



BOUNCINGS

www.starebykifc.org



25 March 18

Indoor Season Wrap-Up

Byki fall in QF on PKs

The Byki ended the indoor season last Sunday on a positive note, gaining a win and a draw in the league's one-day tournament. After slipping past Sockers Black 2:1 in the play-in round, the Byki hooked up against SAC Lightning Over 30 in the quarterfinals. The match ended 1:1 and Lightning advanced by winning the penalty shootout 2:1.

After limping across the regular-season finish line, it was unclear what kind of approach the Byki would bring to the tournament. With the outdoor season beckoning, minds and attitudes could have been anywhere but at Soccer City. Instead, the nine-man squad had a very productive day and were only a bounce away from a trip to the last four of the competition.

"Our team suffered through a lot of adversity this season," said coach George Gorecki. "The injuries were the worst that I can remember. But nobody hung their heads. The boys realized that when Sunday came, there was an opportunity to accomplish something. And they went out and played as hard as they could. They gave quite a good accounting of themselves."

Sockers	1	Premier Soccer League 1st Division
Stare Byki	2	Soccer City 18 March 2018

The Byki started the day against the youthful Sockers, a team they had beaten 4:0 during the regular season. The one-day format meant that all matches up until the final would comprise one 20-minute period. As a result, grabbing an early lead would put a team in the driver's seat because there would not be much catch-up time.

The shots flew at a rapid pace. With barely a minute gone, Alex Perez denied an open shot from the arc with a kick save. Dmytro Korinenko latched onto the loose ball and sped the other way on a counterattack. The keeper came out early to engage and got his foot in the way at the last moment.

The Byki had a to defend a power play moments later

when the referee detected that Alan Bickel had entered the field without shin guards, an automatic two-minute penalty. The Byki defended smartly and then caught the Sockers on the break. Korinenko blocked a shot and was off to the races in the other direction. Andy Sokolowski read the play and the Sockers were caught in a 2 v 1. Korinenko's killer pass set up Sokolowski for the opening tally of the contest.

The Sockers responded with a period of sustained pressure and eventually found an equalizer. Ray Najera's kick save preserved the lead, but the Sockers clanged another shot off the post before finally leveling the score at the 9:51 mark. Najera replaced Perez in goal after five minutes. "I had promised Alex a chance to play in the field at some point in the season," said Gorecki. "So Ray, after arriving a bit late, jumped right in and kept us competitive in both games."

The Byki regained the lead with 8:43 to go. Korinenko stole the ball in the back third and immediately looked to ignite a counterattack. He passed off to Sokolowski and the pair raced into another 2 v 1 situation. Sokolowski played provider this time and Korinenko put away his 12th goal of the season.

The Sockers earned another power play in the final minutes, but it was the Byki who came closer to scoring a goal. Sokolowski stole the ball at midfield and sprinted towards the Sockers goal. The keeper pulled a rabbit out of his hat to deny Sokolowski's attempt.

The Sockers were inches from equalizing in the dying seconds of the contest. Najera saved a shot from close range and the rebound seemed destined for the back of the net. Mike Stamatinos intervened at the crucial moment and headed the ball out of danger.

Pre-season Training
SATURDAY, MARCH 31
Olympic Park, Field 2
Schaumburg, IL
10.00 AM - 12.00 noon

2017

**NSL FIRST DIVISION
PSLC OVER 30 B DIVISION**

CHAMPIONS

BYKI LINEUP (2-2-1): Perez – Stamatinos (c), Bickel – Korinenko, McClure – Sokolowski. **Bench:** Banbor, Crist, Najera.

BYKI SCORING SUMMARY

0:1 – Sokolowski 3 (Korinenko) (sh); 3:05.

1:2 – Korinenko 12 (Sokolowski); 11:17.

Byki Men of the Match: Dmytro Korinenko and Andy Sokolowski.

