



BOUNCINGS



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16 July 17

Pampas	1	Premier Soccer League Over 40 B1 Division
Byki 0-40	2	Windemere Park 9 July 2017

Byki beat Pampas, back on top

It wasn't the most aesthetically pleasing victory for the Byki, but the Over 40s did exactly what they needed to do last Sunday when they disposed of Chicago Pampas 2:1 at Windemere Park. The Byki dominated the affair for long stretches, but all too often, the finishing touch was missing. The Byki and Olympiacos share the lead in the Over 40 B1 Division, with 13 points apiece. Olympiacos have a slight edge, having played one fewer match than the Byki.

Pampas have been a decades-old rival of the Byki, but the fervor was missing last Sunday. That can happen when a team stumbles into the midseason winless. When the Byki beat up on Pampas 4:0 back in May, Pampas simply might have been shaking off early-season rust. The evidence in the rematch makes it clear that Pampas is in a serious state of decline.

Pampas sent out early warning in the 10th minute, when they came quickly at the Byki goal following a turnover at midfield. They launched a pass over the top to a streaking forward on the right side of the box. He shot right at fill-in goalie John Park, who grabbed it easily.

The traffic soon became a one-way scenario tilted towards the Pampas goal. In the 14th minute, Ade Ekundayo headed a ball down for George Higginbotham on the left side near the halfway line. Higginbotham found Steven Pedlow with acres of space on the flank and Pedlow ran into the Pampas penalty area. His shot went narrowly wide of the far post.

Four minutes later, Ekundayo and BK Park exchanged a slick series of 1-2 passes to open up space, into which Park played a long ball for Pedlow, who went for goal again and barely missed the target.

The Byki upped the pressure in the 29th minute. BK Park released Ekundayo with an insightful pass on the right wing. Ekundayo dribbled deep into the channel and found Eric Muehlbauer making a smart run to the far post. Muehlbauer hit a first-timer to the other side of the goal, but the keeper had a miracle up his sleeve, blocking the shot with his trailing left hand as he slid to the right to engage Muehlbauer.

Moments later, Diego Penafiel was open from 15 yards

and drove a shot just wide of the post. Penafiel then played provider in the 32nd minute, sending a pass to Miguel Zarate on the right wing. Zarate sent an off-balance floater towards the goal and the ball sailed in over the goalie's outstretched hands for a deserved 1:0 lead.

The Byki continued to pile on the pressure as the first half concluded. BK Park chased down a long ball and the goalie came out to challenge. Park had him right where he wanted him, but poked a shot towards an empty net wide of the target.

Park and Penafiel concluded a period of impressive attacking build-up with Penafiel drilling a shot destined for the back post. The goalkeeper was in the right spot to come up with a spectacular block.

The Byki scored a crucial second goal in the 54th minute. Higginbotham controlled the ball near the halfway line and dished off to Pedlow, who turned and sprinted to goal. The space opened up perfectly, as BK Park's decoy run drew Pampas defenders out of the middle, allowing Pedlow to fill the space. Pedlow measured his attempt accurately, firing low from 25 yards.

That goal should have put Pampas away, but they beat the Byki for pace for the only time in the contest at the hour mark, connecting sharp passes on the counterattack. The Byki could not chase down a Pampas forward on the left side and he drilled a shot past the diving Park.

Pampas, however, were not sufficiently inspired to find an equalizer. Their goal was their best opportunity on the day, as the Byki defense held firm throughout. The Byki secured the win, never feeling that their lead was in any kind of danger.

BYKI LINEUP (4-2-3-1): J. Park – Towsey, Higginbotham, Fink, King – Penafiel, Tower – Pedlow, G. Rodriguez, Ekundayo (c) – BK Park. **Bench:** Banbor, Fukar, Muehlbauer, Zarate.

BYKI SCORING SUMMARY

0:1 – Zarate 1 (Penafiel); 32nd.

0:2 – Pedlow 2 (Higginbotham); 54th.

Byki Men of the Match: BK Park and Eric Tower.

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Byki O-48	1	Premier Soccer League Over 48 Division
Sofia BG	5	Olympic Park 13 July 2017

Byki seek to get back on track

The Byki Over 48 Team failed to break into the win column on Thursday when they dropped a 5:2 decision to revamped Sofia BG at Olympic Park. The Byki were guilty of several marking errors in the first half, which led to Sofia running out to a 4:1 lead. The Byki reversed their fortunes after halftime, however, and were arguably the better team, creating a boatload of chances, but unable to dent the back of the net. This is what serves as progress for a side trying to find a way to compete.

Sofia had been the bottom-dwellers of the PSLC's Over 48 Division for its first two seasons, not having won even one game. Last season, they managed to only play three of the eight games on their schedule. For 2017, they injected youth into their team, especially a ringer at striker, and have amassed 12 points from their 6 matches.

The Byki have been leaking goals all season and were desperate to plug the holes and get back on track. They showed improvement at both ends of the field versus Sofia, but there is still quite a bit of work to be done.

The emphasis for the Byki was to keep the ball moving with short, quick passes. And although it's been talked about all season, Thursday was the first time they executed with some level of consistency. The scoring chances were there, which is always an encouraging sign. Next up is converting chances into goals

A series of short passes opened up space for Jim Jacobs on the right flank in the first minute. He centered for Juan-Carlos Carrillo, who juked past a defender and crushed a shot from 15 yards that the goalkeeper did well to parry away.

Sofia replied five minutes later with a fluke scoring chance. A clearance bounced between Eric Tower and John Park, both of whom were squinting into sharp sunlight in the first half. Sofia's striker swept in and came in alone on Eric Muehlbauer, a reluctant replacement goalie for the third time this season. Muehlbauer reacted brilliantly, diving at the striker's feet and slapping the ball away at the crucial moment.

