



BOUNCINGS

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Byki celebrate silver anniversary in style

Stare Byki Football Club celebrated their Silver Anniversary on July 19, combining soccer and socializing in a memorable occasion for everyone who participated. Sustaining an organization for 25 years is a big accomplishment for everyone in the club.

The day began with the Reunion Game, which pitted players who played in first Byki match on June 10, 1983, against the current Byki Over 40 Team. The idea for the game was conceived by original Byki Mark Sokolowski, who envisioned a re-enactment of that first match by gathering players from both teams and squaring off one more time for bragging rights. The initial response from the original Byki was strong and enthusiastic, while the group led by Edi Pinkowski showed considerably less interest. In the end, neither side had enough players to make a full squad and the focus of the game shifted. It was anticipated that the current Byki Over 40 Team would make a good opponent for the Reunion players. The match was played indoors at The Sport Center in Schaumburg in a 7 v 7 format.



Ted Piotrowski (left) sprints past Eric Tower.

The roster for the Reunion Byki comprised 13 players: Greg Bujwid, Chops Ciepiela, George Gorecki, Rich Hass, Marek Klonowski, Edi Pinkowski, Ted Piotrowski, Marek Rys, Corky Siemaszko,



Kris Zadlo (7) heads the ball out of danger.

Conrad Styczen, Stef Wiecek, Wes Witek, and Kris Zadlo. Four original Byki were on hand, but unable to suit up: Andy Chudzinski, Les Jankiewicz, Rich Owsiany, and Mark Sokolowski. Gorecki reprised his role as player-coach from the original match.

The Over 40s dressed the following players: Rick Bolesta, Manou Chahmirzadi, Nick Elmkinssi, Howard Hartenstein, Paul Mansur Sr, Fleet Neighbors, Pete Pruim, Casey Siemaszko, Jon Silverstein, Robert Toczycki, Eric Tower, and Matt Treter. Bolesta led the Over 40s in this match.

Gorecki had no idea what to expect from a squad of players who, for the most part, had been away from the game for 20 years or more. Gorecki and Wiecek were the only players still playing actively, so the task of figuring out tactics was both simple and complicated. "There are so many aspects to soccer where our guys are just going to be unfamiliar," said Gorecki, who invited the Reunion players to attend regular Byki training as a form of preparation. "But we tried to keep things simple and made rapid

Stare Byki FC: Friends, Passion, Soccer



switches with our bench.”

Although the Over 40s did not represent the strongest oldboys group that the Byki could have put together, several of the players are currently playing with the Byki Over 30 Team that competes in the National Soccer League. Clearly, the Over 40s would have the competitive edge going into the contest.

In soccer, they say the ball is round, and the Reunion team started out brightly by moving the ball from player to player. Their technique was not always elegant, but the teamwork was at a much higher level than was expected. The Over 40s had most of the ball possession in the first half, but their shooting was erratic, and goalkeeper Greg Bujwid was hardly troubled. The Reunion team played solid defense in the early going and that success gave the players confidence as the match wore on.

The sides went into the break deadlocked at 0:0. If the Reunion players had any doubts about their



Nick Elmkinssi (left) eyes the goal as Casey Siemaszko prepares for the 2nd-half kickoff.

ability to compete, the first 25 minutes of soccer told them everything they needed to know. “The guys played a terrific first half,” noted

remind them to sub frequently so that fatigue would not be a factor later in the game.”

The Over 40s snatched the lead right from the second-half kickoff. Nick Elmkinssi received the ball from the restart and floated a shot from midfield over Bujwid’s head that found the back of the net. Given the way the game had been going to that point, the Reunion team did not want to be in the position of having to chase the game.

Emboldened by their lead, the Over 40s kept the Reunion team on the back foot, as their aim got better. Bujwid made several glittering saves, recalling some of his glory days at the Odeum in the mid and late 1980s.

The Over 40s made it 2:0 several minutes later when Manou Chahmirzadi’s shot from short range



Marek Klonowski (9) and Edi Pinkowski (6) survey the action during a break.

and continued to play hard at both ends. Sustained ball possession was a real difficulty, so they looked at the direct route instead. Kris Zadlo, seeing his first action since rupturing his Achilles tendon while playing for the Over 30s three years ago, showed he still had the ability to execute long throw-ins. His monster throws into the Over 40 penalty area caused all kinds of problems, but the finishing from the Reunion players was still lacking.

Perseverance paid off for the Reunion team when they pulled one back late in the match. They came fast on the counter and Rich Hass played a brilliant diagonal pass to the far post, where Ted Piotrowski knocked the ball past the diving Pete Pruiim.

With the score 2:1, the outcome of the match was still up for grabs, and the Reunion team started pushing more players forward in search of an equalizer. They had an outstanding chance with a couple of minutes to go, nearly capitalizing on an Over 40 turnover at midfield. A quick pass over the top sprang Piotrowski on a breakaway. With Pruiim off his line, Piotrowski had him at his mercy. Rather than slot the ball low, Piotrowski went for power, sending a shot whistling narrowly over the bar.

The Over 40s completed the scoring in the dying moments of the game. Jon Silverstein chased down a long

sneaked underneath the oncoming Bujwid. “That goal was crucial,” said Gorecki afterwards. “If we got too far behind, a comeback was going to be difficult. Our team didn’t exactly have a hidden gear they could shift into to put more pressure on the Over 40s.”

But the Reunion team kept their heads up

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It's handshakes all around after the game. Stef Wiecek (left) congratulates Fleet Neighbors.



