



# BOUNCINGS



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14 March 14

Stare Byki	<b>3</b>	National Soccer League
Primorac	<b>4</b>	Odeum North Field 9 March 2014

## Lost weekend for the Byki

The Byki had an opportunity to climb the table last weekend and pull themselves out of the cellar of the 1st Division's Blue Section, but lost twice, each time by a 4:3 score. The two matches, however, displayed a night-and-day difference in their quality of play.

On Sunday, a bare-bones lineup of only seven players took on second-place HNK Primorac and gave the playoff contenders all they could handle. The Byki played smart and disciplined soccer, holding a 3:2 lead midway through the second half before conceding two late goals. Two days previous, the Byki faced Tricycles B, who were just two points ahead in the table. The Byki shockingly went down 3:0 and tried to claw their way back during a wild second half, but fell short of a fantastic finish.

The Sunday match was set up as a make-up game. Matches scheduled for January 10 were wiped out when The Odeum suffered a power failure. Rescheduling for a Sunday proved problematic for the Byki, many of whom seemed to be locked into a Friday-only mindset and were unable to play on the make-up day.

Despite having just one substitute, the Byki utilized their soccer brains to the fullest and played one of their best games of the season. A little better luck at both ends of the field might have led to that elusive first victory. "I wish the players could put this effort into a bottle and bring it along every game," noted coach George Gorecki. "This kind of quality wins games and we still nearly got over the hump, even though everyone was on fumes by the end."

Making the ball do the work was the key for the Byki and they accomplished it well. Just minutes into the contest, Marek Ciszewski and Jeremy Utley boldly raced forward on the counter, despite being outnumbered. Ciszewski's hard shot forced a bobble out of the goalie, and Utley was a step late to pounce on the loose ball. Primorac scored on the ensuing counterattack, as the three Byki left behind on defense were unable to control the play.

But that single defensive breakdown was the only blemish

in a well-played first half. The sides played on even terms and the Byki were hardly intimidated by a Primorac team with a much deeper bench.

Primorac had incredible luck on their side when they increased their lead to 2:0 with 5:24 left before halftime. A long shot deflected on the way towards goal and the crazy backspin sent the ball spiraling just under the bar, out of the reach of goalkeeper Amit Khankari.

Luck didn't transfer to the Byki, however, when they created a great scoring chance just 0:31 later. The Byki worked possession in the Primorac end, as Daniel Zielinski sent the ball to Juan Rodriguez on the right side. Rodriguez returned the ball to Zielinski, who had drifted to the left flank and cranked a shot that slammed off of the crossbar.

Khankari came up big in the final minute when a Primorac player in the corner centered the ball for an open teammate out in front. He tried to beat Khankari through the five-hole, but Khankari shut the door on that idea, clearing the ball easily.

At a time when many shorthanded teams start to feel the effect of a lack of substitutes, the Byki found a new gear and blitzed Primorac for three goals in the span of 3:20. Quick ball movement was the foundation for the first goal. Zielinski dished to Rodriguez in the corner and Rodriguez played the simple ball for Ciszewski, whose first-time shot found the back of the net on the power play.

Ciszewski engineered the second goal with guile and effort with 10:30 left in the match. He sprinted down the right side and was eventually hemmed into the corner by two Primorac defenders. He squeezed through that tight spot and centered for Utley, who coolly slid the ball home for his first-ever Byki goal and a 2:2 tie.

With momentum rolling, the Byki snatched the lead with 9:36 to go. Rodriguez won the ball in the back and astutely released Zielinski at midfield. Zielinski sprinted into the clear, faked the goalie to the turf and deposited the ball into the back of the net to make it 3:2.

Primorac showed their class by regaining their composure and finding their way back into the game. A shot from the left wing beat the defense and Khankari with 6:36 left to level things at 3:3. The winner came with 2:43 to go, as the Byki could not contain a strong run down the right side and a hard shot beat Khankari at his near post.

