



# BOUNCINGS



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2 June 19

Westchester	<b>1</b>	Premier Soccer League First Division
Stare Byki	<b>2</b>	St Joseph HS 19 May 2019

## Byki turn things around

The Byki earned their first victory in the Premier Soccer League of Chicagoland on May 19, dispatching Westchester United 2:1 on a field better suited for livestock grazing than a soccer match. The side showed marked improvement in their teamwork since their opening-week defeat. While there is still work to do, the Byki answered a few questions and showed that they may have the makings of a good team.

Coach George Gorecki was not happy when he arrived at the field and saw more dandelions than grass. "I paced the field and it was perhaps 55 yards wide," he grumbled. "And the goal at the west end of the field was perched on a hill, looking like it was ready to tip over. When I told the referee that neither goal was anchored, he looked at me like I was from another planet. Why a team would pick such a crap field for their home matches is beyond me."

But the field and the conditions were obviously the same for both teams and it was up to the Byki to overcome the obstacles. Westchester had the wind at their backs in the first half and responded by blasting the ball over the top at every opportunity. The results of this approach were predictable, as the ball either went out for a throw-in or was cleared by the Byki defense.

The Byki knew that trying to play a possession game in such cramped conditions would be tough. They struggled to find a rhythm, and only in the closing moments of the first half were they able to create a clear opportunity. A quick sequence of passes between Phil Parker, Mike Stamatinos and Nanmin Kone opened space for Andy Sokolowski on the left side of the area. He turned past his marker and the Westchester keeper did well to block his near-post attempt.

The Byki increased their commitment to quick ball movement at the start of the second frame and they realized

dividends almost immediately, bagging two goals in the span of just five minutes.

Adam Breaux was the author of the first goal. Carrying the ball past his defender on the left side of the box, he rifled a square pass through the goal area and Chris Stewart charged in from the right flank unmarked to bang the ball home at the back post in the 48th minute.

Parker initiated a restart near midfield in the 53rd minute and slid the ball to Charles Ifeanyi. He romped past three Westchester players, galloping into the box and drilling a shot past the keeper to make it 2:0.

The Byki maintained a high level of pressure for the next 20 minutes, but could not find that crucial third goal. At the hour mark, Daniel Hernandez played a terrific through ball for Enrique Voltaire, who beat his defender 1 v 1. The goalie came charging at Voltaire and blocked his shot. Sokolowski pounced on the loose ball, but sent his shot high.

Six minutes later, Voltaire and Rich Daguerre caused mayhem in the Westchester penalty area. The goalkeeper bailed out his teammates with a crucial block in front of goal.

JD Joiner wasn't far away from a third Byki tally in the 70th minute, but the keeper steered his swerving shot over the bar.

Westchester received a gift in the 74th minute, when a ball ricocheted off of Jamie Davies's arm at close range, prompting the referee to award a dubious penalty. A Westchester player converted the spot kick, giving Westchester hope in a match where they had been thoroughly outplayed.

Not content and sit back and let Westchester come and seek an equalizer, the Byki kept pushing their advantage. Stamatinos made a quick run up the left flank and lofted a cross to far post for Breaux, whose header smacked off of the crossbar.

With six minutes left, Voltaire controlled the ball on the left side of the box and whipped a pass to the far post for the unmarked Stewart. The goalkeeper saved his best stop for his last, snuffing out what appeared to be a sure goal.

"This team is still in learning phase," noted Gorecki

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afterwards. “And I’m still learning individual strengths and weaknesses. When we get everything working, we will be capable of some good soccer.”

**BYKI LINEUP (3-5-2):** Marfo – Davies, Stamatinos (c), Stevens – Stewart, Parker, Breaux, Daguerre, Hernandez – Voltaire, Sokolowski. **Bench:** Ifeanyi, Jerzak, Joiner, Kone, Papou.

**BYKI SCORING SUMMARY**

0:1 – Stewart 1 (Breaux); 48th.

0:2 – Ifeanyi 1 (Parker); 53rd.

**Byki Men of the Match:** Adam Breaux, Jamie Davies, Chris Stewart.

International	4	Premier Soccer League Over 30 White Division
Byki 0-30	4	Lake Park HS 19 May 2019

## Incredible, fantastic finish for Byki

The Over 30 Team was having one of those days when they faced International SC on May 19. They hit the framework three times in the first half, yet found themselves 3:1 down at the break. They continued territorial dominance in the second half, but International managed to increase their lead to 4:1 with just 15 minutes to go. But the Byki then staged a furious rally, scoring three times in the last 11 minutes to forge a 4:4 draw.

