



BOUNCINGS



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22 Oct 17

Stare Byki	5	National Soccer League 1st Division
Dynasty	3	Olympic Park 15 October 2017

Late goals propel Byki to final

Quavas Kirk and Andy Sokolowski proved to be a two-man wrecking crew at Olympic Park last Sunday, as the Byki prevailed 5:3 over Chicago Dynasty in the semifinals of the NSL's First Division playoffs. The Byki dominated early and failed to put away Dynasty with the score at 3:1. When Dynasty leveled things at 3:3 in the middle of the second half, the Byki found the gas pedal once again and scored twice in the final nine minutes to put the result to bed. The Byki will face Das Magic in this Sunday's final.

The Byki wanted to take an aggressive approach and swarm Dynasty if they tried to play the ball out of the back. The tactic worked like a charm, as the Byki grabbed the lead after just six minutes. High pressure led to a second goal and put the Byki in the driver's seat.

"We did well executing our gameplan," said coach George Gorecki afterwards. "Dynasty brought a stronger lineup to this match than they had previously, but we figured things out pretty quickly."

Dynasty's goalkeeper erred badly when he tried to pass the ball out of his penalty area to a teammate 30 yards from goal. Kirk swooped in front of the weak pass and came in alone on the keeper, easily slotting into the back of the net.

Mark Zeman took aim in the 13th minute, when he curled a free kick from 25 yards over the Dynasty defensive wall. The goalie did well to snatch the ball before it found the back of the net.

The Byki made it 2:0 after 27 minutes, thanks primarily to an unrecorded assist by Sokolowski. The teenager gave chase as Dynasty players tried to pass the ball back to avoid his pressure. The ball eventually made its way back to the goalie, but Sokolowski did not relent. He forced the netminder into another flubbed pass and Kirk cleaned

things up for his fourth goal of the season. Sokolowski had only just entered the field, arriving at Olympic Park well after kickoff; he had mistakenly gone to Oak Brook.

The two-goal advantage put the Byki in control of things, but the situation did not feel all that comfortable. Some marking issues and communication breakdowns opened the door for Dynasty, but the quality of their finishing was lacking. An open header from 12 yards and a clean look from inside the Byki penalty area missed the target.

Sloppiness from the Byki eventually resulted in a comeback score by Dynasty in the 41st minute. The Byki left a big space in front of their penalty area when marking assignments got fouled up, leaving an open Dynasty player to fire past a diving Ray Najera to make it 2:1 going into the break.

"We were not totally sharp on defense," said Gorecki. "Not having played for a month exposed some rustiness on our part."

The Byki stepped up their game right after the break. Great ball movement between Dmytro Korinenko and Quavas Kirk opened the door for Sokolowski, who came 1 v 1 against the keeper. He ripped a shot from the left side of the box and the goalie pulled a rabbit out of his hat, making a miraculous kick save.

The score went to 3:1 in the 58th minute, as the Byki beat Dynasty on the break. Zeman found Sokolowski on the right touchline at midfield and he turned and struck a blind pass into space for Quavas Kirk. The striker tore past the last defender and sidestepped the onrushing keeper to slide the ball home to complete his hat trick.

That should have been enough to put the Byki in total control. A defensive lapse two minutes later, however, allowed Dynasty to get that goal back. A Dynasty player waltzed through the Byki penalty area and touched the ball under Najera to make it 3:2.

In the 69th minute, Dynasty were inches away from an equalizer. After the Byki defensive wall blocked a free kick, Dynasty controlled the rebound, and a shot from the right side of the box smacked off of Najera's left post.

Dynasty kept the momentum going and leveled things in the 76th minute, when they brilliantly converted a free

2017 CHAMPIONS
NSL FIRST DIVISION
PSLC OVER 30 B DIVISION

kick from 30 yards. The ball, perfectly placed, sailed over the wall and past the lunging Najera.

