



BOUNCINGS



www.starebykifc.org

24 Sept 17

**2017 NSL
FIRST DIVISION
CHAMPIONS**

WE. ARE. CHAMPIONS.

| | | |
|------------|----------|--|
| Dynasty | 2 | National Soccer League 1st Division |
| Stare Byki | 5 | Hawthorne 17 September 2017 |

Byki clinch first trophy since 2009

The Byki sealed the deal last Sunday and brought home their fourth NSL trophy following a 5:2 victory over Chicago Dynasty FC at Hawthorne. The Byki dominated the game for long stretches and finally pulled away with three second-half goals. The final record will show the Byki with 36 points from 15 matches.

“Our players played some great soccer this season,” said coach George Gorecki afterwards. “Based on this quality, our ascension to the top of the standings was something I could see coming as early as Week 3 of the season.”

Their performance against Dynasty was a welcome turnabout from the 5:0 stinker versus Das Magic the week before. The Byki started this match focused and roared out of the gates to overwhelm the home side with high pressure all over the field. The tactic put Dynasty on the back foot from the get-go. Improved finishing might well have put this one away by halftime.

In the third minute, a quick counterattack put Dynasty on notice. Andrii Verbych found Andy Sokolowski and the youngster moved the ball over to Mark Zeman. The midfielder drilled one from long range and the keeper and the crossbar combined to foil Zeman’s attempt.

Two minutes later, Mo Elshafie played a long pass from midfield into open space for Sokolowski. He easily beat the offside trap and tore into the box on a breakaway. His run took him on an angle on the right side of the box. Sokolowski went for goal, narrowly missing the near post, when a square ball for the unmarked Verbych might have been a better idea.

In the eighth minute, Dmytro Korinenko intercepted a weak clearance on the left side and let one go from downtown, only to be denied by the crossbar.

Moments later, mayhem in the Dynasty penalty area put the Byki on the brink of an opener. Phil Parker’s pass into space sent Sergii Chuma in on a breakaway. A deflection left the ball at Verbych’s feet. Only a desperate kick save by the goalie prevented Verbych from finding the back of the net.

“Dynasty’s plan of playing a high defensive line might have made sense on paper,” noted Gorecki. “But they should have gone to Plan B once it was apparent that our speed up front was decisively better than their defenders’ speed.”

The Byki got their reward in the 14th minute. Elshafie stepped in to intercept a pass at midfield and immediately played the ball into space for Sokolowski. Elshafie made the supporting run and Sokolowski’s deft pass caught Elshafie in stride on the right side of the box. He sent a square pass across the face of goal for the unmarked Zeman, who tapped home at the far post.

The match went into bizarre mode ten minutes later. Mike Stamatinos tried to steal the ball from a Dynasty player dribbling in the nether reaches of the Byki penalty area. The Dynasty player fell over Stamatinos’ leg and the referee pointed to the spot. JD Joiner, starting in goal for the first time for the Byki, blocked the ensuing penalty, but a Dynasty player took possession of the loose ball deep in the left corner. He crossed into the mixer, where the ball deflected off of Parker’s arm, and the referee whistled the violation and awarded Dynasty another penalty. The incensed Byki gave the referee a lot of grief, insisting that the ball played the hand in this case. A Dynasty player converted the second spot kick to make it 1:1.

The Byki shook off that craziness and regained the lead in the 39th minute. Elshafie dribbled the ball patiently near the halfway line, looking for an opportunity to exploit dynasty’s high defensive line yet again. He played a through ball for Sokolowski, who sprinted to goal. Elshafie supported him in the middle and slotted home Sokolowski’s through pass from ten yards out.

The Byki kept coming and Dynasty managed to avoid disaster just before halftime. Sokolowski could not convert a breakaway opportunity and Zeman’s floating header was



WE ARE THE BYKI - Friends - Passion - Soccer



headed clear by a defender on the goal line.

The Byki were clearly in the dominant position, but anything can happen in a 2:1 game. Almost on cue, the game turned the wrong way just after the break. Ray Najera, subbing in goal for Joiner, could not control a Dynasty corner kick. The ensuing chaos in the Byki 6-yard box ended with a Dynasty player knocking the ball home to make it 2:2.

The response from the Byki was swift. Parker sent Chuma into open space with a terrific through pass and Chuma did the rest, dinking a slow roller past the advancing goalkeeper.

