



# BOUNCINGS



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27 Dec 13



	NSL	
Kosova	<b>8 : 1</b>	Byki
	12-20-13	

## Kosova flatten no-defense Byki

FC Kosova needed less than four minutes to run out to a 3:0 lead last Friday en route to an 8:1 destruction of the Byki. Lack of defensive discipline was in full evidence for the second consecutive match, as the Byki have careened to an 0-0-3 start to the NSL season.

The Byki were hampered by last-minute lineup changes and were only able to dress eight players for the match. That setback, however, does not provide an explanation for a lack of teamwork at both ends of the field. "With just two subs on the bench, we needed to play smarter and not expend energy unnecessarily," lamented coach George Gorecki. "Instead, players held the ball way too long or made passes that forced teammates to make silly runs. Fatigue became a factor at a certain point and digging out of that early hole became impossible."

The Kosova players came hard and fast at the Byki right from the jump and the Byki hardly knew what had hit them. New goalkeeper Cesar Avalos got a rude welcome in his Byki debut and several Byki felt sorry that he had to endure such a debacle.

The Byki desperately needed to take a "let the ball do the work" attitude in order to get back into the contest. That never happened and the Byki simply wound up chasing the game. The chase was fruitless, as Kosova were 5:1 up at the break and then added three more in the second half to cruise to victory.

The Byki scored their only goal on the night with 2:32 left in the first frame. Jordan Stopka won the ball in midfield and galloped on a long run down the right flank. He centered for Geo Jimenez, who hit a nifty first-timer for his team-leading fourth goal of the season.

Just 1:21 later, the hustling Jimenez won the ball in the corner to the left of the Kosova goal and sent a pass back for Kuba Banbor in the box. Banbor fired immediately and was denied by a smart kick save from the goalie.

The Byki had their moments to start the second half. Jimenez ignited a counterattack with a steal at midfield and

moved the ball to Stopka at the top of the arc. Stopka teed up a blast and the keeper was equal to the task, making a terrific dive.

Moments later, Rigo Ortiz sent Jimenez into the clear on the counterattack and Jimenez' shot hit the post. The Kosova keeper then stoned Tony Sabo's long-range bomb midway through the second half. Converting those chances could have brought the Byki into a more competitive position. Kosova played close to the vest and then shifted gears on the tired Byki, banging home three more in the final 6:21.

"We will become a better defensive team and this has to start immediately," declared Gorecki. "We are not built to run and gun."

**BYKI LINEUP (2-1-2):** Avalos – Sabo (c), Kekus – Jimenez – Banbor, Zielinski. **Bench:** Ortiz, Stopka.

**BYKI SCORING SUMMARY**  
5:1 – Jimenez 4 (Stopka); 16:28.

**Byki Man of the Match:** Jordan Stopka

	Odeum	
Asteras	<b>5 : 3</b>	Byki 0-40
	12-16-13	

## Still Too Few to Win

By Steven Pedlow

The Over 40 Team dropped a close 5:3 decision to Asteras in Hat Trick Soccer League action on December 16. It was the third defeat in as many matches for the Byki Veterans. Despite adding three new players, the Byki roster in the season's third game was just seven; exactly the same number of players that dressed in their first two games. Hampered once again with having only one sub available, the Byki could not keep up with the deeper team, even though the Byki seemed to have more talent on display.

The Byki started the game with no subs, but Andy Lane wound up being the crucial seventh player, arriving seven minutes into the game. By that time, Asteras had opened the scoring when a bad pass was intercepted and a quick counterattack left keeper James Vlahakis helpless when his

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defenders did not get back.

Asteras doubled their lead at the 15:37 mark with a lucky goal. After new signing David Fink blocked a shot, the rebound fell to an Asteras player, whose shot was well saved by new signing Vlahakis. That rebound was blasted off the glass above the crossbar, and the ball bounced to the third new addition to the Byki lineup, Diego Penafiel, who attempted to clear the ball. Instead, the ball bounced off Vlahakis and popped up into the air, coming down in the wheelhouse of an Asteras forward, who dispatched it into the net.

The Byki struck right back, catching Asteras sleeping after their goal. Lane made a run right between the two defenders and Matt Fleming passed it to him from the center circle. Lane got a crucial tip through the charging goalkeeper's legs to make the score 2:1.

Two minutes later, the Byki tied things up. Vlahakis made a catch save and lobbed a pass down the field for Steven Pedlow down the left side. Pedlow faked his way past Asteras' fastest and biggest player, then dribbled just over the defensive line and fired a shot right over the goalkeeper's head. With the match half gone, the Byki had a terrific chance to take control of the game when an Asteras player lost his head and retaliated against Fleming. That brought out the red card and a five-minute power play for the Byki. Unfortunately, it was a very poor power play, as the Byki were not patient and their passing deserted them. Could it be that the Byki were tiring because of the lack of subs? Probably.

