

TODAY'S SPORTS

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2009 WWW.TODAYSZAMAN.COM



Poland beats France in İzmir for first volleyball gold medal in history



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Konyaspor goes top in Bank Asya League 1 as Buca bubble bursts

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Galatasaray sticks to form in convincing derby win over Beşiktaş

BLACK EAGLES FACE MOMENT OF TRUTH AGAINST MAN UNITED

The Beşiktaş Black Eagles begin their European campaign when they host English Premier League champion and last season's defeated Champions League finalist Manchester United in their UEFA Champions League Group D opener at İstanbul's İnönü Stadium this evening. This all-important match, to be frank and candid, could not have come at a worse time for the Black Eagles who have been all over the place this season and are also struggling with poor form in front of the goal.

The Eagles, the defending Turkish champions, have only won one of their five domestic league games so far, drawing three and losing one. They have scored only three goals while conceding four and are placed in an unfamiliar 11th place in the 18-team Turkcell Super League standings.

The last debacle was on Saturday when the Black Eagles were beaten 3-0 by cross-city rivals, the Galatasaray Lions, in their İstanbul derby at the Ali Sami Yen Stadium -- the Lions' den. Such is the poor form of the Eagles ahead of their crucial clash against United.

But Beşiktaş coach Mustafa Denizli said on Saturday that the atmosphere in the Champions League is different and so his Eagles will play differently against United this evening. "My players are demoralized [after their loss to Galatasaray]," the embattled coach noted. "But we have several days to put things straight because the atmosphere and mood in the Champions League are different," he added. Denizli's stand-in captain Serdar Özkan concurred.

Scoring has been Beşiktaş's biggest problem so far this season. And this, more often than not, is the price of Denizli's enigmatic team selection. On Saturday while three strikers -- Bobo, Filip Holosko and Mert Nobre -- were warming the substitutes' bench, Denizli started with convalescing Nihat Kahveci as the sole striker. **CONTINUED ON PAGE 02**



CHAMPIONS LEAGUE THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE

MATCHDAY 1 (TODAY)	WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 16
Group A Juventus vs. Girondins Bordeaux Maccabi Haifa vs. Bayern Munich	Group E Liverpool vs. Debrecen Olympique Lyon vs. Fiorentina
Group B VfL Wolfsburg vs. CSKA Moscow Beşiktaş vs. Manchester United	Group F Inter Milan vs. Barcelona Dinamo Kiev vs. Rubin Kazan
Group C FC Zurich vs. Real Madrid Olympique Marseille vs. AC Milan	Group G VfB Stuttgart vs. Rangers Sevilla vs. Unirea Urziceni
Group D Chelsea vs. Porto Atletico Madrid vs. APOEL Nicosia	Group H Olympiakos vs. AZ Alkmaar Standard Liege vs. Arsenal

'HYDROPHOBIC' STORM DEVOURS İSTANBUL BŞB

OKAN UDO BASSEY, İSTANBUL

The Trabzon Black Sea Storm was scared of coming to İstanbul on Sunday for its Turkcell Super League week five match against İstanbul Büyükşehir Belediyespor (BŞB) because of the deadly deluge that wreaked havoc in the city last week. So Storm officials asked the Turkish Soccer Federation (TFF) to postpone the match or move it to a "safer" neutral ground. But their request fell on deaf ears, and there was no change in the match schedule.

It was a good thing for Trabzonspor that the match was not postponed or moved to neutral ground as the Storm hit hapless İstanbul BŞB for six on Sunday, winning 6-1 at İstanbul's Atatürk Stadium in the highest scoring match of week five.

A hat-trick by Balkesir-born defender Egemen Korkmaz in the eighth, 19th and 48th minutes, one by striker

Gökhan Ünal in the 27th and a double by forward Umut Bulut in the 29th and second minute of injury time (92nd) completed the Trabzon rout and gave the Storm the much-needed maximum points. İstanbul BŞB's consolation goal came from Beşiktaş reject Serhat Akin. The victory was a huge relief for the Storm's under-fire Belgian coach Hugo Broos, whose team had won only one match in four outings before Sunday.

