



BOUNCINGS



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26 Oct 16

**2015 PSLC
Over 40
CHAMPIONS**

St C Celtics	1	Premier Soccer League Over 48 Division
Byki O-48	2	East Side Sports Complex 18 October 2016

Byki hang on, reach O-48 final

After the Byki Over 48s had played HNK Concordia on August 23, they waited patiently for the PSLC to announce the postseason tournament schedule. And they waited. And waited. And waited. Many players thought that the season was over. But the semifinal pairings eventually came out in early October, pitting the Byki against the St Charles Celtics on October 18. The Byki prevailed 2:1 in a match where the Celtics had the lion's share of possession, while the Byki scored the goals. The Byki will face HNK Concordia in the final.

No one knew how things would go, as the Byki had been idled for nearly two months. The PSLC had encouraged teams to reschedule postponed matches, but little progress was made on that front during September. So the only thing left to do was to set up the top four teams into the tournament bracket.

The Byki came to the East Side Sports Complex with a 17-strong roster, but a notable hole in the lineup was the lack of an experienced goalie. Player-coach Sven Dahlquist enlisted Eric Muehlbauer to step into goal, and being the good soldier, Eric accepted his difficult assignment. He did well enough to repel several St Charles scoring attempts and was a big contributor to the winning effort.

The Celtics came at the Byki with high pressure at the start and forced lots of turnovers. The contest was definitely tilted towards the Celtics in the first 20 minutes, but they were unable to translate their advantage into goals, mostly due to inaccurate shooting.

The Byki survived the early onslaught and served notice in the fourth minute on a corner kick. Charlie Cohen sent the ball to the near post, where Brian Huck's header was blocked by a Celtics player on the goal line.

They snatched the lead on the counter in the 15th minute. Rodolfo Jimenez led the play through the middle and sent the ball wide to Steven Pedlow on the left wing.

He took the ball deep and crossed into the center of the box for Eric Tower. The ball got behind Tower, but Cohen had made the supporting run on the right side of the penalty area. He floated the ball over everyone and found the left-hand post to give the Byki an unlikely 1:0 lead.

The goal seemed to give the Byki confidence and the St Charles press became a thing of the past. By the middle of the first half, the Byki were working the ball efficiently through the midfield and looked the more likely of the two sides to find a goal.

And they found it seven minutes before halftime, as the resourceful Jimenez controlled the ball 40 yards from goal and decided to test the goalkeeper's reflexes. He sent the ball towards the goal and the netminder desperately tried to backpedal, having been caught too far off his line. He was never going to make it and the Byki took full advantage for a 2:0 lead.

The Celtics were eager to respond before halftime. One attempt from 15 yards missed the target completely, and Muehlbauer was in the right spot to block an open shot moments later.

During the interval, the Byki emphasized the importance of ball possession and hard work. There was still a lot of soccer left before anyone could make any plans for the final.

St Charles had other ideas and nearly pulled one back in the first four minutes. A well-timed through ball caught the Byki defense in a flat moment and the play became a 30-yard breakaway. Muehlbauer alertly came out to challenge and the Celtics player had to veer wide. He crossed to an open teammate at the far post, but he skewed his header wide of the target.

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WE ARE THE BYKI - Friends - Passion - Soccer



even after they had eliminated MOFG 9:3 the previous week. Chicago FC were second from bottom in the weaker B2 Division, with only four wins on the season. After watching their performance in the quarterfinal, many Byki players wondered how the visitors had improved so much after such a dismal season.

Chicago controlled much of the play in the first half hour, as the Byki struggled to adjust to the slick field conditions at Oak Brook. Chicago had two speedy and skillful players up front and their strategy was to get the ball forward as quickly as possible.

A Chicago player chased down a long, bouncing pass and scooted in alone on the left side of the area in the 19th minute and his attempt barely missed the far post.

Ade Ekundayo looked poised to give the Byki the lead in the 36th minute when he corralled a clearance from a Byki corner kick and drilled a shot from 25 yards. The Chicago keeper did well to tip the ball over the bar.

Chicago went long down the right wing in the 40th minute and ignited a breakaway. Goalie Dean Fukar came out strongly and shepherded the player wide. He shot from a very difficult angle and the ball rolled dangerously in front of the Byki goal, with no Chicago player in sight to follow up.