The match could have gone either way at this point and the Byki executed several odd-man rushes. The Asteras goalkeeper made a couple of good saves; he seemed strong on low shots and somewhat more vulnerable on high shots. Vlahakis was constantly under pressure, however. He made at least ten solid saves to keep the Byki in the game. With 11:53 left, Asteras took the lead when a forward managed to re-direct a pass past Vlahakis even though he was completely covered by Fink. A minute later, another counterattack made it 4:2 for Asteras when a 2 v 1 resulted in a player left open right in front of Vlahakis, who had no chance.

The Byki tried to regroup, led by the indefatigable Penafiel. The Byki might have found a way back had everyone been able to run the whole game like Penafiel, who led several of the Byki odd-man rushes. With 7:40 left, Penafiel gave the ball to Pedlow on the right wing. Pedlow centered for Charles St. Clair, who was just able to out-fight the goalkeeper and an Asteras defender to tap the ball over the line for his first goal of the season.

The Byki had nothing left as they sought a second equalizer. With 4:23 left, the Byki could not get back on defense after a turnover at midfield and yet another 2 v 1 for Asteras resulted to a wide open attacker slotting the ball past Vlahakis. The Byki were too gassed to create any more chances.

The Byki roster is growing and could be sufficient very soon. Two regulars were scheduled to miss this game, two more sat out injured, and another new player had to cancel at the last minute due to a flat tire. Two more players are coming into the fold, so the Byki hope that they soon will

have enough players to be consistent and successful for the full 40 minutes.

*Rick Bolesta contributed to this report*

**BYKI LINEUP (2-2-1):** Vlahakis – Pedlow, Fink – Fleming, Penafiel – St Clair. **Bench:** Lane.

**BYKI SCORING SUMMARY**

2:1 – Lane 1 (Fleming); 16:12.

2:2 – Pedlow 5 (Vlahakis); 17:46.

4:3 – St Clair 1 (Pedlow); 22:20.



## Byki pounded, see stars

When the Over 40s drew first blood in last Monday's match versus Jake's Stars, some players felt a surge of confidence and might have thought that the early strike was a sign of good things to come. When reality finally set in, the Stars played up to the capability of their star-studded roster and bludgeoned the Byki 14:1.

The Stars are every team's nightmare and they created a living hell for the Byki. It was not enough that they have several ex-pros on their team, but they dressed more players on their bench than the Byki had available to play. It didn't take long for the game to become one-way traffic.

Rick Bolesta made a rapid recovery from his balky Achilles injury and returned to duty in the goal. But after facing a myriad of shots from different angles and velocities, his teammates should be grateful that he had the stomach to endure such a beatdown.

The bright start for the Byki came from a re-start 6:40 into the match. With a free kick on the right wing, Charles St Clair played the ball into the middle for Brian Huck. With his striker's instincts turned on, Huck fired immediately and slammed his shot off the back boards. The rebound came straight back to him and he drilled the ball past the prone goalie.

The lead lasted just 3:38 and the Stars took the lead for good shortly thereafter. The Stars were superior to the Byki in every facet of the game and the Byki were not helped by being able to dress only eight players for the match. Fatigue is always going to be a factor when there are only two substitutes on the bench. The situation becomes desperate when a team with the talent of the Stars takes full advantage of their opponents' tired legs.

The Stars were excellent at moving the ball quickly and then moving into space without the ball. They consistently kept the Byki pinned back and their ability to unselfishly find the open man often made the final touch of scoring a goal the easiest part of the process.

The Byki had some scattered counterattacking opportunities in this game, but the Stars were never going to let things slip away. Player-coach Steven Pedlow was unconcerned about the magnitude of the final margin. “We had only eight players and we went up against the toughest opponent, by far, this season,” he said afterwards. “Our roster keeps getting bigger and our injured players are coming back to help us

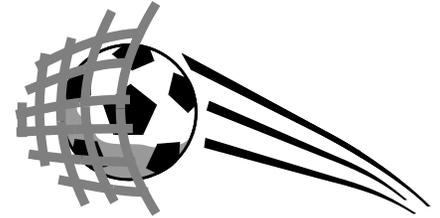
become competitive.”