"This victory is no surprise; the score maybe is," the visibly happy silver-haired Belgian said. "I had said previously that one day a goal scorer will emerge. And that goal scorer emerged today," he further stated, alluding to defender Egemen, who scored a hat-trick. **CONTINUED ON PAGE 03**



Egemen Korkmaz

TURKCELL SUPER LEAGUE STANDINGS

TEAMS	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
Galatasaray	5	5	0	0	16	4	15
Fenerbahçe	5	5	0	0	11	2	15
Eskişehirspor	5	2	3	0	7	5	9
Manisaspor	5	2	2	1	6	4	8
Diyarbakırspor	5	2	2	1	7	6	8
Trabzonspor	5	2	1	2	10	6	7
Gençlerbirliği	5	1	4	0	7	3	7
Bursaspor	5	2	1	2	6	6	7
Gaziantepspor	5	1	3	1	5	5	6
Antalyaspor	5	2	0	3	4	5	6
Beşiktaş	5	1	3	1	3	4	6
Büyükşehir Bld.	5	1	3	1	7	10	6
Kayserispor	4	1	2	1	5	5	5
Ankaraspor	4	1	2	1	3	4	5
Ankaragücü	5	0	3	2	5	7	3
Denizlispor	4	0	1	3	1	9	1
Sivasspor	4	0	0	4	2	10	0
Kasımpaşa	5	0	0	5	2	12	0

THE BEST AND THE WORST OF WEEK 5

Team of the week: Trabzonspor
Player of the week: Egemen Korkmaz (Trabzonspor)
Goal of the week: Milan Baros (Galatasaray, third goal)
Referee of the week: Bünyamin Gezer (İst. BŞB-Trabzon)
Coach of the week: Frank Rijkaard (Galatasaray)
Surprise team of the week: Manisaspor
Flops of the week: Sivasspor, Beşiktaş

Top Euro league results/standings

English Premier League

Saturday's results: Blackburn 3, Wolverhampton 1; Liverpool 4, Burnley 0; Manchester City 4, Arsenal 2; Portsmouth 2, Bolton 3; Stoke 1, Chelsea 2; Sunderland 4, Hull 1; Wigan 1, West Ham 0; Tottenham 1, Manchester United 3.

Sunday's results: Birmingham 0, Aston Villa 1; Fulham 2, Everton 1.

	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
Chelsea	5	5	0	0	12	3	15
Man United	5	4	0	1	11	3	12
Manchester City	4	4	0	0	8	2	12
Tottenham Hotspur	5	4	0	1	12	7	12
Liverpool	5	3	0	2	13	7	9
Aston Villa	4	3	0	1	6	3	9
Sunderland	5	3	0	2	8	6	9
Stoke City	5	2	1	2	4	6	7
Arsenal	4	2	0	2	13	8	6
Fulham	4	2	0	2	3	5	6
Wigan Athletic	5	2	0	3	4	8	6
Burnley	5	2	0	3	2	9	6
West Ham United	4	1	1	2	3	3	4
Blackburn Rovers	4	1	1	2	4	5	4
Birmingham City	5	1	1	3	2	4	4
Wolverhampton	5	1	1	3	3	7	4
Hull City	5	1	1	3	5	12	4
Bolton Wanderers	4	1	0	3	5	7	3
Everton	4	1	0	3	4	10	3
Portsmouth	5	0	0	5	3	10	0

German Bundesliga

Saturday's results: Wolfsburg 2, Bayer Leverkusen 3; Borussia Dortmund 1, Bayern Munich 5; Hoffenheim 3, Bochum 0; Freiburg 0, Eintracht Frankfurt 2; Mainz 2, Hertha Berlin 1; Nuremberg 1, Borussia Mönchengladbach 0; Hamburg 3, Stuttgart 1. Sunday's results: Werder Bremen 0, Hannover 0; Cologne 1, Schalke 2.