The Byki still had life in them and Ciszewski's header with 2:03 left was grabbed by the keeper. The Byki kept looking for openings in the Primorac defense and could not

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find a way through to at least get something back for their spectacular effort.

**BYKI LINEUP (2-2-1):** Khankari – Stamatinos (c), Hurley – J. Rodriguez, Utley – Zielinski. **Bench:** Ciszewski.

**BYKI SCORING SUMMARY**

1:2 – Ciszewski 8 (J. Rodriguez) (pp); 25:04.  
2:2 – Utley 1 (Ciszewski); 27:30.  
3:2 – Zielinski 2 (J. Rodriguez); 28:24.

**Byki Man of the Match:** Marek Ciszewski

Tricycles B	<b>4</b>	National Soccer League
Stare Byki	<b>3</b>	Odeum North Field 7 March 2014

That was the sort of effort that went missing last Friday against Tricycles B. With just a two-point gap between the teams in the table, this was an opportunity for the Byki to finally get one in the win column. Instead, a first half filled with disorganized defending staked the Tricycles to 3:0 lead and it was a deficit that was too great to overcome.

The Tricycles needed just 4:20 to break into the lead. With Byki defenders backing away and marking space in their own penalty area instead of opponents, a Tricycle dribbled up to the penalty arc and fired past Khankari.

The Byki had a terrific chance to go level 3:19 later, when Chris Hurley stole the ball at midfield and dished to Juan Rodriguez, whose shot was saved. Rodriguez had a second bite on the rebound, but sent his shot high.

The Tricycles appeared to make easy work of the Byki defense in the last eight minutes of the half, clanking shots off the framework three times. They went 2:0 up with 6:38 to go when they came fast on a 3 v 2 situation.

Ciszewski hooked up with Juan Rodriguez a couple of minutes later and Rodriguez’ shot from the left side required a spectacular save from the Tricycles goalie.

After a flurry late in the half, the Tricycles took their spot in the driver’s seat. The ball-watching Byki let another one get by them and it would be an uphill climb the rest of the way.

But the Byki looked like they were ready to make that climb from the outset of the second half. Rigo Ortiz blasted a shot from the right flank and the keeper did well to keep the ball out with a desperate leg save after just 0:47.

The Byki were on the board a couple of minutes later. Juan Rodriguez was tied up in the corner to the left of the Tricycles goalie. He played a tricky ball off the corner boards that had a wicked spin and wound up at Hurley’s feet in the middle of the penalty area. The unmarked Hurley made no mistake from six yards.

The score went to 3:2 only 0:47 later. Ciszewski fought past a defender in the right corner and centered for Juan Rodriguez, who executed the simple tap-in for his second goal of the season.

That burst of momentum could have propelled the Byki back into the contest, but they gave the momentum right back

to the Tricycles, who regained a two-goal edge a couple of minutes later. A Byki turnover at midfield ignited a 3 v 1 counter the other way.

A solo run from Ben Rodriguez took him past three defenders and his bid to bring the Byki back to within one went narrowly wide of the post.

In a fashion similar to their comeback versus Chicago Dynasty, the Byki kept working hard and reaped the benefits of their effort. Zielinski slid a pass to Mike Stamatinos, who calmly sent the ball underneath the advancing goalkeeper to make it 4:3 with 1:14 to go.

There were no further miracles for the Byki, however. Their poor play at the start laid the foundation for this defeat. A smarter beginning could have placed them in a position to take advantage of the offensive surge that they created in the second half.

**BYKI LINEUP (2-2-1):** Khankari – Stamatinos (c), Stopka – B. Rodriguez, Ciszewski – Zielinski. **Bench:** Avalos, Hurley, Ortiz, J. Rodriguez, Utley.

**BYKI SCORING SUMMARY**

3:1 – Hurley 2 (J. Rodriguez); 21:30.  
3:2 – J. Rodriguez 2 (Ciszewski); 22:17.  
4:3 – Stamatinos 2 (Zielinski); 36:46.

