



# BOUNCINGS



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18 June 17

United Stars	<b>0</b>	National Soccer League 1st Division
Stare Byki	<b>3</b>	Jackson Park 4 June 2017

## Byki take their chances well

The Byki battled high temperatures, gusty winds, tall grass, and a feisty United Stars team last Sunday and put away a tidy 3:0 victory at Jackson Park. They remain the clear leaders in the NSL's First Division, sporting an unblemished record after four matches.

Coach George Gorecki wanted his 16-strong squad to take a step forward in their development and put together a comprehensive, 90-minute effort. Although the Byki snatched the lead after just two minutes, they really did not find their game until the second half. "I think that the conditions forced us to adjust our game," said Gorecki. "We had some excellent finishing to our scoring chances and we limited the Stars to just offensive scraps."

Those adjustments took the Byki away from their preferred style of play of keeping possession. With grass ankle-high in some places, every pass on the ground needed extra pace. Eventually, the Byki adopted a more aerial game to get behind the Stars defense.

The Stars are on their maiden voyage in the NSL and have found the waters to be a bit turbulent so far. Their only victory came as a forfeit, when FC Guadalajara were no-shows. Against the Byki, the Stars relied on speed and physical play, and the referee only encouraged a physical style by being economical with his whistle. "The match really needed a sterner hand than the referee provided," noted Gorecki. "A few challenges crossed a line and then players reacted with pushing and shoving, and that's poor management, in my opinion."

The Byki swarmed all over the Stars right from the jump. The Byki had earned their second corner of the match by the second minute and made the most of their opportunity. A Stars player kicked Joe Sauerman's bending corner kick off the line, resulting in mayhem in front of goal. Mark Zeman was first to a loose ball and knocked it home for a 1:0 lead.

The Stars squandered a chance in the fifth minute, when an open player shot high from ten yards. It was one of the few breaches in the Byki defense on the day.

Byki passing was well below its usual standard, as balls were falling short of the target. As a result, the game went into a back-and-forth rhythm, with most of the action in the middle third of the field.

Quavas Kirk ended a forceful run on the left side with a cross for Sauerman in the 28th minute. The timing was a bit off and Sauerman could not find the finishing touch from ten yards out.

Three minutes later, Sauerman sent Kirk on a breakaway with a tantalizing through ball that split the Stars defense. The keeper did well to come out fast and block Kirk's shot.

The match took on a physical tone early and the Byki were happy to hand out as many hard challenges as they received from the Stars. Quavas Kirk was the recipient of much of the abuse, but the Stars were hardly capable of slowing down a player of Kirk's experience.

The Byki scored twice more early in the second half, the goals coming four minutes apart. In the 55th minute, Quavas Kirk danced with the ball along the byline to the goalie's right and slipped a pass in for Andy Sokolowski. He shot immediately, but watched his attempt go wide.

Sokolowski corrected things two minutes later. Dmytro Korinenko put high pressure on a Stars player in his defensive third and pried the ball loose. He raced towards goal along the right flank and waited for the right moment to dish to Sokolowski in the middle of the box. Sokolowski made no mistake from close range to make it 2:0.

That goal shifted momentum strongly to the Byki. They added the clinching goal just after the hour mark, with a wonder strike from captain Mike Stamatinos. After a Stars foul placed the ball 30 yards from goal on the left side, Stamatinos ignored the defensive wall and fired a rocket towards the post the keeper was supposed to be covering. The ball screamed into the netting with no reaction from the goalie.

**Weekly training**  
**THURSDAY, JUNE 23**  
**Olympic Park, Field 3**  
**Schaumburg, IL**

**7.30 PM - 9.30 PM**

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

The sudden shift from 1:0 to 3:0 sucked all of the motivation out of the Stars. Although they continued to press forward, their attempts came to nothing. They either missed the target entirely or simply gave the ball away because of selfish decisions.

The Byki keep on rolling and it's hard to see who will be able to slow them down.

**BYKI LINEUP (4-2-3-1):** Khankari – Elshafie, Stevens, C. Kirk, Stamatinos (c) – Sauerman, Zeman – Korinenko, Verbych, Sokolowski – Q. Kirk. **Bench:** Bickel, Freitag, Mehagic, Mowry, Stepanov.

