



20 Aug 17

PROMOTION!

Stare Byki	4	National Soccer League 1st Division
Macedonia	1	Oak Brook Sports Core 13 August 2017

Byki clinch 2018 spot in Majors

Four years after voluntarily dropping down from the NSL's Major Division, the Byki earned an opportunity to return to the League's biggest stage last Sunday. Their thorough 4:1 dismantling of FC Macedonia assured that the Byki could not finish the season any lower than second place, thereby locking in one of the two First Division promotion spots.

The Byki have 27 points from 11 matches and have been atop the standings ever since Week 1. The team have been building towards this outcome and Sunday's performance was the culmination of that effort. Teenage sensation Andy Sokolowski became the youngest Byki player to ever record a hat trick, as the Byki were dominant at both ends of the field. "We've been waiting to play at our peak level for 90 minutes," said coach George Gorecki. "We really did the job today."

The Byki got their first taste of Major Division competition in 2010. They trampled all over the First Division in 2009, piling up 43 points in 18 matches overall. At one point in the season, they went 14 consecutive matches without a defeat. The Byki spent four seasons in the top flight and found the waters to be quite rough; they were unable to put up a winning record in any of those four years. By the end of that fourth season, only four players remained from the team that earned promotion. "Our 2009 team had awesome talent," recalled Gorecki. "But too many of our players weren't mentally tough enough to face the new challenge. They preferred the easy path of winning against weaker competition in the First Division." The Byki chose to regroup in 2014 and drop back to the First Division.

How the current roster will approach the promotion challenge is a topic for the off-season, however. The Byki

still have work to do this season, the championship is within reach and the playoffs beckon after that.

After taking care of FC Macedonia easily early in the season, the Byki disappointingly fell 3:1 in the second meeting. Several players still had the bitter taste in their mouths and the Byki came roaring out of the gate. Goalkeeper Aaron Menyes denied a third-minute free-kick attempt with a terrific save and the Byki cleared the ensuing corner kick into a counterattacking opportunity. Quavas Kirk pounced when a Macedonian defender misplayed the ball. Kirk sprinted to goal on a breakaway and his hurried shot rolled wide as the goalkeeper advanced quickly on him.

Mike Stamatinos floated a corner kick into the mixer in the 14th minute and Alan Stevens' header was kicked off the line. The Macedonians failed to clear and Quavas Kirk played the ball to Phil Parker, whose pass found Sokolowski. He slashed into the clear and fired home his fourth goal of the season.

The Byki kept pressing and nearly doubled the lead in the 19th minute. Quavas Kirk carried the ball to the end line and crossed for Anes Kadiric, whose first-time shot from close range was tipped over the bar by the keeper.

In the 27th minute, Kyler Mowry dropped a pass back for Mark Zeman at the penalty arc. The goalie parried away Zeman's low, hard shot and was fortunate that no Byki were close enough to put the rebound past him.

The Byki got their reward ten minutes before halftime. JD Joiner carried the ball along the left wing and came inside to Sokolowski. He quickly turned his marker inside out and beat the diving keeper with a low shot to the far post. The Macedonian netminder got a hand to the ball, but could not prevent the ball from getting past him.

After a rousing first half, the Byki expected that stepping on the throats of the Macedonians would be easy work. The visitors, however, had other ideas. Menyes covered a shot from close range in the 47th minute, but was powerless to prevent a follow-up a couple of minutes later, as the Byki allowed the Macedonians to pass the ball with ease around the penalty area.

The match boiled over just after the hour mark, when a

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Dmytro Korinenko (left, with ball), looks to open up a counterattack.

clunky Macedonian defender whacked Quavas Kirk on the ankle as the forward tried to turn past him. Harsh words and a confrontation followed, resulting in the Macedonian player being sent off. He did not go quietly, grunting caveman-like comments about the female center referee.

The Byki were inches away from the pull-away goal in the 72nd minute. Quavas Kirk's deft flick from the byline back into the middle found Zeman, whose shot was tipped off the bar by the goalie.

With momentum back in their favor, a third goal had a feeling of inevitability to it. Zeman played provider for Joe Sauerman's curling effort from outside the box. The swerving shot nestled into the upper 90 and gave the goalkeeper no chance.

Sokolowski wrapped up his hat trick right at the death. He juked through a defender and took off on a breakaway. The goalie stuck out his foot hockey-style to block the shot from eight yards, but the plucky Sokolowski kept after the loose ball and slid it home for his sixth goal of the season.

BYKI LINEUP (4-2-3-1): Menyés – Stamatinos (c), C. Kirk, Stevens, Bickel – Parker, Sauerman – Freitag, Korinenko, Sokolowski – Q. Kirk.
Bench: Castle, Elshafie, Joiner, Kadiric, Mowry, Zeman.

BYKI SCORING SUMMARY

- 1:0 – Sokolowski 4 (Parker); 15th.
- 2:0 – Sokolowski 5 (Joiner); 35th.
- 3:1 – Sauerman 4 (Zeman); 78th.
- 4:1 – Sokolowski 6; 90th.

Byki Men of the Match: Colin Kirk and Andy Sokolowski.

