Lancers went 3:1 up when the Byki lost track of a man at the back post.

But the Byki kept pushing and replied just 1:12 later. Mike Stamatinos set up Sabo, who made no mistake with a shot from the right flank to bring the Byki to within 3:2.

The Lancers closed the half with their fourth goal and hustle was the name of the game. Khankari got a hand to a shot from the deep right corner, but could only send it weakly out of the box. The same Lancer player got to the ball before any Byki could react and drove it into the back of the net.

The score went to 5:2 early in the second half. A Lancer player ran free in the midfield and fired a ball off the boards to a waiting teammate in the middle of the box. Khankari stopped the point-blank attempt, but was helpless on the rebound.

Only 1:06 later, Daniel Zielinski centered the ball for Sabo, who teed one up from the arc. The keeper reacted well and pushed the ball wide. "It was that kind of night for us," lamented coach George Gorecki. "We made some good plays in front of their goal and Tony easily could have had a hat trick tonight. And then, at the other end, we leave players open and pay the price."

The Byki pulled to within 5:3 with 13:16 left in the game. Stopka battled hard to win possession deep in the Lancer corner and somehow pushed the ball to Zielinski, who was standing nearby. With one deft flick, Zielinski floated the ball past his marker and put himself in excellent shooting position. He shot with conviction and the goalie had no chance.

Stopka and Zielinski were at it again a minute later. Zielinski took a quick re-start and sent the ball to Stopka in the corner. Stopka somehow found a shooting angle and the keeper managed to paw the ball away from his goal at the last moment.

That was as close as the Byki would get to scoring another goal. The Lancers applied higher pressure and that turned into a four-goal barrage in the last 10 minutes of the match. All of the goals were embarrassingly easy, thanks to Byki blunders.

BYKI LINEUP (2-2-1): Khankari – Stamatinos (c), Sabo – Banbor, Avalos – Zielinski. **Bench:** Ciszewski, Mehagic, B. Rodriguez, Stopka.

BYKI SCORING SUMMARY

1:0 – Stopka 2 (Ciszewski); 5:49.
2:3 – Sabo 2 (Stamatinos); 15:25.
3:5 – Zielinski 1 (Stopka); 24:44.

Byki Man of the Match: Jordan Stopka

WE ARE THE BYKI - Friends - Passion - Soccer

Ukraina	17	Odeum Over 40 League
Byki O-40	4	Odeum North Field 24 February 2014

Demolition of O-40s complete

By Eric Muehlbauer

The Over 40 Team took it on the chin, or perhaps in the crotch, last Monday when newcomers Ukrainia administered a 17:4 clobbering. The early kickoffs have been a struggle for the Over 40s, and a roster expected to be 11 strong was a meager six at kickoff. Four more players arrived shortly after the start, but there was no time to get everyone acclimated and organized. Getting everyone on the same page with the new defensive scheme being deployed this session was a challenge, and that was made more difficult with an Ukrainia team who knew what they were doing and dominated possession. As a result, the Byki suffered their most lopsided loss of the year.

Ukrainia FC looked like they were as ready for war as their brethren back home. For their part, the Byki acted more like UN peacekeepers, whose job it was to stand around in uniform and ensure the safety and comfort of the Ukrainia players. The Byki were not active on defense and pretty much let Ukrainia do whatever they liked with the ball.

Ukrainia needed just five minutes to bang home three goals and poor Byki defending was the culprit. A poor defensive clearance led to the first score and slack marking on the third goal left a striker alone in the box for a swift shot to the right of the net.

The Byki got on the board at about after six minutes when Gregorio Siervo and Eric Muehlbauer led a counterattack down the right side. Siervo lofted a shot to the top left corner of the goal as Muehlbauer cleverly distracted the keeper by crossing in front of him. The perfectly placed shot made it 3:1.

The Byki had no time to enjoy the goal, as Ukrainia came right back about a minute later when another poor clearance in front of the Byki goal led to a tap-in by an awaiting Ukrainia striker. Some of the Byki defenders seemed to be playing a zone defense and failure to mark again resulted in two quick passes inside the box to a completely unmarked striker for an easy goal at the left post at the 11:00 mark.

The Ukrainia keeper tried to maintain interest in the match by leaving his area and acting as point man for the Ukrainia offense. More crap marking by the Byki left Ukrainia players open and they upped their lead to 6:1.

The Byki fought back and made it 6:2 in the 16th minute. Siervo played provider, setting up Tyson Aper, who had made a run along the right side. Aper's blast flew past the keeper's left hand for Aper's first goal of the session.

Ukrainia displayed more of their precision passing and struck for four unanswered goals, swelling the margin to a gaudy 10:2. The Byki lost Andy Lane to a hamstring problem

during this flurry, a costly injury that thinned the roster. Steven Pedlow encouraged the Byki to switch to a man-to-man defense at this point, in an effort to prevent further damage.

With 17:30 to go, Pedlow scrambled for a ball on the Ukrainia half of midfield and saw that the keeper was out. He made a move around the keeper, who desperately dove at Pedlow's feet, a clear foul to deny a goalscoring opportunity. The lenient referee kept the whistle and cards in his pocket, much to the consternation of an angry Pedlow.

A few minutes later, Pedlow looked set to score and his hard shot incredibly bounced off the retreating keeper's right foot.