MC Rick Bolesta kept the party running smoothly,

as best we could, never gave up, and never let down. And everyone gave everything they had. Considering how many of us have been away from the game for so long, I think our result was amazing.”

Mark Sokolowski was satisfied that the effort to put the game together was worthwhile. “It was also great to see our friendships revitalized and to reconnect with some guys whom we used to see on a weekly basis,” he said. “I just want to say thank you to everyone who came out and either played or sat in the stands.”

Later that evening, a large group met at the Goose Island brewery for a party. Vitaly Tsipris led the Anniversary Committee, who planned an event full of fun and surprises. The first surprise came at the entrance to the banquet room, where guests received a limited-edition Byki anniversary beer glass as a gift. The Byki 25th anniversary logo appeared on one side of the glass, while the phrase: “Stare Byki FC: Friends, Passion, Soccer” was printed on the other side. Many people were eager to test out their new glasses and drank the fine Goose Island beer out of them immediately.



The Byki really know how to throw a party.

pass from the back and fired a nice shot past the onrushing Bujwid to make it 3:1.

The Reunion players came away satisfied with their performance against an experienced opponent. “I’m really proud of the effort we gave no matter the score,” said Piotrowski after the game. “We played as a team



It wouldn’t be a party without Edi Pinkowski giving the audience his perspective.

Master of Ceremonies Rick Bolesta was slick and on top of his game. Once the beer began flowing, he presented a slide show compiled using Byki photos of the past 25 years. Most of the photos were from game action on the field, but

plenty of shots came from Byki social occasions. The most enthusiastic reaction came from the segment containing Byki scarf pictures. The club produced scarves to commemorate the club’s 20th anniversary and has tried to get the message out to everyone to bring their scarves with them whenever they travel and snap pictures of a Byki scarf in an exotic pose or locale. To date, the club have amassed over 130 scarf pictures, and counting.



Manou Chahmirzadi, Enda McGrath and Conor Casey (L to R) share their Byki experiences.

Bolesta then presented Gorecki with a plaque from the club thanking him for his efforts. Gorecki, clearly humbled by the gesture, told everyone that the club was not a success thanks to one person, but that the success is the culmination of the effort of a lot of committed members. Gorecki then added his own reflections on 25 years of Byki history, reminding everyone that the club’s great achievements have resulted from greatness in the minds and hearts of every Byki player, coach and supporter.



Stef Wiecek (left) and Dan Jedrzejowski were all smiles at Goose Island.

If this is what the first 25 years were like, the Byki have a lot of fun and fortune awaiting them in the next 25 years.

Stare Byki FC would like to thank Rick Bolesta, Andy Chudzinski and Vitaly Tsipris for providing photos of the Byki 25th Anniversary.

NATIONAL SOCCER LEAGUE STANDINGS

June 29, 2008

www.nslchicago.org

MAJOR DIVISION

Deportivo Meridienne	8	8	0	0	29	6	24
Honduras SC	9	5	3	1	20	11	18
B-H Lilies	8	5	2	1	19	11	17
RWB Adria	6	4	1	1	21	8	13
Gazelle SC	6	3	1	2	14	7	10
KF Ulqin	7	3	1	3	8	8	10
Deportivo Colomex	8	1	5	2	13	14	8
SAC Wisla	7	2	2	3	10	12	8
HNNK Hrvat	5	2	1	2	10	12	7
Jahbat FC	8	1	3	4	15	12	6
Royal Chicago FC	8	0	1	7	10	35	1
CKS Warta	8	0	0	8	5	38	0

FIRST DIVISION

Albanian Stars	9	6	1	2	25	9	19
Lemont FC	8	5	3	0	19	8	18
FC Steaua Chicago	7	5	1	1	18	14	16
FK Republika Srpska	8	4	2	2	21	16	14
CKS Warta B	9	4	2	3	16	15	14
NK Prijedor	8	4	1	3	12	11	13
Khaboor FC	9	3	3	3	16	15	12
Stare Byki FC Red	7	3	2	2	16	10	11
Das Magic	7	3	1	3	13	17	10
West Indies Jets	9	2	2	5	17	22	8
Stare Byki FC Blue	8	1	0	7	17	26	3
FC Romania	9	0	0	9	0	27	0

SECOND DIVISION

Red Section	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts	Blue Section	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
GR-04	7	5	1	1	22	11	16	Juanacatlan	9	7	1	1	29	13	22
West Bosnia SC	8	5	0	3	30	20	15	CD Taximaroa	8	5	2	1	24	9	17
FK Podrinje	8	3	3	2	32	22	12	Ultras FC	9	5	2	2	17	13	17
Lemont FC Reserves	6	3	2	1	18	12	11	Real Independiente	7	3	2	2	19	11	11
Deportivo Colomex B	7	2	1	4	29	36	7	FC Kosova	8	2	2	4	24	22	8
Turkish FC	7	0	1	6	9	33	1	Chicago Dynasty FC	8	1	1	6	14	36	4
								Mythos FC	8	0	0	8	6	35	0

OVER 30 DIVISION

Red Section	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts	Blue Section	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
Lake Shore B	9	7	1	1	31	11	22	SAC Wisla	8	6	0	2	38	20	18
Arabian FC	8	5	1	2	26	13	16	Gato Verde	9	4	1	4	16	15	13
West Indies Jets	8	5	1	2	24	12	16	Stare Byki FC	8	2	1	5	13	30	7
Jahbat FC	8	4	1	3	14	20	13	Hellenic United	6	2	0	4	11	17	6
Lake Shore A	9	0	2	7	10	29	2	Tanners SC	7	1	0	6	8	24	3