The cascading parade of through balls continued, as Zeman put Parker into the clear. The keeper came out to engage Parker and somehow got his hand to the ball. Sokolowski swooped in to clean up the loose ball, but sent the rebound attempt wide.

Sokolowski got his reward at the hour mark, when he and Kyler Mowry pressured a Dynasty fullback into a turnover. Sokolowski went directly to goal and crushed one past the keeper from 15 yards to make it 4:2.

The Byki put the result to bed in the 79th minute, following rapid ball movement just outside the Dynasty penalty area. Zeman looked like he was in perfect position to shoot, but he cut a pass between two defenders to Mowry. The winger did the rest, nutmegging the onrushing goalie.

With promotion and the tile wrapped up, the Byki still seek playoff hardware. The quality that they demonstrated versus dynasty puts a treble within their grasp.

BYKI LINEUP (3-5-2): Joiner – Stamatinos (c), C. Kirk, Elshafie – Chuma, Parker – Mowry, Korinenko, Zeman – Sokolowski, Verbych. **Bench:** Najera.

BYKI SCORING SUMMARY

0:1 – Zeman 2 (Elshafie); 14th.
1:2 – Elshafie 2 (Sokolowski); 39th.
2:3 – Chuma 1 (Parker); 49th.
2:4 – Sokolowski 7; 60th.
2:5 – Mowry 1 (Zeman); 79th.

Byki Men of the Match: Mo Elshafie and Mark Zeman.

| | | |
|------------|---|--|
| Byki 0-40 | 1 | Premier Soccer League Over 40 B1 Division |
| Windy City | 1 | Oak Brook Sports Core 17 September 2017 |

Draw proves costly

The Over 40 Team dropped two critical points last Sunday when they allowed overmatched Windy City United to claw their way back from a 1:0 deficit and earn a 1:1 draw. The Byki dominated the first half, but could only dent the back of the net once. That kind of marksmanship allowed Windy City to hang around, and a second-half penalty opened the door.

While Gato Verde have a comfortable lead in the B1 Division, the Byki are locked in a tight race for second place with International SC and Olympiacos Chicago. The Byki have 23 points from 14 matches, while International are on

21 and Olympiacos are on 20. Both teams chasing the Byki have played one fewer match and the Byki face International in their final regular-season match.

The Byki gave early notice of their intentions. Ade Ekundayo slipped a pass to Roman Kramarz, who rumbled through the left side of the Windy City penalty area and fired just wide in the second minute.

Windy City nearly opened their account five minutes later, when a corner kick fell on the doorstep of the Byki goal. A Windy City striker inexplicably missed the target from close range.

The Byki grabbed the lead in the 24th minute when Ekundayo's well placed through ball released Jim Jacobs into the clear. Jacobs made his first goal of the season a beauty, sending his shot just inside the far post.

The goal appeared to ignite the Byki attack, who peppered the Windy City goal in the waning moments of the first half. Miguel Zarate floated a cross to the far post for Jacobs, who steered a point-blank header wide of the mark.

The Byki continued to pile on the pressure, but no goals were found. Gabriel Rodriguez's shot was saved, Zarate was denied by the crossbar, and Jacobs fired high.

Kramarz was forced to leave the match in the 35th minute. It was later learned that he suffered a partially torn Achilles tendon.

Windy City made a bid to get back into the game early in the second half. Goalkeeper James Vlahakis stuffed a breakaway situation with an excellent save.

The Byki were denied by the woodwork yet again, in the 50th minute. Andy Lane set up Jacobs, whose shot clanged off of the post. Kuba Banbor chased down the loose ball and fought off two defenders to slide a pass to Diego Penafiel. The midfielder circulated a pass to Zarate, who in turn found Lane. Windy City once again squirmed out of a tough spot.

Disaster struck in the 65th minute, when Vlahakis pulled down a Windy City forward in the box, resulting in a penalty. Windy City converted the spot kick to give them new life at 1:1. The Byki thought that they would have their own penalty kick scenario with five minutes to go.

After receiving Eric Muehlbauer's chipped pass, Penafiel was mauled from behind in the Windy City area. When Penafiel landed outside the box, the cowardly referee refused to award the penalty kick, claiming the foul had occurred outside the box.

The improved quality in the Over 40 B Division has pushed the Byki to maintain a strong competitive level every week. The Byki will need to be on their game as the post-season approaches.

