



# BYKI BOUNCINGS

21 Dec 07



## Three up, three down for Byki

The Byki notched their first victory of the season last Friday when they blanked hapless Pitbulls SC 3:0. Although their performance was hardly a work of art, the Byki were certainly relieved to get into the win column. The squad's happiness was tempered, however, when they dropped a 3:0 decision to CD Taximaroa on Sunday.

Against the Pitbulls, the Byki displayed grit and a roll-up-your-sleeves attitude. They made a few blunders at the defensive end and some players were confused about the substitution pattern. All in all, the Byki were the better side and it would have been truly disappointing to not have come away with a win.

The winless Pitbulls had two great chances to break out on top, but were thwarted by goalkeeper Nicoara Talpes. The Byki committed a sloppy turnover in midfield, igniting a 3 v 2 counterattack for the Pitbulls. They set up two open shots during the sequence, but Talpes snuffed both attempts.

The Byki got on the board with 8:32 to go in the first half. Striker Kevin Biggs led a counter down the left flank. Just when it looked like the defense had him pinned in the corner, Biggs wriggled free and centered the ball for Dan Stanley, who slammed a first-time shot into the back of the net.

A couple of minutes later, Abraham Ruiz threaded a nice through pass for Crisan Talpes at the Pitbulls red line. Talpes fired from the top of the box, but the keeper alertly had come off his line to block the shot.

Nicoara Talpes showed that he brought his best game to the Odeum late in the half. A Pitbulls free kick at the red line deflected off of a Byki defender and Talpes made an incredible reflex save. He recovered in time to block the rebound.

The Byki upped their advantage to 2:0 with 1:21 left. When the Pitbulls cleared the ball outside the field from their own penalty area, the Byki were awarded a free kick at the top of the arc. Crisan Talpes expertly stroked the ball into the upper corner of the goal, leaving the keeper to wave at air.

The Byki took complete control of the game early in the second half. The hard-working Kvar Black won possession of the ball on the right side and fought his way into shooting position just above the arc. Although his shot did not have much zip, it glanced off the foot of a defender and slowly dribbled past the goalkeeper, who had been hopelessly wrong-footed.

The Byki didn't come close to scoring any more goals until the very end, when Crisan Talpes engineered a breakaway after making a steal at midfield. But they really didn't need any more goals, as the 3:0 margin was never in any danger. Despite their plucky attitude, the Pitbulls simply did not have enough gas in the tank to mount a serious comeback.

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### BYKI SCORING SUMMARY

Stanley 2 (Biggs); 10:29; 1:0. C. Talpes 2; 17:39; 2:0. Black 1; 21:05; 3:0.

**BYKI LINEUP (2-1-2):** N. Talpes – Black, Bouzoukis – C. Talpes – Stanley, Biggs. **Bench:** Dziekiewicz, Rose, Ruiz, Sphar, Torossian.

A lack of gas in the tank afflicted the Byki two nights later when a nine-man squad took on CD Taxi, who always bring a solid team into NSL competition. The disciplined play of CD Taxi made things tough for the Byki offense, who were missing many of their most creative players.

Despite the 3:0 scoreline, the Byki actually looked a lot better against CD Taxi than they did against the Pitbulls. The players knew that they had to find ways to stay regimented in their game plan, and for the most part, accomplished that

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goal. The pedigree of a team like CD Taxi was simply too much for the shorthanded Byki to overcome.

Neither side found any success probing the other's defense for much of the first half. CD Taxi looked dangerous on the break when they came 3 v 2 at the Byki. CD Taxi played the ball to the open man on the left, and only Ryan Eliasek's forceful intervention made the winger go wide with his shot.

CD Taxi had another good opportunity with 6:38 left in the first half. Chris Rose was in the right spot to block a shot from the right side. The rebound wound up at the top of the area, where an unmarked forward blasted the ball on frame. Eliasek read the play nicely and stabbed the ball away with a terrific leg save.