	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
Hamburg	5	4	1	0	15	6	13
Bayer Leverkusen	5	4	1	0	13	5	13
Schalke 04	5	3	1	1	7	3	10
Eintracht Frankfurt	5	2	3	0	7	4	9
Bayern Munich	5	2	2	1	11	5	8
Werder Bremen	5	2	2	1	9	6	8
Hoffenheim	5	2	2	1	5	2	8
Mainz	5	2	2	1	7	7	8
Mönchengladbach	5	2	1	2	7	8	7
VfL Wolfsburg	5	2	0	3	9	11	6
Hannover 96	5	1	2	2	3	3	5
VfB Stuttgart	5	1	2	2	6	8	5
Nuremberg	5	1	2	2	3	5	5
Borussia Dortmund	5	1	2	2	5	11	5
VfL Bochum	5	1	1	3	5	11	4
Freiburg	5	1	1	3	4	12	4
Hertha Berlin	5	1	0	4	5	8	3
Cologne	5	0	1	4	3	9	1

Spanish La Liga

Saturday's results: Atletico Madrid 1, Racing Santander 1; Getafe 0, Barcelona 2; Espanyol 0, Real Madrid 3; Sevilla 4, Zaragoza 1. Sunday's results: Tenerife 2, Osasuna 1; Deportivo La Coruna 1, Malaga 0; Villarreal 1, Mallorca 1; Sporting 1, Almeria 0; Valladolid 2, Valencia 4; Xerez 0, Athletic Bilbao 1.

	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
Barcelona	2	2	0	0	5	0	6
Real Madrid	2	2	0	0	6	2	6
Valencia	2	2	0	0	6	2	6
Athletic Bilbao	2	2	0	0	2	0	6
Real Mallorca	2	1	1	0	3	1	4
Malaga	2	1	0	1	3	1	3
Getafe	2	1	0	1	4	3	3
Sevilla	2	1	0	1	4	3	3
Deportivo Coruna	2	1	0	1	3	3	3
Tenerife	2	1	0	1	2	2	3
Real Zaragoza	2	1	0	1	2	4	3
Sporting Gijon	2	1	0	1	1	3	3
Villarreal	2	0	2	0	2	2	2
Osasuna	2	0	1	1	2	3	1
Almeria	2	0	1	1	0	1	1
Real Valladolid	2	0	1	1	2	4	1
Racing Santander	2	0	1	1	2	5	1
Atletico Madrid	2	0	1	1	1	4	1
Xerez	2	0	0	2	0	3	0
Espanyol	2	0	0	2	0	4	0

Italian Serie A

Saturday's results: Livorno 0, AC Milan 0; Lazio 0, Juventus 2. Sunday's results: Atalanta 0, Sampdoria 1; Bologna 0, Chievo Verona 2; Fiorentina 1, Cagliari 0; Inter Milan 2, Parma 0; Palermo 1, Bari 1; Siena 1, AS Roma 2; Udinese 4, Catania 2; Genoa 4, Napoli 1.

	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
Genoa	3	3	0	0	8	3	9
Juventus	3	3	0	0	6	1	9
Sampdoria	3	3	0	0	6	2	9
Inter Milan	3	2	1	0	7	1	7
Fiorentina	3	2	1	0	3	1	7
Lazio	3	2	0	1	3	3	6
Udinese	3	1	1	1	7	7	4
Palermo	3	1	1	1	3	3	4
Parma	3	1	1	1	4	5	4
AC Milan	3	1	1	1	2	5	4
Siena	3	1	0	2	5	5	3
Chievo Verona	3	1	0	2	3	3	3
Bari	3	0	3	0	2	2	3
AS Roma	3	1	0	2	5	7	3
Napoli	3	1	0	2	5	7	3
Livorno	3	0	2	1	1	3	2
Bologna	3	0	2	1	1	3	2
Cagliari	3	0	1	2	1	4	1
Atalanta Bergamo	3	0	0	3	0	3	0
Catania	3	0	0	3	4	8	0

