



BOUNCINGS



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1 June 13



NSL

Wisła **2 : 2** Byki

05-19-13

Byki battle, split the points

A hard-working mentality and a disciplined tactical approach were enough to earn the Byki their first point of the season in a 2:2 draw versus SAC Wisla on May 19. They snagged the early lead and then fought back from a 2:1 deficit in the second half to share the spoils. A free kick that glanced off the crossbar in the late stages nearly propelled the Byki to victory.

The youthful Wisla side enjoyed the possession advantage, but found precious little space in the final third of the field. The Byki did a fine job of controlling things when it mattered most.

Wisla were inches away from snatching the lead after just three minutes. A Wisla player headed a corner kick over the outstretched arms of goalie Justin Salazar, but Peter Wood swooped in to clear the ball away just before it crossed the goal line.

It took the Byki a few minutes to get settled and they made the most of their first scoring opportunity in the 17th minute. Mathieu Szymkowiak laid the ball off for Daniel Zielinski at midfield. After weaving his way and in and out, Zielinski launched the ball from long range towards the Wisla goal. The high arc appeared to fool the Wisla keeper, who watched helplessly as the ball found the upper corner at the far post. None of Zielinski's teammates believed that he intended a shot with that looping ball, but his intent was far less important than the final outcome.

Eleven minutes later, Marek Ciszewski spotted Mickael N'Guettia making a slashing run behind the defense. Ciszewski's pass was in the right spot, but N'Guettia could not gain his balance to get a shot on target.

The Byki were generally satisfied with their play in the first half. "I thought we did a god job of keeping things under control," said coach George Gorecki. "We kept a level head after a frantic first few minutes and we transformed that into a goal."

Things unraveled quickly in the second half, however. In the 58th minute, a well-placed Wisla free kick resulted in a

wild scramble inside the Byki penalty area. With players flailing at the ball from all directions, the Byki failed to clear and the mayhem resulted in an equalizer for Wisla.

The Byki had hardly enough time to figure out where things had gone wrong before Wisla grabbed the lead just moments later. In a rare mistake in the back, the Byki defense allowed a Wisla striker to break into the clear, with only Salazar to beat. Salazar rushed off his line and smothered the Wisla striker, resulting in a penalty kick. Salazar avoided getting sent off thanks to his defenders backing him up as he rushed forward to make a play on the striker. Wisla converted the ensuing penalty to go 2:1 up.

It was a great opportunity for the Byki to fold their tents. Instead, they dusted themselves off and got back to work. They got their reward in the 65th minute when midfielder Eddie Llamas sent N'Guettia through with a pass that split the defense. With the keeper at his mercy, N'Guettia calmly slid the ball home to make it 2:2.

With momentum on their side, the Byki pressed forward for a third goal to win the game. Rigo Ortiz made a bid to be the hero in the 76th minute when he crushed a free kick from 35 yards that rattled the crossbar. The Wisla keeper, rooted on his line, must have felt a massive sense of relief seeing the ball bounce to safety.

The squad's teamwork has slowly improved over three games, and will have to improve further for the Byki to be competitive every week.

BYKI LINEUP (3-5-2): Salazar – Suhayda, Wood, Diallo – Llamas, Oritz, Stamatinos (c), B. Rodriguez, Szymkowiak – Onaissi, Zielinski. **Bench:** Alfaro, Ciszewski, N'Guettia.

BYKI SCORING SUMMARY

0:1 – Zielinski 1 (Szymkowiak); 17th.

2:2 – N'Guettia 1 (Llamas); 65th.

Byki Men of the Match: Boubou Diallo and Daniel Zielinski

STARE BYKI FC
Annual Golf Outing
and
30th Anniversary Party
SATURDAY, AUGUST 17

WE ARE THE BYKI - Friends - Passion - Soccer

PSLC

Byki O-40 **4 : 4** Pampas

05-19-13

Blown lead incomprehensible

The Over 40s had a 30-minute goal explosion in their game against Pampas on May 19 and raced out to an improbable 4:1 lead over their longtime rivals. But the unthinkable occurred in the second half and Pampas clawed their way back into the match, crafting a 4:4 draw. The Byki, with five points from their first three matches, left the field shaking their heads, as they tried to figure out how they could not have won the game.

Rino Positano continued his torrid scoring pace, netting a double. Mitch Posada contributed a goal and an assist, while Gabriel Rodriguez added a pair of assists.

The Byki and Pampas have had a contentious relationship for many years, dating back to the days when Pampas still played in the National Soccer League. In 2012, the Byki claimed two forfeit victories over Pampas. The first one came after the Byki had detected Pampas listing too many players on their roster. The Byki filed a protest with the PSLC and won the game on forfeit. The second one was the result of an eight-man Pampas squad choosing to forfeit, rather get their backsides handed to them. In typical Pampas fashion, they bizarrely blamed the Byki for both forfeit defeats.

This last game lacked the histrionics and shenanigans, although player-coach Eric Tower came home with wicked four-inch-long gash on his calf. It was a typical day at the office against Pampas.