Byki 0-30	8	Premier Soccer League Over 30 White B Division
Adventists	1	Oak Brook Sports Core 13 August 2017

Byki win could not be easier

The Over 30 Team had an easy time of getting back on the winning track last Sunday after they handily dispatched hapless Adventists United FC 8:1. Seven different Byki found

their way onto the scoresheet in the wipeout. With 16 points from 11 matches, the Byki continue to lead the Over 30 B Division by five points. All of their pursuers have a losing record at this late juncture in the season.

If the Adventists are trying to set a mark for the worst goal difference ever, they're doing a good job of it. They have scored just two goals and conceded 112. The Byki had beaten them 11:0 to start the season and there was some conjecture as to whether the Adventists were in over their heads. They quite obviously are, but one has to admire their positive attitude, despite the weekly poundings. They have given up double-digit goal totals six times this season.

The Byki were thoroughly dominant from the start, but squandered a boatload of chances in the first quarter hour. Striker Maciek Kekus, who tallied two goals on the day, could have had a hat trick within the first 10 minutes.

The Byki finally put away a couple of chances in rapid-fire fashion midway through the first half. Segun Durojaiye capped off a Byki counterattack with a big run along the right wing. He slipped the ball past the goalkeeper at his near post.

Moments later, Paul Gibbs controlled the ball near the halfway line and sent a pass to newcomer Rob McClure on the right side. With acres of space in front of him, McClure carried the ball to the byline. Surprisingly, the goalkeeper came out that far to intervene, and McClure sidestepped him and centered for Kekus, who put away his chance from 10 yards to make it 2:0.

The Byki made it 3:0 just before the break. Alex Guzman's corner kick sailed over the out-of-position goalie and found Kekus' forehead. His attempt ricocheted off of the crossbar, but the rebound came right back to him, and he knocked it into the back of the net.

The Byki started the second half complacent and sloppy, and a plucky Adventist forward ran onto a long clearance and sent a slow roller past a bemused Ray Najera to make it 3:1.

The response was the Byki hammer hitting the nail. They scored four times in the span of seven minutes to put the result beyond any doubt. Guzman lofted a pass into the area for Kekus in the 51st minute, and he sent a delicate touch back for Ato Anderson, who buried the shot from close range.

Lukas Chudyba found the mark two minutes later to make it 5:1. In the 56th minute, McClure dribbled into space on

the left flank and zipped a diagonal pass for Anderson, who finished cleanly. McClure notched his hat trick of assists in the 58th minute, ending a sequence of unselfish passing between several players. Mohammed Soaga knocked the ball home for his first goal of the season.

Anderson completed his hat trick in the 71st minute, after Kekus stole the ball in final third of the field and squared a pass for Anderson in the middle of the box.

By that point, the game had departed significantly from being a competitive affair and resembled a pickup game in the park.

BYKI LINEUP (4-2-3-1): Najera – Jedrzejowski, Durojaiye, Anderson, Soaga – Gibbs, Labno – McClure, Castle, Kekus (c) – Chudyba. **Bench:** Guzman

BYKI SCORING SUMMARY

- 1:0 – Durjaiye 1; 22nd.
- 2:0 – Kekus 1 (McClure); 23rd.
- 3:0 – Kekus 2 (Guzman); 44th.
- 4:1 – Anderson 4 (Kekus); 51st.
- 5:1 – Chudyba 1; 53rd.
- 6:1 – Anderson 5 (McClure); 56th.
- 7:1 – Soaga 1 (McClure); 58th.
- 8:1 – Anderson 6 (Kekus); 71st.

Byki Man of the Match: None given.

Byki 0-40	2	Premier Soccer League Over 40 B1 Division
Gato Verde	6	Oak Brook Sports Core 13 August 2017

Byki title hopes on edge

Sunday’s encounter versus Gato Verde was a crucial one for the Over 40 Team. Although they climbed to the top of the table a few weeks ago, thanks to a run of 16 points in seven matches, their pursuers in the B1 Division all had played fewer games. Gato Verde’s 6:2 win moved them to within one point of the Byki, but they are in position to jump to the top spot, having played three fewer matches. Third-place International SC trail the Byki by five points, but also have three games in hand.

The game was played on even terms until shortly after halftime, when Gato Verde broke a 2:2 deadlock in controversial fashion. Stopper Dave Fink disputed the validity of the goal and was promptly sent off for directing abusive language at the referee. The game went downhill from that point for the Byki, who conceded three more goals in the final half hour. The Byki were more incensed with Fink’s dismissal than the play that led to Gato Verde’s third goal. If Fink did indeed curse the official, then the center referee was the only one who heard it.

The Byki were seeking to avenge a 5:3 loss to Gato Verde earlier in the season and got right to work. In the 14th minute, John Park intercepted a poor distribution by the Gato Verde goalkeeper. He shot on frame immediately, but the goalie did well to recover and make the save.

In the 25th minute, Diego Penafiel’s near-post attempt was blocked. The loose ball came right back to him and he

promptly sent it wide of the target. Moments later, BK Park set up striker Roman Kramarz for his eighth goal of the campaign. Kramarz deftly chipped the ball over the keeper to put the Byki 1:0 up.