The Mexicans grabbed the lead with 0:49 to go in a frustrating sequence for the Byki. CD Taxi came two-on-three down the right wing. The wide player made an outstanding diagonal pass across the middle of the box, finding a teammate sprinting behind the Byki defense for the simple tap-in at the far post.

Two long-range bombs for CD Taxi in the second half

provided the balance of the scoring. CD Taxi put the ball in play from a free kick in the right corner. The ball whizzed through the goal area to the far side of the goal. The Byki cleared the ball to the worst possible spot, up the middle and just outside the arc. An open CD Taxi player ran onto the ball full-steam and crushed a first-timer past the stunned Eliasek. CD Taxi put the result beyond any doubt with 5:42 left with long shot from the right side.

With just three points from five matches, the Byki have a long climb ahead just to reach respectability. They still may get there, if they maintain their discipline on defense and find some sparks on offense.

#### BYKI SCORING SUMMARY

None.

**BYKI LINEUP (2-1-2):** Eliasek – Dziekiewicz, Black – Samp – Stanley, Biggs. **Bench:** Rose, Ruiz, Sphar.

# Byki Stats

## A TEAM, NSL 1st DIVISION

Player	G	A	Pts
Biggs	3	1	4
Stanley	2	0	2
Talpes, C.	2	0	2
Torossian	1	1	2
Black	1	0	1
Samp	0	1	1
<b>Goalie</b>	<b>Min</b>	<b>GA</b>	<b>GAA</b>
Talpes, N.	57	3	2.00
Eliasek	129	13	3.83
Samp	4	1	9.50

Current record: 1-0-4

## O-30 TEAM, NSL O-30 DIVISION

Player	G	A	Pts
Haynes	5	0	5
Gambino	2	1	3
Ciszewski	2	0	2
Gallo	0	2	2
Fleming	1	0	1
Pedlow	1	0	1
Jedrzejewski	0	1	1
Lane	0	1	1
<b>Goalie</b>	<b>Min</b>	<b>GA</b>	<b>GAA</b>
Najera	190	35	7.00

Current record: 0-0-5

## O-40 TEAM, SPORTSZONE LEAGUE

Player	G	A	Pts
Demarets	15	4	19
Marvin	3	5	8
Kleine	3	2	5
Farhan	1	3	4
Neighbors	0	3	3
Siepiora	2	0	2
Tower	1	1	2
Silverstein	0	2	2
Cooper	1	0	1
Wiecek	1	0	1
Bolesta	0	1	1
Jacobs	0	1	1

Goalie	Min	GA	GAA
Farhan	273	50	7.69
Neighbors	63	17	11.33

Final record: 1-0-7

# Rough weekend for Over 30 Team

The Byki oldboys lost a pair of matches last week to sink to the bottom of the Over 30 Division table. Last Friday, HNNK Hrvat gave the Byki a 6:1 whacking. That was followed by a 9:0 wipeout by Polonia SC two days later. The Byki are 0-0-5 for the season.

It was a season that began with a lot of promise and confidence, as the Byki formed their strongest Over 30 team to date. But the performance on the field has been anything but strong, as the side have conceded at least six goals in their last four matches.

Silly mistakes have been the reason for many of the goals that the Byki have let up. "The guys are trying hard to play the right way," said coach George Gorecki. "We want to control every ball perfectly and make every possession dangerous. Sometimes it's better to clear the ball and start over, rather than take the risk of making difficult passes in front of our goal, or dribble the ball in the defensive third."

Hrvat made the Byki pay for those kinds of errors, scoring two goals 0:53 apart to take control of the match after only seven minutes. The Byki defense left a roaming striker unmarked on the first goal. A long pass out of the Hrvat defense left goalkeeper Ray Najera stranded when the striker easily lobbed over him. Moments later, the Byki fooled around with the ball in their own end, leading to a turnover and Hrvat's second goal. Hrvat made it 3:0 with 9:25 left in the half when a sizzling shot from beyond the red line beat Najera in the corner.