French La Ligue

Saturday's results: Lyon 1, Lorient 0; Le Mans 1, Marseille 2; Montpellier 1, Lens 0; Valenciennes 1, Boulogne 1; Nancy 0, Toulouse 0; Lille 1, Sochaux 0; Bordeaux 1, Grenoble 0. Sunday's results: Auxerre 2, Nice 0; Rennes 1, Saint-Etienne 0; Monaco 2, Paris Saint-Germain 0.

	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
Grondins Bordeaux	5	4	1	0	12	3	13
Olympique Lyon	5	4	1	0	10	3	13
Montpellier HSC	5	3	2	0	9	3	11
Olympique Marseille	5	3	2	0	6	2	11
Paris St. Germain	5	3	1	1	10	6	10
Stade Rennes	5	2	3	0	8	4	9
Monaco	5	3	0	2	5	5	9
Boulogne-sur-Mer	5	2	2	1	4	5	8
AS Nancy	5	2	1	2	9	6	7
Racing Lens	5	2	1	2	7	8	7
FC Lorient	5	2	1	2	5	6	7
Sochaux	5	2	0	3	4	6	6
Toulouse	5	1	2	2	4	4	5
Le Mans	5	1	1	3	6	9	4
Valenciennes	5	1	1	3	5	8	4
Lille	5	1	1	3	3	7	4
Auxerre	5	1	1	3	2	6	4
Nice	5	1	1	3	3	10	4
St. Etienne	5	1	0	4	2	7	3
Grenoble	5	0	0	5	2	8	0

New faces but few surprises likely in Champions League

The group stage of the Champions League starts today with a number of new teams, but more familiar names are set to dominate European soccer's top club competition once again.

Champion Barcelona, their big-spending Spanish rival Real Madrid and England's quartet of Manchester United, Chelsea, Liverpool and Arsenal are all odds-on with the bookmakers to win their groups outright.

The remaining big guns from Spain along with the top teams in Italy and Germany are also tipped to qualify for the last 16, leaving lesser-known teams to battle for third spot and the consolation of a place in the second-tier Europa League.

Barcelona is the bookmakers' favorite to become the first club to win back-to-back Champions League titles since the elite competition was reformed in 1992 and its credentials will immediately be put to the test on Wednesday when it travels to Inter Milan for their opening Group F encounter.

Inter has been the perennial under-achiever in Europe but hopes the arrival of striker Samuel Eto'o from Barcelona and the exit of unsettled and inconsistent Zlatan Ibrahimovic in the opposite direction will pay dividends.

On paper, last season's runner-up Manchester United should win Group B, but manager Alex Ferguson believes the Premier League champions face the toughest challenge of all England's four contenders. United faces Beşiktaş in Istanbul today before entertaining German champion VfL Wolfsburg at Old Trafford.

Madrid is away to FC Zurich in their opening Group C match today before home ties against Olympique Marseille and AC Milan. Kaka's move from Milan to Madrid gives the two fixtures between the sides an extra edge.

Chelsea -- semi-finalist in five of the last six years -- hops coach Carlo Ancelotti can continue his Champions League success. The Italian has won the competition twice as a player and twice as a coach -- all with AC Milan. The



Chelsea's manager Carlo Ancelotti (R) celebrates Florent Malouda's goal against Stoke City during their English Premier League match at the Britannia Stadium in Stoke-on-Trent, central England.

Londoners kick off at home to Porto today before facing Greek Cypriot side APOEL Nicosia and Atletico Madrid in Group D.

Liverpool faces a couple of tricky encounters in Group E where Fiorentina and Olympique Lyon await but it starts with an easier task on Wednesday at home to Hungary's Debrecen.