**BYKI LINEUP (2-2-1):** Bolesta – Pedlow, Fink – Lane, Huck – St Clair.  
**Bench:** Gorecki, Posada.

**BYKI SCORING SUMMARY**  
0:1 – Huck 1 (St Clair); 6:40.



# BYKI bits & pieces

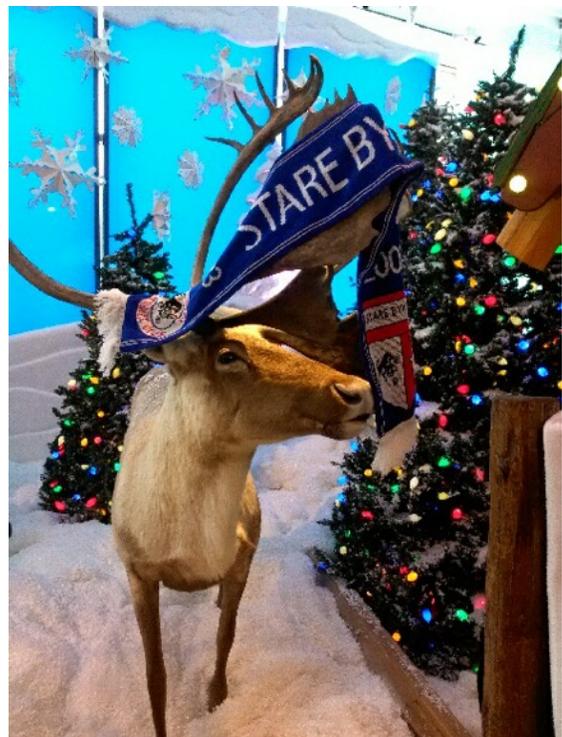


This is the busy time of year for **Santa Claus** and the Byki have had an annual influence on old St Nick. Byki Legacy Player **Fleet Neighbors** (1988-2011) has been dressing up as Santa Claus for years and he added Byki flair for 2013, showing off a Byki scarf, both on himself and his reindeer helper.

Fleet spent his working days toiling for the CTA and one of his fun activities at Christmastime was

taking part in the Holiday Train, which runs in November and December. Six of seven train cars are traditional passenger cars adorned with seasonal decorations and bright lights. The interiors of these cars are decked out with multi-color lights, red bows, garland, and red and green overhead lighting. Santa rides on an open-air flatcar and waves from his sleigh to the passengers coming aboard.

Back in the day, transforming the athletic Fleet into a rotund Santa was a bit of a project. But, over time, Fleet has “grown into the role,” if you know what we mean.



# NATIONAL SOCCER LEAGUE STANDINGS

December 20, 2013

www.nslchicago.org

## MAJOR DIVISION

Red Section								Blue Section							
GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts		GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts	
Chicago Fire U-23	3	3	0	0	18	8	9	CKS Warta	3	3	0	0	17	8	9
SAC Wisla	3	3	0	0	14	6	9	RWB Adria A	3	3	0	0	13	5	9
Albanian Stars	3	2	0	1	17	6	6	ANCI Assyrian A	3	1	0	2	10	14	3
Tricycles SC A	3	1	0	2	14	13	3	Chicago Stars	3	1	0	2	6	12	3
KF Tirana	3	0	0	3	9	14	0	Ethnikos Chicago	3	1	0	2	8	15	3
RWB Adria B	3	0	0	3	7	17	0	Zaglebie SC	3	0	0	3	5	20	0

## FIRST DIVISION

Red Section								Blue Section							
GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts		GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts	
Albania FC	3	2	1	0	13	7	7	Lancer FC	3	2	1	0	19	6	7
FC Kosova	3	2	0	1	17	11	6	Jagiellonia Chicago	3	2	1	0	17	11	7
Chicago Dynasty FC	3	2	0	1	13	9	6	Stal Mielec	3	2	0	1	13	8	6
ANCI Assyrian B	3	1	1	1	10	12	4	Tricycles FC B	3	1	0	2	8	14	3
Gremio FC	3	1	0	2	13	16	3	HNK Primorac	3	0	0	3	7	18	0
Chicago Inter	3	1	0	2	9	14	3	Stare Byki FC	3	0	0	3	7	20	0

## ODEUM OVER 40 LEAGUE

December 23, 2013

	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
Jake's Stars	4	3	0	1	31	12	9
Torino FC	4	3	0	1	21	13	9
Asteras	3	3	0	0	20	13	9
Olimpiacos	3	2	0	1	32	6	6
Albania FC	3	2	0	1	24	9	6
Tricycles SC	4	1	0	3	21	18	3
Stare Byki FC	4	0	0	4	11	41	0
FC Pints	3	0	0	3	3	45	0

FIRST TEAM, NSL 1st DIVISION				O-40 TEAM, ODEUM O-40 LEAGUE			
Player	G	A	Pts	Player	G	A	Pts
Jimenez	4	1	5	Pedlow	5	1	6
Kekus	2	0	2	Fleming	1	2	3
Stopka	1	1	2	Lane	1	2	3
Sabo	0	2	2	Ciszewski	1	1	2
Hurley	0	1	1	Gibbs	1	1	2
Stamatinos	0	1	1	St Clair	1	1	2
Zielinski	0	1	1	Huck	1	0	1
				Gorecki	0	1	1
<b>Goalie</b>	<b>Min</b>	<b>GA</b>	<b>GAA</b>	Muehlbauer	0	1	1
Banbor	1	0	0.00	Vlahakis	0	1	1
Khankari	75	12	6.08				
Avalos	38	8	8.00	<b>Goalie</b>	<b>Min</b>	<b>GA</b>	<b>GAA</b>
Current record: 0-0-3				Vlahakis	40	5	5.00
				St Clair	14	4	11.43
				Bolesta	92	27	11.74
				Muehlbauer	16	5	12.50
				Current record: 0-0-4			