



BOUNCINGS



www.starebykifc.org

11 Mar 16

**2015 PSLC
Over 40
CHAMPIONS**

Dynasty	4	National Soccer League 2nd Division
Stare Byki A	5	The Odeum 4 March 2016

Byki clinch playoff berth

A 5:4 win last Friday over an extremely shorthanded Chicago Dynasty side was enough for the Byki to secure third place in the 2nd Division's Red Section and send the team into the post-season for the first time since the 2011-12 season. The Byki will face Los Chasquis in the quarterfinals of the knockout tournament to be played on March 20.

Even though Dynasty had a lot riding on the outcome, as they too were fighting for a playoff spot in the Blue Section, they could only muster six players for the match. They were a team ripe for the picking by the Byki, who allowed the contest to be competitive because of poor teamwork and selfish play. "I'm glad we won and advanced to the playoffs," said coach George Gorecki. "We have demonstrated some good soccer brains this season, but tonight was not that night."

Dynasty actually started the match with just five players in uniform. When the Byki broke into the lead in less than two minutes, complacency set in, rather than a desire to step on the throat of the opponent and assume total control of the outcome.

With Dynasty backed up in their own end, the Byki patiently worked the ball from player to player. Kyler Mowry brought the ball forward on the left side and fed Marek Ciszewski at the top of the penalty area. Ciszewski lost control of the ball, but Mowry recovered, dribbled across the box, and drove a shot into the low corner for a 1:0 lead.

Dynasty's strategy was simple: stay compact in the back and break out with a long pass to catch the Byki napping. It took a while for the Byki to figure out this tactic and they did well to blunt the Dynasty counterattack.

The Byki doubled their lead with 7:35 left in the half. After Dynasty were whistled for a three-line violation, Cristian Rodriguez quickly played the restart to Juan Rodriguez. The elder Rodriguez banged the ball off the back boards, and Cristian was in perfect position to drill home the rebound for his fifth strike of the season.

With 4:11 to go, the Byki raced forward on a 3 v 2 counter. Alvaro Alfaro laid the ball off for Ciszewski, whose attempt

to flick the ball in sailed high and bounced off the glass above the crossbar.

Dynasty rolled the dice later in the first half. They pressed the Byki high and a weak Byki clearance landed at the feet of a Dynasty player alone in the penalty area. He turned immediately and slotted past the diving Pete Chronowski.

The Byki got that one back in the dying moments of the half, as they rushed forward on a counterattack. Alfaro found Bryan de Rama in the box, and the midfielder deposited the ball into the low corner for his eighth tally of the season with 0:06 showing on the clock.

At halftime, Gorecki emphasized the importance of ball possession in order to wear out a tired team. The second frame should have been easy pickings.

The Byki failed to hear the message, and Dynasty needed just 2:40 to bring the contest level. A hard shot from the left wing beat Chronowski in the upper 90 after just 1:47. The Byki then fell victim to Dynasty's long-ball style just moments later. A Dynasty player launched the ball from a deep position, aiming to hit the back boards. The ricochet could not have been measured more precisely, landing square in the middle of the Byki penalty area for an unmarked Dynasty player. Chronowski had no chance on the first-time shot.

With 12:58 to go, de Rama and Ben Rodriguez worked a give-and-go on the right wing. Rodriguez ran free and watched his attempt tick off of the goalpost.

Dynasty turned the play the other way and caught the Byki with too many players pushed forward. They converted the 2 v 1 situation to perfection and incredibly took a 4:3 lead.

To their credit, the Byki did not fold their tents. They needed just 0:42 to knot things up. Alfaro concluded a solo run with a powerful shot that beat the goalkeeper low. The winner came only 0:49 after that. Mike Stamatinos tore down the right wing, forced his way past a weary defender and sent a howitzer into the upper corner to make it 5:4.

The Byki should have put the result to bed right then and there. The Dynasty players were clearly out of gas and Byki counterattacks were blazing downfield more frequently than trains leaving Union Station. But the Byki botched one scoring situation after another, as players seemed more concerned about getting on Sportscenter than making a simple, killer pass to an open teammate.

Dynasty had one last gasp in the Byki end of the field with 6:10 left, after yet another long pass beat the Byki.



WE ARE THE BYKI - Friends - Passion - Soccer



Chronowski made a brilliant save on a wide-open shot and then had to double his brilliance with a second save when Juan Rodriguez failed to gain control of the ball.

The Byki have two games left to get the bad habits out of their system before the start of the playoffs. There is little doubt that the kind of soccer on display last Friday will result in a one-and-done in the tournament.

BYKI LINEUP (2-2-1): Chronowski – Mowry, Stamatinos (c) – De Rama, Ciszewski – Alfaro. **Bench:** B. Rodriguez, C. Rodriguez, J. Rodriguez.

BYKI SCORING SUMMARY

0:1 – Mowry 1; 1:49.

0:2 – C. Rodriguez 5 (J. Rodriguez); 11:25.

1:3 – De Rama 8 (Alfaro); 18:54.

4:4 – Alfaro 3; 26:38.

4:5 – Stamatinos 2; 27:27.

Byki Man of the Match: None given.

Stare Byki B	2	National Soccer League 2nd Division
Urahan FC	5	The Odeum 4 March 2016

Byki give leaders a tussle

On paper, a matchup of the Byki B Team and Urahan FC looked like a colossal mismatch, with the winless Byki with just 1 point and Urahan with 32. And the better team did win, but the Byki put on a solid display of teamwork and tactical discipline to stay within a 5:2 score of the Red Section leaders.

Urahan, newcomers to the NSL, have taken the 2nd Division by storm. They have been a contending team for promotion all season and have scored at least nine goals in a game five times in their 13 matches. Clearly, the Byki were facing their toughest opponent of the season.