"We were down 3:0 and really up against it, thanks to two really bad plays," said Gorecki. "At this level, that's too much to give away."

The Byki got on the board with 5:05 left. Wei Zhang and Joe Gambino combined to put high pressure on Hrvat's players in their defensive end, leading to a hard shot from Zhang. The ball hit a defender, leading to a mad scramble in the Hrvat box. Gambino pounced on the loose ball, squeezing a shot between the keeper and the goalpost.

Najera kept the Byki in the game with a tremendous effort with 1:58 to go. Hrvat came on a quick counterattack and a slick pass put the striker in alone. Najera came hard off his line and executed a brilliant slide tackle to snuff a dangerous opportunity.

The Byki tried to turn the momentum their way in the second half. With just 0:21 elapsed, Russ Haynes drilled a shot from the red line that skipped off the turf, forcing the goalie to save the ball with his face. Several minutes later, Nick Elmkinssi made a bid for his first goal of the season, but his long shot was denied by the goalkeeper.

The second Byki goal looked like a sure thing with 11:32 left in the match. Matt Fleming worked hard to get loose from a defender on the right wing. He cut inside quickly, prompting the goalie to come out and cut down the angle. He blocked Fleming's shot, but the ball spilled loose in the box, where

Steven Pedlow slammed the rebound toward the goal, only to see a Hrvat defender slide along the goal line to block his attempt.

Predictably, Hrvat survived those tense moments and wrapped up the points with a three-goal flurry in the span of 1:40. The score went to 4:1 when a mis-hit shot landed at the feet of an open player at the far post, who slotted into the back of the net. Moments later, a rapid passing sequence left the Byki dazed and Hrvat up 5:1. They scored their sixth on the counter, catching the Byki pushed too far forward once again.

"At some point, it would be nice if the bounces went our way," said Gorecki. "But this isn't about luck. Good teams make their own luck, rather than rely on it."

## BYKI SCORING SUMMARY

Gambino 2; 13:55; 1:3.

**BYKI LINEUP (2-2-1):** Najera – Haynes, Treter – Fleming, Gallo (c) – Frischmann. **Bench:** Ciszewski, Elmkinssi, Gambino, Jedrzejowski, Lane, Pedlow, Zhang.

Two days later, the Byki thought they might snap out of their doldrums against Polonia SC. But the game featured more of the same. The Byki held their own in the first half, were disappointed that their chances did not wind up in the goal, and then saw the whole thing fall apart as Polonia tallied seven times after the break.

Polonia had jumped out to a 2:0 lead in the game's first 12 minutes and the Byki were working hard to get back into the contest. Haynes took aim on the goal with a free kick at the Polonia red line. The keeper dove full stretch to save Haynes's shot and no Byki were in the vicinity to put away the rebound.

With 1:03 left in the half, Gambino smartly played a free kick into the space on his right for the supporting Dan Jedrzejowski. With the defense expecting Gambino to shoot from the dead ball, Jedrzejowski had plenty of time to set up his shot. The keeper read it well, however, and blocked the ball at the near post.

The Byki kept up the pressure and were nearly rewarded with 0:40 to go. Haynes crushed a shot from distance that was blocked by the defense. Pedlow got to the rebound first and forced the goalie to make a tremendous save to keep the Byki scoreless.

The second half belonged to Polonia, who peppered Najera with a constant barrage of shots from all angles. They increased their advantage to 4:0 in the first 2:55 of the second half and the lead eventually swelled to 6:0 by the middle of the period. A comeback by the Byki was not in the cards.

## BYKI SCORING SUMMARY

None.

**BYKI LINEUP (2-2-1):** Najera – Jedrzejowski, Zhang – Haynes, Gallo (c) – Gambino. **Bench:** Frischmann, Lane, Pedlow, Treter.

