



# BOUNCINGS



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3 Dec 17

Levski	<b>4</b>	Premier Soccer League 1st Division
Stare Byki	<b>6</b>	Soccer City 26 November 2017

## Byki come out firing

The Byki embarked on a new adventure this winter when they joined the Premier Soccer League's indoor competition and things could not have started much better, as they rolled over Levski Chicago 6:4 last Sunday at Soccer City. Dmytro Korinenko led the hit parade with a natural hat trick and five other Byki tallied on the scoresheet.

Despite playing the indoor game almost exclusively for the first 13 years of the club's history, the Byki have achieved far less in the NSL's indoor competition than they have outdoors since joining the league in 1996. "Our roster turnover between the indoor and outdoor seasons has always been significant," said coach George Gorecki. "Many players have opted not to play indoors with us, so our indoor player pool has always been weaker." The situation has gotten worse for the Byki in recent seasons, as the NSL have added a slew of younger teams.

After polling his players, Gorecki verified what he had suspected for a long time, that the NSL's Friday-night schedule was the biggest impediment for keeping his regular squad together year-round. The PSLC got an indoor league off the ground last winter and the Byki concluded that it would be a better fit playing on Sundays than continuing on Fridays in the NSL. The league comprises ten teams in the Major Division and twelve in the First Division, which is where the Byki will be competing.

The Byki bolted out of the gate to a 3:0 lead and then traded goals with Levski the rest of the way. Two late goals by Levski made the final score appear respectable, but the Byki were dominant in this match for long stretches.

They needed just 1:20 to get things started. Levski failed to clear the ball out of their defensive end to relieve Byki pressure. Mike Stamatinos stroked a pass to Korinenko on the left flank and the midfielder drilled a shot with the outside of his right foot past the diving keeper.

The Byki doubled their advantage midway through the first half, converting a power play opportunity. After the Levski goalie blocked a shot from Korinenko, a Levski player tried to play for possession in his own end, rather than send the ball to safety. That bad decision was exploited by the ball-hawking Will Crist, who gained possession on the left side and slid the ball to Stamatinos in the middle. Stamatinos kept it going to Korinenko on the right, and he hit a bomb from the flank that gave the keeper no chance.

With 6:50 left in the first half, Andy Sokolowski's deft touch to corral a long pass sent him in alone on the Levski goal. The keeper stood his ground and stuck his hand out at the last minute to block Sokolowski's attempt.

Levski raced the other way on the counter, but new Byki netminder Alex Perez was equal to the task, going full stretch to make the save.

The Byki responded with their own counterattack. Sokolowski held the ball on the left flank, sending Korinenko into open space in the middle. He blew past the defender, shot the ball off the back boards and then deposited the rebound into the corner of the goal for a 3:0 lead.

Levski pulled themselves back into the contest with 3:30 to go, when a player open in the box hit a first-timer past Perez.

Levski might have been looking forward to the halftime break to get a chance to regroup, but the Byki weren't done. They made it 4:1 on the power play with 1:20 to go. The Byki worked the ball patiently around the perimeter and Robby McClure pounced on the rebound of a shot by Sokolowski. The keeper kicked McClure's attempt into the right corner, where Crist beat a defender and took the ball to goal. His perfectly timed pass into the middle found an unmarked Sokolowski for the tap-in.

The Byki capped off a successful first half with a fifth tally just before the final whistle. Sokolowski held the ball on the left side of the box and picked his spot, finding Volkan Akbas at the top of the area. The striker calmly side-footed his shot past the goalie, leaving Levski, so accustomed to success at the Over 30 level, reeling as they headed into the break.

# 2017

**NSL FIRST DIVISION  
PSLC OVER 30 B DIVISION**

# CHAMPIONS

With both teams dealing with thin rosters, the game became stretched in the second half. This became more of a problem for Levski, who would need to dig deep to get four goals back. The Byki created a boatload of chances and were thwarted regularly by the Levski netminder, whose acrobatics prevented the final score from being downright gaudy.

Levski made it 5:2 after 2:30 of the second half. An open player outside the arc had plenty of time and space to measure a shot that gave Perez no chance.

