



BOUNCINGS



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10 Dec 17

Stare Byki	3	Premier Soccer League 1st Division
Jagiellonia	2	Soccer City 3 December 2017

Byki make it 2-for-2

It took the Byki most of the first half to solve a hard-running Jagiellonia side last Sunday, but three well-taken strikes in the second frame, coupled with standout defending, were the ingredients in a solid 3:1 victory. The Byki are in an early-season logjam in the First Division table, with four other teams on six points from two matches.

Jagiellonia were dominant to open the contest. Their precision passing and committed runs into space had the Byki doing a lot of chasing. Jagiellonia were quite confident playing the ball deep out of their own end, and in so doing, carved open lots of room in midfield to keep the Byki in defensive mode. “Jagiellonia lured us into pressing them high and we took the bait,” said coach George Gorecki. “They had lots of subs and we had just four, so it wasn’t a good strategy to open ourselves up that way.”

All of the defensive problems consequently led to a messy Byki attack. With the Byki stretched so frequently, they didn’t always have multiple passing options once they won possession. This led to a plethora of long balls to isolated attackers who quickly lost possession, starting the vicious cycle over again. The Byki were relieved to reach the break down by just one goal.

That goal came after just 4:09 had elapsed. Kuba Banbor stole the ball and fired from the top of the box. The goalie grabbed it and started a counterattack for Jagiellonia, who converted the opportunity quite easily.

Although the Byki played most of the first half on the back foot, their defense held firm and allowed no further goals. The Byki did a good job staying disciplined and blocked several shots. Goalie Alex Perez handled the ones that did get through. He made two clutch saves in rapid succession midway through the first half on shots inside

his penalty area.

The Byki made adjustments during the interval and things came together quickly. They made the ball do more of the work and they challenged Jagiellonia to try to take the ball away. Three sharp goals and several other good chances reversed the momentum decisively towards the Byki.

A subtle tactical change also paid huge dividends. Joe Sauerman, the team’s best two-way player, suggested moving into defense. “Joe said he prefers playing out of the back in the indoor set-up,” said Gorecki. “I trust his soccer brain, so it was not much of a risk.” Indeed, Sauerman was influential at both ends, as Jagiellonia had no way to contain him effectively.

The Byki needed just 1:17 of the second half to bring things level. A simple series of passes turned Jagiellonia’s three defenders into traffic cones. Volkan Akbas controlled a bad goalkeeper clearance above the penalty arc and laid off for Dmytro Korinenko on the left side. Korinenko returned the ball to Akbas with a diagonal pass and the striker did the rest.

Perez came up big 3:14 later, when Jagiellonia caught the Byki defense sagging. Jagiellonia’s easy passes released an open man at the top of the area. Perez went full stretch to snuff the opportunity.

With 12:58 left, Akbas and Sauerman pressured Jagiellonia defenders to give up possession in their back third. Akbas sent Sauerman into the clear on the left side and Sauerman picked his spot, only to be cruelly denied when his shot ricocheted off of the inside of the far post.

Moments later, Sauerman set up Andy Sokolowski with an attempt at the top of the box, and his attempt clanged off the framework.

The Byki eventually snatched the lead with 10:12 to go. Perez zinged a long, low pass for Korinenko at midfield. Korinenko accelerated into space to create a 2 v 1 with Sokolowski. As the lone Jagiellonia defender kept backing up to take away the expected pass into the middle, Korinenko simply focused on the target and side-footed a strong shot at the far post for his fourth tally of the season.

Jagiellonia sensed an opportunity when they went on the power play a few minutes later. The Byki kept their

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

CHAMPIONS

defensive shape and Perez bailed out his teammates with a terrific save on a shot from close range. He then went one better. Actually two, because he came up with an incredible double-save sequence as the Byki tried to cam the mayhem in their area.

The Byki were poised to put the match on ice after those defensive thrills. Sauerman carried the ball along the right-wing boards at midfield. After slinking past a defender, he played the ball into the corner for Sokolowski. With the Jagiellonia defenders slow to react to the play, Sokolowski returned the ball to an unmarked Sauerman in the box. It was easy work to punch the ball home for a 3:1 lead with 5:12 to go.

The Byki, however, were not out of the woods, and it was a problem of their own creation. When a Jagiellonia player slid into the path of a pass intended for Akbas, the Byki screamed for a two-minute penalty. The PSLC controversially outlawed sliding challenges for this season, upon recommendation from the teams. The referees deemed the slide to be safe and called no foul. Byki captain Mike Stamatinos exploded in frustration and was given two minutes for dissent. "Mine was the lone vote against this stupid rule," said Gorecki. "I knew that the interpretations would vary from one referee to the next. There is no reason to ban slide tackles outright; a competent referee should be able to tell the difference between a legal challenge and an illegal one. At the same time, we have to remember that shouting at the ref probably won't make him change his mind."

The power-play opportunity gave the contest an unneeded edge and Jagiellonia managed to find the back of the net with 2:54 left, as a long shot sneaked inside the post past an unsighted Perez.

The lifeline was not enough to save Jagiellonia. The Byki rolled up their sleeves and put down the defensive clamps to deposit the three points in the bank.

[Video highlights, courtesy Mark Sokolowski:](#)

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

BYKI SCORING SUMMARY

1:1 – Akbas 2 (Korinenko); 21:17.
 2:1 – Korinenko 4 (Perez); 29:48.
 3:1 – Sauerman 1 (Sokolowski); 34:48.

Byki Men of the Match: Alex Perez and Joe Sauerman.

<h1>Byki Stats</h1>			
FIRST TEAM, PSLC 1st DIVISION			
Player	G	A	Pts
Korinenko	4	1	5
Sokolowski	1	3	4
Akbas	2	0	2
Stamatinos	0	2	2
Sauerman	1	0	1
Stevens	1	0	1
Crist	0	1	1
Perez	0	1	1
Goalie	Min	GA	GAA
Perez	80	6	3.00
Current record: 2-0-0			

PREMIER SOCCER LEAGUE of CHICAGOLAND STANDINGS
December 3, 2017

MAJOR DIVISION

FIRST DIVISION

	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts		GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
SAC Lightning	2	2	0	0	13	1	6	FC Moldova	2	2	0	0	18	5	6
SAC Wisla	2	2	0	0	9	5	6	Jake's Stars Punishers	2	2	0	0	16	3	6
Sockers FC Blue	2	1	0	1	13	7	3	SAC Lightning Over 30	2	2	0	0	8	2	6
Sockers FC White	2	1	0	1	10	4	3	Stare Byki FC	2	2	0	0	9	6	6
Wisloka Chicago	2	1	0	1	9	6	3	Tarnovia Over 40	2	2	0	0	5	2	6
Czarni Jaslo	2	1	0	1	7	7	3	Sockers FC Black	2	1	0	1	7	7	3
FC Bodrost	2	1	0	1	4	14	3	Levski Chicago	2	1	0	1	8	9	3
Torino FC	1	0	0	1	2	7	0	Jagiellonia	2	0	0	2	4	6	0
Eclipse Select	1	0	0	1	1	8	0	Unia Chicago	2	0	0	2	1	5	0
SAC Lightning U-23	2	0	0	2	2	11	0	Thunder FC	2	0	0	2	4	11	0
								Sporting MD	2	0	0	2	6	15	0
								Sting FC	2	0	0	2	2	17	0