

TODAY'S SPORTS

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 2009

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03 Coach Mustafa Denizli and his Black Eagles face must-win situation against CSKA Moscow

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LIONS SURRENDER LEAGUE LEAD TO RIVAL FENERBAHÇE

MICHAEL KUSER, İSTANBUL

The race is still tight atop the Turkcell Super League, it's just no longer watertight. In the seventh week of league play, Galatasaray chalked up their first non-victory of the season with a 1-1 draw at home against Eskişehirspor and thus lost their spot atop the rankings. The unbeaten Lions had been on top, tied with archrival Fenerbahçe but leading on goal differential. Fener on Saturday tied a 45-year-old team record for successful starts, scoring its seventh win of seven games with a 2-1 victory over Antalya, and now leads the league with the maximum possible 21 points, two points ahead of Galatasaray. Galatasaray coach Frank Rijkaard had wanted a "rain of goals" before the game but had to settle for a singlet as his team drew against a very determined opponent. **CONTINUED ON PAGE 02**

PHOTO: TODAY'S ZAMAN, M. BURAK BÜRKÜK



ESES SNAPS LIONS' WINNING STREAK ON A DAY OF NO LOSERS

OKAN UDO BASSEY, İSTANBUL

The Galatasaray Lions had won their first six matches and were aiming for their seventh when they hosted old nemesis Eskişehirspor, popularly known as EsEs, in their Turkcell Super League week seven match at İstanbul's Ali Sami Yen Stadium on Sunday night -- a day in which there were no winners.

The other two Super League games also ended in draws: Denizlispor and Manisaspor shared the booty after their Aegean derby ended 1-1, while Kayserispor and Kasimpasa played to a goalless draw. Back to Ali Sami Yen, the Lions' six-game winning streak came to an abrupt end after they were held to a 1-1 draw by Rıza Çalmbay's unbeaten and gutsy Eskişehirspor. The result means the Fenerbahçe Yellow Canaries, 2-1 winners over Antalyaspor on Saturday night, now have sole possession of first place in the 17-team league.

The Lions therefore have not beaten EsEs in their three consecutive matches so far. Eskişehirspor won 4-2 at home and 1-0 in İstanbul when the two teams met last season. Congo striker Shabani Christophe Nonda's goal in the 38th minute gave the Lions a glimmer of hope but Mehmet Yıldız's equalizer from a goalmouth scramble in the 56th minute meant that the EsEs hoodoo continued at Ali Sami Yen. The two teams will meet again in Eskişehir in the second half of the season and an EsEs victory in that match seems like a foregone conclusion. **CONTINUED ON PAGE 03**

TURKCELL SUPER LEAGUE STANDINGS

TEAMS	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
Fenerbahçe	7	7	0	0	14	3	21
Galatasaray	7	6	1	0	20	6	19
Bursaspor	7	4	1	2	13	7	13
Eskişehirspor	7	3	4	0	11	8	13
Trabzonspor	7	3	2	2	15	9	11
Gölcükspor	7	2	5	0	11	6	11
Manisaspor	7	2	4	1	7	5	10
Kayserispor	6	2	3	1	6	5	9
Büyükşehir Bld.	7	2	3	2	8	11	9
Diyarbakırspor	7	2	3	2	7	10	9
Ankaragücü	7	1	3	3	9	10	6
Besiktas	6	1	3	2	3	5	6
Gaziantepspor	7	1	3	3	8	11	6
Antalyaspor	7	2	0	5	6	10	6
Ankaraspor	4	1	2	1	3	4	5
Denizlispor	6	0	3	3	3	11	3
Sivasspor	7	0	1	6	4	15	1
Kasimpasa	7	0	1	6	3	15	1

