



# BOUNCINGS



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6 May 18

CKS Warta	<b>1</b>	National Soccer League Major Division
Stare Byki	<b>3</b>	Hawthorne 3 May 2018

## Byki Major Division leaders? Yes!

The Byki made a triumphant return to the National Soccer League's Major Division this week, winning their opener last Sunday, a 2:1 win over Dundalk FC. They followed that up with a smashing performance on Thursday, toppling NSL heavyweights CKS Warta 3:1. Regardless of the outcomes of the remaining matches in Week 2, the Byki will end the round as undisputed leaders of the Major Division, a first in club history.

A key element of preseason preparation following a promotion season is strengthening the quality of the player pool. The Byki have done an impressive job in that department, introducing six new players, all of whom have contributed right away. "It's a great start for us," said coach George Gorecki. "The guys are still learning each other's names, but the teamwork in these two games has been off the charts."

The Byki knew that they had a big job ahead of them when they squared off against Warta, who lost just twice last season, when they finished third. Additionally, Warta were overall champions in the NSL's indoor competition this past winter. The Byki wanted to maintain defensive shape and tactical discipline at the start and then settle into a positive attacking rhythm. The lineup was complicated by some late-arriving players, but it hardly mattered, as the Byki played in a cohesive manner. JD Joiner and Joe Sauerma shifted from their normal midfield roles into the backline to join Colin Kirk and Will Crist and hardly missed a beat.

The Byki were on song as the match unfolded. Warta dominated possession, but had very little penetration. Many of their shots missed the mark and posed no threat to goalkeeper Aaron Menyes.

It took the Byki a while to be able to string several passes together, but they showed an ability to strike quickly. In the 25th minute, Byron Perez concluded a Byki counterattack with a blast from 35 yards that was parried by Warta's keeper.

Two minutes later, the Byki were on the board. Francesco de Felice lofted a free kick from the deep right wing into the mixer. Perez got a head to the ball and it rebounded to Phil Parker, who redirected it through a crowd of players for a 1:0 lead.

Byki confidence was swelling in the 39th minute. De Felice chased down a long pass and blazed past a Warta defender, dribbling deep into the penalty area. He danced past two more defenders before threading the needle with a sharp-angle shot that found the back of the net.

"Warta were dictating the tempo to that point," said Gorecki. "That second goal really changed the tone of the match. They went from bossing us around to respecting us."

The Byki expected Warta to increase the intensity in the second half, but it was the Byki who narrowly missed out on the crucial third goal just six minutes in. Newcomer Matt Tutich earned a free kick on the edge of the penalty area in the right-wing channel. Tutich curled a tantalizing ball to the near post, where Mark Zeman's first-timer whizzed just past the upright.

The contest evened out in the second frame. Warta looked for an opportunity to strike back, and ran a promising sortie midway through the second half. A diagonal ball found a path through the Byki goal area and was cleared at the last moment by Joiner's sliding intervention.

The counterattack was a potent weapon for the Byki. Warta tried to push more players forward and were constantly vulnerable in 3 v 2 situations. De Felice, Tutich and Erik Yamane kept the Warta defenders on a knife's edge.

The clincher for the Byki came ten minutes from the end. Yamane chased down a long ball played down the left flank. His hustle proved beneficial, as he carried to the byline, faked a defender to the turf, and dished back into the middle for Tutich. After sidestepping two players, Tutich had a big target, thanks to Warta's goalkeeper making an aggressive move on Yamane. Tutich picked his spot and fired high into the back of the net.

Warta's body language told the full story and it became quite clear that the Byki were driving this bus home to get all three points. Warta did manage to catch the Byki defense in an unbalanced position in the 86th minute and converted the opportunity to spoil the shutout. But the hill was too steep to envision a Warta comeback. Menyes made sure of that with a smart reflex save in stoppage time to push wide a shot

# 2017

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

# CHAMPIONS

from close range.

