



# BOUNCINGS

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Byki

2 : 1

River Plate

Over 30 Blue Team - CPSL Over 30 Division  
Max McCook - 18 November 2008

## Byki send cheaters packing

When the Byki oldboys signed up for the fledgling Chicago Premier Soccer League, they thought that they were joining an Over 30 league that was appropriate for the level of their roster. What they got last Tuesday when they arrived at Max McCook was a rude shock when league organizer Oscar Ponce informed them that their opponent had some underage players in their squad. The Byki were none too happy about having to play against youngsters, yet prevailed 2:1 over River Plate, as they put together their best effort of the season so far.

The CPSL is suffering from the growing pains that many start-up leagues have to go through before they find an equilibrium point. Coach Eric Tower told his teammates to exercise some patience as things get sorted out, but the bomb that Ponce laid on the Byki just prior to kickoff led to inevitable grumbling. According to Ponce, he allowed River limited use of players under the age of 30 because their team fell apart. With only six teams competing, Ponce could not afford to lose anyone. But the decision undermines the spirit of a league for old-timers.

"I told Oscar that the situation was totally unfair to us," said George Gorecki. "While I can sympathize with a team that loses a large number of players in a short amount of time, River's situation is absurd. Out of 11 eleven players, maybe four were eligible to play in this league. Oscar tried to downplay the significance of the young players, but all he's doing is making people mad and he's ruining his own credibility."

Gorecki informed Ponce that he expected River to forfeit the match and the teams could choose to play a friendly game instead. Ponce showed his indecision when he asked the Byki to wait and see how things played out. "Oscar is probably happy that we won the game and now I will give him one less headache. But that's where he is mistaken. River should be told that they will forfeit every game until they find eligible players to replace the ones that quit on them. Otherwise, they have no incentive to find older players and will just continue to bring in young ones because they can."

The Byki overcame these shenanigans and played a solid game all around. With several regulars missing, Tower turned to the rec team with whom he plays and brought in Don Robertson and Dave Rout to help bolster the Byki lineup. Carlos Soriano made his first appearance of the season, becoming the fourth Byk this year to return to action after a lengthy absence. Soriano last played with the Over 30s in the 2006 outdoor season.

The team were able to correct their biggest problem from previous matches when they marked their men in an aggressive and organized fashion. In conceding 13 goals to Mexico in their last match, the Byki constantly backed away from opposing forwards as they came on the counter. Allowing this much time and space turned the game into a shooting gallery on goalkeeper Dean Fukar. Against River, the Byki tightened things up. Communication was much improved, as the backline directed the midfielders to find unmarked opponents. Despite the age difference, River's

### Sponsor Corner

The Byki have two bars sponsoring the club during the indoor season:

**Roosters Barn & Grill**  
122 W Lake St in Bloomingdale

**Slager's on 47th**  
9308 47th St in Brookfield

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Stare Byki FC: Friends, Passion, Soccer



players could not take advantage and rarely were able to break down the Byki defense.

The Byki offense were not a free-flowing machine, but they did a good job of moving the ball quickly, rather than aimlessly dribbling into trouble. The bad turnovers have been extremely costly in previous matches and the improved ball possession helped the Byki defend more easily because they were no longer under constant pressure.

River scored the first goal of the contest midway through the first half in what was a rare shining moment for their offense. After a tricky striker dribbled past Fleet Neighbors on the right wing, Fukar came out to cut down the angle. The River player shot quickly, but Joe Gambino backed up the play and cleared the ball for a corner kick. River parlayed the corner into a goal when an unmarked player slipped the ball into the back of the net at the near post.

The Byki made a bid to level the score with 5:50 left in the half. Nick Elmkinssi worked a dandy one-two with Soriano, freeing Soriano for an open shot on the left side of the area. The keeper made a fine save on Soriano's rocket, but left the rebound loose in front of the goal. Elmkinssi followed up with a first-time shot and sent the ball over the target.

Momentum slowly turned toward the Byki in the second half. Rout made a terrific pass from midfield to spring Tower on the right side. Tower shot low and hard, but the keeper parried the ball away.

With 15:50 left in the match, the Byki broke down the River defense and knotted the score at 1:1. Ted Piotrowski controlled a long clearance at the top of the box and flicked the ball to Pete Stamatakos on the right side of the area. Stamatakos sprinted past his defender and was taken down when the keeper slid underneath him in an attempt to win the ball. The referee blew for a penalty and Elmkinssi did the honors from the spot, netting his third goal for the Over 30 Blue Team.

The goal enlivened the Byki, who looked increasingly confident as the game wore on. With seven minutes to go, Elmkinssi deftly laid the ball off for Tower, who had made a back-side run. With time to size up his opportunity, Tower fired from point-blank range and could not believe it when the goalie made an incredible save to deny him his fifth goal of the season.