Lightning	1	Premier Soccer League 1st Division
Stare Byki	1	Soccer City 18 March 2018

Lightning advance 2:1 after penalty shootout

The Byki had about an hour to rest and regroup before facing Lightning, who had finished the season in second place and had beaten the Byki 5:3 during the regular season. “This was going to be a much tougher opponent,” said Gorecki. “Their teamwork and unselfish play is really something. They killed us on the counter in the January game, so we had to be ready to improve on that aspect.”

The Byki grabbed the initiative. Just 2:17 into the contest, Robby McClure carried along the right flank and dropped a pass for Korinenko, whose measured blast was blocked by the Lightning goalkeeper.

A Lightning player was sent to the sin bin shortly thereafter, following a rough challenge on Stamatinos near the boards. The Byki power play eventually found its level of effectiveness once the players realized the importance of stationing a player right in front of the goalie. That tactic forced the Lightning defenders to lose their concentration and the Byki capitalized when Korinenko found Kuba Banbor unmarked in the penalty area. He had plenty of time to pick his spot before the Lightning players could react and fired into the back of the net for a 1:0 lead.

Lightning caught a break with 7:40 to go, when Bickel was adjudged to have fouled a player in the box, leading to a Lightning penalty kick. “That foul was close to the box, but I think it was outside,” said Gorecki. “That decision, like so many others in this league, speaks volumes about referee inconsistency.” Lightning converted the spot kick to square the affair at 1:1.

With 6:36 left, McClure and Sokolowski raced to goal on a 2 v 1 counterattack. Sokolowski had the keeper at his mercy, but his off-balance shot went wide.

Lightning had a terrific opportunity to win the match outright with 5:11 to go. Najera came fast out of his box to thwart a Lightning counter and the striker flicked the ball over Najera. Will Crist jumped in to clear the ball, but a Lightning player got in the way. Najera recovered in time to smother the second attempt.

The tied match went directly to penalties, where Lightning prevailed 2:1. Korinenko shot wide, followed by a Lightning goal. Sokolowski converted his attempt and the second Lightning kick went well wide. McClure shot the third kick

high, while the Lightning player fired past Najera.

BYKI LINEUP (2-2-1): Najera – Stamatinos (c), Bickel – Korinenko, McClure – Sokolowski. **Bench:** Banbor, Crist, Perez.

BYKI SCORING SUMMARY

0:1 – Banbor 4 (Korinenko) (pp); 4:58

PENALTY SHOOTOUT

Round 1 – Korinenko miss; Lightning goal (0:1)

Round 2 – Sokolowski goal; Lightning miss (1:1)

Round 3 – McClure miss, Lightning goal (1:2)

Byki Man of the Match: Ray Najera.

Jagiellonia	4	Premier Soccer League 1st Division
Stare Byki	0	Soccer City 11 March 2018

Byki still shooting blanks

The goal drought continued for the Byki for the second straight week, as Jagiellonia Chicago pitched a 3:0 shutout on March 11. A shorthanded Byki roster competed gamely, but fatigue became a factor and Jagiellonia controlled the tempo throughout. The Byki finish their first season in the league limping home in tenth place.

Although the result was the same as last week’s match, coach George Gorecki was not displeased with his team’s effort. “We had a good game plan and the guys were all on board with it,” noted coach George Gorecki. “We just had too many guys missing.” Between injured players and those who otherwise couldn’t make it, two players dropped out at the last minute, due to circumstances beyond their control. All the Byki could do at that point was make the best of a tough situation.

They aimed to play a disciplined style, and succeeded in large part. Jagiellonia had the lion’s share of possession, but the Byki did well to hold their marks and communicated effectively to make sure the openings were minimized. It was a significant turnabout from the tactical debacle from the previous week.

Unfortunately, there simply wasn’t enough gas in the tank to mount a sustained attack. The Byki only occasionally challenged the Jagiellonia goalkeeper. They would need a flawless defensive effort to stay in the contest and they fell just a bit short.

The opening minutes played out very evenly, as neither side found a path to penetrate the other’s defense. “We needed to get off to a strong start and build confidence,” said Gorecki.

