



# BOUNCINGS

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22 May 16

2015 PSLC  
Over 40  
CHAMPIONS

Stare Byki	<b>0</b>	National Soccer League 1st Division
Winged Bull	<b>1</b>	Oak Brook Sports Core 15 May 2016

## Disjointed Byki misfiring

The Byki finally got their outdoor season going last Sunday when they faced AAC Winged Bull at Oak Brook. They managed to hold their defense together for the most part, but the attack sputtered, as the team had problems dealing with high pressure applied by Winged Bull in the middle third of the field.

"We weren't as prepared as we could be," noted coach George Gorecki. "Guys missing from training, guys not arriving to the field on time, all seem like little things. But they add up to bigger problems in a hurry."

The Byki were unable to find an attacking rhythm all day long. They had difficulties playing balls out of the back and this resulted in a direct style of play that clearly does not suit them. When the strikers are starved of any kind of good passes, goals will be hard to come by.

The 2016 First Division comprises just nine teams and the NSL tweaked the competition format as a result. The teams will battle for the top two spots in the table and the winning sides will earn promotion to the Major Division in 2017. Thus, every regular-season match has a lot riding on the outcome. Playoffs have been eliminated in favor of a league-wide cup tournament at the end of the season. All teams from the Major and First Divisions will be placed in a knockout bracket by blind draw.

Winged Bull caught the Byki napping in the opening moments when a cross from the right side landed inside the Byki penalty area. A Winged Bull player poked the ball into the net but the goal was waved off thanks to offside.

The visitors came knocking at the door in the 21st minute. A Winged Bull player stepped in and won a short goal kick, sprinting towards the Byki goal immediately. He flicked the ball into open space in the box, prompting goalkeeper Pete Chronowski to rush off his line and shepherd the player wide. The striker dropped a pass back for a teammate in the middle and the Byki defense converged to block the shot.

Winged Bull notched the only goal of the contest four minutes later. Once again, the Byki were late in dealing with

a ball centered into the penalty area and wound up paying a significant price. A Winged Bull forward was able to chest the ball over a defender's head and struck a volley unobstructed from inside the six-yard box. The lack of recognition by the Byki defense proved very costly.

At the half hour, the Byki caused a nervous moment for the Winged Bull defense. Devin Freitag carried the ball into the right-wing channel and crossed into the box. A Winged Bull player headed the ball along, finding Marek Ciszewski parked ten yards from goal. Ciszewski smashed the ball as soon as it arrived, only to see fly over the crossbar.

Gorecki changed the formation to 4-4-2 at the break in the hopes of providing some help for Ciszewski up front. The change had little effect, as Winged Bull came out in the second half still able to control the tempo of the match. The Byki soon dropped another player back into midfield to balance the numbers.

"We were poor at breaking pressure in the first half," said Gorecki. "We lacked the commitment and discipline to keep the ball on the ground in the second half. Some players seemed to think that trying to dribble through pressure was better than hitting the ball downfield. Both approaches were bad ideas and both provided the same result."

Winged Bull had the best scoring chances of the second half. Chronowski came up big in the 67th minute when he blocked a shot from ten yards with a spread-eagle kick save. Four minutes later, Winged Bull raced forward on the counter 4 v 3 and Chronowski cut off an opportunity for a striker to beat him at the near post.

The Byki can only hope that early-season rust is the cause behind this performance, and that they can bounce back to their typical level of quality going forward.

**BYKI LINEUP (4-2-3-1):** Chronowski – Zachariah, Stevens, Stamatinos (c) Mehagic – Mowry, Joiner – Mansuri, Zudic, Flynn – Ciszewski. **Bench:** Freitag, B. Rodriguez.

### BYKI SCORING SUMMARY

None.

**Byki Men of the Match:** Kyler Mowry and Alan Stevens.



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Byki O-30	<b>0</b>	Premier Soccer League Over 30 White Division  Oak Brook Sports Core 24 April 2016
AEK Chicago	<b>1</b>	

## Byki scuffling in opener

The Over 30 Team opened the outdoor season on April 24 with plenty of question marks about their roster and their form, and the answers to those questions can simply be boiled down to this: the Byki need more time playing together. AEK Chicago prevailed 1:0 at Oak Brook in a match where there were few chances for either side.

The team did some rebuilding in the off-season, welcoming three new players into the fold and reuniting with Roman Kramarz, whose presence in midfield was sorely missed for most of last season. It's only one match, but the Byki look like they are filled with good ideas on how to play, and now only need to find consistency and teamwork.

AEK finished third in the Over 30 Division in 2015 and easily outplayed the Byki in both encounters last year. Although they assumed control of the pace early on against the Byki in this match, the home side eventually came into the contest and it was competitive throughout the 90 minutes.

Kristian Buur combined with Pete Beeson on a through ball that got behind the AEK defense, Beeson, who was making his Byki debut, took a touch to settle and ripped a shot that went just wide of the target.

AEK was having success along the left wing and did some good things to exploit space in front of the Byki penalty area. A winger drove down the flank and cut to the inside. Goalkeeper Pete Chronowski came off his line and tipped the shot over the bar.

As the match approached halftime, the Byki made a strong bid to take the lead, Striker Maciek Kekus headed a bullet at the near post from a corner kick. AEK's goalkeeper made a fantastic reaction save and then smothered the rebound.