The Byki secured the points with 4:43 to go. With the River defense unable to clear the ball from their end, the erstwhile Paul Mansur gained control and tried to shoot. He was shoved from behind by a defender, forcing the ball over

to Soriano on the left side of the box. Soriano seized his chance with a striker's vengeance and slotted the ball past the onrushing goalie at the near post. The Byki defense held firm the rest of the way, snuffing out River's forays and keeping the play in the middle third of the field.

The match was a breath of fresh air for the Byki, who gained a measure of satisfaction for their improved play. One game, however, is not enough evidence to show that the Byki have reversed their poor form of the early part of the season. The Byki need to build on their success and keep playing smart soccer week after week.

#### BYKI SCORING SUMMARY

Elmkinssi 3; (pk); 34:10; 1:1. Soriano 1 (Mansur); 45:17; 2:1.

**BYKI LINEUP (3-2-1):** Fukar – Gorecki, Gambino, Brough – Stamatakos, Mansur P Sr – Piotrowski. **Bench:** Elmkinssi, Neighbors, Soriano, Robertson, Rout, Tower.

<h1>Byki Stats</h1>			
<b>O-30 BLUE TEAM, CPSL</b>			
Player	G	A	Pts
Tower	4	4	8
Gallo	2	0	2
Elmkinssi	3	0	3
Mansur, Sr	1	2	3
Stamatakos	1	0	1
Soriano	1	0	1
Towsey	0	1	1
Goalie	Min	GA	GAA
Fukar	250	33	6.60
Current record: 2-0-3			



# This week in Byki history



## Byki Bouncings Keep Byki Informed

One of the things that players notice when they first join the Byki is that the club has a newsletter that publishes regularly and frequently. *Byki Bouncings* was created and conceived by original Byk **Mark Sokolowski**. Back in the club's early days, all of the players shared many common interests outside of the Byki. As a result, the early issues of *BB* addressed the social lives of the Byki, as well as providing recaps of the games.

Mark takes up the story. "The *Bouncings* was a way to humorously entertain the team and the riff raff who hung around us after games to get free beer. But I also wanted the *Bouncings* to serve as a record of the team's "accomplishments," which, for the first few years, really were the post-game fun we had. It was sort of a high school underground newspaper, in many respects.

"Because we all had the same background, and many had been friends before they started playing for the team, it was easy to do because there was a lot of insider humor. And so I could afford to be outrageous without worrying about hurting any feelings because people knew there was no malice involved, unless I compared someone's playing to **Charlie Fajkus**, our least favorite Chicago Sting player. After a while, the game summaries were really the least-read portion of *BB*. The publication became more serious as the club became more results-oriented on the field. And that's just natural evolution.

"The name of the newsletter was just an attempt to use alliteration with the name Byki and have a football connotation. What does a ball do? It bounces. And in our case, we were usually saying, as we drank beer after our games those first few seasons, 'That's the way the ball bounces.'

"I was working at the City News Bureau as a reporter/rewrite at the time. And on the evening

shifts, when nothing was happening, I could assemble *BB*. I typed them up at home, using my high school graduation present -- a Smith-Corona Selectric Typewriter -- and then I would paste and tape the articles and pictures on a sheet of paper and then make 25 or 30 copies at work. Ah, if only I had Microsoft Publisher back then!

"It was a lot of fun to do and it seemed people were always interested in getting their hands on the next issue. I'm glad that it was a team tradition that continues on today. With such a large organization, such a publication is a valuable means of communicating to all the members. Kudos to George and all the subsequent editors for keeping this fish wrapper alive."

Once Mark had to leave Chicago to pursue employment in Florida in late 1987, *BB* went on hiatus. **Stef Wiecek** and **George Gorecki** produced a special issue of *BB* in April 1987 to commemorate the club's first championship and undefeated season. After Mark left, George took over as editor of *BB*.

"I've always enjoyed writing, so doing the *Bouncings* every week was something I looked forward to," said George. "No one realized it at the time, but the club's history was being written in small pieces every week. When we started compiling statistics for our database a few years ago, *BB* was a primary source of information."

*BB* tried to continue the tradition of being a soccer journal, as well as a funny gossip column. The two-page format usually gave game recaps on the front page and related humorous stories about Byki players or soccer-themed humor. "I recall **Matt Treter** telling a new teammate who was reading *BB* for the first time, that he should try hard to get his name mentioned on the front page, and not on the back page," said George.