A deflection from the right side of the Byki goal allowed Ukrainia to play a ball through the box to a waiting striker for another simple tap in to make it 11:2. Bolesta made several nice saves throughout the evening, especially as the game wore on. "It was a rout with defensive players playing zone and not the man," said Bolesta afterwards. "It seemed that if the opposing player had the ball within six feet of the goal, Byki players assumed he was going to shoot. So, they would pause to see if I could make the save versus marking the guy across the box. Looking on the bright side, I normally cannot make practice on Tuesdays, but actually get more shots on goal during the games than in practice anyway!"

After a couple more gift goals the Byki pulled one back with 11:30 to go. The hustling Nick Bianchi took advantage of the wandering Ukrainia goalie when he stole the ball at midfield and led a solo counterattack, knocking the ball home to make it 13:3.

Mariusz Gorski made it 13:4 a couple of minutes later when he lofted a high shot from 30 yards on the far right side. The ball hit the crossbar and angled into the net for a terrific goal.

The greedy Ukrainians never let their foot off the gas and pounded the Byki for four more goals, the last two coming in the final 90 seconds of the contest.

As the Byki licked their wounds in the locker room, they conceded that they had been outplayed at almost every turn. The silver lining was that all of the Byki scores displayed quality, earned with good passing and accurate shooting.

Rick Bolesta and Steven Pedlow contributed to this story.

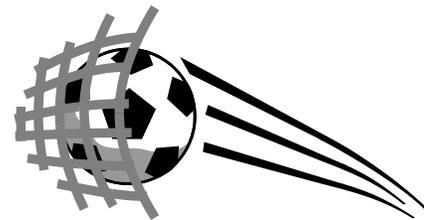
BYKI LINEUP (3-2): Bolesta – Gorski, Marquez, Lane – Siervo, Pedlow.
Bench: Aper, Bianchi, Muehlbauer, St Clair.

BYKI SCORING SUMMARY

1:3 – Siervo 1 (Muehlbauer); 6:00.
2:6 – Aper 1 (Siervo); 16:00.
3:13 – Bianchi 3; 28:30.
4:13 – Gorski 1; 30:30.



BYKI bits & pieces



The 2014 MLS season kicks off this weekend and the Chicago Fire held their annual Kickoff Luncheon last Tuesday. A group of Byki and friends were in attendance, continuing a run of 15 consecutive years of participation. The event benefits the Chicago Fire Foundation, which is the club's charitable organization.

The Byki had the good fortune of eating lunch



Steven Pedlow (right) listens intently as Frank Yallop previews the 2014 Chicago Fire.

with new Fire skipper **Frank Yallop**. After the Fire failed to qualify for the MLS playoffs for the third time in the last four years, the man upstairs decided to clean house. Coach **Frank Klopas** was shown the door, and a significant shake-up in the front office ensued. The end result was a streamlined structure, leaving Yallop with the final say in all player personnel decisions.

The Byki peppered the new gaffer with their usual barrage of questions, and most of these were related to the current roster, as well as questions about potential future acquisitions. For now, Yallop appears satisfied with his player pool, but he acknowledged that the messy salary cap situation left to him by his predecessors has placed him in a bind at present. Several guaranteed contracts will come off the books at the end of this season and Yallop expects to shape the team in optimal fashion from that point forward.

The Fire also used the event to debut their new primary uniforms and the reaction to the new kit was mixed. The combination of blue and red on the front of the shirt is a significant departure from the traditional red shirt with a white band across the chest. The purists in the audience expressed their dissatisfaction with catcalls and outright booing as the players displayed their new threads.

Over 40 goalie **James Vlahakis** and former Byki Treasurer **Matt Treter** were eager to be the cool kids on the block and bought the new shirt on the spot. "Coach Yallop asked me what I thought of the new jersey," said Byki Prez **George Gorecki**. "I told him that I didn't like it because it broke with tradition too much. But I added that if he brings us MLS Cup this year, I won't care what the Fire are wearing."



Coach Yallop, sporting a snazzy Byki scarf, poses for a picture with the boys.

NATIONAL SOCCER LEAGUE STANDINGS

February 28, 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	12	10	0	2	72	35	30	CKS Warta	12	11	1	0	57	28	34
Chicago Fire U-23	12	6	1	5	59	48	19	RWB Adria A	12	10	0	2	75	29	30
Tricycles SC A	12	5	2	5	55	46	17	Chicago Stars	12	6	0	6	39	38	18
SAC Wisla	12	5	1	6	38	46	16	Ethnikos Chicago	12	5	0	7	31	60	15
RWB Adria B	12	2	3	7	38	56	9	ANCI Assyrian A	12	4	2	6	40	49	14
KF Tirana	12	1	2	9	29	51	5	Zaglebie SC	12	1	0	11	30	77	3

FIRST DIVISION

Red Section	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts	Blue Section	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
Albania FC	12	8	1	3	49	47	25	Lancer FC	12	10	2	0	68	18	32
FC Kosova	12	7	1	4	47	36	22	Stal Mielec	12	8	0	4	52	36	24
Chicago Dynasty FC	12	6	1	5	54	42	19	HNK Primorac	12	8	0	4	57	39	24
Gremio FC	12	5	2	5	45	49	17	Jagiellonia Chicago	12	5	2	5	56	42	17
ANCI Assyrian B	12	4	2	6	30	50	14	Tricycles SC B	12	1	0	11	22	57	3
Chicago Inter	12	3	2	7	35	52	11	Stare Byki FC	12	0	1	11	28	75	1