Arsenal should be confident of winning Group

H and getting off to a winning start at Standard Liege on Wednesday before facing Olympiakos Piraeus of Greece and Dutch side AZ Alkmaar.

Spain's Sevilla will look to finish top of Group G where Rangers, VfB Stuttgart and Romania's Unirea Urziceni are all capable of grabbing the second qualifying place.

Top spot in Group A looks a straight fight

between Bayern Munich -- buoyed by the arrival of Arjen Robben and retention of Franck Ribery -- and Juventus who won their opening three Serie A games thanks mainly to their inspirational new signing Diego.

But Girondins Bordeaux and Israel's Maccabi Haifa are capable of winning some games and causing an upset. **Brussels Reuters**

Black Eagles face moment of truth against Man United

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

And the outcome was a foregone conclusion: Defeat for the Eagles because they could not score.

A piece of advice: Denizli should not try to solve his team's scoring problems by going for an all-out attack line-up against the fleet-footed United this evening. In other words, the coach should put several men behind the ball and try and catch United on the counterattack because a draw against the famous English side will not be considered a bad result -- even at İnönü.

So while Ibrahim Kas, Matteo Ferrari, Tomas Sivok and İsmail Köybaşı will be manning the defense, Fabian Ernst, Michael Fink, Ekrem Dag, newly signed Rodrigo Barbosa Tabata and Serdar Özkan should do the donkey work of close marking and slide tackling in midfield and Bobo as the sole striker upfront.

The Eagles must try to make amends for the nightmare of their last meeting against an English opponent when they welcome Manchester United to İnönü. The Istanbul side suffered a crushing 8-0 loss to Liverpool FC last time they faced a Premier League team in the 2006-07 UEFA Champions League group stage -- the biggest defeat in their European history as well as in the 17-year history of the competition.

A positive start against United would certainly boost the Eagles' prospects of finally negotiating the group-stage hurdle at the sixth attempt, but it will not be easy against a United team unbeaten in its last 12 away matches in the competition.

Man U in town

United arrived in Istanbul on Sunday and was welcomed by Beşiktaş officials. The English champion is a far cry from the team it was last season after the departure of Portuguese striker Cristiano Ronaldo to Spain's Real Madrid.

It has won four and lost one of five league matches so far and trails leader Chelsea by three points. But on Saturday, United showed Tottenham Hotspur how many rivers it needs to cross to be able to challenge for the Premiership championship with a superb 10-man 3-1 victory at White Hart Lane.

United had midfielder Paul Scholes sent off for a second booking after an hour but remained the more dangerous side and wrapped up a terrific win with a length-of-the-field counterattack superbly finished by Wayne Rooney.

And this is the Manchester United the Eagles will be facing this evening. **Okan Udo Bassey Istanbul**

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21:45 Beşiktaş-Manchester United

Referee: Nicola Rizzoli (Italy)

Assistant refs: Nicola Nicoletti and Renato Faverani

Fourth official: Andrea Gervasoni

LIONS STICK TO FORM IN CONVINCING DERBY WIN

MICHAEL KUSER İSTANBUL

The first İstanbul derby of the season on Saturday night saw league-leading Galatasaray host the struggling defending champs, the Beşiktaş Black Eagles, at Ali Sami Yen Stadium. Like a bouncer refusing entry to a nightclub, the Galatasaray Lions tossed the Black Eagles out the door with a solid 3-0 win.

The first defeat for Beşiktaş came in week five of the Turkcell Super League season, but the loss came on top of only one win and three draws. While Galatasaray commands the league rankings with the maximum possible 15 points so far, Beşiktaş has compiled only six. It is a very dismal start for defending champions.

A generation separates the two coaches, with Beşiktaş coach Mustafa Denizli born in 1949 and Galatasaray's Dutch coach Frank Rijkaard in 1963, but the two share the same attacking game philosophy: attack with finesse, control the ball in the other side's territory, create scoring opportunities and capitalize on them. In other words, score.