The conditions were far from ideal: wet, long grass, and a field whose dimensions were better suited for a U-14 match than for an adult contest. Inter knew how to adapt their tactics to their bandbox home field at Lake Park HS and kept pumping long balls downfield. They didn’t create a lot of opportunities using this tack, but their finishing was spot-on when it needed to be.

The Byki got on the board after just three minutes. A ball bounced around the Inter penalty area and landed at the feet of midfielder Mark Zeman, who collected the ball just outside the box and found the back of the net with a low shot just inside the far post.

Byki pressure came early and often. In the 14th minute, Jose Garcia tracked down a long pass from David Lara into the left-wing channel. He whipped a ball across the 6-yard box and the timing of the pass just missed Kristian Buur racing to the back post.

The Byki were inches away from blowing the game wide open just moments later. Lara’s booming clearance bounced over the head of the Inter goalie and the hustling Volkan Akbas won the ball as he tiptoed near the goal line. His off-balance attempt ticked off of the post. Two minutes later, Quavas Kirk danced along the byline and found Richard Sodeinde open in the area. The winger had enough time to turn and shoot, but saw his shot clang off of the goalpost.

Inter took advantage when they equalized in the 23rd minute. An Inter player leapt high to head home a floating

cross from the right wing.

The Byki kept piling on the pressure. At the half-hour mark, Quavas Kirk dispossessed an Inter defender and touched the ball to Garcia, who was denied by the woodwork.

Inter then banged home two goals within five minutes to snatch an unexpected 3:1 advantage over a stunned Byki squad.

Player-coaches Robby McClure and Colin Kirk switched their formation to a 4-3-3 in order to maintain a high level of pressure on Inter’s defenders. The tactic worked right from the start. The Byki were always outnumbering Inter and keeping the ball in their half. The Byki created a plethora of scoring attempts, but nothing was finding the target.

History repeated itself in the 75th minute, when Inter, after having endured long periods of being on the back foot, converted one of their few chances of the second half to make it 4:1, seemingly placing the outcome beyond any doubt.

The Byki, however, had other ideas. In the 79th minute, Garcia played a ball to the right corner for Quavas Kirk. He faked the defender easily and cut in to his left to put a quick shot to the near post for his third of the season to make it 4:2.

Six minutes later, Zeman’s corner kick was cleared weakly and Colin Kirk headed it back in to Sodeinde, whose shot gave the keeper little chance to react. McClure was pretty sure that the Byki had another goal in them. “Four minutes to go and you could feel the energy already sucked out of Inter,” he said. “Our side was feeling it for sure.”

The Byki leveled things in the 88th minute. With both teams packing the Inter penalty area, Quavas Kirk took advantage of the wide-open space in the middle of the field. Lara crept forward and requested the ball from 30 yards out and Kirk delivered with precision. Lara one-timed an absolute rocket that was still rising as it hit the upper left corner of the net.

The Byki ran out of time before they could find a winning tally and a reeling Inter team were probably grateful that they could hang on to one point by the end of the mayhem.

“Just took a few minutes too long for things to start clicking,” noted McClure afterwards. “ I’m proud that, at no point did anyone from our side get down, or argue with one another. We were able to pull together and get a point.”

*Robby McClure contributed to this story.*

**BYKI LINEUP (4-2-3-1):** Khankari – Buur, McClure, Lara, Campa – Zeman (c), C. Kirk – Sodeinde, Q. Kirk, Garcia – Akbas. **Bench:** Topucuoglu, Zachariah.

**BYKI SCORING SUMMARY**

0:1 – Zeman 1; 3rd.

2:4 – Q. Kirk 3 (Garcia); 79th.

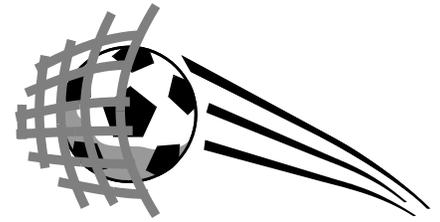
3:4 – Sodeinde 2 (C. Kirk); 85th.

4:4 – Lara 1 (Q. Kirk); 88th.