The Byki shook that off rather quickly, pulling ahead five minutes later in controversial fashion. Quavas Kirk broke into the open space and dribbled towards goal into the box. The goalkeeper came out hard and got a piece of Kirk's shot. The ball went behind the keeper and Sokolowski got there first, steering it into the empty net. The Dynasty players screamed for offside, but the goal stood. The assistant referee was out of position to make a decision on offside because he crashed into Sergii Chuma, who was not in the game at the time, but was standing too close to the touchline. By the time the assistant got back to his feet, the play was over. The referee, who was trailing the play, was in no position to decide whether the play was offside, let the goal stand. Home video of the goal appeared to indicate that Sokolowski was onside when Kirk shot the ball.

The Byki put the game away two minutes before the end, when Sokolowski was tripped in the dynasty penalty area. The referee pointed to the spot and Sokolowski did the honors to make it 5:3.

By winning the First Division championship, the Byki have done the hard work of this season. One more goal remains in sight, winning the double and adding to the club's trophy case.

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

BYKI SCORING SUMMARY

1:0 – Q. Kirk 3; 6th.
2:0 – Q. Kirk 4; 27th.
3:1 – Q. Kirk 5 (Sokolowski); 58th.
4:3 – Sokolowski 8; 81st.
5:3 – Sokolowski 9 (pk); 88th.

Byki Men of the Match: Quavas Kirk and Andy Sokolowski

Park Ridge	7	Premier Soccer League Over 48 Division
Byki 0-48	1	Wheeling HS 18 October 2017

Season mercifully over

The Over 48 season ended with a whimper for the Byki last Wednesday, when the Park Ridge Rogues administered a 7:1 beatdown in the quarterfinals of the PSLC post-season tournament. The Byki showed good positional discipline for the first 75 minutes of the contest, but things broke down quickly in the endgame, as the Rogues scored four times in the final 12 minutes. The Byki finish a dismal season with just one draw and 13 losses in their 14 games.

The team started off badly back in May and could never right the ship. Squad problems plagued the Byki, as they were forced to turn to an emergency goalkeeper seven

times. The ever-reliable Eric Muehlbauer stepped between the pipes on five of those occasions. Coaches Rick Bolesta and Sven Dahlquist had their hands full every week trying to fit players into a range of different positions.

The Rogues, champions of the regular season, dominated the affair with close ball control and a smothering defensive style. The Byki were constantly in chase mode after giving the ball away in unforced situations.

Park Ridge grabbed the lead in the 15th minute after intercepting a short Byki goal kick. Muehlbauer made a terrific save on an open shot, but the ball deflected high in the air towards the Byki goal. The only player in range was a Rogue, who gratefully tapped the ball home.

The score went to 2:0 in the 25th minute, when a Rogue dribbled across the face of the penalty area and turned to quickly to fire inside the post. A third goal right before halftime gave the Rogues a sense of comfort.

Bolesta opted for a more aggressive attacking approach to the second half and moved Steven Pedlow to striker from his sweeper spot. Pedlow was the right man for the job, as he sprinted past the last defender onto Juan Rodriguez's killer through pass. He rounded the keeper and side the ball home in the 53rd minute.

Three minutes later, Pedlow beat his man in the right-wing channel and cut inside. His shot went narrowly wide of the target.

The Byki would get no closer, but the momentum of the match appeared to level off. The sides battled on even terms for most of the second half, as the Byki showed that there was still something positive in their soccer brains.

But the superior speed and fitness of the Rogues rose to the occasion, as they pounded the tired Byki on the counter. The last four goals were merely the cherry on the sundae for Park Ridge.

BYKI LINEUP (4-4-2): Muehlbauer – Pedlow, Kerbis, King, Safford – Tower (c), Jacobs, Cohen, Carrillo – Nelson, Demarets. **Bench:** Gorecki, Huck, J. Rodriguez, Towsey.

BYKI SCORING SUMMARY

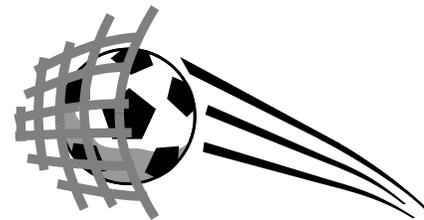
3:1 – Pedlow 1 (J. Rodriguez); 52nd.

