



BOUNCINGS



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19 Oct 14

**2014 PSLC
Over 40
CHAMPIONS**

Byki 0-40	1	Premier Soccer League Over 40 Blue Division
Windy City	0	Oak Brook Sports Core 12 October 2014

Byki fight through injuries in QF win

The Over 40 Team advanced to the semifinals of the PSLC post-season tournament last Sunday when they edged past Windy City United 1:0 at Oak Brook. The Byki, the top defensive team in the Over 40 Blue Division, kept Windy City under wraps and made sure that Mitch Posada's 37th-minute strike was enough to claim victory.

To only beat mid-table Windy City by the slimmest of margins had to be disappointing to the Over 40 champs, but it was clear that Windy City came to play. Their physical approach in the middle third of the field disrupted the possession game favored by the Byki. But Windy City were basically devoid of creativity going forward and the rock-solid Byki defense did not waver.

The Byki backline was hobbled by injury right at the start. Dave Safford was battling food poisoning, Jim Kuch was ruled out completely due to an ankle injury, Charlie Cohen was coping with aches and pains, and Dean Fukar lasted just 25 minutes, succumbing to a calf strain.

"Windy City finally showed what it can do when their players can be bothered to show up," noted player-coach Eric Tower. They dominated the midfield throughout the game, but had little success creating chances in the final third of the field. Their pressing style led to numerous Byki turnovers.

"We didn't have many scoring opportunities, said Doug Towsey. "With their new players I think they had the best midfield we've played against all year. If that team stays together they will be very good."

Windy City started strongly, immediately pressing the Byki back four. The Byki did not crack, but they seldom managed to make it past the halfway line, as pressure resulted in many an errant pass.

Despite the lack of flow, the Byki did manage to occasionally generate a little pressure through Posada, but they struggled to involve the entire team. The goal was the product of opportunistic play. The Windy City keeper made the mistake of trying to fake out Posada and paid a heavy price for a risky decision. What should have been a routine

clearance just outside the box turned disastrous, as Posada didn't bite on the fake and knocked the ball forward. Posada was off balance and sort of toe-poked the ball towards the goal. The slow roller looked like it was going in. And then out. And then it hit the post. Posada and a Windy City defender raced for the ball and Posada got there first to slide the ball home.

The second half started off the way the first half ended, except that Windy City brought even more pressure to bear. As a result, the Byki infrequently crossed the halfway line. The pressure from Windy City became overly physical. Gabriel Rodriguez was sent flying by a Windy City player, accompanied by a loud "thwack," as his shin guards resonated from having been kicked. The referee produced a yellow card for that foul, but the shenanigans became more pronounced as the game continued.

Controversy loomed in the late going. After a sequence of quick passes, a Windy City player broke in on goal. Only Doug Towsey's desperation slide tackle saved a potential equalizer. Towsey somehow won the ball and the Windy City player tumbled to the ground. The Windy City players went ballistic, but the referee refused to call for a penalty or issue a red card.

The confident Byki march on to a semifinal date with the Naperville Strikers. The sides split the regular season series, each winning at home.

Eric Tower and Doug Towsey contributed to this report.

BYKI LINEUP (4-2-3-1): Vlahakis – Towsey, Fukar, Fink, Cohen – Lane, Penafiel – G. Rodriguez, Pedlow (c), Ekundayo – Posada. **Bench:** Huck, Muehlbauer, Nelson, Safford, Tower.

BYKI SCORING SUMMARY
1:0 – Posada 9; 37th.

Byki Man of the Match: Mitch Posada



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Byki 0-30	1	Premier Soccer League Over 30 White Division
Olympiacos	0	Oak Brook Sports Core 12 October 2014

Byki save best for last

The Over 30 Team showed resolve and resilience last Sunday when they downed Olympiacos Chicago 1:0 in the quarterfinals of the PSLC tournament. The only thing separating the teams was Ryan Russ' goal five minutes from the end. The Byki will take on Over 30 powerhouse Levski Chicago in the next round.

Sunday's match was tight from the start. Olympiacos controlled possession in the early moments, but the Byki defense held their ground. Goalkeeper Bill Raidt was tested on two occasions in the opening 10 minutes on long-range attempts from the Olympiacos forwards.

Once they settled into a rhythm in midfield, the momentum swayed towards the Byki. Paul Gibbs won possession in the middle of the park and played an insightful pass behind the Olympiacos defense for the sprinting Russ. The situation left Russ with only the keeper to beat and he was denied by a tremendous foot save from the netminder.

