



BOUNCINGS



www.starebykifc.org

25 Oct 14

**2014 PSLC
Over 40
CHAMPIONS**

Byki 0-40	3	Premier Soccer League Over 40 Blue Division
Naperville	2	Oak Brook Sports Core 19 October 2014

Byki book their trip to Final

When the Naperville Strikers shockingly went up 2:0 in last Sunday's Over 40 semifinal versus the Byki, a funny thing happened at the Oak Brook field. The Byki did not hang their heads, they did not carp at one another over perceived mistakes, and they did not whine to the officials about bad calls. They did what champions do, and they found a way back into the match. Mitch Posada scored twice in a span of eight minutes to knot things up and Dan Nelson tucked away the winner seven minutes from the end to cap off a thrilling 3:2 victory.

The Byki qualified for their second final in six seasons in the PSLC and have a chance to do the double when they face longtime rivals Chicago Pampas on Sunday. The Over 40s have seen loads of success since the team's inception in 2009 as the newest age group in the club, having added five pieces of hardware to the Byki trophy case. The Over 40s also won the League's Sportsmanship Award in 2013.

Bagging two competitive trophies in the same season is a tall task. The 1998 Byki First Team nearly pulled it off when they were the top team in their Section in the NSL's 2nd Division, and then took home the trophy as Overall Champion after prevailing in the playoff final. In that season, however, the 2nd Division was split into two Sections and the League did not declare a regular-season champion, even though the Byki had the highest point total in the 2nd Division. This is the closest that any Byki team has come to winning two titles in the same season.

On Sunday, the Byki had a lethargic start to the match for the second week in a row. They sprayed passes all over the midfield, but few wound up at the feet of teammates. Although the Strikers weren't doing a lot to penetrate the Byki defense, Byki errors were keeping the contest closer than it should have been.

Once they found their rhythm, the Byki probed the Naperville defense for openings. In the 18th minute, Ade Ekundayo's through ball sprang striker Brian Huck for an open run on the goalkeeper, who came out assertively to block Huck's attempt.

In the 32nd minute, the Byki pushed forward on the counter. Posada brought the ball into the middle from the right side and laid off for Ekundayo, whose curling shot went tantalizingly over the bar.

Moments later, the Strikers crossed from deep in the corner and keeper James Vlahakis deflected the ball, which found an open player at the far post. The Byki defense converged to block the shot.

The Strikers continued to display good hustle all over the field and were rewarded in the 42nd minute. Stopper Dave Fink cleared a ball toward the touchline, and it appeared that the Strikers were going to let it run out for a throw-in. Surprisingly, the Naperville winger kept it in, and smashed it into the air towards the Byki penalty area. The ball fell in over everyone and a Naperville player floated a shot past Vlahakis for a 1:0 lead.

The Byki regrouped at halftime and wanted to get the equalizer early and set the proper tone. Instead, it was Naperville who set a different tone when they doubled their advantage just one minute into the second frame. The Naperville goalkeeper boomed a long punt into Byki territory and a winger wasted no time, sending his shot just inside the far post.

The Byki only needed a few minutes to shake off the effects of a 2:0 deficit and got right to work. Just before the hour mark, the Strikers cleared a corner kick towards the goal line, right to Diego Penafiel. The midfielder zipped a cross into the mixer, and Posada got his head to the ball to bring the Byki back into the match.

The game went level in the 66th minute when sweeper Doug Towsey won the ball in midfield and pushed the play forward. He played the ball into the space just outside the Naperville penalty area for the sprinting Posada. The defenders had no chance to catch up and the keeper could not even get close enough to Posada to foul him. Posada deposited the ball into the empty net and the Byki were back in business.

Those rapid-fire scores took the air out of Naperville's balloon. All of the hustling in midfield that had kept them competitive suddenly disappeared, giving way to a kick-and-chase style that merely gave the ball back to the Byki. Fullbacks Jim Kuch and Dave Safford pushed forward with impunity, as the Byki pinned the Strikers back in their own half. Safford made a bid for the winner in the 78th minute, with a foray up the left flank. The keeper knocked down his forceful blast, but the end was near for the Strikers.



WE ARE THE BYKI - Friends - Passion - Soccer



Ekundayo slithered past three Strikers in midfield and timed an elegant through ball for Nelson. The keeper came off his line, but Nelson was faster. Nelson reached the ball first, side-stepped the goalie and sent the ball into the back of the net, and put the Byki one step closer to another championship trophy.

Sunday's final shapes up to be a match that will be played with high intensity. The Byki won both regular-season meetings between the sides, 4:3 and 1:0. The teams finished first and second in the regular-season standings. No two teams are better suited to compete for the tournament championship.

BYKI LINEUP (4-2-3-1): Vlahakis – Kuch, Pedlow, Fink, Safford – Lane, Penafiel – Nelson, Posada, Ekundayo – Huck. **Bench:** Fukar, Gorecki (c), Jacobs, Muehlbauer, St Clair, Tower, Towsey.

BYKI SCORING SUMMARY

1:2 – Posada 10 (Penafiel); 58th.
 2:2 – Posada 11 (Towsey); 66th.
 3:2 – Nelson 7 (Ekundayo); 83rd.

Byki Men of the Match: Dan Nelson and Mitch Posada

Eric Tower contributed to this report.

