

# TODAY'S SPORTS

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**03** Young coach Bülent Uygun calls it quits, fairy-tale success story is over at Sivasspor

**04** Konyaspor widens lead at Bank Asya League 1 summit; Buca rediscovers art of winning

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Alex De Souza

## A RECORD-BREAKING DAY FENER YELLOW CANARIES WILL ALWAYS REMEMBER

Sunday, Oct. 4, 2009 is a day the Fenerbahçe Yellow Canaries and anyone associated with the team will always remember -- for the right reasons. This was not only the day the Canaries rediscovered their scoring touch to wallop Ankara's Gençlerbirliği 3-0 in their Turkcell Super League week 8 match at the Fenerbahçe Şükrü Saracoğlu Stadium in İstanbul to go five points clear of Galatasaray at the top of the standings. It was also the day the Canaries recorded their best start to a season, eight victories in as many matches -- a new club record.

The Canaries thereby remained the only undefeated team in the 17-strong league after Galatasaray crashed 3-0 in the capital against Ankaragücü and Eskişehirspor lost 1-0 at home to Kayserispor.

Before Sunday, the Canaries had won four matches -- three in the domestic league and one in the UEFA Europa League -- by very slim margins, and all soccer pundits were anxious to see how the Canaries would perform against the previously unbeaten Gençler, coached by German Thomas Doll. The Canaries, boosted by the fact that Galatasaray had lost to Ankaragücü in an early game, went straight for the kill immediately after referee Kuddusi Müftüoğlu blew the whistle for kickoff at 8:00 p.m.

And they got the opening goal after 13 minutes when Brazilian captain-midfielder Alex De Souza slotted a pass from Spanish striker Dani Gonzalez Güiza into the back of the net -- leaving Gençler keeper Serdar Kulbilge, a Fenerbahçe reject, completely dumbfounded. There was no other score in the first half. **CONTINUED ON PAGE 02**

### THE BEST AND THE WORST OF WEEK 8

Team of the week:.....Ankaragücü  
 Player of the week:.....Alex De Souza (Fenerbahçe)  
 Goal of the week:.....Yannick Kamanan (Sivasspor)  
 Referee of the week:.....Selçuk Dereli (EŞEs-Kayseri match)  
 Coach of the week:.....Hikmet Karaman (Ankaragücü)  
 Surprise team of week:.....Besiktas  
 Flops of the week:.....Galatasaray, Trabzonspor

PHOTO: TODAY'S ZAMAN, ALI ÜNAL



## DECLINE AND FALL OF GALATASARAY LIONS?

OKAN UDO BASSEY, İSTANBUL

Two draws and one defeat in three matches -- the Galatasaray Lions have collapsed like a house of cards. Previously unbeaten in six Turkcell Super League matches, and named the European "team of the week" by UEFA on Sept. 26, the decline of the Lions started in week seven, when they were held to a 1-1 home draw by Eskişehirspor. And the 1-1 home draw at home with tiny Austrian side Sturm Graz in their UEFA Europa League Group F match last Thursday meant things were going from bad to worse.

The lethargic Lions had hoped, perhaps against hope, to break the winless jinx in their week eight Super League match against Ankaragücü at the capital's 19 Mayıs Stadium on Sunday. But they were dead wrong! Merciless Ankara crushed the Lions 3-0, a humiliating defeat which raised the question, "Is the end near for the Galatasaray Lions?"

Sunday's game was of paramount importance for the Lions because victory would have helped them regain team morale, but a draw or a loss would mean jumping out of the frying pan and into the fire. We all know what the outcome of the game was: Ankaragücü outclassed and outscored the Lions for their second victory in eight league outings. The Ankara side recorded its first victory when it beat Gaziantepspor 3-1 away in week seven.

On Sunday Ankaragücü played prudently. The Ankara lads allowed the Lions to have more possession of the ball, but defended well and tried to catch Galatasaray off guard with a counterattack. They did not succeed in the first half, which ended 0-0, but the strategy worked well in the second. As the Lions pushed more men forward late in the game in a desperate bid to end their winless run, they left gaping holes in midfield and defense. Ankaragücü moved into the vacuum, and the goals rained in at 19 Mayıs. **CONTINUED ON PAGE 02**

### TURKCELL SUPER LEAGUE STANDINGS

TEAMS	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
Fenerbahçe	8	8	0	0	17	3	24
Galatasaray	8	6	1	1	20	9	19
Bursaspor	8	5	1	2	15	7	16
Eskişehirspor	8	3	4	1	11	9	13
Trabzonspor	8	3	3	2	15	9	12
Kayserispor	7	3	3	1	7	5	12
Büyükşehir Bld.	8	3	3	2	11	12	12
Gençlerbirliği	8	2	5	1	11	9	11
Manisaspor	8	2	4	2	7	10	10
Ankaragücü	8	2	3	3	12	10	9
Besiktas	7	2	3	2	4	5	9
Diyarbakırspor	8	2	3	3	8	13	9
Gaziantepspor	8	1	4	3	8	11	7
Antalyaspor	8	2	0	6	6	12	6
Ankaraspor	4	1	2	1	3	4	5
Sivasspor	8	1	1	6	6	15	4
Denizlispor	7	0	3	4	3	12	3
Kasımpasa	7	0	1	6	3	15	1