THE BEST AND THE WORST OF WEEK 7

Team of the week:.....Eskişehir
 Player of the week:.....Keeper Vanja İvesa (EsEs)
 Goal of the week:.....Ali Zitoumi (Antalyaspor)
 Referee of the week:.....Özgür Yankaya (Kayseri-Paşa)
 Coach of the week:.....Ertuğrul Sağlam (Bursaspor)
 Surprise team of the week:.....Ankaragücü
 Flops of the week:.....Trabzon, Galatasaray

**TURKEY IS WINNING WITH İDDAA
 FOR 5 YEARS.
 (ARE YOU IN?)**

European soccer results, standings

English Premier League

Saturday: Portsmouth 0, Everton 1; Birmingham 1, Bolton 2; Blackburn 2, Aston Villa 1; Liverpool 6, Hull 1; Stoke 0, Manchester United 2; Tottenham 5, Burnley 0; Wigan 3, Chelsea 1; Fulham 0, Arsenal 1. Sunday: Sunderland 5, Wolverhampton 2.

	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
Man United	7	6	0	1	17	6	18
Chelsea	7	6	0	1	16	6	18
Liverpool	7	5	0	2	22	10	15
Tottenham	7	5	0	2	17	10	15
Arsenal	6	4	0	2	18	8	12
Manchester City	5	4	0	1	11	6	12
Aston Villa	6	4	0	2	9	5	12
Sunderland	7	4	0	3	14	11	12
Everton	6	3	0	3	8	10	9
Wigan Athletic	7	3	0	4	7	13	9
Burnley	7	3	0	4	5	15	9
Stoke City	7	2	2	3	5	9	8
Bolton Wanderers	6	2	1	3	8	9	7
Birmingham City	7	2	1	4	4	6	7
Blackburn Rovers	6	2	1	3	6	9	7
Wolverhampton	7	2	1	4	7	13	7
Fulham	6	2	0	4	4	8	6
West Ham United	5	1	1	3	5	6	4
Hull City	7	1	1	5	6	19	4
Portsmouth	7	0	0	7	3	13	0

German Bundesliga

Friday: Nuremberg 0, Bochum 1. Saturday: Wolfsburg 4, Hannover 2; Borussia Dortmund 0, Schalke 1; Werder Bremen 3, Mainz 0; Cologne 0, Bayer Leverkusen 1; Eintracht Frankfurt 0, Stuttgart 3; Hamburg SV 1, Bayern Munich 0. Sunday: Freiburg 3, Borussia Mönchengladbach 0; Hoffenheim 5, Hertha Berlin 1.

	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
Hamburg SV	7	5	2	0	17	7	17
Bayer Leverkusen	7	5	2	0	14	5	17
Hoffenheim	7	4	2	1	14	5	14
Schalke 04	7	4	1	2	9	5	13
Werder Bremen	7	3	3	1	12	6	12
VfL Wolfsburg	7	4	0	3	15	14	12
Bayern Munich	7	3	2	2	13	7	11
Mainz	7	3	2	2	10	12	11
Eintracht Frankfurt	7	2	4	1	8	8	10
Freiburg	7	3	1	3	11	12	10
VfB Stuttgart	7	2	2	3	9	10	8
Mönchengladbach	7	2	1	4	9	15	7
VfL Bochum	7	2	1	4	8	14	7
Hannover 96	7	1	3	3	6	8	6
Borussia Dortmund	7	1	3	3	6	13	6
Nuremberg	7	1	2	4	4	8	5
Cologne	7	1	1	5	5	10	4
Hertha Berlin	7	1	0	6	6	17	3

Russian league

Friday: Rubin Kazan 1, Ankar Perm 2. Saturday: Dynamo Moscow 1, Saturn Ramenskoye 0; FK Moscow 3, Khimki 0; Zenit St. Petersburg 2, CSKA Moscow 0. Sunday: Kuban Krasnodar 0, Krylya Sovietov Samara 0; Spartak Moscow 5, Tom Tomsk 0; Spartak Nalchik 1, Rostov 0; Terek Grozny 2, Lokomotiv Moscow 1.