**BYKI LINEUP (4-2-3-1):** Menyés – Joiner, C. Kirk, Sauerman (c), Crist – Zeman, Parker – Korinenko, De Felice, Yamane – B. Perez. **Bench:** Alfaro, Bickel, Mendoza, Stamatinos Tutich.

#### BYKI SCORING SUMMARY

0:1 – Parker1 (B. Perez); 27th.

0:2 – De Felice 1; 39th.

0:3 – Tutich 1 (Yamane); 80th.

**Byki Men of the Match:** JD Joiner, Coilin Kirk, Phil Parker, Joe Sauerman.

Dundalk FC	1	National Soccer League Major Division
Stare Byki	2	Spring Rock Park 29 April 2018

## A productive opening

The Byki opened their 2018 campaign on Sunday with a solid 2:1 victory over Dundalk FC at Spring Rock Park. JD Joiner and newcomer Erik Yamane provided the goals and the lockdown defense by the Byki kept the home side in check for almost the entire 90 minutes.

The Byki last played in the NSL's top flight in 2013, concluding a four-year run. The difficulty of maintaining a competitive squad proved too much for the Byki, who chose to drop down to the First Division in an effort to push the reset button. "We figured that if we truly were Major Division caliber, we would be back up soon enough," commented coach George Gorecki. "It took a while, but we have built a squad that has talent, soccer smarts, and is a good mix of young and experienced players. We're ready to step up."

The Major Division to which the Byki are returning, however, is a very different landscape than the one they left almost five years ago. Back then, the Major Division comprised ten teams and the First Division had twelve. Today, defections from the league have left the NSL with just 11 teams, all competing in one Division. "I guess we are now safe from realizing our worst fear, that of getting relegated after one season," quipped Gorecki. "In the absence of a First Division, there is no place to which we can be relegated."

As a result of the new league structure, Dundalk were afforded the rare opportunity of starting their first season in the league in the top Division. They put a brief scare into the Byki defense in the second minute, when a Dundalk player broke free inside the area and rolled a shot towards the far post. The resilient Mike Stamatinos was in position to clear the ball away.

The Byki then got to work and used superior team speed to consistently challenge the space behind the Dundalk

fullbacks. Dmytro Korinenko and Andy Sokolowski pressed a Dundalk defender on the left wing and Korinenko came away with the ball. He and Sokolowski exchanged passes, with the teenager laying the ball into space in the corner. Korinenko drove a low square pass across the face of goal, finding Joiner at the far post for a 1:0 lead after just ten minutes.

The Byki created several decent scoring chances in the final 20 minutes of the half. Korinenko got deep on the left side again in the 25th minute and crossed for Byron Perez, who arrived a half-step late for the far-post tap-in.

In the 33rd minute, Joiner turned his defender at the top of the box and curled a shot over the goalie, only to be denied by the crossbar.

Just before the break, Phil Parker sent a long ball behind the defense for Joe Sauerman, who came in on a breakaway. The keeper came to challenge and Sauerman slid his shot wide.

While the Byki were clearly the better side, Dundalk were still in the game at 1:0. The narrow, 62-yard field provided an advantage, as they had an easier time of keeping the Byki bottled up.

The Byki maintained the dominant position in the contest and doubled their lead on 68 minutes. Bryan de Rama heaved a long throw-in from deep on the right wing into the middle of the box. A defender headed the ball over to Chris Talac, who shot right away. The ball was deflected on the way to goal and found Yamane waiting to redirect from close range.

Dundalk found a way back six minutes later, but needed a bit of luck to get there. A free kick from long range ricocheted off someone in the Byki defensive wall and floated just inside Alex Perez's right-hand post.

The Byki then put their stamp on the match, forcing Dundalk to defend furiously in the final minutes. Byron Perez's open shot from inside the box clanged off of the far post in the 76th minute. Shortly thereafter, Stamatinos was not far away from a third tally for the Byki, when he swooped in to drive a loose ball at goal from ten yards away. The goalie made a tremendous reflex save at the near post to deny Stamatinos.