That goal was hardly the source of a comeback for Levski, as the Byki were on the hunt for more goals. The Levski goalie denied Akbas and then, Sokolowski twice in the span of 0:20, as mayhem ruled in the Levski penalty area.

Levski caught the fatigued Byki a step behind with 10:10 to go, but Perez bailed out his teammates with two stellar stops.

With 7:10 left, it was more goalkeeper magic from Levski. Akbas controlled the ball in the deep left corner and dropped a pass for Korinenko, whose blast was stabbed away by the goalie's desperate kick save. Akbas was ready to put away the rebound, but the keeper stoned him as well.

Two minutes later, Sokolowski and McClure came streaking in 2 v 1 and the keeper blocked McClure's shot out for a corner. McClure played the restart across the face

of goal for Sokolowski at the fast post. The keeper got their first, deflecting the ball into the middle of the box. The resourceful Alan Stevens went after the bouncing ball and fired home an off-balance shot just as a Levski defender crashed into him.

Levski scored twice in the last 2:50 on counterattacks, but the points were already in the bag for the Byki.

"Our team did a lot of good things today," said Gorecki afterwards. "Our bench was a bit short and Dmytro was just coming back from an extended illness. None of it mattered in the end, our combination of fast pace and intelligent soccer was the difference. The guys will have some sore legs after this one, but I'm sure we learned a thing or two from this match."

*Video highlights, courtesy Mark Sokolowski:*

<http://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLtK7JmLYJaGvASvcvfJ9bJRErU4liCSiD>

**BYKI LINEUP (2-2-1):** Perez – Stamatinos (c), Stevens – Korinenko, McClure – Sokolowski. **Bench:** Akbas, Bickel, Crist.

**BYKI SCORING SUMMARY**

0:1 – Korinenko 1 (Stamatinos); 1:20.  
 0:2 – Korinenko 2 (Stamatinos) (pp); 9:20.  
 0:3 – Korinenko 3 (Sokolowski); 13:40.  
 1:4 – Sokolowski 1 (Crist) (pp); 19:40  
 1:5 – Akbas 1 (Sokolowski); 19:40.  
 1:6 – Stevens 1; 35:00.

**Byki Men of the Match:** Dmytro Korinenko and Andy Sokolowski

<h1>Byki Stats</h1>			
<b>FIRST TEAM, PSLC 1st DIVISION</b>			
<b>Player</b>	<b>G</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>Pts</b>
Korinenko	3	0	3
Sokolowski	1	2	3
Stamatinos	0	2	2
Akbas	1	0	1
Stevens	1	0	1
Crist	0	1	1
<b>Goalie</b>	<b>Min</b>	<b>GA</b>	<b>GAA</b>
Perez	40	4	4.00
Current record: 1-0-0			

# PREMIER SOCCER LEAGUE of CHICAGOLAND STANDINGS

## November 26, 2017

### MAJOR DIVISION

	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
SAC Lightning	1	1	0	0	6	1	3
Czarni Jaslo	1	1	0	0	4	2	3
SAC Wisla	1	1	0	0	4	2	3
FC Bodrost	1	1	0	0	3	2	3
Eclipse Select	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Torino FC	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sockers FC White	1	0	0	1	2	3	0
SAC Lightning U-23	1	0	0	1	2	4	0
Wisloka Chicago	1	0	0	1	2	4	0
Sockers FC Blue	1	0	0	1	1	6	0

### FIRST DIVISION

	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
Jake's Stars Punishers	1	1	0	0	5	0	3
FC Moldova	1	1	0	0	6	3	3
<b>Stare Byki FC</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>
SAC Lightning Over 30	1	1	0	0	3	1	3
Sockers FC Black	1	1	0	0	4	3	3
Tarnovia	1	1	0	0	3	2	3
Sporting MD	1	0	0	1	3	4	0
Jagiellonia	1	0	0	1	2	3	0
Levski Chicago	1	0	0	1	4	6	0
Unia Chicago	1	0	0	1	1	3	0
Thunder FC	1	0	0	1	3	6	0
Sting FC	1	0	0	1	0	5	0