The Byki needed just six minutes to grab a 2:0 lead. In the third minute, Posada weaved a path on the deep left wing, juking past two defenders before cutting a diagonal ball back for Ade Ekundayo. The midfielder kept a steady head and stroked then ball past the keeper from 15 yards.

Three minutes later, the Byki carved up the Pampas defense as though it were a Thanksgiving turkey. Rodriguez played a quick give-and-go with Ekundayo and then sent Positano behind the Pampas defense with a simple through pass. Positano rumbled nearly to the goal line before zinging a shot from a t5ough angle into the net at the far post.

Undaunted, Pampas made their bid to get back into the game in the ninth minute. A floating ball found a Pampas player unmarked in the box

and James Vlahakis made a brilliant save on an open shot from five yards away.

The Byki responded with their third goal, coming just after the quarter-hour mark. Positano dribbled through the Pampas defense like a madman and was hauled down in the area for a penalty. Posada converted the spot kick and the giddy Byki were three goals to the good.

Pampas pulled one back in the 21st minute, thanks to lax marking by the Byki. But the Byki regained their three-goal advantage on 30 minutes, when Rodriguez controlled the ball inside the Pampas penalty area and slid a pass to Positano, who tucked the ball just inside the post.

A 4:1 halftime lead should have led to just one outcome, but the Byki inexplicably let the game get away in the second half. Several factors contributed to the collapse: poor rotation of substitutes into the game, the deterioration of midfield play and poor defending on dead-ball situations.

The Byki spent the first half exploiting the weaknesses of the Pampas defense. That was accomplished with quick, intelligent ball movement and a willingness to make runs into space. When the work off the ball stopped, the Byki reverted to ugly Route One football and this allowed Pampas to hammer the ball back at the Byki at will.

Momentum being fickle, the tide turned suddenly against the Byki, and Pampas chipped away at the lead. When one problem led to another, 4:1 became 4:4 and a grumbling group of Byki came home licking their wounds.

Eric Tower contributed to this story.

BYKI LINEUP (4-4-2): Vlahakis – Fink (c), Fukar, Tower, Safford – Dahlquist, G. Rodriguez, Posada, Ekundayo – Positano, Nelson. **Bench:** Gorecki, Huck, Jacobs, Kuch, Muehlbauer.

BYKI SCORING SUMMARY

1:0 – Ekundayo 1 (Posada); 3rd.
2:0 – Positano 3 (Rodriguez); 6th.
3:0 – Posada 3 (pk); 16th.
4:1 – Positano 4 (Rodriguez); 30th.

Byki Man of the Match: Ade Ekundayo

Byki Stats

FIRST TEAM, NSL MAJOR DIVISION

Player	G	A	Pts
N'Guettia	1	0	1
Zielinski	1	0	1
Llamas	0	1	1
Szymkowiak	0	1	1
Goalie	Min	GA	GAA
Salazar	270	6	2.00

Current record: 0-1-2

O-30 TEAM, PSLC O-30 DIVISION

Player	G	A	Pts
Hurley	1	0	1
St Clair	1	0	1
Uriza	0	1	1
Goalie	Min	GA	GAA
Gorecki	24	1	3.75
Najera	246	11	4.02

Current record: 0-0-3

O-40 TEAM, PSLC O-40 DIVISION

Player	G	A	Pts
Positano	4	0	4
Posada	3	1	4
Nelson	2	0	2
Tower	1	1	2
Rodriguez, G.	0	2	2
Ekundayo	1	0	1
Fukar	0	1	1
Pedlow	0	1	1
Safford	0	1	1

Goalie	Min	GA	GAA
Vlahakis	270	6	2.00

Current record: 1-2-0

1983

MEET THE BYKI

2013



STEVEN PEDLOW

Name: Steven Pedlow

Hometown: Plymouth, MI

Position: Forward/Wing Midfielder/ Wingback

Joined the Byki in: 2002, currently playing for Over 40 Team

Current location: Orland Park, IL

Occupation: Statistician

Games played for the Byki: 289

Byki accomplishments: Election Committee (2003-04), Secretary (2005-09), Treasurer (2010-present), 2009 Over 40 PSLC champions

Previous clubs: Pilsen SC, Orland Park Pegasus

How I joined the Byki: While playing for Pegasus O-30 against a Byki team starting a game with 10 players, I was defending George Siepiora. (Byki 1991-2009) Because my playing time was dwindling at Pegasus, I asked George if the Byki were always short players, and if so, I would play for them. I spoke to Howard Hartenstein (Byki 1990-2010). It was too late in the season to switch clubs, but Howard set up a meeting with the Stare Byki FC president at the O-30 Championship game. I was really nervous to meet the PRESIDENT, but George told me to come to training!

My favorite moment while playing for the Byki: In 2009, I was still playing for the O-30 Team, but I was helping the O-40 Team solidify things in the first year of their existence. It was such a fun team that I wanted to play exclusively for the O-40s in 2010. In that first magical season, we finished the regular season with eight straight wins and carried the win streak to eleven in the Cup before the Final. After a 3:3 tie with favorites St. Charles Celtics Blue, we lifted the trophy on penalty kicks.

Clubs I like: Chicago Fire, Plymouth Argyle, Saint Etienne, Roma, Valencia