"Tremendous start for our team," said Gorecki. "Once we get positions and tactics optimized, we're going to be a really good team."

**BYKI LINEUP (4-2-3-1):** A. Perez – O'Bryan, C. Kirk, Stamatinos (c), Bickel – Sauerman, Parker – Korinenko, B. Perez, Joiner – Sokolowski. **Bench:** Alfaro, De Rama, Talac, Yamane.

#### BYKI SCORING SUMMARY

0:1 – Joiner 1 (Korinenko); 10th.

0:2 – Yamane 1; 68th.

**Byki Men of the Match:** Justin O'Bryan, Colin Kirk, Mike Stamatinos, Chris Talac.

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inside the area. The midfielder picked his spot and slid the ball past the advancing goalie to make it 2:2. The goal set off a wild and profane implosion among International's players, several of whom unjustifiably lit into their keeper.

And stoppage time was the source for one last bit of drama, as International desperately tried to get the ball forward for one last push. When the Byki failed to contain the counterattack, an International player broke free and the hard-charging Vlahakis brought him down in the box, leading to International's second penalty kick of the day. Luckily for the Byki, International botched this one also, drilling the ball over the bar.

**BYKI LINEUP (4-2-3-1):** J. Park – Towsey, Zarate, Fink, Fukar – Lane, Penafiel – Pedlow, Metzger, Ekundayo (c) – BK Park. **Bench:** Huck, Jacobs, Marquez, Muehlbauer, Vlahakis.

**BYKI SCORING SUMMARY**

1:2 – Penafiel 1 (pk); 85th.  
2:2 – Ekundayo 1 (Penafiel); 90th.

**Byki Men of the Match:** Andy Lane and Miguel Zarate.

Levski	4	Premier Soccer League Over 30 White B Division
Byki 0-30	3	Tarkington School 29 April 2018

## Byki chase Levski, can't catch up

A fast start by Levski Chicago last Sunday stuck the Over 30 Team in a 2:0 hole. It took the Byki a while to dig themselves out, and by the middle of the second half, momentum had certainly shifted. But the early deficit was eventually too difficult to overcome, and Levski came away with a 4:3 victory.

Levski was clearly a much different opponent from Adventists United and the challenges were accordingly more difficult. From the beginning, Byki player-coaches Dan Jdrzejowski and Robby McClure were trying to find a backline that could keep up with Levski's direct and fast-paced attack. Levski exploited attacking opportunities right from the jump, sending in a clever pass behind the defense from the right side of the field. The Levski striker cut back to the inside, pushing the ball five yards from goal for an easy tap-in in the fourth minute.

Four minutes later, Levski sent a through ball down the middle of the field after the Byki had lost possession. The Levski forward ran on to the ball and came in 1 v 1 on keeper Ray Najera. He made easy work of the play, slotting into the back of the net for a 2:0 lead.

The Byki remained unsettled following the second goal, as Levski continually pressed forward. In the 25th minute, a Levski player was dragged down in the Byki penalty area after a nifty cut-back move. The referee pointed to the spot, and the Byki dodged a bullet when the Levski player sent the penalty wide of the left post.

The Byki were forced to shuffle the backline once again

in search of a formula that would work more effectively. Things settled down in the last 15 minutes of the first half, as the Byki started to maintain possession and worked the ball up the wings. The hard work paid off as the Byki controlled the game up until the break.

The Byki kept the momentum going at the start of the second half. Alex Campos received the ball on the flank in full stride on a Byki counterattack and sent a great pass along the ground to Matt Klosterman. His first-time shot from close range flew over the bar.

Levski took full advantage of a broken play in the their half of the field, resulting in a fast break opportunity. Levski's striker raced to the goal alone, where he dribbled around Najera for a easy tap-in in the 51st minute to make it 3:0.

Five minutes later, increased pressure earned the Byki a penalty kick of their own. Paul Gibbs did the honors from the spot, and in his signature cool fashion, sent the keeper the wrong way to bring the Byki back to 3:1.

