



BOUNCINGS



www.starebykifc.org

28 Apr 12



OVER 40

Real FC 1 : 2 Byki

Champions O-40 League - Olympic Park - 22 April 2012

New season, new Byki

The Over 40 Team opened the PSLC season last Sunday with a satisfying 2:1 win over Real FC. The windy conditions at Olympic Park hampered both teams in their attempts to play skillful soccer and the wind had a hand in two of the goals scored on the day. The Byki introduced seven new players to their roster and the early reviews indicate that the team have some work to do in order to mesh cohesively, but their performance made it clear that the three points were well earned.

The Byki will be competing in the Over 40 league's Blue Division, which is the lower of the two-tiered structure. The PSLC adopted this promotion-relegation structure prior to the 2011 season to create better competition. The Byki, along with St Charles Celtics Green, were relegated last fall. Gato Verde, who were Blue champions in 2011, moved up, but were not joined by second-place Real FC, who chose to stay put. The PSLC offered the Byki the chance to stay at the higher level, yet the Byki declined.

It was a decision that was reached with careful consideration by player-coaches Eric Tower and Doug Towsey, who concluded that the current roster was better suited to play in the Blue Division. Byki President George Gorecki also weighed in with an opinion. "I told Eric and Doug that promotion is always a difficult task and that getting a lifeline to stay up doesn't come around every day," Gorecki noted. "But I couldn't disagree with their assessment. We earned our relegation status. I think everyone in last year's team can agree on that."

If promotion is in the cards for the Byki, their performance on Sunday was certainly a step in the right direction. Tight and organized defending, nice stretches of ball movement, and timely goalkeeping all added up to fine effort to start things off.

Towsey's starting lineup featured no less than five new faces, three of whom came over to the Byki from the Park Ridge Rogues, an Over 40 rival still playing in the Green Division. Defender Dave Fink and midfielders Ade Ekundayo and Gabriel Rodriguez all had memorable debuts, especially the midfielders, who combined to create the winning goal.

The scoreless first half saw both teams able to conjure a handful of opportunities. The sides struggled with the gusty winds, as keeping the ball on the ground was at a premium. In the 10th minute, Real sent the ball into the Byki penalty area. Towsey mis-kicked his clearing attempt, but goalie James Vlahakis charged off his line to smother the shot.

The Byki were reliant on their keeper just after the half-hour mark. In a moment of confusion, the backline lost their marks, leaving a Real forward alone with the ball at the top of the box. Vlahakis came hard for the ball and blocked the ball away from danger.

Five minutes before the break, Mitch Posada threaded an elegant through pass along the left wing for Rodriguez. The winger spotted Brian Huck in the middle and his well-timed pass set up Huck for a shot from 15 yards. The keeper dove full stretch to keep things level.

The second half started off with a bang. Just six minutes in, a Real striker spun into open space in the area and fired right at Vlahakis. The ball remained loose and a second shot glanced off of the far post.

Just as the Byki were breathing a sigh of relief, a Real defender clumsily handled the ball in his area as he botched a clearance, prompting the referee to blow for a penalty kick. Nick Elmkinssi took care of business, sending the ball over the diving goalkeeper.

The goal emboldened the Byki attack. With Ekundayo shifted from striker to his more familiar

WE ARE THE BYKI - Friends - Passion - Soccer

midfield slot, the ball began moving with flow and purpose. In the 57th minute, Charlie Cohen sent a pass to Posada, whose deft return header landed right into Cohen's path as he sprinted on the left side of the 18. He didn't hesitate and his shot skimmed off the top of the crossbar.

Real regained momentum in the 61st minute when a blast from the deep right flank smacked off the inside of the left post and out of play. Two minutes later, Real leveled the affair when a windswept corner kick found its way directly into the Byki goal.

Things remained cagey until the very end. Rodriguez and Ekundayo worked a nifty 1-2 in midfield, as Ekundayo sent the ball to the right wing. Rodriguez dribbled the ball nearly to the end line and floated a cross towards the goal. Real's keeper misjudged the ball, thanks to the wind, and then bundled the ball into the back of the net.

The Over 40s still have plenty of work ahead. Improving cohesion between players is essential and should come around, as new players coordinate with their teammates.

BYKI LINEUP (4-4-2): Vlahakis – Towsey, Follenweider, Fink, Safford – Tower, Rodriguez, Mazmanian, Elmkinssi – Ekundayo, Posada. **Bench:** Cohen, Gorecki (c), Huck, Muehlbauer, Rassmussen, Zygmunt.