**Byki Man of the Match:** Juan Rodriguez

## Byki Stats

FIRST TEAM, NSL 1st DIVISION				O-40 TEAM, ODEUM O-40 LEAGUE			
Player	G	A	Pts	Player	G	A	Pts
Ciszewski	8	4	12	Bianchi	4	0	4
Rodriguez, J	2	5	7	Siervo	1	2	3
Rodriguez, C	2	4	6	Gorski	1	1	2
Stopka	2	4	6	Aper	1	0	1
Jimenez	4	1	5	Farhan	1	0	1
Hurley	2	3	5	Muehlbauer	0	1	1
Sabo	2	3	5				
Stamatinos	2	2	4	<b>Goalie</b>	<b>Min</b>	<b>GA</b>	<b>GAA</b>
Zielinski	2	2	4	Bolesta	120	30	10.00
Kekus	2	0	2	Terracciano	40	12	12.00
Koenig	2	0	2	Current record: 0-0-5			
Onaissi	1	1	2				
Wood	0	2	2				
Mehagic	1	0	1				
Ortiz	1	0	1				
Utley	1	0	1				
Khankari	0	1	1				
<b>Goalie</b>	<b>Min</b>	<b>GA</b>	<b>GAA</b>				
Stopka	5	0	0.00				
Stopka	1	0	0.00				
Khankari	427	63	5.61				
Avalos	97	19	7.44				
Zielinski	2	1	19.00				
Current record: 0-1-13							

Byki O-40	<b>1</b>	Odeum Over 40 League
Torino	<b>12</b>	Odeum North Field 10 March 2014

## Byki taken to task by well-oiled Torino machine

By Eric Muehlbauer

The changes keep coming to the Over 40 Team, and though the squad is gaining talent, it is struggling to work as a unit. Because there are no practices per se for this indoor team, the training and experience is coming on the job. As the unit learns, opposing teams capitalize on the group's inexperience. The Byki added three new players for Monday's game versus Torino, giving them a season-high 14 players in uniform. But Torino's talent and cohesion were too much in a 12:1 demolition.

Two of the newcomers were actually veteran returnees: goalkeeper Tony Terracciano and defender Fleet Neighbors. The third player was Mauro, recruited by Gregorio Siervo. Steven Pedlow quipped mid game, "We have the talent, we just don't know yet how to work together".

It has become obvious that many of the teams in the Odeum's Over 40 League have been playing together for some time. They seem to know each other's movements and they switch in and out well. Their passes are crisp and shots are well timed and accurate. The Byki on the other hand, have very little rhythm and only make it tough on the other team from time to time; individual talent, desire and aggressive play can only take a team so far.

This Byki team can be likened to an expansion team. When an expansion team begins play, it is generally stocked with less talented free agents and is inexperienced. Expansion teams are not doomed to mediocrity forever. Over time, with experience, and by adding the right talent, they have the same opportunity to win championships as any other team. That is the challenge facing the Byki.

While there were stretches when the Byki displayed good teamwork, Torino were much better overall. The game started out with both teams tentatively moving the ball around the perimeter. Torino finally broke through after five minutes when a striker made an impressive toe flip from the left side of the box, despite being double teamed.

Torino peppered the Byki goal for the next five minutes, keeping Terracciano very busy. He staved off three Torino attempts, but could not overcome a Byki defense that was playing too far off their marks. By the 10-minute mark, Torino were cruising at 4:0.

The Byki attack came alive when Nick Bianchi made a couple of strong runs. He was joined by Siervo and Dominic Demarets, but all of their shots were snuffed by the light-footed keeper. Pedlow, playing a defensive mid position, encouraged the team to mark tighter and play man-to-man.

The Byki held tight for another seven minutes, but Torino then let loose with another barrage of quick scores. Byki turnovers were killer mistakes, resulting in Torino coming on the counter 2 v 1 and 3 v 2. By the halfway point, Torino were 7:0 up.