	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
Rubin Kazan	23	14	5	4	48	16	47
Spartak Moscow	23	13	4	6	44	24	43
Zenit St. Petersburg	23	11	7	5	38	22	40
CSKA Moscow	23	12	3	8	35	22	39
Lokomotiv Moscow	23	10	8	5	30	22	38
FK Moscow	23	10	7	6	27	17	37
Dynamo Moscow	23	10	4	9	23	28	34
Saturn Ramenskoye	23	9	5	9	27	31	32
Terek Grozny	23	8	6	9	28	34	30
Krylya Sovietov	23	8	5	10	24	29	29
Ankar Perm	23	7	6	10	23	31	27
Rostov	23	6	9	8	18	24	27
Tom Tomsk	23	6	7	10	18	32	25
Spartak Nalchik	23	5	8	10	21	24	23
Kuban Krasnodar	23	5	8	10	18	34	23
Khimki	23	2	4	17	16	48	10

Austrian league

Saturday: Austria K mten 1, Salzburg 2; Kapfenberger SV 0, Sturm Graz 1; Rapid Vienna 3, SC Wiener Neustadt 1; Mattersburg 1, Austria Vienna 3. Sunday: Ried 5, LASK Linz 2.

	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
Salzburg	9	6	2	1	21	12	20
Austria Vienna	9	5	2	2	18	12	17
Sturm Graz	8	5	1	2	16	10	16
Rapid Vienna	8	4	3	1	18	9	15
LASK Linz	9	4	1	4	27	23	13
Ried	9	3	3	3	11	11	12
Mattersburg	9	4	0	5	13	17	12
Wiener Neustadt	9	3	1	5	15	18	10
Kapfenberger SV	9	2	0	7	6	19	6
Austria K mten	9	1	1	7	10	24	4

Portuguese Liga

Friday: Oihanense 0, Braga 1. Saturday: Maritimo 1, Naval 2; Rio Ave 0, Academica 0; Setubal 0, Paços Ferreira 1; Porto 1, Sporting 0; Benfica 5, Leixoes 0.

	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
Braga	6	6	0	0	10	3	18
Benfica	6	5	1	0	21	3	16
Porto	6	4	1	1	12	4	13
Rio Ave	6	2	4	0	5	2	10
Sporting	6	3	1	2	8	6	10
FC Paços de Ferreira	6	1	4	1	4	4	7
Uniao Leiria	5	1	3	1	6	3	6
SC Oihanense	6	1	3	2	5	6	6
Leixoes SC	6	1	2	3	4	11	5
Nacional Madeira	5	1	2	2	4	8	5
Maritimo	6	1	2	3	5	7	5
Belenenses	5	1	2	2	4	8	5
Vitoria Guimaraes	5	1	2	2	4	4	5
Vitoria Setubal	6	1	1	4	2	14	4
Naval	6	1	1	4	3	10	4
Academica	6	0	3	3	3	7	3

Spanish Primera Liga

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

	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
Real Madrid	5	5	0	0	16	2	15
Barcelona	5	5	0	0	16	3	15
Sevilla	5	4	0	1	12	3	12
Real Mallorca	5	3	1	1	10	3	10
Athletic Bilbao	5	3	0	2	5	7	9
Valencia	5	2	2	1	11	9	8
Real Zaragoza	5	2	1	2	7	7	7
Osasuna	5	2	1	2	5	6	7
Espanyol	5	2	1	2	5	7	7
Deportivo Coruna	4	2	0	2	8	6	6
Almeria	5	1	3	1	5	5	6
Getafe	5	2	0	3	7	8	6
Tenerife	5	2	0	3	3	9	6
Sporting Gijon	5	1	2	2	4	7	5
Racing Santander	5	1	2	2	7	12	5
Real Valladolid	5	1	1	3	5	10	4
Malaga	5	1	0	4	5	7	3
Atletico Madrid	5	0	3	2	7	13	3
Villarreal	4	0	2	2	4	7	2
Xerez	5	0	1	4	0	11	1

Henry doubtful as Barca faces Dynamo Kiev test

Dynamo, the UEFA Cup semifinalist last season, headed for Spain as group leader after its victory over Russian champion and competition debutant Rubin Kazan

European champion Barcelona may be without striker Thierry Henry when it hosts Dynamo Kiev today looking for its first Champions League win of the season.

