



BOUNCINGS



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27 Dec 15

**2015 PSLC
Over 40
CHAMPIONS**

W. Bull C	0	National Soccer League 2nd Division
Stare Byki A	3	The Odeum 18 December 2015

No subs? No problem!

A bench with just one substitute is never a good situation, yet the Byki made sweet-tasting lemonade out of lemons last Friday en route to their third victory of the indoor season, when they thumped overmatched AAC Winged Bull C 3:0 at The Odeum. Brendan Flynn made his first appearance of the winter campaign a memorable one, bagging all three of his team's goals.

The Byki expected to have ten players dressed for the match, but three late scratches left the squad severely depleted. Coach George Gorecki calmly addressed the scenario in his pre-game comments. "I knew we had the talent and the soccer brains to overcome the lack of subs," he said. "It was a matter of the guys understanding what we were trying to accomplish, and then going out and executing. And they did that brilliantly."

Indeed, the Byki wanted to underscore the importance of ball possession, and they were nothing short of outstanding in that aspect of their play. Winged Bull brought a young and speedy squad to the match, but neither of those characteristics worked in their favor. The Byki made them chase the ball, and in the end, the young Assyrians created few clear chances on the Byki goal.

Flynn had his sights set on scoring goals from the outset. Ben Rodriguez won a 1 v 1 battle near the boards and sent a long pass along the left wing to Flynn, who flicked the ball past a defender and sprinted into the clear. The keeper read the play well and made a huge save on Flynn's shot.

Byki keeper Pete Chronowski came up big a minute later, thwarting an open shot in the box with a nifty kick save.

The Byki took some risks in the early going by pressing Winged Bull high up the field. Winged Bull could not easily solve this pressure and the Byki established control of the tempo of the contest.

The Byki snatched the lead at the 7:18 mark. They played a re-start back to Alan Stevens at the Winged Bull defensive line. Stevens boomed a shot off the glass above the goal. The ricochet landed at Flynn's feet on the right flank. His aim

was impeccable, zinging a shot inside the far post.

Flynn came back to the bench, claiming, "I'm feeling it tonight." He could not have been more right, as he doubled the Byki lead just 2:42 later. Adrian Borta lumped the ball into the mixer. Confusion and mayhem ensued, and Flynn gained possession of a weak pass back to the goalie, drilling it into the back of the net.

The Byki weren't about to sit on their lead. With 7:13 left before the break, Ben Rodriguez fired a shot from the deep left wing and the goalkeeper dove full stretch to turn the ball away.

Fatigue was going to be a factor as the match wore on and the Byki kept reminding one another to keep the ball safely in their possession. Winged Bull gained some of the momentum back in the first portion of the second half, but their poor finishing did them in. Chronowski was on his game and his timely interventions were just what the Byki needed.

Winged Bull's best chance of the game came with 12:13 to go. A winger dribbled all the way into the corner as the Byki gave chase. He played a neat pass off the back boards to an unmarked teammate on the doorstep of the goal. The first-time shot sailed over the target.

The Byki were late getting back on two counterattacks 2:14 apart, but Chronowski defused both situations were terrific saves.

The Byki put the result in the bank with 5:28 to go. Mike Stamatinos pressed a Winged Bull player in the defensive third and poked the ball away. Flynn swooped in and immediately took the ball to goal. The keeper came out, but had no chance, as Flynn slid the ball underneath him to complete the hat trick.

The Byki remain in a three-way tie for first place in the 2nd Division's Red Section. Their commitment to teamwork on both sides of the ball was outstanding, and given the conditions, it needed to be at the top level. They showed that

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they could overcome difficult conditions by using their heads and keeping things simple.

BYKI LINEUP (2-2-1): Chronowski – Stevens, Stamatinos (c) – Borta, B. Rodriguez – Flynn. **Bench:** J. Rodriguez.

BYKI SCORING SUMMARY

0:1 – Flynn 1 (Stevens); 7:18.
0:2 – Flynn 2; 10:00.
0:3 – Flynn 3 (Stamatinos); 32:32.

Byki Man of the Match: Brendan Flynn

Stare Byki B	0	National Soccer League 2nd Division The Odeum 18 December 2015
Blast	8	

Byki gassed, get blasted

The Byki B Team, playing their first match on one of the big fields at The Odeum last Friday, played on level terms with a youthful Chicago Blast side for much of the first half. The Blast held the territorial advantage, but only a 1:0 lead at the break. It all fell apart for the Byki in the second half, as their lack of substitutes and lack of fitness transformed the match into a counterattacking track meet, resulting in a dominant 8:0 victory for the Blast.

Maintaining possession was the biggest problem for the Byki. They constantly gave the ball away after winning it. As a result, the Blast pinned them back in their defensive zone for much of the first half. The Byki were solid defensively, limiting the Blast’s scoring chances. Eventually, the pressure of sitting back on defense for long stretches took its toll on the Byki.

The Blast opened the scoring at 3:03 mark when they ran a 3 v 2 counterattack. A shot rebounded off the back boards to an open player in the middle of the penalty area. He blasted past a helpless Amit Khankari for a 1:0 lead.

Khankari blocked a shot and then snared the rebound with 5:45 left in the half. Moments later, the Byki surged forward and Andrei Balog’s drive from the right wing was blocked by the keeper.

With 4:14 to go, Sergio Torres and Reggie Champagne unhinged the Blast defense with a series of one-touch passes. A Blast player got a foot to the

final pass, nearly redirecting past his own goalkeeper.

The Byki ended the first half on the power play. With 0:29 left, Ray Najera cleared the ball out of the Byki end for Balog, who dribbled into space and drilled a shot that smashed off of the glass above the goal.

Champagne made a bid to level the score just 1:10 into the second frame when his effort from the right wing caromed off of the upper corner of the goal.

