



# BOUNCINGS



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**BLUE**

**Srpska 3 : 1 Byki**

NSL 1st Division - Redmond Sports Complex - 29 April 2012

## Soggy Byki search for answers

The process of reinventing themselves seems never-ending from the Blue Team. They made their 2012 outdoor debut on Sunday featuring a squad that contained nine players who had not played for the Byki in 2011. Even the coach, Kristian Buur, was a new face on the scene. The Byki dropped a 3:1 decision to FK Republika Srpska at Redmond Sports Complex. After going behind 3:0 at the break, the Byki righted the ship somewhat in the second half and demonstrated that they have what it takes to be competitive.

Srpska are also reinventing themselves, having been relegated from the Major Division in 2011. Ironically, they had come up together from the 1st Division with the Byki Red Team in 2009.

The Byki put a scare into Srpska's keeper in the fourth minute. Chris Koenig launched a free kick from midfield for Sam Onaissi. The winger scooted down the right wing and fired from a sharp angle. Onaissi got his shot on frame and the goalie initially fumbled the wet ball and grabbed it before any Byki could arrive to follow up.

Srpska began to get their game together in the 17th minute. A long, floating shot from distance caused goalie Amit Khankari to backpedal and he arrived just in time to watch the ball smack off of the crossbar. Five minutes later, Srpska worked the ball inside the Byki penalty area and Khankari was well positioned to make the save.

Srpska snatched the lead in the 24th minute. A long pass over the top caught sweeper Peter Wood outnumbered in a 2 v 1 situation. Wood looked ready to clear the ball just when a Srpska player yanked his shirt and streaked right past, beating Khankari from the left side.

Four minutes later, Srpska doubled their advantage when the Byki allowed the tall Srpska striker to trap the ball in the middle of the box, and then turn and shoot from 15 yards.

The Byki nearly had a reply in the 33rd minute when new striker Matt LaConte's free kick from the corner of the area smacked off the crossbar.

The score went to 3:0 six minutes before the break. A booming cross from the right side found an unmarked player making the run to the back post. His well-struck volley gave Khankari no chance for a save.

The second-half turnabout came quickly. A precise through pass sent LaConte in alone on the Srpska keeper. LaConte's initial shot was saved, but he pounced on the rebound, slotting the ball into the lower left hand corner in the 55th minute.

The goal settled the Byki somewhat and their improved defensive posture allowed them to shut down a Srpska attack that had been running wild. Wood proved to be a good marshal in the back and the teams pretty much battled on level terms the rest of the way.

Fullback Ohad Garnon made a bid to pull the Byki to within 3:2 with an open header. The ball appeared destined for the upper corner of the goal and was pushed off the bar by the keeper, who executed an amazing stretch to reach the ball.

As the Byki committed more players forward in the latter stages, Khankari became very busy. He stoned Srpska on three breakaway situations, keeping the Byki competitive down the stretch.

*Ohad Garnon and Chris Koenig contributed to this story.*

**RED**

**Hellenic White 4 : 0 Byki**

NSL Major Division - College of DuPage - 29 April 2012

## Opening act a forgettable night

It didn't take long for Hellenic United to show the Byki Red Team how far they have to go to remain competitive in the NSL's Major Division. They blitzed the Byki for two goals in the first 16 minutes last Sunday and cruised to a 4:0 victory at a rainy College of DuPage stadium.

The Red Team are starting the season with the core of the roster that has made the playoffs the last two years and have bolstered their ranks with the addition of four players from the 2011 Blue Team. A veteran group that has tasted success in the past can reasonably expect that kind of success to continue. That, however, will be a tall task if the Byki do not

**WE ARE THE BYKI - Friends - Passion - Soccer**

get back their normal playing style pretty quickly.

Hellenic wasted no time putting pressure on the Byki, who consistently gave the ball away in the first half. The two teams were playing at different speeds and the Byki were struggling to keep up. The home side grabbed the lead after just nine minutes. A through ball put a striker into open space 30 yards from the goal. Stopper Laz Uriza gave chase, but to no avail. As the striker bore down on the Byki goal, keeper Martin Bertels came off his line to intervene. Bertels blocked the shot, but the ball mercilessly rebounded off of the Hellenic player and rolled into the empty net.

Seven minutes later, a Hellenic winger received a long ball down the left flank. He sprinted past Alan Stevens and fired a shot just underneath the arm of the diving Bertels for a 2:0 lead. Hellenic created two more good chances in the latter part of the first half. The Byki survived a goalmouth scramble in the 25th minute when a shot from six yards went wide. Bertels came up big in the 41st minute when he pushed a big blast from the right side around the post.

The Byki stepped up their intensity right at the start of the second half. Seven minutes in, Mike Stamatinos swerved a free kick from outside the arc over the wall, forcing a brilliant, diving save from the keeper. Three minutes later, Todd Trowbridge knifed an elegant through ball for Ammin Mehreioskouei, who sprinted into the clear. Hellenic's goalie came out hard and smothered the ball. Stevens also came close, but was denied by the keeper.