The Frenchman pulled up with a strained muscle in Saturday's 2-0 win over Malaga in La Liga.

Barca, which drew 0-0 at Inter Milan in its opening Group F match, won its fifth successive La Liga game on Saturday with Zlatan Ibrahimovic maintaining his record of scoring in every match.

Dynamo, the UEFA Cup semifinalist last season, heads for Spain as group leader after its victory over Russian champion and competition debutant Rubin Kazan.

Rubin welcomes Inter to their refurbished 30,000-capacity stadium, with the Italian champions traveling without Dutch midfielder Wesley Sneijder (hip injury).

While Barca was maintaining its perfect La Liga start, Real Madrid, aiming to win a record-extending 10th European Cup at its Santiago Bernabeu Stadium in May -- also won its fifth successive league match by beating Tenerife 3-0.

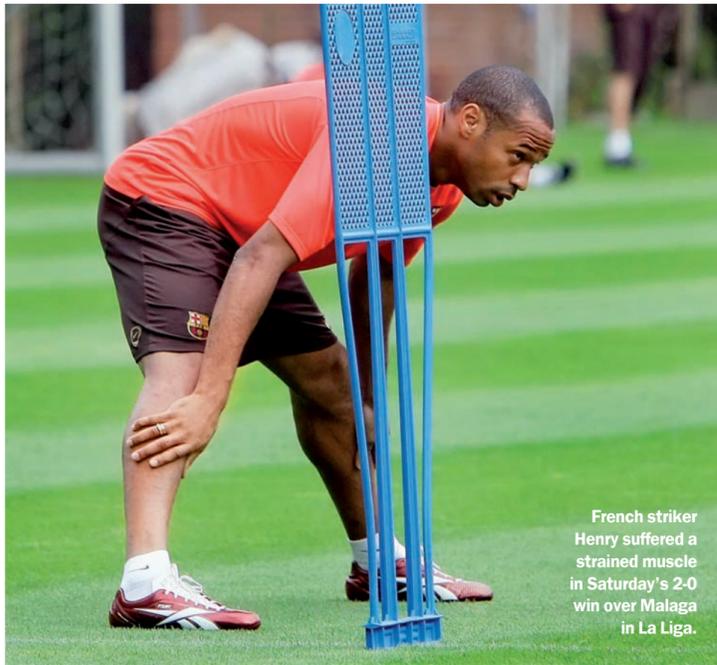
Real won 5-2 at FC Zurich in its opening Group C match and hosts Olympique Marseille on Wednesday with the French side reeling from its first Ligue 1 defeat of the season.

"I didn't recognize Marseille," defender Cyril Rool told reporters after Saturday's 3-2 loss at Valenciennes. "Obviously, it would have been better to win before going to Madrid."

Trio win

Three of the four English challengers won in the Premier League at the weekend, with Manchester United going top for the first time this season after a 2-0 victory at Stoke City.

Liverpool crushed Hull City 6-1, Fernando Torres scoring an outstanding hat-trick, and Arsenal beat Fulham 1-0 in a London derby at Craven Cottage. Previously unbeaten Chelsea went



French striker Henry suffered a strained muscle in Saturday's 2-0 win over Malaga in La Liga.

PHOTO: REUTERS, GUSTAU NACARINO

down to a shock 3-1 defeat at Wigan Athletic.

United, which began its Group B campaign for a third successive Champions League final appearance with a 1-0 win at Beşiktaş, hosts Wolfsburg knowing the German champion has conceded 14 goals in seven Bundesliga games.

