



BOUNCINGS



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29 April 18

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| Adventists | 0 | Premier Soccer League Over 30 White B Division |
| Byki O-30 | 8 | Evergreen Bank Field 22 April 2018 |

Byki bring out the hammer

The Over 30 Team kicked off the new season with a bang, crushing Adventists United with an 8:0 barrage. Seven Byki contributed to the scoring spree, as the Byki raced out to a 4:0 lead at halftime and then shifted into cruise control the rest of the way.

The PSLC's Over 30 Division, which was split into a A and B groups in 2017, is once again a single 12-team Division, which forces an unbalanced schedule on the competition. The Byki were champions of the B group last year. Having teams of similar competitive level play each other more often seemed like a sensible structure and is one that has served the Over 40 Division quite nicely. Why the Over 30 Division went back to a single group is a mystery.

The Byki sought to continue building on last season's success and bolstered their player pool with new talent. Seventeen players dressed for last Sunday's match, including five newcomers. The only notable departure from last year's squad was center-back Ato Anderson.

Once all of the introductions were complete and the Byki took to the field, it did not take long for them to assert their dominance. Continued possession and ball movement allowed the Byki to get on the board in the 10th minute, when Rodrigo Espinoza sent a quick through ball to Volkan Akbas. The striker collected the ball and calmly sent it to the far post, leaving the keeper helpless.

A couple of minutes later, high pressure on the on Adventists' backline produced a turnover deep in their zone, and a quick pass from Richard Sodeinde found

Akbas at the top of the box. Akbas executed a smart spin move to shed his defender, but his attempt went high over the bar.

Just three minutes later, a great pass from Paul Gibbs found Sodeinde five yards from goal, and Sodeinde did not hesitate to lash a one-timer into the lower corner for a 2:0 lead.

With their large roster, the Byki were constantly rotating the players into the game, allowing the new members an opportunity to showcase their stuff. As the Byki continued high pressure, the Adventists had trouble clearing their zone. It was only minutes after entering the game that newcomer Matt Klosterman intercepted a seemingly harmless back pass from a central defender to the keeper. Klosterman side-stepped the goalie and slotted the ball into an empty net to make it 3:0 at the 22-minute mark.

Ten minutes later, another new guy, Szymon Jaworski, received a crossing pass from Sodeinde and hit a shot through traffic along the ground, finding the corner for a 4:0 advantage.

During the break, the team discussed the need to stretch the field, as the constant pressure and Adventists' inability to move the ball forward created tremendous crowding in the middle of the park.

The score swelled to 5:0 in the early moments of the second half. It was Jaworski who played the role of set-up man, sending in a great ball through to split the backline for Akbas. Staying very cool and collected, Akbas handily chipped the goalkeeper, who was charging full speed to intercept the ball.

In the 51st minute, the hard-working Jaworski carved out space with another through pass, this time finding Klosterman, who pushed the ball past the goalie. Shortly after the hour mark, Sodeinde banged in his second tally of the day to make it 7:0.

The Byki completed the rout 15 minutes from the end, as Alex Campos made his Byki debut memorable

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CHAMPIONS

when he collected a bad clearing attempt at the top of the box, beat a defender with a great move, and tucked the ball home into the far post. It was a fitting reward For Campos' hard work on the day.

The Byki created quite a few additional chances, but their efforts missed the target. The game was a one-sided affair, with Adventists being infrequent visitors to the Byki half of the field. Netminder Ray Najera spent the entire game as a spectator from afar, as he registered no saves or even any touches. Adventists were unable to mount any form of attack, finding the Byki penalty area just once, with a pass down the wing that went well wide of the goal, resulting in the only goal kick of the game. Week 2 of the season should be a much different affair, with the Byki facing off against Levski Chicago. That game will be a marker for the Byki, as the competition will only be getting only stronger from this point forward.

Dan Jedrzejowski and Richard Sodeinde contributed to this story.

BYKI LINEUP (3-5-2): Najera – Herholdt, Durojaiye, Soaga – Gibbs (c), McClure, Boeckeler, Jamarillo, Espinoza – Sodeinde, Akbas. **Bench:** Campos, Jaworski, Jędrzejowski, Klosterman, Patz, J. Ruiz.