The Byki tried to rally a couple of minutes later. Bianchi, Siervo and Pedlow worked the ball to the Torino box, setting up Bianchi, whose hard shot was blocked and went high in the air. Siervo's header was repelled too and the rebound went to Pedlow, whose attempt was grabbed by the keeper.

The Byki spent most of the remaining time giving the ball away to the hungry Torino attackers. The score went to 8:0 when the Byki defender marking a Torino striker left his man to mark a man in the box. The striker made no mistake, blasting a shot into the upper right corner of the net. A ninth goal came shortly thereafter, with a Byki giveaway leading to a 2 v 1.

Rick Bolesta was in good position to break up a 3 v 1 situation and actually got a foot to what would have been the final pass, but the ball careened past Terracciano to make it 10:0 with 5:00 to go.

Torino never thought about taking their foot off the gas and piled on two more tallies in the final 3:30. The Byki scored their consolation goal to avoid the shutout with 1:10 left when Bianchi battled through two defenders and forced home a goal on the right side.

"We need to ensure we have the right balance of defenders and forwards on the field," said Bolesta afterwards. "The subs were not organized to take advantage of the natural tendencies of the players. At times, we had more defenders and stopped Torino. At other times, we had almost all attackers and defense suffered."

*Rick Bolesta and Steven Pedlow contributed to this story.*

**BYKI LINEUP (3-2):** Terracciano – Bolesta, Mauro, Pedlow – Siervo, Demarets. **Bench:** Aper, Bianchi, Farhan, Gorski, Marquez, Muehlbauer, Neighbors, St Clair.

### BYKI SCORING SUMMARY

1:12 – Bianchi 4; 38:50.

# NATIONAL SOCCER LEAGUE STANDINGS

March 9, 2014

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## MAJOR DIVISION

<b>Red Section</b>	<b>GP</b>	<b>W</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>L</b>	<b>GF</b>	<b>GA</b>	<b>Pts</b>	<b>Blue Section</b>	<b>GP</b>	<b>W</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>L</b>	<b>GF</b>	<b>GA</b>	<b>Pts</b>
Albanian Stars	14	12	0	2	88	42	36	CKS Warta	14	12	1	1	68	37	37
Chicago Fire U-23	14	8	1	5	77	53	25	RWB Adria A	14	12	0	2	90	32	36
Tricycles SC A	14	6	3	5	65	52	21	Chicago Stars	14	8	0	6	47	43	24
SAC Wisla	14	5	2	7	44	57	17	Ethnikos Chicago	14	6	0	8	47	68	18
RWB Adria B	14	2	3	9	44	72	9	ANCI Assyrian A	14	4	2	8	44	59	14
KF Tirana	14	1	2	11	35	68	5	Zaglebie SC	14	1	0	13	31	97	3

## FIRST DIVISION

<b>Red Section</b>	<b>GP</b>	<b>W</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>L</b>	<b>GF</b>	<b>GA</b>	<b>Pts</b>	<b>Blue Section</b>	<b>GP</b>	<b>W</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>L</b>	<b>GF</b>	<b>GA</b>	<b>Pts</b>
Albania FC	14	9	1	4	61	56	28	Lancer FC	14	12	2	0	78	21	38
FC Kosova	14	9	1	4	59	40	28	HNK Primorac	14	10	0	4	66	43	30
Chicago Dynasty FC	14	7	1	6	62	49	22	Stal Mielec	14	8	0	6	53	47	24
Gremio FC	14	6	2	6	53	58	20	Jagiellonia Chicago	14	6	2	6	67	48	20
ANCI Assyrian B	14	5	2	7	39	59	17	Tricycles SC B	14	2	0	12	28	68	6
Chicago Inter	14	3	2	9	37	65	11	<b>Stare Byki FC</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>1</b>