Liverpool travels to Fiorentina in Group E with the English side having beaten Debrecen of Hungary 1-0 in their opener and the Italians having lost to Olympique Lyon by the same score.

Chelsea should follow up its opening 1-0 win over Porto with another victory in Group D

against APOEL Nicosia in Greek Cyprus, especially if England midfielder Joe Cole continues his rehabilitation from his long injury layoff and plays.

APOEL gained a point from a surprise 0-0 draw at Atletico Madrid two weeks ago and the Spaniards, at the wrong end of La Liga without a win in five matches, will be hoping to kick-start their season in their trip to Porto.

Arsenal, which came from two goals down to beat Standard Liege 3-2 in their Group H opener, hosts Olympiakos Pireaus, while Liege travels to AZ Alkmaar. **London Reuters**

European soccer results, standings

French Ligue 1

Saturday: Valenciennes 3, Marseille 2; Nancy 2, Sochaux 1; Lorient 1, Paris Saint-Germain 1; Monaco 1, Saint-Etienne 2; Montpellier 1, Boulogne 0; Auxerre 2, Grenoble 0; Lyon 2, Toulouse 1. Sunday: Girondins Bordeaux 1, Stade Rennes 0; Le Mans 3, Racing Lens 0; Lille 1, Nice 1.

	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
Girondins Bordeaux	7	6	1	0	15	3	19
Olympique Lyon	7	5	2	0	13	5	17
Olympique Marseille	7	4	2	1	12	7	14
Montpellier HSC	7	4	2	1	12	7	14
Stade Rennes	7	3	3	1	12	5	12
Paris St. Germain	7	3	3	1	12	8	12
Monaco	7	4	0	3	9	8	12
FC Lorient	7	3	2	2	9	8	11
AS Nancy	7	3	1	3	12	10	10
Valenciennes	7	3	1	3	13	12	10
Toulouse	7	2	2	3	7	6	8
Auxerre	7	2	2	3	5	7	8
Racing Lens	7	2	2	3	8	12	8
Boulogne-sur-Mer	7	2	2	3	4	8	8
Le Mans	7	2	1	4	9	11	7
St. Etienne	7	2	1	4	5	9	7
Lille	7	1	3	3	5	9	6
Sochaux	7	2	0	5	7	13	6
Nice	7	1	2	4	5	14	5
Grenoble	7	0	0	7	2	14	0

Dutch Eredivisie

Saturday: FC Utrecht 1, AZ Alkmaar 0; PSV Eindhoven 3, Willem II 1; RKC Waalwijk 4, Roda JC 1; FC Twente 2, VVV Venlo 1. Sunday: Ajax 3, ADO The Hague 0; FC Groningen 1, Vitesse Arnhem 0; Sparta Rotterdam 0, SC Heerenveen 2; NAC Breda 0, Feyenoord 2; NEC Nijmegen 0, Heracles Almelo 2.

	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
PSV Eindhoven	8	6	2	0	22	10	20
Twente Enschede	8	6	2	0	14	6	20
Ajax Amsterdam	8	6	1	1	25	5	19
Feyenoord	8	5	2	1	14	6	17
Utrecht	7	5	1	1	10	5	16
AZ Alkmaar	8	4	0	4	15	8	12
Heracles Almelo	8	3	2	3	7	8	11
ADO Den Haag	8	3	1	4	10	11	10
NAC Breda	8	3	1	4	7	15	10
NEC Nijmegen	7	2	2	3	8	9	8
Vitesse Arnhem	8	2	2	4	11	14	8
VVV Venlo	8	1	5	2	12	16	8
Groningen	8	2	2	4	7	11	8
Sparta Rotterdam	8	2	2	4	4	10	8
Roda JC Kerkrade	8	2	2	4	8	16	8
Heerenveen	8	2	1	5	4	11	7
Willem II Tilburg	8	2	0	6	10	14	6
RKC Waalwijk	8	1	0	7	7	20	3