The Blast made it 2:0 at the 2:55 mark when a tricky give-and-go left a man open in the Byki penalty area and he slotted past Khankari.

The score went to 3:0 just 1:46 later when the Blast raced forward on the counterattack, and the Byki unwisely chose to make substitutions. The Blast took full advantage of this poor decision.

Midway through the second half, the Blast goalie blocked Champagne’s shot from the top of the box. The rebound came to Bart Lapa, whose attempt clanged off the underside of the crossbar. The Blast recovered and beat the Byki the other way on the counter to go up 4:0.

The bottom then fell out for the weary Byki, who conceded three more goals in the span of 3:30, putting the game out of reach.

BYKI LINEUP (2-2-1): Khankari – Stevens, Lapa – Najera, Torres – Champagne. **Bench:** Balog, Carrillo, Chudyba.

BYKI SCORING SUMMARY

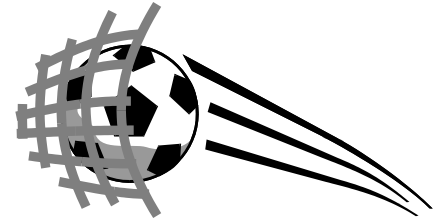
None.

Byki Man of the Match: None given.

A TEAM, NSL 2nd DIVISION				B TEAM, NSL 2nd DIVISION			
Player	G	A	Pts	Player	G	A	Pts
Flynn	3	0	3	Balog	1	1	2
Rodriguez, C	2	1	3	Pedlow	1	0	1
Banbor	1	2	3	Sabo	1	0	1
Borta	1	1	2	Boeckeler	0	1	1
Joiner	1	1	2	Champagne	0	1	1
Rodriguez, B	1	1	2				
Stamatinos	0	2	2	Goalie	Min	GA	GAA
Ciszewski	1	0	1	Khankari	114	17	5.67
Rodriguez, J	1	0	1	Current record: 0-0-3			
Sauerman	0	1	1				
Stevens	0	1	1				
Goalie	Min	GA	GAA				
Chronowski	114	4	1.33				
Current record: 3-0-0							



BYKI bits & pieces



The **Byki trophy case** added a new piece of hardware earlier this month, when the Over 40 Team accepted their trophy for winning the PSLC's Over 40 Blue Division championship in 2015. On hand for the festivities at the PSLC's Annual Meeting were Over 40 player-coach **Doug Towsey**, Over 30 player-coach **Chris Hurley**, and Byki President **George Gorecki**.



A beaming Doug Towsey accepts the championship trophy for the Over 40s.

Cup in 2009, the PSLC Sportsmanship Award in 2013, and the Double (league championship and Cup) in 2014. That's quite a haul for a great group of teammates who have continually shown that a successful team is quite often greater than the sum of its individual parts.

The trophy is nothing short of gigantic. Measuring 21 inches in height, it is one of the biggest trophies in the club's sizeable collection of cups, plaques and assorted items of achievement.

The Byki also received a set of terrific warm-up jackets from the League. All players who played for the Over 40s will receive a jacket!



George Gorecki shows off his new Byki jacket in the Byki Trophy Room.

The 2015 title was the second consecutive championship for the Over 40s, and represents their fifth trophy overall since joining the PSLC in 2009. The Byki won the Over 39

NATIONAL SOCCER LEAGUE STANDINGS

December 18, 2015

www.nslchicago.org

MAJOR DIVISION

Red Section	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts	Blue Section	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
Albanian Stars	3	3	0	0	13	5	9	SAC Wisla A	3	3	0	0	15	6	9
Chicago Stars	3	2	1	0	12	9	7	CKS Warta Blue	3	2	1	0	19	7	7
CKS Warta Red	3	1	1	1	9	8	4	Chicago Fire U-23	3	2	0	1	10	13	6
Bosnia-Hercegovina A	3	1	0	2	8	8	3	Berber Stars	3	1	0	2	12	15	3
PSL Select	3	1	0	2	12	14	3	FC Tryzub	3	0	1	2	6	8	1
Tricycles SC A	3	0	0	3	8	17	0	AAC Winged Bull A	3	0	0	3	6	20	0

FIRST DIVISION

Red Section	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts	Blue Section	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
Albania FC	3	3	0	0	19	6	9	CKS Warta White	3	3	0	0	14	8	9
HNK Primorac	3	2	0	1	13	7	6	FC Kosova	3	2	0	1	14	11	6
Wisloka Chicago	3	2	0	1	13	11	6	SAC Wisla B	3	1	1	1	10	10	4
Jagiellonia	3	0	2	1	12	14	2	Stal Mielec	3	1	0	2	11	11	3
TSC	3	0	1	2	11	21	1	Olympiacos Chicago	3	1	0	2	7	9	3
Dabrovia	3	0	0	3	9	18	0	AAC Winged Bull B	3	1	0	2	6	13	3

SECOND DIVISION

Red Section	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts	Blue Section	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
Urahan FC	3	3	0	0	32	4	9	Los Chasquis	3	3	0	0	11	6	9
Bosnia-Hercegovia B	3	3	0	0	14	5	9	Chicago Inter Yellow	3	2	1	0	13	8	7
Stare Byki FC A	3	3	0	0	11	4	9	Chicago Blast	3	2	0	1	14	6	6
Chicago Inter Blue	3	2	0	1	10	11	6	Torino FC	3	1	1	1	9	9	4
Villans U-18	3	0	1	2	8	19	1	Tricycles SC B	3	0	1	2	6	8	1
AAC Winged Bull C	3	0	0	3	3	17	0	Chicago Dynasty FC	3	0	0	3	7	12	0
Cows Cleaning	3	0	0	3	2	17	0	Stare Byki FC B	3	0	0	3	3	17	0