# Byki come out on wrong end of goalfest

The Byki Over 40 Team ended the first session at the Sportszone with another defeat, this time an 8:6 setback to Arsenal in a free-wheeling, wide-open affair last Monday. Dominic Demarets notched three goals and an assist, while Bob Marvin added one goal and two assists. The Byki finish the campaign at 1-0-7.

Arsenal should be a familiar opponent to the Byki oldboys, who have competed against many of the same players in the Odeum's Over 40 League. The team went under the name of Barcelona and the Mad Headers back then. Perhaps they also opted to leave the Odeum and their clock-fixing referees.

Coach Bernhard Kleine left George Gorecki to run the team when Kleine was unable to attend the match. Gorecki chose to shake up the formation, changing back to a standard 2-2-1. "The 3-2 is a really good system, but the three defenders stayed back too much when we attacked," noted Gorecki. "This left our forwards to constantly go 2 v 3 or 2 v 4. When they would inevitably lose the ball, our opponents had this massive open space in midfield to counterattack at will." In the end, the change was a good idea, as the team displayed better balance front to back. But the players needed some time to adapt and that helped Arsenal score five goals in the first half.

They scored twice within 1:12 early in the contest. They drove a ball over Sal Farhan's head after Farhan had pushed forward to lead the offense from his goalkeeper position. The score went to 2:0 when Arsenal executed a 3 v 2 counter with expert precision.

The Byki pulled one back 7:58 into the match. Demarets fought for possession deep in the corner to the right of the Arsenal goal. He finally emerged with the ball and beat the goalie from a sharp angle for his 13th goal of the season.

Arsenal were shooting at will in the opening moments. They could have blown the contest wide open, but were denied by the framework three times. They upped their lead to 3:1 midway through the half when a forward squeezed between the challenge of Marvin and Stef Wiecek near the boards and then played a quick 1-2 with a teammate in the box, easily slotting past Farhan.

The Byki made it 3:2 just 1:04 later. Marvin played a long ball out of midfield to Demarets on the left side. Demarets took aim and sent a big blast past the keeper into the upper corner of the goal.

Arsenal scored two more in 1:21 to go up 5:2. On both occasions, Byki defenders were standing flat-footed as the Arsenal players raced past them.

The Byki kept plugging away and got their reward with 0:34 left in the half. George Siepiora knocked a diagonal pass to Marvin, sending him into the corner on the left side. Marvin withstood the challenge of the defender and dropped the ball for Siepiora, who made no mistake with a brilliant strike from distance.

Marvin's good hustle brought the Byki back in the game early in the second frame. After an Arsenal player passed the ball back to his keeper, Marvin pressured the goalie, who tried to clear the ball quickly. The clearance ricocheted off of Marvin's foot and went right past the keeper, making it 5:4 to Arsenal.

The match closed with a five-goal flurry in the last eight minutes. Arsenal got a break when a player sneaked past Eric Tower, who had the guy pinned up against the boards. As the Arsenal player went to the goal, the ball hit him in the arm, and then he shot past Farhan. Loud Byki protests fell on deaf ears.

With 6:41 to go, Demarets completed his hat trick when his free kick from the arc sailed into the upper part of the goal. His perfect placement left the keeper hopeless.

A defensive gaffe resulted in Arsenal's seventh goal shortly thereafter. Arsenal cleared a Byki free kick attempt downfield, where two unmarked players had only Farhan to beat. The Byki inexplicably sent all of their players forward for the free kick and ignored their defensive responsibilities.

The Byki closed to within 7:6 with 3:23 to go. George Gorecki played a dangerous free kick off the back boards. The ball zinged through the penalty area to Demarets on the far side. Demarets centered for Brian Cooper, who drilled a first-time shot from the doorstep of the goal. Arsenal completed the scoring 1:37 from the end, as the Byki sent everyone forward to get the equalizer.

The Byki spent much of the first session getting reacquainted with the indoor game and finding their fitness level. Now that the competition has improved over last year, are the Byki ready to step up to a higher level of play?