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Top Euro league results/standings

English Premier League

Saturday: Bolton Wanderers 2, Tottenham Hotspur 2; Burnley 2, Birmingham City 1; Hull City 2, Wigan Athletic 1; Manchester United 2, Sunderland 2; Wolverhampton Wanderers 0, Portsmouth 1.  
Sunday: Arsenal 6, Blackburn Rovers 2; Chelsea 2, Liverpool 0; Everton 1, Stoke City 1; West Ham United 2, Fulham 2.

	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
Chelsea	8	7	0	1	18	6	21
Manchester United	8	6	1	1	19	8	19
Tottenham Hotspur	8	5	1	2	19	12	16
Arsenal	7	5	0	2	24	10	15
Liverpool	8	5	0	3	22	12	15
Manchester City	6	5	0	1	14	7	15
Sunderland	8	4	1	3	16	13	13
Aston Villa	6	4	0	2	9	5	12
Burnley	8	4	0	4	7	16	12
Everton	7	3	1	3	9	11	10
Stoke City	8	2	3	3	6	10	9
Wigan Athletic	8	3	0	5	8	15	9
Bolton Wanderers	7	2	2	3	10	11	8
Birmingham City	8	2	1	5	5	8	7
Fulham	7	2	1	4	6	10	7
Blackburn Rovers	7	2	1	4	8	15	7
Wolverhampton	8	2	1	5	7	14	7
Hull City	8	2	1	5	8	20	7
West Ham United	7	1	2	4	8	11	5
Portsmouth	8	1	0	7	4	13	3

Spanish La Liga

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

	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
Barcelona	6	6	0	0	17	3	18
Real Madrid	6	5	0	1	17	4	15
Sevilla	6	5	0	1	14	4	15
Deportivo Coruna	6	4	0	2	10	6	12
Valencia	6	3	2	1	12	9	11
Real Mallorca	6	3	1	2	11	7	10
Athletic Bilbao	6	3	1	2	7	9	10
Getafe	6	3	0	3	9	9	9
Sporting Gijon	6	2	2	2	8	8	8
Espanyol	6	2	2	2	5	7	8
Real Zaragoza	6	2	1	3	8	9	7
Osasuna	6	2	1	3	6	8	7
Almeria	6	1	3	2	5	6	6
Atletico Madrid	6	1	3	2	9	14	6
Tenerife	6	2	0	4	3	10	6
Real Valladolid	6	1	2	3	7	12	5
Racing Santander	6	1	2	3	7	13	5
Malaga	6	1	1	4	6	8	4
Villarreal	6	0	3	3	4	8	3
Xerez	6	0	2	4	1	12	2

Italian Serie A

Saturday: Bari 0, Catania 0; Inter Milan 2, Udinese 1.  
Sunday: Atalanta 1, AC Milan 1; Bologna 1, Genoa 3; Cagliari 1, Chievo Verona 2; Fiorentina 0, Lazio 0; AS Roma 2, Napoli 1; Sampdoria 1, Parma 1; Siena 0, Livorno 0; Palermo 2, Juventus 0.

	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
Inter Milan	7	5	1	1	14	5	16
Sampdoria	7	5	1	1	12	6	16
Juventus	7	4	2	1	11	6	14
Fiorentina	7	4	2	1	7	4	14
Genoa	7	4	1	2	14	11	13
Chievo Verona	7	3	2	2	9	6	11
Udinese	7	3	2	2	11	9	11
AS Roma	7	3	2	2	14	13	11
Parma	7	3	2	2	8	9	11
Palermo	7	2	3	2	9	8	9
Lazio	7	2	3	2	6	7	9
AC Milan	7	2	3	2	4	7	9
Bari	7	1	5	1	6	4	8
Cagliari	7	2	1	4	6	8	7
Napoli	7	2	1	4	9	13	7
Bologna	7	1	3	3	5	8	6
Siena	7	1	2	4	7	11	5
Catania	7	0	4	3	6	10	4
Atalanta Bergamo	7	0	3	4	3	9	3
Livorno	7	0	3	4	1	8	3