The Byki approached their task with a mindset focused on defense and eliminating turnovers in their half of the field. “Urahan are an aggressive, attack-minded team,” said coach George Gorecki. “We wanted to make sure that we did not give them any space to exploit behind our defense. For the most part, we did a good job there.”

The opening minutes of the contest saw Urahan carry the lion’s share of ball possession and the Byki defense settling into a consistent rhythm. Good communication between teammates ensured that Urahan’s players were all accounted for.

Urahan nearly found the back of the net at the 6:40 mark, when a forward out in front shot quickly, trying to poke the ball through goalkeeper Amit Khankari’s legs. The ball almost got through, but Khankari got one final touch before the ball could cross the goal line.

A silly Byki turnover at midfield rapidly became a 3 v 2 in the other direction. Urahan players swarmed the Byki penalty area and Khankari was powerless to intervene.

Urahan were energized now that they had gotten on the

board, but it was the Byki who scored next. Winger Bart Lapa started the counterattack with a big pass from midfield for Maciek Kekus, who had sprinted down the right flank. He took his opening quickly, blasting a low shot that the goalie boxed with his feet. The spin of the ball caught him off balance and the ball rolled in behind him to make it 1:1.

The Byki, as has been their ungainly habit this season, relaxed after the goal and Urahan regained the lead after just 0:25. That deflating turnabout took away the momentum created by the equalizer.

The team traded salvos to end the first half. With 4:05 to go, a Byki flurry in front of the Urahan goal left Lukas Chudyba with two great chances. The keeper stoned him on both occasions.

Moments later, Khankari’s reflex save on a Urahan shot in the box denied an excellent scoring opportunity.

Kekus held off challenges from Urahan defenders with 2:08 left and laid off to Lapa, who had run into space in the right corner. The keeper did well to grab Lapa’s tricky shot at the near post.

Urahan scored a crucial third goal just 0:37 into the second half. Once again, the Byki lost their focus during the halftime break and the opportunistic Urahan players took full advantage.

Both sides conjured several good opportunities early in the second half. Kekus raced in to block a clearance from the Urahan keeper and nearly deflected the ball into the empty net. Raul Lopez tested the goalie a minute later with a hard shot from the right wing.

Urahan made it 4:1 with 11:56 left when lax marking by the Byki allowed an Urahan player to blast a rebound past Khanari from close range.

Quite often, the Byki have felt the challenges of competing against younger, faster players in the final ten minutes of their matches, as the difference in pace becomes a significant factor. Last Friday, the Byki reversed that trend and stood toe to toe with Urahan. The teams traded goals in the final three minutes to wrap up the scoring. Kekus bagged his second of the evening when he finished off a quick counterattack initiated by sweeper Tony Sabo. He found Chudyba on the left wing and he sent the ball across the field immediately to Kekus, who lined up his shot while he still had his opening. It was an absolute rocket into the upper corner, a shot at which the goalkeeper could only wave in vain.

BYKI LINEUP (3-1-1): Khankari – Sabo, Boeckeler (c), Lapa – Kekus – Chudyba. **Bench:** Carrillo, King, Lopez, Najera .

BYKI SCORING SUMMARY

1:1 – Kekus 4 (Lapa); 12:01.

2:5 – Kekus 5 (Chudyba); 36:22

Byki Man of the Match: None given.

NATIONAL SOCCER LEAGUE STANDINGS

March 4, 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	14	12	0	2	73	34	36	CKS Warta Blue	14	11	1	2	81	38	34
Chicago Stars	14	11	1	2	76	42	34	Chicago Fire U-23	14	8	0	6	71	58	24
Bosnia-Hercegovina A	14	9	1	4	67	41	28	SAC Wisla A	14	8	0	6	62	60	24
PSL Select	14	6	0	8	57	44	18	Berber Stars	14	7	1	6	48	63	22
CKS Warta Red	14	2	2	10	40	64	8	FC Tryzub	14	3	2	9	43	63	11
Tricycles SC A	14	2	0	12	34	85	6	AAC Winged Bull A	14	1	0	13	28	88	3

FIRST DIVISION

Red Section	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts	Blue Section	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
Albania FC	14	10	2	2	67	37	32	CKS Warta White	14	12	0	2	59	33	36
Wisloka Chicago	14	9	2	3	51	45	29	SAC Wisla B	14	9	3	2	70	37	30
HNK Primorac	14	9	2	3	63	38	29	FC Kosova	14	7	3	4	51	41	24
Dabrovia	14	3	1	10	52	86	10	Stal Mielec	14	6	2	6	62	51	20
Jagiellonia	14	2	2	10	41	60	8	Olympiacos Chicago	14	4	1	9	37	46	13
TSC	14	2	2	10	38	67	8	AAC Winged Bull B	14	1	0	13	20	70	3

SECOND DIVISION

Red Section	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts	Blue Section	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
Urahan FC	14	11	2	1	96	42	35	Chicago Blast	14	11	1	2	79	33	34
Bosnia-Hercegovina B	14	11	1	2	80	35	34	Los Chasquis	14	9	1	4	56	46	28
Stare Byki FC A	14	8	2	4	48	44	26	Chicago Inter Yellow	14	6	3	5	54	51	21
Chicago Inter Blue	14	5	2	7	40	50	17	Tricycles SC B	14	6	2	6	48	48	20
Villans U-18	14	4	2	8	46	59	14	Torino FC	14	5	4	5	54	49	19
AAC Winged Bull C	14	3	0	11	29	77	9	Chicago Dynasty FC	14	6	1	7	64	51	19
Cows Cleaning	14	2	0	12	29	87	6	Stare Byki FC B	14	0	1	13	21	72	1