Hellenic's backline weathered that storm and maintained their grip on the two-goal advantage. The Byki decided to go for broke and shifted into a 3-4-3 system to try to get more players forward. "I rolled the dice there and things blew up in our face," said coach George Gorecki. Within moments, Hellenic found acres of space behind the Byki defense and scored twice in the final eight minutes to salt away the three points.

**OVER 40**

**MOFG 3 : 2 Byki**

PSLC Over 40 Blue Division - Countryside Park - 29 April 2012

## **2nd-half comeback falls short**

A first half of defensive laxness by the Over 40s proved to be the difference in their match versus MOFG last Sunday, as the Byki stared at a 3:1 deficit at halftime. The team reversed their fortunes after the break, demonstrating good ball movement and defensive tenacity. In the end, it was not enough to allow the Byki to eke out a point and they fell 3:2, evening their record to 1-0-1 for the season.

The field at Lake Zurich's Countryside Park was a bumpy mess and the Byki were grouching about the conditions even before the opening kickoff. But the field was just as bumpy for MOFG and it didn't prevent them from finding the back

of the net three times.

The Byki, who expected their defense to be the team's foundation, allowed MOFG's midfielders all of the time and space that they wanted, and that made life far more hectic in the Byki penalty area than they would have liked. MOFG parlayed a bit of luck with timely finishing, and they were good value for their 3:1 halftime advantage.

In the 15th minute, Mitch Posada controlled the ball at the top of the arc and passed off to Steven Pedlow on the left side of the box. Pedlow's shot narrowly buzzed over the crossbar.

MOFG opened their account in the 20th minute. A tricky MOFG corner kick was headed off the line by the well-placed Peter Follenweider. The Byki were unable to get the ball away and a MOFG player dumped the ball back into the penalty area, where a teammate ran past the Byki defense. Goalkeeper James Vlahakis came out fast to make a play on the ball, but the MOFG player did well to chip the ball into the net.

Two minutes later, the Byki scored an unlikely equalizer when a MOFG defender redirected a Byki cross from the right side into his own goal.

MOFG wasted little time getting back to work. In the 29th minute, the Byki defense sent a weak clearance barely out of the box, where a MOFG player shot immediately. Vlahakis had the meager shot covered, but a strange hop in the choppy penalty area sent the ball looping over him for a 2:1 lead.

MOFG went 3:1 up three minutes later. A cross from the left side found an unmarked player on the right, and his accurate shot just inside the left post gave Vlahakis no chance at a save. MOFG nearly added a fourth late in the first half with a nice combination of passes on the right flank. Vlahakis made a tough save on a shot at the near post.

At halftime, the Byki agreed that they had to increase their defensive intensity and they put MOFG on the back foot almost immediately. The ball was rarely played into Byki territory, as MOFG's defense teetered on the brink of collapse in several instances.

The Byki broke through in the 57th minute. Mark Weslar fought for possession with conviction and won the battle on the left side of the area. He sent a swerving cross to the far post, where an unmarked Gabriel Rodriguez met the ball and pushed a soft volley into the back of the net to make it 3:2. Rodriguez made a bid for the equalizer moments later. Ade Ekundayo set up the play with an elegant through pass for Rodriguez. The goalkeeper leaped full stretch to tip the ball over the bar.

Although the Byki tried to maintain a high level of pressure, the game began to even out by the final quarter hour. A third Byki goal that seemed inevitable after the score went 3:2 was looking increasingly difficult to find.

Nine minutes from the end, Pedlow ran down Posada's pass on the left flank and sprinted to the byline. He served the ball into the middle and the curving trajectory fooled the keeper, who frantically flapped at the ball to get it out of play.

Just before the final whistle, MOFG dodged another bullet. Weslar swung a free kick from the right wing into the mixer. The MOFG defense somehow allowed the ball to drop in and Eric Tower was unable to get a solid foot to the ball to get it home.

# BYKI SCOREBOARD

## RED

Hellenic White 4 : 0 Byki

NSL Major Division - College of DuPage - 29 April 2012

**BYKI LINEUP (4-4-2):** Bertels – Guzman, Stevens, Uriza, Suhayda – Mansur, Stamatinos (c), Dziekiewicz, Bouzoukis – Trowbridge, Ciszewski. **Bench:** Buur, Mehreioskouei.

### BYKI SCORING SUMMARY

None.

**Byki Man of the Match:** Todd Trowbridge

## BLUE

Srpska 3 : 1 Byki

NSL 1st Division - Redmond Sports Complex - 29 April 2012

**BYKI LINEUP (4-4-2):** Khankari – Wood, Ofrikhter, Kosinski, Garnon – Stopka, Onaissi, Gonchar, Koenig – Mendoza, LaConte. **Bench:** Barcnas, Gambino, Mehagic.