Sofia grabbed the lead in the eighth minute, when the Byki failed to track a runner. But the home side leveled the contest four minutes later. Charlie Cohen dribbled through the Sofia midfield and found Dominic Demarets on the right side. Demarets carried to the byline and sent a diagonal ball back for Jacobs at the top of the box. Jacobs fired first-time, but the shot was too hot for the keeper to handle. Cohen controlled the loose ball and dished to Dan Nelson, who finished the job from short range. It was Nelson's fourth goal of the season; his teammates have added just three more to the team's total.

Sofia scored twice in the span of eight minutes to gain

control of the match. On both occasions, the Byki made fundamental marking errors.

In the 34th minute, Rodolfo Jimenez danced through the Sofia midfield and laid off an excellent pass for Steven Pedlow, coming in from the left. Pedlow sought the far post with his shot and went narrowly wide.

Sofia made it 4:1 in the 36th minute, when a winger floated a ball into the box for an unmarked teammate, who lobbed over the onrushing Muehlbauer.

The Byki came close to pulling one back just before the break. Nelson headed along Cohen's long throw-in across the face of goal for Mariusz Gorski, who headed just over the bar.

The Byki switched their tactics at halftime to a 4-4-2, wanting to un-crowd their midfield and apply more pressure on Sofia's suspect defenders. The players responded by generating a bevy of scoring chances within the first seven minutes.

Nelson and Jimenez worked a terrific give-and-go to send Nelson in alone in the 48th minute. The keeper's frantic kick save denied Nelson his second tally of the night. Moments later, Demarets bent a corner kick on goal and the keeper reacted well to punch the ball clear.

In the 55th minute, Jimenez maneuvered past three players and hit a curling shot from the top of the box that ricocheted off of the crossbar.

The Byki managed to keep Sofia on the back foot for long stretches of the second half. "We really played up to our capabilities and it was a welcome change to some of the previous games," said George Gorecki, who assumed the coaching duties for the night. "Now, we just have to put some balls in the back of the net."

Muehlbauer was at his best in the 62nd minute, swatting away a well placed free kick that appeared destined for the upper 90.

Sofia added one more to their total in the 87th minute, when a free kick was headed home with authority from just outside the six-yard box.

The encouraging second half cannot dismiss the mistakes early in the match, but the Byki have a clear idea of what they are capable. This is the point from which they must build for the remainder of the season.

BYKI LINEUP (4-2-3-1): Muehlbauer – Pedlow, Park, Tower, King – Huck (c), Cohen – Jacobs, Nelson, Carrillo – Demarets. **Bench:** Gorski, Kerbis, Jimenez, Zadlo.

BYKI SCORING SUMMARY

1:1 – Nelson 4 (Cohen); 12th.

Byki Man of the Match: Charlie Cohen.



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NSL FIRST DIVISION**June 25, 2017****www.nslchicago.org**

Red Section	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
Stare Byki FC	6	5	0	1	18	6	15
Das Magic	6	4	0	2	18	11	12
Chicago Dynasty FC	7	3	1	3	12	17	10
FC Macedonia	7	3	0	4	14	16	9
FC Guadalajara	7	2	1	4	11	20	7
United Stars FC	7	2	0	5	17	20	6

PSLC OVER 30 WHITE DIVISION**June 25, 2017****www.pslchicagoland.com**

A DIVISION	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
AEK FC Chicago	8	6	0	2	40	16	18
Tricolorii FC	6	5	1	0	30	8	16
FC Oasu	6	4	1	1	22	6	13
Levski Chicago 2014	6	4	0	2	32	12	12
FC DePaul	6	4	0	2	21	9	12
Celtics	7	1	1	5	15	40	4

PSLC OVER 40 B DIVISION**June 25, 2017****www.pslchicagoland.com**

B1 DIVISION	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
Stare Byki FC	7	4	1	2	19	12	13
Olympiacos Chicago	6	4	1	1	15	9	13
Gato Verde	6	4	0	2	20	12	12
International SC	6	3	2	1	16	12	11
Naperville Strikers FC	5	2	1	2	13	12	7
Windy City United	7	1	1	5	11	25	4
Pampas OT	5	0	0	5	3	17	0

B2 DIVISION	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
FK Danubia	7	5	1	1	37	14	16
United-Dynamo	5	4	1	0	17	7	13
St Charles Celtics Green	6	4	1	1	15	9	13
Itasca	6	3	0	3	12	14	9
MOFG	7	1	1	5	7	19	4
St Charles Celtics Orange	5	1	0	4	13	24	3
Real FC	6	1	0	5	16	28	3

B DIVISION	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
Stare Byki FC	7	4	0	3	19	15	12
Shogun	6	2	2	2	16	8	8
Real FC	6	2	2	2	14	19	8
FC National	6	1	2	3	20	11	5
Chicago Rangers FC	6	1	1	4	18	22	4
Adventists United FC	8	0	0	8	1	82	0

PSLC OVER 48 DIVISION**July 13, 2017****www.pslchicagoland.com**

	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
Park Ridge Rogues	6	6	0	0	19	6	18
Sofia BG	6	4	0	2	22	11	12
Torino FC	5	2	2	1	13	13	8
St Charles Celtics	5	2	1	2	20	16	7
Villains SC	4	2	0	2	12	8	6
Concordia	7	1	2	4	8	17	5
International SC	3	1	1	1	8	6	4
Stare Byki FC	6	0	0	6	6	31	0