Tim Patz stepped into a weak clearance by Levski a few minutes later and beat the goalkeeper with a well placed shot to make things interesting at 3:2.

Levski caught a lucky break in the 75th minute, when a powerful shot from the top of the box beat Najera high, giving the home team some breathing room at 4:2.

The Byki, however, did not hang their heads and continued to sustain constant pressure. Levski, who dressed only one substitute, were becoming visibly tired from the pace of the contest, and were no longer interested in pressing high anymore.

The Byki got rewarded for their effort when a Levski player handled the ball in his own area. Richard Sodeinde blasted the ensuing penalty kick into the back of the net to make it 4:3 with ten minutes to go. The Byki continued to push for the equalizer, but could not break through a Levski defense that had determinedly parked the bus until the final whistle.

Although disappointed with the result, the Byki showed poise and mental toughness when two quick goals put them behind in the first ten minutes. "We showed good composure and playmaking ability against a tough opponent and we are looking forward to seeing them again later in the season," commented Jdrzejowski afterwards.

*Dan Jdrzejowski contributed to this story.*

**BYKI LINEUP (4-5-1):** Najera – Durojaiye, Gibbs, McClure (c), Soaga – Jamarillo, Patz, Campos, Espinoza, Sodeinde – Akbas. **Bench:** Champagne, Herholdt, Jaworski, Jędrzejowski, Klosterman.

**BYKI SCORING SUMMARY**

3:1 – Gibbs 1 (pk); 56th.  
3:2 – Patz 1; 61st.  
4:3 – Sodeinde 1 (pk); 80th.

**Byki Man of the Match:** Ray Najera.



**NSL MAJOR DIVISION****3 May 2018****www.nslchicago.org**

	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
Stare Byki FC	2	2	0	0	5	2	6
Wisloka Chicago	1	1	0	0	5	0	3
SAC Wisla	1	1	0	0	2	1	3
Vikings AA	2	0	2	0	3	3	2
RWB Adria	1	0	1	0	2	2	1
AAC Winged Bull	1	0	1	0	1	1	1
Gazelle SC	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Das Magic	1	0	0	1	1	2	0
Dundalk FC	1	0	0	1	1	2	0
CKS Warta	1	0	0	1	1	3	0
FC Guadalajara	1	0	0	1	0	5	0

**PSLC OVER 30 WHITE DIVISION****29 April 2018****www.pslchicagoland.com**

	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
Celtics	2	2	0	0	7	2	6
Levski Chicago 2014	2	2	0	0	8	4	6
FC Igloopol	2	1	1	0	5	4	4
AEK FC Chicago	1	1	0	0	15	0	3
Stare Byki FC	2	1	0	1	11	4	3
Shogun	2	1	0	1	6	9	3
Tricolorii FC	2	0	1	1	3	4	1
International SC	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Chicago Rangers FC	1	0	0	1	4	5	0
FC National	1	0	0	1	2	3	0
FC Oasu	1	0	0	1	1	4	0
Adventists United FC	2	0	0	2	0	23	0

**PSLC OVER 40 B DIVISION****29 April 2018****www.pslchicagoland.com**

	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
Olympiacos Chicago	2	1	1	0	9	3	4
FK Danubia	2	1	1	0	5	3	4
Park Ridge Rogues	1	1	0	0	3	0	3
Atletico Torino FC	1	1	0	0	2	1	3
International SC	1	0	1	0	2	2	1
Stare Byki FC	1	0	1	0	2	2	1
MANA United SC	1	0	0	1	1	2	0
Deerfield	1	0	0	1	1	3	0
Real FC Blues	2	0	0	2	1	10	0

**PSLC OVER 48 DIVISION****6 May 2018****www.pslchicagoland.com**

	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
Atletico Torino FC	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
HNK Concordia	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Jakes Stars Villains	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Park Ridge Rogues	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sofia BG	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
St C Celtics Silverbacks	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
St Charles Celtics	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Stare Byki FC	0	0	0	0	0	0	0