**BYKI SCORING SUMMARY**

0:1 – Zeman 1; 2nd.  
0:2 – Sokolowski 3 (Korinenko); 57th.  
0:3 – Stamatinos 2; 61st.

**Byki Man of the Match:** Quavas Kirk.

Gato Verde	<b>5</b>	Premier Soccer League Over 40 B1 Division
Byki 0-40	<b>3</b>	Oak Brook Sports Core 11 June 2017

## Gato Verde prove too tough

The Byki faced an old foe last Sunday at Oak Brook when they took on Gato Verde. The teams had faced each other many times at the Over 30 level in NSL competition, but this was the first meeting in Over 40 play. Gato Verde took the upper hand early, staved off a Byki comeback, and prevailed 5:3 to maintain their hold on first place in the PSLC's Over 40 B1 Division. The Byki, with six points from their four matches, dropped to fourth in the table.

Gato Verde joined the PSLC several years ago, but they and the Byki had played in different Divisions until now. The Byki were in the A Division when Gato Verde started out in the B group, and the two swapped places when the Byki were relegated and Gato Verde were promoted. Gato Verde dropped down to the B1 Division following the 2016 season.

Their quality was in evidence all over the field. The combination of Gato Verde veterans and players from the defunct West Indies Jets provided the foundation for a strong squad. Based on their play so far (full points after four matches), they are trending towards a return to the top flight.

The difference between the teams came down to Gato Verde controlling the middle third of the field. They constantly won loose balls in that area and allowed very little time and space for the Byki midfielders to settle the ball and find open teammates. The Byki talked a lot about playing more balls to the wings, but did not consistently fulfill that desire.

The Byki came close to opening their account following a ninth-minute corner kick. Diego Penafiel's cross found Miguel Zarate, whose header was deflected by the goalkeeper and off of the crossbar. A mad scramble ensued before Gato Verde defenders could clear the ball.

Gato Verde grabbed the lead in the 22nd minute when James Vlahakis could not react in time to a deflected shot from distance. The ball grazed the underside of the crossbar before settling in the back of the net.

Seven minutes later, the Byki were on the prowl for an equalizer. Zarate hustled to save a ball at the byline and dropped it back for Roman Kramarz in the right-wing channel. Kramarz lofted a shot towards goal and the goalkeeper desperately tipped it over the bar.

Gato Verde increased the pressure on the Byki. A shot from the right side of the box smacked off of the goalpost, followed by a sloppy Byki giveaway in the back. Vlahakis went full stretch to nab an angled shot from 15 yards.

The score went to 2:0 in the 35th minute, when a Gato Verde player ran behind the Byki defense. He was probably onside when the initial pass was made, but likely offside when a teammate redirected it ever so slightly. He came in alone, dished off to a teammate for the simple tap-in. The enraged Byki railed at the assistant, but it was of little use. The official's poor positioning on the play prevented him from making the correct decision.

Three minutes later, the Byki were back in it. Penafiel floated a corner kick into the middle, where a benevolent Gato Verde defender nodded the ball into his own net.

The Byki evened things eight minutes into the second half, when a Gato Verde player handled the ball in his own penalty area. Kramarz stepped up to the spot and drilled the ball home for his first goal of the campaign.

The game really began to heat up at this point. In the 56th minute, Zarate played Ade Ekundayo behind the last defender. Ekundayo carried to the right side of the box, but his shot was denied by a splendid diving save by the keeper.

Moments later, Gato Verde regained the lead when a shot from 20 yards found the back of the net. Disaster struck in the 64th minute, when a long Gato Verde clearance landed near the top of the Byki penalty area. Vlahakis came out to intervene, but the ball bounced over his head, and a Gato Verde player chased it down and tucked it home for a 4:2 lead.

The twists and turns were not finished, however. Penafiel ran onto a long pass behind the defense in the 67th minute and came fast on a breakaway. The keeper made a bold move to challenge Penafiel, but was caught in no-man's land when Penafiel easily side-stepped him. The goalkeeper proceeded to wipe out Penafiel and the referee did not hesitate to send off the netminder for having denied an obvious goalscoring opportunity.

Three minutes later, Atilla Kotsy led a counterattack along the right side and centered for Kramarz, who turned and spotted Juan-Carlos Carrillo open on the left. Carrillo picked his spot and slotted just inside the right post to bring the Byki to within 4:3.