BYKI SCORING SUMMARY

1:0 – Elmkinssi 1 (pk); 53rd.
2:1 – Rodriguez 1 (Ekundayo); 89th.

Byki Man of the Match: Dave Fink

Byki Stats

O-40 TEAM, PSLC O-40 DIVISION

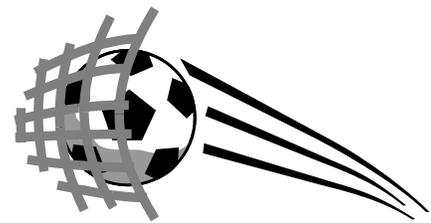
Player	G	A	Pts
Elmkinssi	1	0	1
Rodriguez	1	0	1
Ekundayo	0	1	1

Goalie	Min	GA	GAA
Vlahakis	90	1	1.00

Current record: 1-0-0



BYKI bits & pieces



If it's springtime, it must mean the start of the soccer season. All four Byki teams have been diligently preparing for their respective competitions. Additionally, spring marks the kickoff of the MLS season and this is always a big event for Byki players, alumni and fans who attend the Chicago Fire Foundation's annual kickoff luncheon in downtown Chicago. The Byki have been attending this



Sean Johnson (far left) poses with the Byki, joined by Gonzalo Segares and his new Byki scarf.

function since 2000. A record crowd exceeding 800 people attended the luncheon, held in March just before the Fire's opening match. The Byki made sure to get their application in early to be certain that a Fire player would sit at their table and join them for lunch. This year's lucky player/victim was veteran fullback **Gonzalo Segares**.

Segares is described partially as a victim because of the loosely held belief that a player who sits with the Byki winds up leaving the Fire shortly thereafter. In 12 previous seasons, eight Fire players or coaches have departed the club within a year of sitting with the Byki. How long Segares will stick around is a question for the gods of fate.



A Byki scarf makes Dick's Sporting Goods Park just a little classier.

function since 2000.

A record crowd exceeding 800 people attended the luncheon, held in March just before the Fire's

The group had a nice chat with Gonzalo about the upcoming season and the club's new signings. Byki Prez

George

Gorecki, never shy to express an opinion about the pointed back-and-forth with Gonzalo about departed coach

Carlos de los Cobos, who was canned in the middle of last season. Gonzalo, ever the gentleman, refused to throw his former boss under the bus. That didn't sit well with George, who rattled off a list of the coach's shortcomings.



The copper kettle outside the Coors brewery receives a Byki christening.

After giving the Fire defender a piece of his mind, George set out on vacation to Colorado, where he was able to add to the Byki Scarf Picture collection. George brought his scarf to the Coors Brewery, the Wynkoop Brewery, and Dick's Sporting Goods Park, where he and his wife Laurie watched the Fire snooze their way through a 2:0 loss to the Colorado Rapids.

The Byki need more photos of you and your Byki scarf in exotic and fascinating places. Every time you prepare for a trip, make sure to pack your Byki scarf. Don't have a scarf? No problem! We have lots of scarves, so get yours today.



The Wynkoop ape never had it this good in the jungle.

PREMIER SOCCER LEAGUE of CHICAGOLAND

April 22, 2012

www.pslchicagoland.com

OVER 30 RED DIVISION

	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
Pampas	1	1	0	0	5	1	3
Jahbat FC	1	1	0	0	4	1	3
FC Tarnovia	1	1	0	0	2	1	3
Balkan	1	0	1	0	2	2	1
Black Eagle	1	0	1	0	2	2	1
Bulgaria FC	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hellenic United AC	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
La Granate	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Romania SC	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Stare Byki FC	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
St Charles Celtics Red	1	0	0	1	1	2	0
SAC Wisla	1	0	0	1	1	4	0
Chicago Celtic	1	0	0	1	1	5	0

OVER 40 BLUE DIVISION

	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
Naperville Strikers FC	1	1	0	0	9	1	3
Pampas	1	1	0	0	3	1	3
Stare Byki FC	1	1	0	0	2	1	3
Villains SC	1	1	0	0	1	0	3
St Charles Celtics Green	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Torino FC	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
MOFG	1	0	0	1	0	1	0
Real FC	1	0	0	1	1	2	0
Windy City United	1	0	0	1	1	3	0
St Charles Celtics Orange	1	0	0	1	1	9	0