Gato Verde leveled the contest in the 37th minute, thanks to a fortunate deflection. George Higginbotham blocked a Gato Verde shot, but the ball went behind him, stranding goalkeeper Dean Fukar.

Momentum swayed back to the Byki when Dave Fink sent a long ball downfield. A Gato Verde defender tried to win the ball, but all he could do is deflect over to Kramarz, who blasted a shot through the goalie to make it 2:1 on 40 minutes.

Less than a minute later, Gato Verde got their second equalizer, when a long boot got past the Byki defense, leaving Fukar to deal with a 1 v 1 situation. The Gato Verde striker finished off the opportunity to finish the half knotted at 2:2.

Gato Verde thought that they had their first lead of the match in the 52nd minute, when Fukar parried the ball to a Gato Verde forward. The assistant, however, had his flag up and the goal was wiped out for offside.

Three minutes later, Gato Verde went into the lead when the Byki defense were beaten on a give-and-go play. Fink was sent off in the aftermath of the play, after claiming a push by the Gato Verde player. Gato Verde put their stamp on the match just before the hour mark. Fukar came off his line to engage a Gato Verde striker and fouled him, which led to a penalty kick. Gato Verde converted from the spot and the ten-man Byki side were staring at a two-goal deficit.

Fukar came up big in the 74th minute, conjuring a brilliant save in a 1 v 1 situation. John Park was in the right place when he cleared the ball to safety.

Gato Verde made it 5:2 two minutes later on another breakaway. The goal was tainted because of the striker handling the ball, a foul which went unseen by the referee. Another goal seven minutes from the end only added to Byki misery.

Eric Tower contributed to this report.

BYKI LINEUP (4-2-3-1): Fukar – Fink, Kuch, Higginbotham, King – Penafiel, Lane – G. Rodriguez, J. Park, BK Park – Kramarz. **Bench:** Muehlbauer, Safford, Tower.

BYKI SCORING SUMMARY

- 1:0 – Kramarz 8 (BK Park); 26th.
- 2:1 – Kramarz 9 (Fink); 40th.

Byki Man of the Match: Jim Kuch.

Torino FC	2	Premier Soccer League Over 48 Division
Byki 0-48	0	Olympic Park 16 August 2017

Byki shoot blanks

The Over 48 Team took on third-place Torino FC last Wednesday and struggled to generate much noise on the attacking side of the field. They created a handful of quality

NSL FIRST DIVISION**August 13, 2017****www.nslchicago.org**

Red Section	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
Stare Byki FC	11	9	0	2	31	12	27
Das Magic	10	6	0	4	27	21	18
FC Macedonia	11	5	0	6	20	24	15
FC Guadalajara	11	4	1	6	20	25	13
United Stars FC	11	4	0	7	23	28	12
Chicago Dynasty FC	10	3	1	6	14	25	10

PSLC OVER 30 WHITE DIVISION**August 13, 2017****www.pslchicagoland.com**

A DIVISION	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
Tricolorii FC	10	8	1	1	64	21	25
FC DePaul	11	8	1	2	37	13	25
Levski Chicago 2014	10	8	0	2	65	14	24
AEK FC Chicago	11	8	0	3	47	20	24
FC Oasu	9	7	1	1	46	9	22
Celtics	10	4	1	5	24	44	13

PSLC OVER 40 B DIVISION**August 13, 2017****www.pslchicagoland.com**

B1 DIVISION	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
Stare Byki FC	12	7	1	4	34	26	22
Gato Verde	9	7	0	2	39	17	21
International SC	9	5	2	2	23	18	17
Olympiacos Chicago	10	5	1	4	18	19	16
Windy City United	11	4	1	6	25	33	13
Naperville Strikers FC	10	3	1	6	19	27	10
Pampas OT	8	1	1	6	10	29	4

B2 DIVISION	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
United-Dynamo	9	8	1	0	49	9	25
FK Danubia	12	8	1	3	55	21	25
Itasca	10	6	0	4	25	21	18
St Charles Celtics Green	10	4	2	4	20	29	14
Real FC	10	4	0	6	26	36	12
MOFG	11	1	1	9	10	38	4
St Charles Celtics Orange	9	1	0	8	20	50	3

B DIVISION	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
Stare Byki FC	11	5	1	5	28	29	16
Real FC	10	3	2	5	19	40	11
FC National	11	2	2	7	32	35	8
Shogun	10	2	2	6	20	40	8
Chicago Rangers FC	11	2	1	8	31	38	7
Adventists United FC	12	0	0	12	2	112	0

PSLC OVER 48 DIVISION**August 16, 2017****www.pslchicagoland.com**

	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
Park Ridge Rogues	9	8	0	1	28	9	24
Sofia BG	7	5	0	2	26	12	15
Torino FC	8	4	2	2	18	15	14
St Charles Celtics	6	3	1	2	22	17	10
International SC	6	3	1	2	15	13	10
Villains SC	7	3	0	4	17	14	9
Concordia	8	1	3	4	10	19	6
Stare Byki FC	11	0	1	10	12	49	1