Italian Serie A

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

	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
Sampdoria	6	5	0	1	11	5	15
Juventus	6	4	2	0	11	4	14
Inter Milan	6	4	1	1	12	4	13
Fiorentina	6	4	1	1	7	4	13
Udinese	6</						

LIONS SURRENDER LEAGUE LEAD TO RIVAL FENERBAHÇE

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

The Lions started strong and could have scored more in the first half but for the timely heroics of Eskişehir's lanky keeper, Ivesa, who stopped a particularly hard shot from Mustafa Sarp in the 17th minute. Galatasaray's onslaught later caught Ivesa off balance, which allowed Shabani Nonda to tap one in. Abdul Kader Keita played hard and made the scoring assist to Nonda in the 38th minute.

Leading at the half

The Lions must have been satisfied in the locker room at halftime, for despite strong play from their opponents, they had managed to keep them boxed in and frustrated. Galatasaray came out roaring to start the second half, but lost their concentration for a minute, and that's all the time Eskişehir needed as Mehmet Yilmaz booted the tying goal in at the 56th minute. Back to square one for the Lions.

It almost seemed a replay of the previous night's game between Fenerbahçe and Antalyaspor. The Yellow Canaries had looked pathetic in the second half, that is until the whole team realized at once that the clock was running out. Fener drove hard, but then the Antalya players pushed right back, almost right into their net. Only an amazing hand block by Volkan saved Fener from going down to defeat, and the resulting fast break from the foot of Alex set up the winning goal in the net in the very last minute of regulation time.

The fans at Ali Sami Yen Stadium waited and waited, watching the clock running down, and thought, Fener scored in the 90th minute, maybe we



Galatasaray's Keita (below) and Milan Baros in a dejected mood after the draw with EsEs.

can, too. But it was not to be. Time ran out and the score was even, 1-1.

Happy with a draw

Eskişehirspor relied on luck and skill, and the heart of a champion team, to come out even Sunday night against the reigning Lions. Eskişehir coach Riza Cal-

imbay had motivated his team by saying they were playing for honor, the honor of their captain, striker Umit Karan, who was dropped from Galatasaray last June.

"We weren't afraid, came in to play our best. Even without a win I'd say we were happy," said Calimbay. "To play four away games so far with no losses is

something, and to come away with a point tonight is important, too."

Eskişehir now ranks fourth in the Super League, tied at 13 points with 3rd place Bursaspor, who lead on goals. Bursa on Saturday blanked Diyarbakırspor, 4-0.

Possession is only nine-tenths of the law

Eskişehir did not press as relentlessly as Antalya did against Fener at the close. The EsEs may have been playing for honor, but the offense had run out of steam. At one point, the players stood around the Galatasaray penalty area as if they had forgotten why they were on the field. The Lions almost claimed divine right to the ball, taking it from Eskişehir whenever they passed midfield.

But the gods of soccer flicked the magnetic switch on Eskişehir whenever the Lions attacked, for they ganged up on the offense and willed the ball from the net, five players against three, four against two. Rijkaard's offense pressed and pressed, but to no avail. A flurry of yellow cards between the 75th and 79th minutes attested to the frustration on both sides.

Some commentators detected a falling tempo on the Lions' part, but they kept up the attack. Captain Arda Turan ran like a man possessed, set up a shot only to see Baros shoot it straight into the goalie's hands. Arda kicked what must have been a dozen free kicks and corners -- the ball just never obliged to be goal-friendly.

Rijkaard told his players afterwards that the draw would be a good test of team morale. "Everyone's for you when you're winning," he said. "We let that goal get through in the second half and then forgot to control the ball, played high with it instead of managing the possession."

Other sportswriters had faulted Fener for not playing the expected fast tempo the previous night, but the discrepancies turned out in the Canaries' favor. No such luck for Galatasaray. Indeed, the Lions' Spanish keeper, Franco, attributed the draw to bad luck, saying, "The bounces just didn't go our way."