Byki Stats

FIRST TEAM, NSL 1st DIVISION

O-30 TEAM, PSLC O-30 DIVISION

O-40 TEAM, PSLC O-40 DIVISION

Player	G	A	Pts
Ciszewski	9	2	11
Freitag	4	3	7
Zachariah	6	0	6
Stamatinos	2	3	5
De Rama	2	2	4
Gronke	1	3	4
Salazar, C	1	2	3
Banbor	1	1	2
Herholdt	1	1	2
Sabo	1	1	2
Calleros	0	2	2
Rodriguez, J	0	2	2
Stopka	0	2	2
Rodriguez, C	1	0	1
Salazar, V	1	0	1
Zielinski	1	0	1
Team goals	6	x	x
Goalie	Min	GA	GAA
Avalos	18	0	0.00
Rodriguez J	45	0	0.00
Fukar	270	3	1.00
Sabo	73	1	1.23
Salazar, J	720	14	1.75
Calleros	62	2	2.90
Khankari	255	12	4.24

Final record: 9-2-6

Player	G	A	Pts
Benavides	10	2	12
Kekus	8	4	12
Russ	10	0	10
Hurley	3	6	9
Gibbs	2	5	7
Kramarz	2	4	6
Guzman	1	4	5
Siervo	3	1	4
Boeckeler	1	3	4
Champagne	1	3	4
Stevens	1	3	4
Banbor	2	0	2
Vullo	1	0	1
Jedrzejewski	0	1	1
Team Goals	9	x	x

Goalie	Min	GA	GAA
Raidt	360	8	2.00
Stevens	990	30	2.73

Final record: 11-3-4

Player	G	A	Pts
Ekundayo	8	11	19
Pedlow	10	5	15
Posada	11	1	12
Nelson	7	1	8
Rodriguez, G	4	2	6
Jacobs	1	3	4
Penafiel	2	1	3
Huck	1	2	3
Lane	1	2	3
Safford	0	3	3
Fink	0	2	2
Fukar	1	0	1
Muehlbauer	1	0	1
St Clair	1	0	1
Cohen	0	1	1
Dahlquist	0	1	1
Kuch	0	1	1
Tower	0	1	1
Towsey	0	1	1
Team Goals	3	x	x

Goalie	Min	GA	GAA
Fukar	45	0	0.00
Vlahakis	1350	17	1.13
Muehlbauer	135	2	1.33

Current record: 13-3-2

Byki O-30	1	Premier Soccer League Over 30 White Division Techny Prairie Park 19 October 2014
Levski	5	

Levski too much for Byki

The outdoor season came to a grinding halt last Sunday for the Over 30s, who battled for the full 90 minutes against League champions Levski Chicago 2014 in the semifinals of the post-season tournament. Levski prevailed 5:1 and maintained their dominant and undefeated position in the competition.

The Byki had serious squad issues going into the match. Both goalkeepers, Alan Stevens and Bill Raidt, were out injured for the crucial encounter. Stevens, facing arthroscopic knee surgery in December, pushed himself to answer the bell, realizing that Sunday's match might be his last soccer action for some time. The team managed to add center back Juan Rodriguez to the roster, thanks to the First Team's elimination from the NSL playoffs.

Levski showed how serious they were when they blitzed the Byki for two goals in the opening 10 minutes. Levski's winger created space on the left side, dribbled to the byline, and drove a low, hard ball into the goal area, where a teammate finished with a first-time shot at the far post.

A few minutes later, the Byki backline were beaten for pace. A through ball found a Levski striker tearing through on a breakaway. Stevens came out to challenge, but the striker slipped the ball home at the near post for a 2:0 lead.

The Byki bounced back from that shock start and pulled one back at the half hour. Chris Hurley skillfully weaved through two Levski defenders, but the keeper read the play

well and blocked the shot. The opportunistic Hurley never wavered, following up on the rebound, drilling a second shot high into the roof of the net.

Levski's reply 10 minutes before the break kept them firmly in control. They converted a free kick from just outside the penalty area, as a diving Stevens was unable to fully palm the ball outside the goalpost.

The referee reduced Levski to 10 men just before halftime when he brandished his red card. But this hardly stopped the Levski freight train. They went 4:1 up just five minutes into the second half. The goal was very similar to Levski's first goal of the match, as the Byki conceded a simple ball on the wing. The Levski player got past the entire Byki backline and crossed square to the middle, where a striker finished easily, with a low shot to the far post.

Levski completed the scoring in the waning moments of the match. With the Byki pushed too far forward, there was no way to cover up a turnover in the back third of the field. The ruthless Levski team took full advantage of the error, making it a 5:1 final score.

The defeat does not tarnish the massive strides made by the Over 30s this season. They had the best performance of any Over 30 Team in club history, racking up 11 wins overall and finishing third in the table in the regular season. Both achievements were unprecedented for a Byki Over 30 side.

Alan Stevens contributed to this report.

BYKI LINEUP (4-1-4-1): Stevens – King, Fleming, J. Rodriguez, Marquez – Hurley – Kramarz, Guzman, Kekus (c), Russ – Benavides. **Bench:** Banbor, Jedrzejowski, Siervo.

BYKI SCORING SUMMARY

2:1 – Hurley 3; 30th.

Byki Man of the Match: None given