**Byki Men of the Match:** Quavas Kirk and David Lara



# BYKI bits & pieces



**Although there was no activity** on the soccer field for the Byki last winter, there were lots of things happening off the field. Most prominent on the off-season schedule was the club's celebration of its 35th Anniversary. Because of the close connection between the Byki and their affinity for drinking beer, it only made sense to hold the party where beer is king. The Byki descended upon The Lucky Monk Brewery in South Barrington last November.



**Rick Bolesta (right) proposes a toast.**

Byki First Lady **Laurie Gorecki** spearheaded the organization of an event that looked like it might never see the light of day, due to a lot of stumbling and bumbling by the Anniversary Committee. Laurie was capably assisted by Byki Alumni **Manou Chahmirzadi**, **Mark Sokolowski** and **Vitaly Tsipris**.

Thirty five years is a long time for any soccer club and none of the original Byki from 1983 could hardly have imagined the club that



**Fleet Neighbors was a big winner in the raffle.**

would one day grow to four competitive teams and nearly 100 active players.

Byki President **George Gorecki** said the club would not be resting on its laurels going forward, and that big things were around the corner for the Byki. That vision emerged, as the Byki turned to a new version of soccer, called Walking Soccer. As the name implies, it's soccer with no running allowed. As odd as that may sound, the fact is that a lot of players, though retired, still retain their love for the Great Game and Walking Soccer gives them a way to get back on the field.

The idea was spawned from a conversation George had with **Brian Wager**, who played for the Byki from 1999-2003. Brian was forced out of soccer due to a knee injury after returning to his native England. He discovered Walking Soccer to be the perfect fit for a

player who can't run easily anymore. In the UK, there are over 800 organized club and FIFA has developed Laws of the Game for this new form of soccer.

"It seemed like a no-brainer for the Byki," said George. "We threw the idea out there and I am delighted to see so many Byki

alumni getting off the couch and back on the field."

The Byki organized indoor pick-up games in March and April and now hope to expand the player pool to create a sustainable competition.



**These four guys played in the first-ever Byki match (L to R): Kris Zadlo, Edi Pinkowski, George Gorecki and Marek Rys.**

**PSLC FIRST DIVISION****19 May 2019****www.nslchicago.org**

	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
BH Lillies	3	3	0	0	13	5	9
Borrachos FC	2	2	0	0	9	2	6
Red Devils FC	2	2	0	0	6	2	6
Unia Chicago	2	1	0	1	9	7	3
SC Polonez	2	1	0	1	4	4	3
Stare Byki FC	2	1	0	1	3	4	3
Thunder Sports Club	3	1	0	2	5	7	3
Westchester United	2	0	0	2	3	5	0
Shogun Wind	2	0	0	2	2	9	0
Sting SC	2	0	0	2	5	14	0

**PSLC OVER 30 WHITE DIVISION****19 May 2019****www.pslchicagoland.com**

	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
Levski Chicago 2014	3	3	0	0	19	1	9
Stare Byki FC	2	1	1	0	10	4	4
Chicago Rangers FC	1	1	0	0	3	0	3
FC Oasú	1	1	0	0	2	1	3
FC Igloopol	2	1	0	1	2	7	3
International SC	2	0	1	1	5	6	1
AEK FC Chicago	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Tricolorii FC	2	0	0	2	0	4	0
Shogun	1	0	0	1	0	6	0
Stimulus Package United	2	0	0	2	0	12	0

**PSLC OVER 40 B DIVISION****19 May 2019****www.pslchicagoland.com**

	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
Lake Zurich Aces	1	1	0	0	10	0	3
Deerfield	1	1	0	0	4	2	3
Real FC Blues	1	0	1	0	2	2	1
United Dynamo	1	0	1	0	2	2	1
MANA United SC	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
FK Danubia	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Park Ridge Rogues	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Gato Verde	1	0	0	1	2	4	0
Stare Byki FC	1	0	0	1	0	10	0

**PSLC OVER 48 DIVISION****30 May 2019****www.pslchicagoland.com**

	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
Jakes Stars Villains	3	3	0	0	19	3	9
Park Ridge Rogues	3	2	0	1	16	2	6
HNK Concordia	2	2	0	0	6	2	6
Atletico Torino FC	3	1	1	1	7	12	4
Sofia BG	3	1	0	2	7	11	3
Olympiacos Chicago	4	0	1	3	5	21	1
Stare Byki FC	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
St Charles Celtics Silverbacks	2	0	0	2	2	11	0