Crucial week for under-fire coach Mustafa Denizli

OKAN UDO BASSEY | ISTANBUL

"We are not going to change our coach," Beşiktaş Chairman Yıldırım Demirören reportedly said last week. Executive Board President Yalçın Karadeniz concurred by saying, "You don't change horses in midstream." These, indeed, are strong words of support from the top for the under-fire coach.

The Beşiktaş Black Eagles face Russian side CSKA Moscow in an important UEFA Champions League Group B match on Wednesday and the result of that match could determine the validity of the statements made by the Beşiktaş rulers.

The Eagles lost 1-0 at home to English powerhouse Manchester United on Matchday 1, despite playing well, thereby digging a big hole for themselves ahead of today's away showdown against CSKA.

The Russian side appears to be the weakest link in Group B, which also includes German champion VfL Wolfsburg. Losing in their opening match has left the Eagles with no margin for error, making this evening's match against CSKA a must-win affair. The simple reason is that CSKA is the team the Eagles have to beat at home and away in the group to boost their survival chances.

In domestic action the Eagles, who clinched the domestic league and cup last season, are all over the place. They have only won one in six Turkcell Super League outings, while drawing three and losing two. Furthermore, the Eagles have forgotten how to score goals. Three goals for, five against means a -2 goal difference and that is really pathetic by the standards of



Beşiktaş coach Mustafa Denizli

Turkish champion Beşiktaş.

The Black Eagles were idle over the weekend because their match against Ankaraspor, which has been demoted to the Bank Asya League 1 (division two), was canceled, meaning the Eagles have had 10 long days to prepare for the CSKA match.

After Beşiktaş was beaten 1-0 at home by the Kayseri Anatolian Tigers in week six of the domestic league the weekend before last, the irate fans and disillusioned opposition at the club cried out loud for the head of Denizli. But the management threw its support behind the coach, in other words gave him a stay of execution, so as not to distract the attention of the players and the team ahead of the all-important CSKA encounter.

That match is tomorrow and the future of Denizli may well hinge on the game's outcome. If the Eagles win, then things would continue as usual. But in the event of a loss, the irate fans, naysayers and the opposition will raise their voices even louder against the coach, and this will make an already difficult situation even worse.



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BANK ASYA LEAGUE 1 STANDINGS

	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
KONYASPOR	6	4	2	0	10	6	14
CAYKUR RIZESPOR	6	3	3	0	11	8	12
KARTALSPOR	6	3	2	1	7	3	11
BOLUSPOR	6	3	2	1	11	8	11
BUCASPOR	6	3	1	2	13	9	10
MERSIN İDMANYURDU	6	3	1	2	10	6	10
ADANASPOR	6	3	1	2	8	8	10
ALTAY	6	2	3	1	8	4	9
KARDEMİR KARABÜK	5	2	3	0	9	7	9
KARSIYAKA	6	3	0	3	6	8	9
GAZİANTEP BŞB	6	1	3	2	4	4	6
DARDANELSPOR	5	2	0	3	6	8	6
HACETTEPE	6	1	2	3	3	5	5
SAMSUNSPOR	6	1	2	3	8	11	5
KAYSERİ ERÇİYESPOR	6	1	2	3	7	10	5
GİRESUNSPOR	6	1	1	4	5	10	4
ORDUSPOR	6	0	3	3	2	6	3
KOCAELİSPOR	6	0	3	3	4	11	3

PHOTO □ CİHAN, CAHİT KILIC



A scene from the Orduspor-Konyaspor Bank Asya League 1 match.

PHOTO □ CİHAN, YASİN CANAKCI



The rough and tumble Boluspor-Adanaspor match produced four red cards.

Orduspor and Konya share spoils after thrilling draw

ESRA MADEN İSTANBUL

The match between cellar dweller Orduspor and leader Konyaspor in week six of the Bank Asya League 1 at Ordu's 19 Eylül Stadium on Sunday produced no winner as it ended 1-1 after full time and injury time.