BYKI SCORING SUMMARY

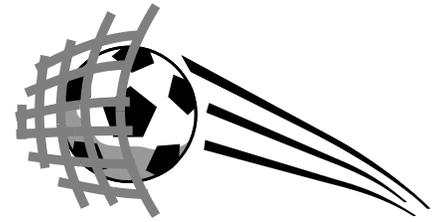
0:1 – Akbas 1 (Espinoza); 10th.
 0:2 – Sodeinde 1 (Gibbs); 13th.
 0:3 – Klosterman 1; 22nd.
 0:4 – Jaworski 1 (Sodeinde); 32nd.
 0:5 – Akbas 2 (Jaworski); 48th.
 0:6 – Klosterman 2 (Jaworski); 51st.
 0:7 – Sodeinde 2; 63rd.
 0:8 – Campos 1; 75th.

Byki Man of the Match: Tim Patz.

| O-30 TEAM, PSLC O-30 DIVISION | | | |
|-------------------------------|-----|----|------|
| Player | G | A | Pts |
| Sodeinde | 2 | 1 | 3 |
| Jaworski | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| Akbas | 2 | 0 | 2 |
| Klosterman | 2 | 0 | 2 |
| Campos | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| Espinoza | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| Gibbs | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| | | | |
| Goalie | Min | GA | GAA |
| Najera | 90 | 0 | 0.00 |
| Current record: 1-0-0 | | | |



BYKI bits & pieces



Last Monday was quite a busy day for the Byki, who were involved in two big events, the annual Chicago Fire Kickoff Luncheon, followed by a fundraiser at the Lagunitas Brewery in Chicago. The Fire Luncheon has been noted in ink on the Byki calendar for the last 19 years, as the club's players and fans have always been enthusiastic in their support of the Chicago Fire Foundation, the team's charitable arm.



Marko Mitrovic (left) lifts the Byki scarf, along with Dan Jedrzejewski, George Gorecki, and Vitaly Tsipris.

One of the big benefits for the Byki is the opportunity to chat and mingle with Fire players and coaches. Fire Assistant Coach **Marko Mitrovic** sat at the Byki table for third consecutive year and it was a treat to hear him provide information about the upcoming season. "Marko is one of the best lunch partners we've had over the years," said Byki President **George Gorecki**. "He's pretty open and honest about what's going on with the Fire. Now that he's had lunch with us three years in a row, we had to make him an honorary member of the club."

Marko talked about the various stages of readiness of the Fire's rookie class and was especially encouraged by the progress of midfielder **Mo Adams**. Serbian midfielder **Aleksandar Katai** is slotted to take over for winger **David Accam**, who was shipped off to Philadelphia for \$1.2 M in allocation money in January. According to Marko, whatever Katai lacks in speed compared to Accam, he more than makes up for with a sharp soccer mind.

In the evening, a 60-strong throng of Byki players, alumni and supporters gathered at the Lagunitas Brewery for a unique fundraiser. In an effort to maximize community outreach, Lagunitas makes its taproom and party space available at no charge to not-for-profit organizations



to organize fundraising events. Ninety percent of the proceeds from beer sales on the night go right back to the organization.

"When a Lagunitas bartender first explained the structure of this fundraiser to me a couple of years ago, I have to say that I really did not believe it," said George. "I did actually ask him to explain it a second time."

The Byki submitted an application to hold a fundraising event about 18 months ago and got word in January that they had been scheduled

for February 26. After that, it was a matter of getting the word out.

Byki Vice President **Eric Muehlbauer** was the catalyst that made the event a smashing success. He was on the ground floor to get the paperwork together, tour the facility, and arrange for the pizza delivery. "Eric was The Man tonight,"

said George. "But a lot of credit also goes out to everyone who dove deep into their networks and recruited people to attend." On the night, the club earned nearly \$1300.

The Byki can apply for a 2019 event starting on June 1, so everyone should make plans to return to Lagunitas for an even bigger event next year.



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