The Byki created a dangerous sequence in first-half stoppage time. Attila Kotsy came up the middle on a counterattack and found Steven Pedlow lurking wide left. Pedlow took the pass and went on a forceful run into the box. He fired a hard shot that the keeper managed to block. Chicago's defenders desperately cleared the ball to safety.

The Byki got their act together early in the second half. Ekundayo dribbled free at midfield in the 53rd minute and bulled his way past two defenders, accelerating into the open space. He dribbled along the left side of the penalty area and centered for Pedlow, who was left wide open. The keeper saved Pedlow's initial attempt, but he knocked the rebound into the back of the net.

Four minutes later, Chicago were inches away from equalizing when a free kick attempt clanged off of the goalpost.

Attack reigned in the match, as the Byki pushed for the second goal. In the 59th minute, Pedlow sprinted into open space on the right wing, beating a poorly conceived offside trap. He and Kuba Banbor came in alone on the Chicago goalkeeper, who blocked Pedlow's shot from 12 yards.

The Byki put things right three minutes later. Penafiel

played a ball over the top of the defense for Pedlow, who sprinted to goal. He timed a square pass in the box perfectly and Charlie Cohen notched his first tally of the season at a most opportune time.

The match went upside down a few minutes later. When Towsey went off injured, the Byki shifted personnel around to cover, but things went to pieces and Chicago took full advantage. In the 67th minute, a Chicago player saved a ball from going over the Byki goal line and curled a cross to the far post, where an unmarked teammate banged it home to make it 2:1.

The score went to 2:2 five minutes later, when a Chicago corner kick turned disastrous. The ball landed in the penalty area and a Chicago player got there first to knock it home.

The match was transformed into end to end action. Chicago found new energy and began throwing counterattacks at the Byki. They finally finished one off in the 84th minute and the Byki were just minutes away from early elimination.

The Byki kept throwing more players forward and the intensity ramped up in front of the Chicago goal. In the second minute of stoppage time, the Byki won a free kick on the left side, 30 yards from goal. Penafiel delivered a spectacular ball, finding the absolute upper corner of the right side of goal. The Byki celebration was stamped out quickly when the assistant referee flagged for offside. The referee had originally given the goal, but the assistant claimed that a Byki player was in an offside position when the ball was played and made an attempt to go for the ball. This, despite the ball being in such a position that no player on either team could have reached it. When asked, the assistant was unable to even identify the Byki player in the apparent offside position. Many Byki players had a very difficult time accepting this explanation.

The controversial defeat only takes a bit of luster off of an otherwise successful season for the Over 40s. The team can regroup over the winter and look forward to new challenges in 2017.

BYKI LINEUP (4-2-3-1): Fukar – Towsey, Zarate, Fink, Tower – Lane, Penafiel – Pedlow, G. Rodriguez, Ekundayo (c) – Banbor. **Bench:** Carrillo, Cohen, Gorecki, Huck, Kotsy, Safford.

BYKI SCORING SUMMARY

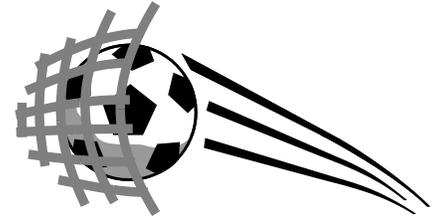
1:0 – Pedlow 12 (Ekundayo); 53rd.

2:0 – Cohen 1 (Pedlow); 62nd.

Byki Man of the Match: None given



BYKI bits & pieces



Several Byki veterans were involved in the Bubble Soccer game staged at halftime of the Fire v Crew match on October 13. **Brian Huck, Rory Smith** and **Attila Kotsy** took part in three minutes of craziness that barely resembles the sport of soccer. Brian and Rory were the friendly antagonists and they share their story below.

"They had previously told us the game would be five minutes, so figuring I would not have time to hone my bubble soccer skills, tactics or strategy, I would make my number one goal to knock Rory on hisbubble," said Brian. "As Rory was filling in the waiver, Fire rep David Quinn explained that if we get knocked over, we should bend our legs, pulling our knees in, then try to stand up, or you will have difficulty getting back on your feet. Rory missed the explanation and I told him not to worry about it."