As the Byki threw more players forward, the counterattacking opportunities increased for Gato Verde. They put the game out of reach in the 83rd minute, opening up the stretched Byki defense with a series of give-and-go passes. When a Gato Verde player burst into the penalty area, he was brought down, and the referee immediately pointed to the spot. Gato

Verde converted the penalty kick to regain their two-goal margin.

Gato Verde seemed to be one step ahead of the Byki all day long and five goals conceded tells the story. The Over 40s have always had a solid reputation defensively; the last time they gave up five goals in a match was September 2015.

**BYKI LINEUP (4-2-3-1):** Vlahakis – Towsey, Higginbotham, Fink, J. Park – Lane (c), Penafiel – Banbor, Zarate, Ekundayo – Kramarz. **Bench:** Carrillo, Fukar, Huck, Kotsy, Muehlbauer, Safford.

**BYKI SCORING SUMMARY**

1:2 – Gato Verde own goal; 38th.  
2:2 – Kramarz 1 (pk); 53rd.  
3:4 – Carrillo 1 (Kramarz); 70th.

**Byki Man of the Match:** None given.

Byki 0-48	<b>2</b>	Premier Soccer League Over 48 Division
St C Celtics	<b>8</b>	Olympic Park 14 June 2017

## Celtics crush disjointed Byki

The Over 48 Team dropped their straight match to start the season last Wednesday when they were steamrolled by the St Charles Celtics 8:2 at Olympic Park. The visitors had racked up a 5:0 lead before a half hour had passed, as the Byki stumbled both in attack and defense.

The Byki, who were mostly competent in the first two years of Over 48 competition, have been struggling in a big way so far in 2017. The Celtics came at them with a direct style and the Byki lacked both the pace and the tactical acumen to keep up.

The Celtics dominated possession right from the start and an early opening goal seemed inevitable. Within 20 minutes, they had three. In every instance, the Celtics played long balls into spaces on the wings, forcing the Byki to turn and chase. The Celtics then easily found unmarked runners in the middle and made quick work of taking advantage of an unbalanced Byki defense. Beleaguered goalkeeper Jarek Pac was left on an island and the outcome was not pretty.

The problems for the Byki were compounded by their inability to maintain possession of the ball. For most players, their first touch betrayed them quite often, which led to numerous unforced turnovers. The Celtics kept coming and the Byki kept backpedaling to try to defend. The vicious circle was unrelenting.

At 5:0, the Byki pulled one back on the counterattack. Dan Nelson controlled the ball at midfield and sent a terrific pass into space on the left flank for Rodolfo Jimenez. He crossed the ball to the far post, where Nelson executed a brilliant diving header. Moments later, Nelson pushed the ball forward and laid off a pass for Sven Dahlquist behind the Celtics defense. With only the keeper to beat, Dahlquist steered his shot wide of the post.

The Celtics took a 6:1 lead into the break and the Byki tried to regroup by committing to try to win the second half. It was a matter of making simple passes in order to create space. And the Byki had a fine start to the second half, moving the ball in and out of spaces with 17 consecutive passes. Yes, Doug Towsey and George Gorecki were counting from the sidelines. The straightforward approach got the ball in front of the Byki goal, but the Byki were unable to keep that flow for very long. “We started the second half with 17 passes and I think we had 17 more the rest of the half,” quipped Towsey afterwards. He may have been exaggerating, but not by a lot.

St Charles were on cruise control in the second half and bagged two more. The Byki kept playing right up until the end, however. Eric Tower won the ball at midfield and found Juan-Carlos Carrillo open on the left side. Carrillo centered for Nelson, who went 1 v 1 with the goalie. Although the goalie dove at Nelson’s feet to get a hand to the ball, Nelson came away in possession and walked the ball into the net just before the final whistle.

**BYKI LINEUP (4-2-3-1):** Pac – Safford, Tower, Park, Kerbis – Huck (c), Dahlquist – Carrillo, Dec, Jimenez – Nelson. **Bench:** Towsey.

**BYKI SCORING SUMMARY**

1:5 – Nelson 2 (Jimenez); 32nd.  
2:8 – Nelson 3 (Carrillo); 90th.