And finding funny stories about Byki players was not hard. When people drink beer after games, crazy things can happen and George was always ready to put pen to paper to make sure he got the details right about some off-the-

wall incident. "Mark was always going to be better than me at writing the funny stuff," said George. "But there were many times when the actions of a Byki player were so outrageous that the stories would literally write themselves." George even tried to farm out the task of producing humorous stories about the Byki to players and fans, but the approach resulted in little success, as overly ambitious people did not realize how hard it is to make a weekly deadline.

*BB* has always been a hit among Byki players and fans. Many former players have requested to stay on the *BB* mailing list so they can keep up with the club's activities. But even Byki opponents have been interested in *BB*. "In the old days, *BB* was distributed every week at the games at the Odeum," recalled George. "This consisted of making photocopies for everyone

and passing them out. Sometimes, a player would leave his copy of *BB* at the Odeum and someone would pick it up and read it. Before long, I had players from the opposing team asking me for a copy of *BB* the week after we played them just so they could see what the Byki had written about them."

*BB* quickly moved into the electronic age. The newsletter's appearance was enhanced and the content was increased when *BB* became electronic-only in 2001. "Delivering *BB* in a PDF file really expanded things," noted George. "It's a format that a lot of people really enjoy."

Take a look at the following page. It's a scan of the first issue of *Byki Bouncings*, published in October of 1985.

# STARE BYKI F.C.

# BYKI BOUNCINGS



Well, here it is October, not too early to start thinking about your favorite indoor soccer team--the Sting, er uh, ah STARE BYKI! The team has a new look, a new coach and a new-sletter. Hopefully, Byki Bouncings will come out once a week when the regular season starts next month. We'll have player profiles, game analysis and information about the team members and our fans. Please feel free to contribute.

### WHO'S IN CHARGE?

Taking over the duties of coach will be George Gorecki. Last season the responsibilities of coaching were shared (though not equally) between George and Mark Sokolowski. George will also continue playing for the team, which he founded.

### EXHIBITION MATCHES

STARE BYKI F.C. will be hosting a team from Detroit on Oct. 20 at noon at Soccer City II in Palatine. We hope the boys from the motor city won't be done in by the Zabawa KPH the night before. The Byki will then take their first game on the road when they play in Detroit on Nov. 9. Stay tuned for road trip details.

### PRACTICES

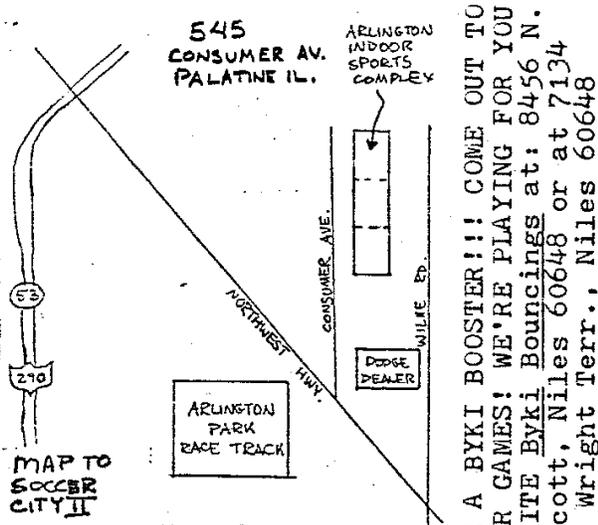
The next practice will be Oct. 20 at Holy Cross High School gym. All players are required to bring their own ball. Our practices are open to the public and we encourage fans to come on down. The rest of the practices are: Nov. 10 at 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. Nov. 17 at 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.; Dec. 11 at 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.; Dec. 8 at 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. and Dec. 23, a Monday, at 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.

### NEW UNIFORMS

STARE BYKI F.C. will be playing this season in new uniforms. The blue jerseys with white pin strips are made with cotton on the inside and flashy nylon on the outside.

### STING GAME

Once the schedule for the Sting is announced, STARE BYKI F.C. will plan outings. If you've never been to one, you'll love it. If you have been to a Sting game, we know that you'll be there. Stay tuned for more details.



BE A BYKI BOOSTER!!! COME OUT TO OUR GAMES! WE'RE PLAYING FOR YOU WRITE Byki Bouncings at: 8456 N. Olcott, Niles 60648 or at 7134 W. Wright Terr., Niles 60648

### REGULAR SEASON

STARE BYKI F.C. regular season will begin Nov. 14. All matches will be played on Thursday's at the Odeum in Villa Park. More details later.

BIDET (B-DAY) Byki Bouncings wishes a very happy birthday to George Gorecki on Oct. 9. STO LAT!



"What's the matter dear?"  
"I missed the STARE BYKI match tonight."  
DON'T LET THIS HAPPEN TO YOU!  
Watch for the next issue of Byki Bouncings.

### NEXT ISSUE

The Detroit match: How much effect did the zabawa really have? Also, team schedule and team roster.