"Attila and I were on the blue bubble team and fortunately, Rory was on the clear bubble team, so our plan to knock Rory on his ...bubble... was appropriate. On the field, the ball drop occurred at my feet while the clear team was still mulling about, so I immediately took a shot which went over the first line of bubbles, but did not go far enough to reach the goal. Rather than master this learning curve, I turned to a more achievable goal to knock Rory on his ...bubble. I spotted Rory and charged right into him, but he braced himself and managed to stay on his feet.

"Meanwhile, Rory's teammates were scoring a goal. I returned to playing the game and got hit from behind. I went down on my knees, but my bubble bounced me back onto my feet so quickly that my knees barely got damp from the wet field. This reminded me of job number one - knock Rory on his ...bubble. As I started to accelerate towards Rory someone hit me from behind again, but this time I stayed on my feet with much more momentum than usual as I ran into Rory. He went flying onto his ..bubble. Bubble soccer was a brief three minutes of fun that I recommend for everyone."

Rory had a somewhat different take on his Bubble Soccer experience. "I actually put the bubble on upside down, so when I finally sorted that out, some manic woman in a Fire shirt with a headset is screaming, 'Go Go Go.'"

"Predictably, Brian and his teammates displayed their neanderthal tendencies and decided not to play the ball, but instead play the bubble. So, while he was in single minded mode of smashing his former teammate into the lush Toyota Park turf, our team went up the field with some beautiful one-touch passes and scored the only, and winning, goal of the game.

"While I was taking one for the team from Brian The Basher, our plan had worked to absolute perfection. Engineers are so boringly predictable!

"It seemed like the game was over in a flash and the packed capacity crowd at Toyota Park roared their appreciation for the Bubbles. Our team waited by one of the nearby bars for Team Blue, as the losing side was supposed to buy the victors a pint in the time-honored Bubble Soccer tradition. Well, that was ten days ago, and we're still waiting.

"Our Bubble Soccer adventure at Toyota Park was an absolute blast. When you watch video below, you'll find me easily; I'm the one on the ground for most of the game!"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lgbNSTC59-0&feature=youtu.be>

NSL FIRST DIVISION**September 25, 2016****www.nslchicago.org**

Red Section	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
SAC Wisla B	12	8	3	1	51	19	27
AAC Winged Bull	12	8	2	2	37	15	26
Das Magic	12	6	2	4	33	23	20
Stare Byki FC	12	5	3	4	24	19	18
FC Macedonia	12	5	2	5	19	31	17
FC Moldova	12	3	1	8	20	31	10
Chicago Dynasty FC B	12	0	1	11	12	58	1
CKS Warta B	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
FC Kosova	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

PSLC OVER 30 WHITE DIVISION**October 2, 2016****www.pslchicagoland.com**

	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
Levski Chicago 2014	14	12	1	1	70	19	37
FC Oasu	14	12	0	2	66	21	36
FC DePaul	14	11	0	3	56	20	33
Tricolorii	13	7	2	4	46	21	23
A.E.K F.C CHICAGO	14	6	4	4	39	29	22
St Charles Celtics	13	6	1	6	36	45	19
Stare Byki FC	14	5	1	8	30	52	16
Olympiacos Chicago	13	3	3	7	24	44	12
Chicago Rangers FC	13	3	1	9	17	44	10
Shogun	14	2	2	10	31	65	8
Real FC	14	0	1	13	22	77	1

PSLC OVER 40 B1 DIVISION**October 2, 2016****www.pslchicagoland.com**

B1 DIVISION	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
Grosse Point Social Club	14	12	1	1	42	13	37
Stare Byki FC	14	9	2	3	41	19	29
Pampas OT	13	6	2	5	41	29	20
Windy City United	14	6	2	6	31	32	20
Naperville Strikers FC	14	5	1	8	31	49	16
MOFG	13	2	3	8	22	40	9
MANA Soccer Club	14	2	1	11	18	44	7

PSLC OVER 48 DIVISION**October 2, 2016****www.pslchicagoland.com**

	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
HNK Concordia	6	6	0	0	22	4	18
St Charles Celtics	5	3	0	2	8	6	9
Stare Byki FC	7	2	0	5	12	16	6
International SC	5	2	0	3	6	11	6
Sofia BG	3	0	0	3	4	15	0