## BYKI SCORING SUMMARY

Demarets 13; 7:58; 2:1. Demarets 14 (Marvin); 12:52; 3:2. Siepiora 2 (Marvin); 20:26; 5:3. Marvin 3; 25:52; 5:4. Demarets 15; 35:19; 6:5. Cooper 1 (Demarets); 38:37; 7:6.

**BYKI LINEUP (2-2-1):** Farhan – Neighbors, Tower, – Marvin, Wiecek – Demarets. **Bench:** Bolesta, Cooper, Gorecki, Siepiora, Silverstein.

# NATIONAL SOCCER LEAGUE STANDINGS

December 16, 2007

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## MAJOR DIVISION

Red Section	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts	Blue Section	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
RWB Adria A	5	4	1	0	21	3	13	SC BiH	5	4	1	0	23	9	13
B-H Lilies	5	3	0	2	11	13	9	FK Kozarac	5	4	1	0	20	7	13
HNNK Hrvat	5	2	2	1	12	6	8	RWB Adria B	5	2	0	3	13	15	6
NK Prijedor	5	2	1	2	13	15	7	Royal FC	5	2	0	3	9	23	6
Albanian Stars	5	1	1	3	13	18	4	SAC Wisla	5	1	1	3	4	9	4
KF Ulqin	5	0	1	4	10	22	1	CKS Warta	5	0	1	4	8	17	1

## FIRST DIVISION

Red Section	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts	Blue Section	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
FK Republica Srpska	5	4	1	0	22	3	13	Podlasie	5	5	0	0	28	8	15
Stal Mielec	5	4	1	0	18	8	13	Capitol Czarni Jaslo	5	4	0	1	30	8	12
Deportivo Colomex	5	3	1	1	23	9	10	Real Independiente	5	3	1	1	9	6	10
Chicago Thunder	5	3	1	1	16	5	10	HNNK Hrvat B	5	3	0	2	18	12	9
Oak Park Tricycles	5	3	0	2	23	10	9	West Bosnia SC	5	3	0	2	16	15	9
CKS Warta B	5	3	0	2	17	16	9	CD Taximaroa	5	3	0	2	15	12	9
CKS Warta C	5	2	2	1	24	17	8	FK Bosanska Dubica	5	2	1	2	30	20	7
Khaboor FC	5	1	2	2	20	19	5	FK Podrinje	5	2	0	3	10	20	6
Montenegro SC	5	1	1	3	11	18	4	Los Chasquis	5	2	0	3	16	34	6
Lake Shore SC	5	1	0	4	18	20	3	Lemont FC	5	1	0	4	11	15	3
Juanacatlan	5	0	1	4	10	29	1	Stare Byki FC	5	1	0	4	9	17	3
Chicago Inter R-B	5	0	0	5	1	49	0	Pitbulls SC	5	0	0	5	9	34	0

## OVER 30 DIVISION

	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
RWB Adria	5	5	0	0	36	11	15
Polonia SC	5	4	0	1	33	14	12
B-H Lilies	5	4	0	1	25	15	12
SAC Wisla	5	3	0	2	20	18	9
Arabian FC	5	2	0	3	20	25	6
HNNK Hrvat	5	1	0	4	16	25	3
NK Prijedor	5	1	0	4	15	33	3
Stare Byki FC	5	0	0	5	11	35	0

# SPORTSZONE OVER 30 LEAGUE

## FINAL STANDINGS

[www.chicagosportszone.com](http://www.chicagosportszone.com)

	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
Deva Development	8	7	0	1	78	47	21
Chicago Force	8	6	1	1	46	25	19
Chicago Soccer	8	5	1	2	44	29	16
Arsenal	8	3	1	4	50	56	10
Tornadoes	8	2	1	5	34	44	7
Peaked Venture	8	2	0	6	41	53	6
Stare Byki FC	8	1	0	7	26	65	3