Byki Man of the Match: Eric Muehlbauer

STARE BYKI FC
Annual Meeting
Saturday, November 18
12.00 PM



BYKI bits & pieces



Several Byki players got a real treat on September 30 when they watched the Chicago Fire take on New York City FC at Toyota Park. The treat came in the form of tickets in the luxurious Second Star Club, a VIP experience. Over 48 player **Eric Muehlbauer** provided the tickets for **Ade Ekundayo** (Over 40), **Dmytro Korinenko** (First Team), and **George Gorecki**, another example of his annual generosity to Byki teammates.



The Byki First Team celebrated their advancement to the First Division playoff final last Sunday, and they also celebrated their most recent piece of hardware. They finished the regular season as First Division champions and were presented a handsome trophy by National Soccer League President **Gregory Vlamakis**.

Captain **Mike Stamatinos** accepted the trophy and all of his teammates reveled in their accomplishment. Finishing first boosts the Byki into promotion to the Major Division for 2018, the biggest stage and brightest lights of amateur soccer in the Chicago area.



Coiln Kirk raises the championship trophy amid cheering terammates.



Stare Byki FC: 2017 NSL First Division Champions.

**NSL FIRST DIVISION
FINAL STANDINGS
www.nslchicago.org**

Red Section	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
Stare Byki FC	15	12	0	3	42	19	36
Das Magic	15	10	0	5	48	36	30
FC Macedonia	15	9	0	6	42	31	27
United Stars FC	15	5	0	10	31	38	15
FC Guadalajara	15	4	1	10	20	37	13
Chicago Dynasty FC	15	4	1	10	22	44	13

**PSLC OVER 40 B DIVISION
FINAL STANDINGS
www.pslchicagoland.com**

B1 DIVISION	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
Gato Verde	14	12	0	2	58	25	36
Stare Byki FC	15	8	2	5	38	30	26
International SC	15	7	3	5	34	31	24
Olympiacos Chicago	15	7	2	6	31	32	23
Naperville Strikers FC	15	5	2	8	29	37	17
Pampas OT	14	4	2	8	27	42	14
Windy City United	15	4	2	9	32	49	14

B2 DIVISION	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
United-Dynamo	15	14	1	0	78	15	43
FK Danubia	15	10	1	4	75	30	31
Itasca	15	9	0	6	41	35	27
St Charles Celtics Green	15	6	3	6	30	45	21
Real FC	15	5	1	9	29	46	16
MOFG	15	2	1	12	18	50	7
St Charles Celtics Orange	15	1	0	14	26	79	3

**PSLC OVER 30 WHITE DIVISION
FINAL STANDINGS
www.pslchicagoland.com**

A DIVISION	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
Levski Chicago 2014	15	13	0	2	107	23	39
Tricolorii FC	16	12	1	3	86	32	37
FC Oasu	15	10	1	4	67	21	31
AEK FC Chicago	16	10	0	6	59	38	30
FC DePaul	15	9	1	5	43	28	28
Celtics	15	5	1	9	33	79	16

B DIVISION	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
Stare Byki FC	16	8	1	7	47	36	25
Shogun	16	7	3	6	46	45	24
FC National	16	6	3	7	61	39	21
Real FC	16	4	2	10	25	72	14
Chicago Rangers FC	16	3	1	12	43	57	10
Adventists United FC	16	0	0	16	3	150	0

**PSLC OVER 48 DIVISION
FINAL STANDINGS
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	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
Park Ridge Rogues	14	12	0	2	53	15	36
Sofia BG	14	12	0	2	53	15	36
Villains SC	14	9	0	5	36	18	27
Torino FC	12	5	2	5	21	26	17
International SC	11	4	1	6	19	28	13
St Charles Celtics	13	3	1	9	29	46	10
Concordia	11	2	3	6	11	25	9
Stare Byki FC	13	0	1	12	13	62	1