The Lions have been running a fast-scoring style all season, and Denizli tried to play the same game; he did not try to shut down Galatasaray's fast attack so much as to overwhelm it with his own power. Only one problem: he didn't have it.

Nearly every time the Eagles got anywhere near the Galatasaray goal they panicked, or mis-fired, or simply gave the ball away. It was like the game where you try to roll a steel ball along two hand-held rails, and the farther the ball travels the less control you have -- that's how Beşiktaş played.

Lady luck

Galatasaray slapped Beşiktaş awake in the fourth minute, sweeping away the Eagles' dreams of a return to glory with the first and only score of the first half. Captain Arda Turan lofted a corner kick to midfielder Mustafa Sarp, who headed it in precisely from the edge of goal. Any goalie would have needed lots of luck to stop a header like that, and Beşiktaş keeper Rüstü Reçber had none.



Galatasaray's Czech Republic striker Milan Baros scores the second goal for his team against Beşiktaş during their İstanbul derby on Sunday. Picture at left shows Baros celebrating after scoring.

Reçber reaped scorn from fans and even from the opposing coach for his glaring errors in the second half -- Rijkaard thanked him for his assists -- mistakes that contributed to Galatasaray scoring the second and third goals of the match.

Neither Sarp's lightning goal at the start nor anything else could turn Denizli from his strategy of pursuing the opponent. Indeed, Beşiktaş had possession of the ball more than Galatasaray in both halves; they simply could not execute.

Thus veteran goalie Reçber did not lose

the match, the failed offense did. Brazilian midfielder Rodrigo Tabata, newly acquired from Gaziantepspor for 14.5 million euros, could not save the Eagles from getting their wings clipped.

Denizli only started star striker Bobo, recovering from injury, in the 46th minute, replacing the unproductive Nihat Kahveci, but Bobo the once-beautiful played like just another bum as he shot passes wide and lacked his usual verve. Denizli is the only coach to have won league championships with all three of the İstanbul biggies:

Fenerbahçe, Galatasaray and Beşiktaş, so one hesitates to second-guess his judgment, but it's hard to understand why he did not adjust his tactics to compensate for his out-of-synch attackers.

The coach's Lamborghini had turned into a Volkswagen, but he kept driving as if he were at the wheel of a finely tuned sports car. The Eagles came on stronger in the beginning of the second half, determined to erase the one-point deficit, but they still could not connect the dots. Black-and-white captain Serdar Özkan fired hard and fast, and high, shooting over the goal like a teenage boy popping the clutch on a car he has not yet learned how to handle. "Bad luck or incompetence -- I don't know," said Özkan when asked about his unconverted goals.

The Eagles' offense unraveled further when Czech striker Milan Baros doubled the lead in the 65th minute, and a small flurry of yellow cards ensued when he knocked in Galatasaray's third goal in the 85th minute.

Teamwork pays

Rijkaard was not exactly gracious in victory, taunting his elder counterpart for a starting line-up that "included players I had never dreamt of," then going on to congratulate the hapless Beşiktaş keeper.

But the Dutchman was all professional in the deployment of his squad. Sports commentators had surmised that the Lions would be off form because of so many key players having played once or twice for their respective national teams in the past week. Rijkaard laid those doubts to rest, not by proving how his stars could run for 90 minutes no matter what, but by showing he had depth of talent to absorb the strain. He substituted playmaker Elano Blumer for Arda in the 58th minute and took out the tired Ivory Coast striker Abdul Keita in the 70th, filling his role with a fresh Banş Özбек.

Galatasaray defenders Sabri Sanoglu, Emre Aşık and Servet Çetin did a great job of confounding the Beşiktaş offense, but offense was critical. And the key was not the five best men forward on either side, it was the five men who played best together, and by that definition the Lions outclassed the Eagles all the way.