Later in the first half, Russ played a square ball for striker Sergio Benavides. The goalie pushed his first-time shot wide of the target to preserve the scoreless deadlock at the break.

The second half became a physical affair and the Byki were certainly up to the challenge. Gibbs led the way, delivering multiple crunching tackles and winning everything in the air that came his way.

Olympiacos had little to show for their effort in the second half. In every case, their shots were tame and gave Raidt little to worry about.

The Byki finally got their winning strike in the 85th minute. Roman Kramarz played a high ball into Brian Boeckeler, who then kept the play moving with a subsequent one-two with Kramarz. Boeckeler then slid a pass behind the right side of the Olympiacos defense, finding a sprinting Russ. The winger finished the play with a brilliant strike, a right-footed blast to beat the keeper at his near post.

The Byki defense did the rest, and now the Byki face their sternest challenge of the season. Levski beat the Byki twice by a combined score of 11:1 and it will be up to the Byki to find a way to dent Levski's undefeated record.

Alan Stevens contributed to this report.

BYKI LINEUP (4-4-1-1): Raidt – King, Fleming, Hurley, Marquez – Kramarz, Gibbs, Guzman, Russ – Kekus (c) – Benavides. **Bench:** Banbor, Boeckeler, Jedrzejowski, Pinkham.

BYKI SCORING SUMMARY

1:0 – Russ 10 (Boeckeler); 85th.

Byki Man of the Match: Paul Gibbs



Kosova	3	National Soccer League 1st Division Hawthorne 12 October 2014
Stare Byki	0	

Punchless Byki end season

The Byki lost out on a chance to add to the trophy case in 2014 when they were eliminated from the NSL playoffs at the quarterfinal stage last Sunday by FC Kosova. The match was played as tightly as the 1:0 Byki win and the 1:1 draw between the teams during the regular season. Kosova, however, found a higher gear in the late stages of the contest and won 3:0, besting a Byki team that was unable to break through.

The final week of the season was a mad dash for the playoffs in the 1st Division and it resembled a game of musical chairs. The Byki, after having lost 3:1 to eventual champions FC Moldova in Week 15, saw their playoff hopes hanging by a thread, as they sat in seventh place in the table. The top six teams qualify for the playoffs.

Things turned around quickly in favor of the Byki. The team filed a protest over the defeat to Moldova after coach George Gorecki had noticed that Moldova's manager had listed too many names on his lineup sheet. The League upheld the protest, which essentially ensured playoff qualification for the Byki. They won their Week 16 match versus suspended Assyrian B by forfeit, finishing the regular season in fourth place.

The race for the post-season went down to the final day of play. Chicago Dynasty, who started Week 16 in second place, were ready to claim the second promotion spot with a win over Das Magic. When Das Magic won 5:0, Dynasty

plummeted to seventh place and were out of the playoffs entirely. The difference between second-place Lancer SC and Dynasty was a mere three points.

Kosova snatched the early advantage in the match and controlled the tempo. It wasn't until about midway through the first half that the Byki finally started to look comfortable on the field. Neither side were able to find holes in the opposing defense. Goalkeeper Amit Khankari was faced with a 1 v 1 situation and snuffed out Kosova's best chance of the half. Overall, the Byki attack appeared timid and gun-shy.

The Byki tried a more aggressive stance to start the second half and they managed to put Kosova on the back foot. The Kosova defense did well to absorb pressure and they waited patiently to carve out their opportunities. And when they did, their accurate finishing made all of the difference in the match.

Kosova broke the deadlock in the 65th minute when they converted a breakaway situation. Byki turnovers rapidly became Kosova counters and the Byki suddenly found themselves a step behind. The Kosova striker slid his shot under Khankari for a 1:0 lead. The goal was a deflating moment for the Byki, who struggled to recover.

Kosova needed just five minutes to double their lead. They cleared a Byki corner kick to midfield and the Kosova attackers were off to the races. Khankari came out of his box to challenge, but had no chance to seriously intervene. A third Kosova goal in the 80th minute put the result beyond any doubt.

Marek Ciszewski, Amit Khankari and Mike Stamatinos contributed to this report.

BYKI LINEUP (4-2-3-1): Khankari – Stamatinos (c), Herholdt, Calleros, Gronke – C. Salazar, Zachariah – Freitag, Ciszewski, Zudic – De Rama.
Bench: Pineda

BYKI SCORING SUMMARY

None.

Byki Man of the Match: None given.