### BYKI SCORING SUMMARY

3:1 – LaConte 1; 55th.

**Byki Men of the Match:** Amit Khankari, Matt LaConte, Peter Wood.

## OVER 40

MOFG 3 : 2 Byki

PSLC Over 40 Blue Division - Countryside Park - 29 April 2012

**BYKI LINEUP (4-4-2):** Vlahakis – Towsey, Follenweider, Fink, Safford – Tower, Pedlow (c), Rodriguez, Ekundayo – Weslar, Posada. **Bench:** Cohen, Huck, Muehlbauer, Jacobs, Zygmunt.

### BYKI SCORING SUMMARY

1:1 – MOFG own goal; 22nd.  
3:2 – Rodriguez 2 (Weslar); 57th.

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

# Byki Stats

### RED TEAM, NSL MAJOR DIVISION

Player	G	A	Pts
No goals yet!	x	x	x
Goalie	Min	GA	GAA
Bertels	90	4	4.00

Current record: 0-0-1

### BLUE TEAM, NSL 1st DIVISION

Player	G	A	Pts
LaConte	1	0	1

Goalie	Min	GA	GAA
Khankari	90	3	3.00

Current record: 0-0-1

### O-40 TEAM, PSLC O-40 DIVISION

Player	G	A	Pts
Rodriguez	2	0	2
Elmkinssi	1	0	1
Ekundayo	0	1	1
Weslar	0	1	1
Team goals	1	x	x

Goalie	Min	GA	GAA
Vlahakis	180	4	2.00

Current record: 1-0-1

# NATIONAL SOCCER LEAGUE STANDINGS

April 29, 2012

www.nslchicago.org

## MAJOR DIVISION

Red Section	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts	Blue Section	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
RWB Adria	1	1	0	0	7	1	3	Hellenic United White	1	1	0	0	4	0	3
Brusfa FC	1	1	0	0	3	0	3	Hellenic United Blue	1	1	0	0	3	2	3
Gazelle SC	1	1	0	0	3	0	3	SAC Wisla	1	1	0	0	1	0	3
CKS Warta	2	1	0	1	6	8	3	Deportivo Colomex	1	0	0	1	2	3	0
Albanian Stars	1	0	0	1	0	3	0	FC Steaua	1	0	0	1	0	1	0
Jahbat FC	2	0	0	2	1	8	0	Stare Byki FC Red	1	0	0	1	0	4	0

## FIRST DIVISION

Red Section	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts	Blue Section	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
Bosphorus FC	1	1	0	0	8	0	3	FK Republika Srpska	1	1	0	0	3	1	3
Das Magic	1	1	0	0	4	2	3	Lancer FC	1	1	0	0	4	3	3
West Indies Jets SC	1	1	0	0	3	1	3	Assyrian FC	1	1	0	0	2	1	3
Independiente FC	1	0	1	0	1	1	1	Chicago Dynasty FC	1	0	1	0	2	2	1
Khaboor FC	1	0	1	0	1	1	1	Gremio FC	1	0	1	0	2	2	1
Jamstar FC	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	Lamaso FC	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
NK Prijedor	1	0	0	1	2	4	0	Winged Bull	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Shlama FC	1	0	0	1	1	3	0	Raiders FC	1	0	0	1	3	4	0
FC Moldova	1	0	0	1	0	8	0	FC Kosova	1	0	0	1	1	2	0
								Stare Byki FC Blue	1	0	0	1	1	3	0

# PREMIER SOCCER LEAGUE of CHICAGOLAND

April 29, 2012

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## OVER 30 RED DIVISION

	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
FC Tarnovia	2	2	0	0	5	3	6
Pampas	1	1	0	0	5	1	3
Jahbat FC	2	1	0	1	6	4	3
Romania SC	1	1	0	0	2	1	3
Chicago Celtic	2	1	0	1	3	5	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
Stare Byki FC	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hellenic United AC	1	0	0	1	1	2	0
St Charles Celtics Red	1	0	0	1	1	2	0
La Granate	1	0	0	1	0	2	0
SAC Wisla	1	0	0	1	1	4	0

## OVER 40 BLUE DIVISION

	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
Naperville Strikers FC	2	1	1	0	11	4	3
Torino FC	1	1	0	0	6	0	3
St Charles Celtics Green	1	1	0	0	5	1	3
Windy City United	2	1	1	0	6	3	3
MOFG	2	1	1	0	3	3	3
Real FC	2	1	1	0	4	4	3
Stare Byki FC	2	1	1	0	4	4	3
Pampas	2	1	1	0	4	6	3
Villains SC	2	1	1	0	1	6	3
St Charles Celtics Orange	2	0	2	0	1	14	0