**Byki Man of the Match:** None given

Real FC	<b>1</b>	Premier Soccer League Over 30 White B Division
Byki 0-30	<b>0</b>	Vernon Hills 11 June 2017

## Byki try to keep it Real, but fall short

The Over 30 Team fell from the ranks of the undefeated last Sunday when they were upended 1:0 by Real FC at Vernon Hills Sports Complex. Despite the setback, the Byki maintain a four-point lead on second-place Real, who themselves are on top of a pack of four teams separated by just four points.

The outcome was particularly frustrating, given that the Byki have manhandled Real the past two seasons. In their previous three meetings with Real, the Byki have prevailed 4:1, 7:4 and 8:1. Furthermore, Real finished the 2016 season winless.

The Byki had most of the possession in the contest, but none of the luck. The game’s only goal came on a deflected shot.

The next five matches represent the most difficult stretch of the season, when the teams in the B Division face the tougher opponents of the A Division. Given the early-season success for the Byki, they are better positioned than the other teams in the B Division to be competitive against A Division competition. They will have to step up their game, however, because each of the next five matches will require their best effort.

**NSL FIRST DIVISION****June 11, 2017****www.nslchicago.org**

<b>Red Section</b>	<b>GP</b>	<b>W</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>L</b>	<b>GF</b>	<b>GA</b>	<b>Pts</b>
Stare Byki FC	4	4	0	0	14	4	12
Chicago Dynasty FC	5	3	1	1	12	9	10
Das Magic	4	2	0	2	10	10	6
FC Macedonia	5	2	0	3	12	12	6
FC Guadalajara	5	1	1	3	7	14	4
United Stars FC	5	1	0	4	10	16	3

**PSLC OVER 30 WHITE DIVISION****June 11, 2017****www.pslchicagoland.com**

<b>A DIVISION</b>	<b>GP</b>	<b>W</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>L</b>	<b>GF</b>	<b>GA</b>	<b>Pts</b>
FC DePaul	5	3	0	2	20	9	9
AEK FC Chicago	5	3	0	2	21	13	9
Tricolorii FC	3	2	1	0	16	4	7
FC Oasu	4	2	1	1	6	6	7
Levski Chicago 2014	4	2	0	2	8	10	6
Celtics	5	0	0	5	8	37	0

**PSLC OVER 40 B DIVISION****June 11, 2017****www.pslchicagoland.com**

<b>B1 DIVISION</b>	<b>GP</b>	<b>W</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>L</b>	<b>GF</b>	<b>GA</b>	<b>Pts</b>
Gato Verde	4	4	0	0	17	5	12
International SC	4	2	1	1	10	7	7
Olympiacos Chicago	4	2	1	1	7	8	7
Stare Byki FC	4	2	0	2	11	8	6
Windy City United	5	1	1	3	9	15	4
Naperville Strikers FC	2	0	1	1	3	6	1
Pampas OT	3	0	0	3	2	12	0

<b>B2 DIVISION</b>	<b>GP</b>	<b>W</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>L</b>	<b>GF</b>	<b>GA</b>	<b>Pts</b>
FK Danubia	5	4	0	1	27	10	12
United-Dynamo	4	3	1	0	13	6	10
St Charles Celtics Green	4	3	0	1	13	8	9
Itasca	4	2	0	2	6	7	6
MOFG	6	1	1	4	7	18	4
Real FC	4	1	0	3	9	18	3
St Charles Celtics Orange	3	0	0	3	5	11	0

<b>B DIVISION</b>	<b>GP</b>	<b>W</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>L</b>	<b>GF</b>	<b>GA</b>	<b>Pts</b>
Stare Byki FC	5	4	0	1	17	4	12
Real FC	4	2	2	0	13	3	8
Shogun	4	2	1	1	14	5	7
FC National	4	1	2	1	18	5	5
Chicago Rangers FC	4	1	1	2	14	7	4
Adventists United FC	5	0	0	5	0	52	0

**PSLC OVER 48 DIVISION****June 15, 2017****www.pslchicagoland.com**

	<b>GP</b>	<b>W</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>L</b>	<b>GF</b>	<b>GA</b>	<b>Pts</b>
Park Ridge Rogues	4	4	0	0	15	4	12
St Charles Celtics	3	2	0	1	13	6	6
Sofia BG	4	2	0	2	11	7	6
Concordia	4	1	2	1	4	6	5
Torino FC	3	1	1	1	4	8	4
International SC	1	0	1	0	1	1	1
Villains SC	2	0	0	2	2	7	0
Stare Byki FC	3	0	0	3	3	14	0