Dave Fink and Eric Muehlbauer contributed to this report.

BYKI LINEUP (4-2-3-1): Vlahakis – Kuch, Fukar, Fink, Zarate – Banbor, Lane – G. Rodriguez, Jacobs, Ekundayo (c) – Kramarz. **Bench:** Huck, Muehlbauer, Penafiel.

BYKI SCORING SUMMARY

1:0 – Jacobs 1 (Ekundayo); 24th.

Byki Man of the Match: Miguel Zarate.

| | | |
|-----------|----------|---|
| Byki O-30 | 1 | Premier Soccer League Over 30 White Division |
| Shogun | 2 | Oak Brook Sports Core 17 September 2017 |

Title hopes on edge

The Over 30 Team relinquished the top spot in the B Division standings after their disappointing 2:1 defeat to Shogun FC last Sunday at Oak Brook. Shogun scored twice in the first five minutes and that proved to be enough to secure all three points.

FC National slipped past the Byki into first place, with 20 points from their 15 matches. The Byki have 19 points from 14 matches, while Shogun improved their title hopes, now on 17 points from 13. Although Shogun appear to have the edge with three games left on their schedule, one of those is against FC National; the winner there would be in prime position to claim the championship.

Player-coach Dan Jedrzejowski was faced with a serious roster dilemma, as regular goalkeeper Ray Najera was unavailable and no other viable option was apparent for the position. Jedrzejowski signed former rugby player Chris Harris to step in and he turned in what might be the most disastrous five minutes of goalkeeping in Byki history. Shogun scored in the second minute of the contest, when a booming cross from the deep left wing found an open runner at the far post. He nodded home for a shock start to the match. A few minutes later, Harris bobbled an innocuous Shogun pass into the Byki penalty area and an eager Shogun forward pounded the ball ruthlessly into the back of the net. Midfielder Alex Guzman quickly switched places with Harris and manned the

pipes for the next 64 minutes.

Losing a quality central midfielder like Guzman would be a blow to the Byki attack, but the abrupt change appeared to stabilize the Byki. Shogun had been running rampant in the opening minutes and things evened out significantly in the last 30 minutes of the first half.

For their part, the Byki struggled to maintain possession of the ball. Shogun's players went into every 50/50 challenge with gusto and the Byki quite often came away second best. Rather than keep the ball moving quickly along the ground, long, hopeful passes simply became turnovers. Lone striker Richard Sodeinde was left on an island, typically trying to beat two or three defenders after collecting a long clearance.

Shogun were in position to make it 3:0 in the 40th minute, when they came hard on the counterattack, outnumbering the Byki 4 v 2. Ato Anderson could only clear a centering pass out to the edge of the penalty area and a Shogun player fired a rocket. Guzman went full stretch to steer the shot wide.

The match was an even affair in the second half, as the Byki attack showed more frequent flashes of coherence. They climbed back into the contest in the 69th minute, when fullback Juan-Carlos Carrillo lofted a ball into the Shogun penalty area from midfield. The goalkeeper came out to punch the ball away, but arrived too late. Volkan Akbas redirected Carrillo's cross with a deft header that whizzed past the keeper.

The Byki would get no closer, despite dominating possession for the final 30 minutes.

BYKI LINEUP (4-2-3-1): Harris – Carrillo, Soaga, Anderson (c), Jedrzejowski – McClure, Guzman – Boeckeler, Jamarillo, Akbas – Sodeinde. **Bench:** Champagne, Durojaiye.

BYKI SCORING SUMMARY

1:2 – Akbas 4 (Carrillo); 69th.

Byki Man of the Match: Alex Guzman

NSL FIRST DIVISION**September 17, 2017****www.nslchicago.org**

| Red Section | GP | W | D | L | GF | GA | Pts |
|----------------------|-----------|-----------|----------|----------|-----------|-----------|------------|
| Stare Byki FC | 15 | 12 | 0 | 3 | 42 | 19 | 36 |
| Das Magic | 13 | 9 | 0 | 4 | 42 | 25 | 27 |
| FC Macedonia | 13 | 7 | 0 | 6 | 28 | 28 | 21 |
| United Stars FC | 15 | 5 | 0 | 10 | 31 | 38 | 15 |
| FC Guadalajara | 14 | 4 | 1 | 9 | 20 | 34 | 13 |
| Chicago Dynasty FC | 14 | 4 | 1 | 9 | 22 | 41 | 13 |

