



BOUNCINGS



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26 Apr 15

**2014 PSLC
Over 40
CHAMPIONS**

Naperville	1	Premier Soccer League Over 40 Blue Division
Byki O-40	4	Oak Brook Sports Core 19 April 2015

Byki dominant in title defense

The Over 40 Team showed that they were not resting on the laurels earned in their hugely successful 2014 campaign when they opened this season with a resounding 4:1 victory over Windy City United at Oak Brook. The Byki bossed the match from the outset and gave a glimpse of a squad that may even be stronger than the one that did the double last year.

Despite winning every trophy on offer in the Over 40 competition in 2014, the Byki made the hard decision to not accept promotion to the top division. After carefully considering the pros and cons of such a move, the club concluded that the team would stay put in 2015 and set a goal of strengthening the player pool. If a retooled team is good enough to finish in one of the two promotion slots again, the Byki know that they have a team that can compete with the tops dogs of the Over 40 Division.

The PSLC did some retooling of their own during the winter. The League renamed the top Over 40 group as the A Division, and the lower division is now known as B1 and B2. With 12 teams signing up for the lower division this season, the League chose to break up the teams into two groups of six, based on competitive level. Every team plays every opponent in their subgroup twice and plays everyone in the other subgroup once. Although this ensures that everyone in the same subgroup plays the same schedule, the League could not help going bizarro by deciding that the champions of the B1 and B2 subgroups would each win a trophy. Thus, the subgroups appear to be in the same competition, even though they aren't. And there is no path for an ambitious team in the B2 subgroup to reach B1, and ultimately, the A Division.

It was only the first match of the season, but player-coaches Eric Tower and Doug Towsey already had to make difficult squad decisions. They had to account for the necessity of maintaining team chemistry and also to find a way to integrate new players into the lineup. It's a good problem to have.

The Byki expected a tough game from Windy City. "This wasn't the typical Windy City United team, which often struggled to suit up 11 players during the main part of the season," said Tower. "They suited up 18 players for the game. These included many of the players we saw in the playoffs, where they really fielded a good team. So the fact that we were able to win handily really says a lot for where we are right now."

The Byki really did a nice job of maintaining possession, almost from the get-go. Windy City has some very talented individual players, but they tended to rely on sending long balls forward too much, and they had a hard time keeping the ball for more than a few touches. So, as the game wore on, their players got tired and got out of synch. The Byki did well moving the ball, but lacked that one decisive movement into the Windy City 18 early in the match. The Byki got better as the game wore on, due to the players getting better acquainted and due to the fact that Windy City petered out a bit.

The first goal was really quite simple, coming on a corner kick at the half hour. The ball bounced towards Brian Huck at the far post. He stabbed at it, sending it to the unmarked Tower about six yards out. Standing dead center of the goal, Tower's volley rocketed past the goalkeeper.

The game continued with an air of inevitability. A second goal was coming, it was only a question of when. The Byki kept moving the ball to open players, punctuated by occasional chances on goal. Windy City's talented players, for whatever reason, played as if they were silos. They would often ignore the simple pass and try for something long and fancy, and the Byki defense would quickly shut them down. They weren't able to sustain pressure, and the few forays they managed into the Byki half were for naught.

The Byki doubled their lead 15 minutes into the second half and the goal was a thing of beauty. Windy City was trying for the offside trap when Ade Ekundayo hit a nice through ball to Gabriel Rodriguez, who raced to the net along with Mitch Posada. Meanwhile, the Windy City players stood around bickering with each other. Rodriguez closed in on the keeper, who was stuck in no-man's land. Rodriguez rolled the ball across the face of goal for Posada, who tapped it home. At that point, you could just see the wind go out of the United's sails.

The Byki piled on two more goals in the closing minutes to punctuate an extraordinary performance. Agron Karafili made his Byki debut a memorable one by scoring a goal



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PSLC OVER 30 WHITE DIVISION

April 26, 2015

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	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
Levski Chicago 2014	1	1	0	0	9	1	3
FC DePaul	2	1	0	1	5	2	3
Stare Byki FC	1	1	0	0	2	1	3
St Charles Celtics	1	1	0	0	1	0	3
Chicago Rangers FC	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
AEK SKOMOR FC	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Olympiacos Chicago	1	0	0	1	1	2	0
Real FC	1	0	0	1	1	5	0
Shogun	1	0	0	1	1	9	0

PSLC OVER 40 B1/B2 DIVISION

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B1 DIVISION	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
Stare Byki FC	1	1	0	0	4	1	3
International SC	1	1	0	0	3	0	3
MOFG	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Naperville Strikers FC	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Pampas OT	1	0	0	1	0	3	0
Windy City United	1	0	0	1	1	4	0
B2 DIVISION	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
St Charles Celtics Green	1	1	0	0	3	1	3
Chicago FC	1	1	0	0	3	1	3
Itasca	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Real FC	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
St Charles Celtics Orange	1	0	0	1	1	3	0
MANA SC	1	0	0	1	1	3	0

**STARE BYKI DAY at TOYOTA PARK****CHICAGO FIRE v ORLANDO CITY SC****Saturday, June 6 at 7.30 PM****\$30 per ticket****Bonus! Byki group picture on the Toyota Park field after the game.***For tickets, contact the Byki at mail@starebykifc.org*