Fener captain-playmaker Alex de Souza celebrates after scoring against Bursaspor on Sunday.

'Hydrophobic' Storm devours İstanbul BŞB; Fenerbahçe beats Bursa Green Crocs

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

The Fenerbahçe Yellow Canaries put pressure on the Galatasaray Lions, who slew the Beşiktaş Black Eagles 3-0 on Saturday, by beating gritty Bursaspor Green Crocs 1-0 away for their fifth consecutive Super League victory. Captain Alex de Souza's goal in the 42nd minute was all that separated the two teams in the lackluster match at Atatürk Stadium.

As a matter of fact this ought to have been our lead story had the Storm not emerged from nowhere to tear apart poor İstanbul Büyükşehir Belediyespor.

"We won, and this was the fruit of hard labor," Fenerbahçe's German coach Christopher Daum said. "The struggle goes on," he added.

In other Super League matches on Sunday, Gaziantepspor beat cellar-dweller Kasımpaşa 1-0, Antalyaspor downed struggling Ankaragücü 1-0 and Gençlerbirliği and Eskişehirspor shared the spoils after ending 2-2.

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The Poles were in seventh heaven after clinching the men's European volleyball crown in Izmir on Sunday.

Poland wins first volleyball gold medal in history

Twenty-six long years after winning a silver medal in East Berlin, Poland clinched the gold in the 2009 Confederation of European Volleyball (CEV) Men's European Championships in İzmir on Sunday, overpowering France 3-1 (29-27, 25-21, 16-25, 26-24) to become the new undisputed European champion. Bulgaria took the bronze, outclassing 2005 and 2007 runner-up Russia in straight sets (25-18, 26-24, 25-21). **İzmir Today's Zaman**

BEST PLAYERS OF CHAMPIONSHIPS

Best Scorer: Antonin Rouzier (France)
Best Setter: Pawel Zagumny (Poland)
Best Spiker: Alexander Volkov (Russia)
Best Server: Yury Berezhenko (Russia)
Best Blocker: Viktor Yosifov (Bulgaria)
Best Receiver: Phane Antiga (France)
Best Libero: Hubert Henno (France)
Most Valuable Player: Piotr Gruszka (Poland)

FINAL RANKING

1. Poland (gold medal)*
2. France (silver medal)*
3. Bulgaria (bronze medal)*
4. Russia*
5. Serbia*
6. Germany
7. The Netherlands
8. Greece
9. Spain
10. Italy
11. Slovakia
12. Finland
13. Turkey
14. Estonia
15. Slovenia
16. Czech Republic

*Qualified for the 2011 CEV Men's European Championships in Austria/Czech Republic.



A scene from Mersin İdmanyurdu-Giresunspor match on Sunday. Picture at right shows Konyaspor players celebrating after beating Bucaspor to become the new Bank Asya League 1 leader.



PHOTO CİHAN, HASAN KÜÇÜK



PHOTO AA, MURAT ASLAN

Konyaspor goes top in Bank Asya League 1 as Buca bubble bursts

ESRA MADEN İSTANBUL

There's an old adage that says what goes up must come down, and that's exactly what happened after Bucaspor was handed its first Bank Asya League 1 defeat of the 2009-10 season by Konyaspor at Konya's Atatürk Stadium on Sunday night.

Previously unbeaten Aegean side Bucaspor went into Sunday's Bank Asya League 1 match against Konyaspor with a 100 percent record from three matches. But all that is now history after Buca was beaten 3-2 in one of the most memorable Bank Asya League 1 matches in recent history.

Buca was down 2-0 after 35 minutes with goals from Konyaspor's Branimir Poljac in the 29th and Eser Yağmur in the 35th. But the gutsy Buca fought back to equalize with second-half goals from Türker Demirhan in the 76th and Zafer Çevik in the 82nd. But Erdal Kılıçarslan's goal for Konyaspor in the second minute of added time put the match beyond reach and also settled the score: Konyaspor 3, Bucaspor 2.