AEK scored the only goal they would need early in the second half, and it's a good thing for them that style points were not being awarded. On a free kick from just outside the box, an AEK player struck the ball poorly as he attempted a shot on goal. The ball came off an AEK forward's backside and fell kindly to a teammate, who finished easily from close range.

Much of the second half was a scrappy battle in midfield, and neither team did much to pressure the opposing goalie. Chronowski snuffed out some half chances when he bravely smothered a couple of deep through balls and helped keep the deficit at just 1:0.

The Byki created some noise late into added time, as AEK desperately defended successive corner kicks. Kekus swung a cross into the mixer and the ball ricocheted to Beeson, who settled it and shot immediately. An AEK player got in the way and the deflected shot curled just wide, resulting in another corner kick. The initial ball didn't get very far, but Mo Elshafie worked hard in the corner and recycled a cross

back into the box. A wild collision of bodies in the middle ensued and Sean Marquez tried to stab the ball home from the doorstep of the goal. An AEK defender positioned on his goal line cleared the ball to safety just moments before the referee blew the whistle to end the match.

*Alan Stevens and Chris Hurley contributed to this story.*

**BYKI LINEUP (4-5-1):** Chronowski – Stevens, Hurley, Elshafie, King – Boeckeler, Gibbs, Beeson, Buur, Kramarz – Kekus (c). Bench: Chudyba, Jedrzejowski, Marquez, Najera .

### BYKI SCORING SUMMARY

None.

**Byki Man of the Match:** Pete Chronowski

Byki O-40	<b>0</b>	Premier Soccer League Over 40 B1 Division  Oak Brook Sports Core 15 May 2016
Grosse Point	<b>1</b>	

## Byki begin 2016 with a blank

The Byki began the defense of their Over 40 B Division title last Sunday in uninspiring fashion, losing 1:0 to newcomers Grosse Point Social Club on a fluke goal in the second half. Grosse Point approached the match with a high degree of conviction and the Byki failed to match that level of intensity.

The Over 40s once again declined the opportunity to move up to the A Division after having taken the B Division crown for the second consecutive season. Questions about roster depth and the loss of several regular players raised significant questions about whether the team would be competitive in the top flight. The Byki eventually decided to take the more conservative route and stay put. The team's goal this season is to improve the quality and depth of the player pool and be ready for a move up if they are able to secure a promotion spot.

The Byki began the contest playing into the wind and the conditions seemed to throw them off their equilibrium. Players were missing simple traps and were second-best winning 50/50 balls. On the other side, Grosse Point were very active and made lots of runs into space. It was clear that they were a group that have played together for years. Grosse Point did a good job of controlling the ball and enjoyed a substantial share of possession.

The Byki created very few chances at the offensive end and barely troubled the Grosse Point goalkeeper. Byki netminder James Vlahakis did his part to keep the Byki in the game, registering several nice saves in the first half, the best of which was a sliding stop on a corner kick while moving from left to right. The Byki managed to reach halftime at 0:0.

The Byki played better after the break and having the wind at their backs was definitely a factor. Confidence

grew within the team, as their passing and ball control improved significantly. Once the Byki started using the wings, Grosse Point saw less of the ball and had many fewer opportunities in the second half.

One of those rare opportunities came midway through and they took full advantage. Vlahakis came out to snare a cross and mishandled the ball. Mayhem ensued in a crowded penalty area and the ball bounced off of Vlahakis' chest, right to the feet of a Grosse Point player. He made no mistake to turn the gift play into a goal.

The Byki continued to display solid ball movement, but the lack of penetration was telling. Midfielder Ade Ekundayo came closest to an equalizer when he stole the ball from a Grosse Point player and fired from the top of the box, going barely wide of the post. The Byki piled on the pressure, but

could not find a way through a well-packed Grosse Point defense.

It was a nice turnabout for the Byki in the second half. They will have to take account of lessons learned from this match, as the sides will meet again on June 5 in Northbrook.

*Doug Towsey contributed to this report.*

**BYKI LINEUP (4-2-3-1):** Vlahakis – Towsey, Fukar, Fink, Arcos – Lane, Penafiel – G. Rodriguez, Banbor, Ekundayo (c) – Huck..Bench: Carrillo, Cohen, Karafili, Kotsy, Zarate.

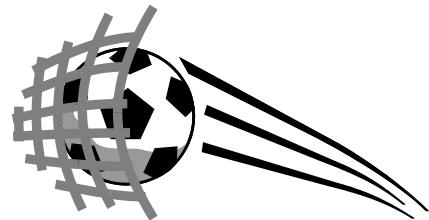
**BYKI SCORING SUMMARY**

None.

**Byki Man of the Match:** Dean Fukar.



# BYKI bits & pieces



**Byki alumnus Matt Treter** may not be around the Chicago area anymore, but he certainly remembers to have his Byki scarf handy for an opportunity to snap a scarf picture.

As you might conclude from the photos, Matt's living in Seattle now and has gone all-in as a Seattle Sounders fan.

He recently got an invitation from the club to spend part of a match at field level, and while down there, he spotted retired Sounder **Steve Zakuani**. He becomes the latest pro player in a long line of stars to hold a Byki scarf, such as **Frank Lampard**, **Rio Ferdinand** and **Peter Nowak**, to name a few.