PSLC OVER 40 B DIVISION**September 17, 2017****www.pslchicagoland.com**

| B1 DIVISION | GP | W | D | L | GF | GA | Pts |
|------------------------|-----------|----------|----------|----------|-----------|-----------|------------|
| Gato Verde | 11 | 9 | 0 | 2 | 49 | 21 | 27 |
| Stare Byki FC | 14 | 7 | 2 | 5 | 35 | 30 | 23 |
| International SC | 13 | 6 | 3 | 4 | 31 | 27 | 21 |
| Olympiacos Chicago | 13 | 6 | 2 | 5 | 27 | 28 | 20 |
| Naperville Strikers FC | 13 | 4 | 2 | 7 | 26 | 33 | 14 |
| Windy City United | 14 | 4 | 2 | 8 | 31 | 43 | 14 |
| Pampas OT | 12 | 4 | 2 | 6 | 23 | 36 | 14 |

| B2 DIVISION | GP | W | D | L | GF | GA | Pts |
|---------------------------|-----------|----------|----------|----------|-----------|-----------|------------|
| United-Dynamo | 12 | 11 | 1 | 0 | 60 | 13 | 34 |
| FK Danubia | 14 | 9 | 1 | 4 | 67 | 29 | 28 |
| Itasca | 12 | 8 | 0 | 4 | 33 | 25 | 24 |
| St Charles Celtics Green | 14 | 6 | 3 | 5 | 29 | 37 | 21 |
| Real FC | 14 | 4 | 1 | 9 | 27 | 45 | 13 |
| MOFG | 13 | 2 | 1 | 10 | 16 | 43 | 7 |
| St Charles Celtics Orange | 13 | 1 | 0 | 12 | 25 | 69 | 3 |

PSLC OVER 30 WHITE DIVISION**September 17, 2017****www.pslchicagoland.com**

| A DIVISION | GP | W | D | L | GF | GA | Pts |
|---------------------|-----------|----------|----------|----------|-----------|-----------|------------|
| Tricolorii FC | 14 | 12 | 1 | 1 | 85 | 26 | 37 |
| Levski Chicago 2014 | 13 | 11 | 0 | 2 | 99 | 21 | 33 |
| FC Oasu | 13 | 10 | 1 | 2 | 66 | 14 | 31 |
| AEK FC Chicago | 14 | 9 | 0 | 5 | 55 | 35 | 27 |
| FC DePaul | 14 | 8 | 1 | 5 | 40 | 28 | 25 |
| Celtics | 14 | 4 | 1 | 9 | 30 | 79 | 13 |

| B DIVISION | GP | W | D | L | GF | GA | Pts |
|----------------------|-----------|----------|----------|----------|-----------|-----------|------------|
| FC National | 15 | 6 | 2 | 7 | 60 | 38 | 20 |
| Stare Byki FC | 14 | 6 | 1 | 7 | 38 | 36 | 19 |
| Shogun | 13 | 5 | 2 | 6 | 38 | 41 | 17 |
| Real FC | 14 | 4 | 2 | 8 | 25 | 63 | 14 |
| Chicago Rangers FC | 13 | 2 | 1 | 10 | 33 | 49 | 7 |
| Adventists United FC | 15 | 0 | 0 | 15 | 2 | 141 | 0 |

PSLC OVER 48 DIVISION**September 21, 2017****www.pslchicagoland.com**

| | GP | W | D | L | GF | GA | Pts |
|----------------------|-----------|----------|----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|------------|
| Park Ridge Rogues | 13 | 11 | 0 | 2 | 44 | 15 | 33 |
| Sofia BG | 12 | 10 | 0 | 2 | 47 | 15 | 30 |
| Villains SC | 11 | 7 | 0 | 4 | 30 | 17 | 21 |
| Torino FC | 10 | 5 | 2 | 3 | 21 | 20 | 17 |
| International SC | 11 | 4 | 1 | 6 | 19 | 28 | 13 |
| St Charles Celtics | 10 | 3 | 1 | 6 | 29 | 31 | 10 |
| Concordia | 10 | 1 | 3 | 6 | 10 | 25 | 6 |
| Stare Byki FC | 13 | 0 | 1 | 12 | 13 | 62 | 1 |