Kuba Banbor had a great look at the goal midway through the first half, when he fired a dart from the left wing. The keeper did well to slide over to his near post and block the attempt just in time.

Jagiellonia crafted their breakthrough goal with 5:06 to go, converting a 3 v 2 counterattack. A Jagiellonia player carried the ball deep into the right-wing corner and struck a shot low and hard that found the far post.

Pete Karatzas came close to an equalizer with 2:23 left. After a Jagiellonia turnover, Karatzas came down the left side and forced the goalie to stab the ball away with a desperate kick save.

As the Byki regrouped at halftime, they set a course to find that first goal and to begin the task of building momentum in their favor. Jagiellonia, however, had other ideas and blitzed the Byki right out of the gate.

Alex Perez came up huge at the 1:01 mark, stoning a Jagiellonia player who was wide open from close range. Jagiellonia kept up the pressure and the Byki went to scramble mode trying to find their marks. They were slow to react when a Jagiellonia player dropped a pass from the deep wing into the middle of the box. The striker was unmarked and made no mistake with a first-time rocket to make it 2:0.

Jagiellonia put their stamp on the match just 1:42 later. A sequence of quick passes left the Byki defense unbalanced and the third goal eventually find the back of the net.

A three-goal deficit proved to be too big a hill to climb for a Byki comeback. The lack of substitutes took its toll; the Byki worked hard just to stay in the game, while Jagiellonia moved the ball with ease. Realizing that 3:0 was enough to lock in the result, Jagiellonia were content to knock the ball around and force the Byki to chase.

BYKI LINEUP (3-2): Perez – Korinenko, Akbas, Banbor – Stamatinos (c), Bickel. **Bench:** Crist, Gorecki, Karatzas.

BYKI SCORING SUMMARY

None.

Byki Man of the Match: Alex Perez.

Byki Stats

FIRST TEAM, PSLC 1st DIVISION

Player	G	A	Pts
Korinenko	12	5	17
Banbor	4	5	9
McClure	5	3	8
Sokolowski	3	4	7
Akbas	3	1	4
Sauerman	2	2	4
Stevens	2	0	2
Stamatinos	0	2	2
Asyl	1	0	1
Falinski	1	0	1
Karatzas	1	0	1
Crist	0	1	1
Perez	0	1	1
Team goals	3	x	x

Goalie	Min	GA	GAA
Najera	115	6	2.09
Perez	445	40	3.60
Chronowski	40	4	4.00

Final record: 5-2-9

WE ARE THE BYKI - Friends - Passion - Soccer

PREMIER SOCCER LEAGUE of CHICAGOLAND STANDINGS

March 4, 2018

MAJOR DIVISION

FIRST DIVISION

	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts		GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
Czarni Jaslo	13	10	1	2	63	30	31	Jake's Stars Punishers	13	12	0	1	71	31	36
SAC Lightning	13	10	0	3	54	26	30	SAC Lightning Over 30	13	10	2	1	63	31	32
SAC Wisla	13	8	3	2	45	36	27	FC Moldova	13	9	2	2	70	30	29
Sockers FC Blue	13	7	3	3	57	33	24	Tarnovia Over 40	13	6	2	5	46	52	20
Wisloka Chicago	13	7	1	5	49	38	22	Sting FC	13	6	0	7	35	57	18
SAC Lightning U-23	13	6	1	6	44	46	19	Unia Chicago	13	5	2	6	47	41	17
Sockers FC White	13	5	1	7	56	43	16	Sockers FC Black	13	5	2	6	49	48	17
FC Bodrost	13	4	0	9	45	59	12	Thunder FC	13	5	2	6	37	40	17
Torino FC	12	2	0	10	30	57	6	Jagiellonia	13	4	1	8	36	41	13
Chicago Fire Jr Gold	12	0	0	12	7	82	0	Stare Byki FC	13	4	1	8	34	45	13
								Levski Chicago	13	3	0	10	50	84	9
								Sporting MD	13	2	0	11	35	73	6