The victory also catapulted Konyaspor to the top of the 18-team league table with 10 points from four matches while Buca with nine dropped to second place.

Mersin İdmanyurdu got its second Bank Asya League 1 victory in four outings by pulverizing Black Sea side Giresunspor 4-1 in the highest scoring match of the week.

Mersin İdmanyurdu's goals came from Caner Ağa in the 35th, Mustafa Tuna Kaya in the 38th and Murat Uluç in the 79th and 85th. Giresunspor's consolation goal was scored by Muzaffer in the 64th.

"Soccer is all about teamwork, and you can only succeed if you play as a team," ecstatic Mersin coach Serhat Güller said after the match. "And that's what we experienced today," he added.

In other Bank Asya League 1 matches on Sunday, Kartalspor beat visiting Dardanelspor 1-0, Çaykur Rizespor and Samsunspor shared the spoils after the 2-2 draw in their Black Sea derby, Kardemir Karabükspor and Gaziantep Büyükşehir Belediyespor also drew 2-2 and Altay pulverized Altay Karşıyaka 4-1 in their İzmir derby.



PHOTO CİHAN

Mersin coach Serhat Güller was chosen by Today's Zaman editors as the coach of the week.

THE BEST AND THE WORST OF WEEK 4

Team of the week:.....Konyaspor
 Player of the week:.....Murat Uluç (Mersin İdmanyurdu)
 Goal of the week:.....Erdal Kılıçarslan (Konyaspor)
 Referee of the week:.....Suat Arslanboğa (Rize-Samsun derby)
 Coach of the week:.....Serhat Güller (Mersin İdmanyurdu)
 Surprise team of the week:.....Kayseri Erciyesspor
 Flops of the week:.....Orduspor, Karşıyaka

BANK ASYA LEAGUE 1 STANDINGS

	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
Konyaspor	4	3	1	0	7	4	10
Bucaspor	4	3	0	1	11	4	9
Altay	4	2	2	0	7	2	8
Çaykur Rizespor	4	2	2	0	8	6	8
Kartalspor	4	2	2	0	3	1	8
Boluspor	4	2	1	1	6	5	7
Mersin İ.Y.	4	2	0	2	9	6	6
Kardemir Karabük	4	1	3	0	7	6	6
Adanaspor	3	2	0	1	6	5	6
Karşıyaka	4	2	0	2	4	5	6
Erciyesspor	4	1	2	1	5	6	5
Dardanelspor	4	1	0	3	5	8	3
G.Antep Bld.Spor	4	0	2	2	4	2	2
Hacettepe	4	0	2	2	2	4	2
Orduspor	4	0	2	2	1	4	2
Samsunspor	4	0	2	2	6	10	2
Kocaelispor	3	0	2	1	3	7	2
Giresunspor	4	0	1	3	2	7	1

WEEK 4 RESULTS

Hacettepe-Boluspor.....0-1
 Orduspor-Kayseri Erciyesspor.....0-1
 Çaykur Rizespor-Samsunspor.....2-2
 Mersin İdmanyurdu-Giresunspor.....4-1
 Kartalspor-Dardanelspor.....1-0
 Konyaspor-Bucaspor.....3-2
 K. Karabük-G.Antep Bld.Spor.....2-2
 Karşıyaka-Altay.....1-4

WEEK 5 FIXTURES

Saturday: Gaziantep Bld.-Karşıyaka, Kayseri Erciyesspor-Kardemir Karabükspor, Konyaspor-Kartalspor, Bucaspor-Boluspor, Altay-Mersin İdman Yurdu, Samsunspor-Kocaelispor, Adanaspor-Hacettepe. Sunday: Giresunspor-Çaykur Rizespor. Monday: Dardanelspor-Orduspor.

Note: Kocaelispor and Adanaspor were still playing at Kocaeli on Monday night when this page went to press.



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