Erdal Kılıçarslan put visiting Konya ahead in the 49th minute, and Albanian forward Xhevair Sukaj evened the score for Orduspor in the 80th.

But the rough and tumble dash produced a total 10 yellow cards -- eight against Orduspor and two against Konyaspor -- as well as three reds. Orduspor's Ridvan Koçak was sent off in the 68th, while Müslüm Yelken of Orduspor and Yusuf Kurtuluş of Konyaspor were given their marching orders in the 90th minute for unsportsmanlike behavior.

Undefeated Konyaspor, which was relegated from the Turkcell Super League last season, remained on top of the 18-strong Bank Asya League 1.

Boluspor beat visiting Adanaspor 3-1 in another high-tension match at Bolu's Atatürk Stadium. No-nonsense referee Çagatay Şahan dished out cards like confetti in a match in which a total of eight players were booked and four Adanaspor players were sent off -- meaning the visiting side completed the game with seven men.

Giresunspor won the battle of straw weights by beating Kocaelispor -- another team that was demoted from the Super League last season -- 2-1 away at the İsmetpaşa Stadium in İzmit. Serdar Topraktepe put Kocaelispor, popularly known as Korfez, ahead in the 46th minute but goals from Giresunspor's Brazilian forward Fabiano Monteiro de Oliveira in the 52nd and Şenol Demirci 10 minutes from time meant winless Kocaelispor remained second from bottom. This was Giresun's first win of the season, and coach Levent Eriş was ecstatic. "We have broken the jinx at last," he said. "Now we want to embark on a winning streak."

Hacettepe beat Samsunspor 1-0 in another clash of strugglers at Ankara's 19 Mayıs Stadium for its first victory in six outings. Serkan Atak's goal in the 24th minute was the only thing which separated the two sides but it was more than enough to give the host the much-needed maximum points.

Elsewhere, Bucaspor's slump continued as it went down 3-0 against Kartalspor in Istanbul. Kartal's Ghana midfielder Shaibu Yakubu was the man of the match as he not only scored the opening goal, but also motivated his teammates with superb passes.

The match between Mersin İdmanyurdu and Gaziantep Büyükşehir Belediyespor ended exactly the way it started, 0-0. Mersin played with 10 men for 50 minutes after Erdal Akyürek was red-carded in the 41st.

THE BEST AND THE WORST OF WEEK 6

Team of the week:Giresunspor
 Player of the week:Shaibu Yakubu (Kartalspor)
 Goal of the week:Shaibu Yakubu (Kartalspor)
 Referee of the week:İlker Coşkun (Ordu-Konya)
 Coach of the week:Levent Eriş (Giresun)
 Surprise team of the week:Hacettepe
 Flop of the week:Bucaspor

Boluspor boss Necip Çankıç got it all right

When it comes to predictions, you can always count on Boluspor Chairman Necip Çankıç to do the right thing. The chairman said ahead of their home match against Adanaspor that they would win and take home the maximum points -- and so it has come to pass.

"I had made a pledge to the fans that we are going to win this season's Bank Asya League 1 championship [and be promoted to the Turkcell Super League next season]," Çankıç told reporters ahead of Sunday's match. "But this seeming endless string of injuries adversely affects our game plan. We have five injured players now. Injuries notwithstanding, it is incumbent upon us to grab the maximum points. We have to win, come what may," he added.

And Boluspor gave Adanaspor a good soccer lesson, winning 3-1 to carry the day, just as Chairman Çankıç had predicted.

It is understandable why Çankıç is always talking about the Bank Asya League 1 title and the Turkcell Super League.

Boluspor had played in topflight Turkish soccer for over two decades (1970-1979, 1980-1985, 1986-1992). Maybe Çankıç thinks the time has come for Bolu to bid bye-bye to the Bank Asya League 1 and return to the Super League, where he thinks they belong, after many years in the soccer wilderness. *İstanbul Today's Zaman*



Necip Çankıç

NATION'S FOOTBALL