German Bundesliga

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

	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
Bayer Leverkusen	8	6	2	0	18	5	20
Hamburg SV	8	6	2	0	20	8	20
Schalke 04	8	5	1	2	11	5	16
Werder Bremen	8	4	3	1	14	6	15
Hoffenheim	8	4	2	2	15	7	14
Mainz	8	4	2	2	12	13	14
VfL Wolfsburg	8	4	1	3	16	15	13
Bayern Munich	8	3	3	2	13	7	12
Eintracht Frankfurt	8	2	4	2	8	10	10
Freiburg	8	3	1	4	13	17	10
Hannover 96	8	2	3	3	11	10	9
Borussia Dortmund	8	2	3	3	7	13	9
VfB Stuttgart	8	2	2	4	9	12	8
VfL Bochum	8	2	2	4	9	15	8
Mönchengladbach	8	2	1	5	9	16	7
Cologne	8	1	2	5	5	10	5
Nuremberg	8	1	2	5	4	12	5
Hertha Berlin	8	1	0	7	7	20	3

French Ligue 1

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

	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
Olympique Lyon	8	6	2	0	15	5	20
Girondins Bordeaux	8	6	1	1	16	6	19
Montpellier HSC	8	5	2	1	15	9	17
Monaco	8	5	0	3	11	9	15
Olympique Marseille	8	4	2	2	13	9	14
FC Lorient	8	4	2	2	10	8	14
Paris St. Germain	8	3	4	1	13	9	13
Stade Rennes	8	3	3	2	12	6	12
AS Nancy	8	3	2	3	13	11	11
Auxerre	8	3	2	3	6	7	11
Valenciennes	8	3	1	4	15	15	10
St. Etienne	8	3	1	4	8	10	10
Lille	8	2	3	3	8	11	9
Sochaux	8	3	0	5	8	13	9
Toulouse	8	2	2	4	7	7	8
Boulogne-sur-Mer	8	2	2	4	6	11	8
Racing Lens	8	2	2	4	8	14	8
Nice	8	2	2	4	8	16	8
Le Mans	8	2	1	5	9	12	7
Grenoble	8	0	0	8	4	17	0

# Chelsea on top as Real loses to Sevilla

Chelsea returned to the top of the Premier League and Barcelona moved clear in Spain as Real Madrid lost 2-1 at Sevilla on Sunday.

## England

Chelsea recovered from the previous weekend's shock defeat at Wigan Athletic by beating Liverpool 2-0 at home to reclaim top spot in the Premier League. Nicolas Anelka and Florent Malouda gave Chelsea its seventh win from eight games as they went two points clear of champion Manchester United, which snatched a last-gasp 2-2 draw with Sunderland at Old Trafford on Saturday. Arsenal hammered Blackburn Rovers 6-2 to move into fourth spot with a game in hand and crisis club Portsmouth earned its first points of the season with a 1-0 win at Wolverhampton Wanderers although they remain bottom.

## Spain

Real Madrid's perfect start to the season ended with a 2-1 defeat at Sevilla, all the goals coming from headers. Winger Jesus Navas put the hosts in front after 33 minutes and Brazilian midfielder Renato notched the winner after Pepe had equalized early in the second half for Real, which was missing Cristiano Ronaldo through injury. Sevilla pulled level with Real on 15 points from six games, three behind leaders Barcelona which maintained its 100 percent record by beating Almeria 1-0 with a stunning strike by Pedro on Saturday. The win equaled Barcelona's best league start.

## France

Olympique Lyon claimed the lead in Ligue 1 with a 2-0 win at RC Lens as Girondins Bordeaux slumped to its first defeat of the season. An early Sidney Govou 25-meter strike and a low drive by Sweden midfielder Kim Kallstrom were enough for Lyon to sink a poor Lens side. Bordeaux, which had not lost in their last 22 matches in all competitions, sorely missed injured France playmaker Yoann Gourcuff at St. Etienne. Les Verts were 2-0 up at halftime through Augusto Fernandez and Ilan and, after Jussie pulled one back from the spot in the 68th, substitute Dimitri Payet made it 3-1 in stoppage time.

## Portugal

Champion Porto stayed in touch with surprise leader Braga after a 3-0 win at Olhanense on Sunday. Colombia striker Radamel Falcao Garcia continued his impressive start at Porto by scoring the first and third goals, with Bruno Alves adding the other. Braga maintained its 100 percent record with a 2-0 home victory over Vitoria de



Chelsea's Florent Malouda (2nd L) celebrates his goal against Liverpool with Didier Drogba (R) during their English Premier League match at Stamford Bridge in London.

Setubal on Saturday. Braga has 21 points from seven matches, followed by Benfica and Porto on 16.

## Italy

Inter Milan moved joint top in Serie A after Wesley Sneijder's stoppage-time goal secured a 2-1 home win over Udinese. Sampdoria is level with the champion after only drawing 1-1 at home to promoted Parma. Palermo won 2-0 to inflict a first defeat of the season on Juventus, which share third spot with Fiorentina after Cesare Prandelli's side drew 0-0 with Lazio despite its striker Alberto Gilardino's effort looking over the line on penalties. Substitute Ronaldinho struck six minutes from time to snatch a 1-1 draw for struggling AC Milan at 10-man Atalanta.

## Germany

Bayer Leverkusen thrashed Nuremberg 4-0 to go

top on goal difference from Hamburg SV after both teams moved onto 20 points from eight games with unbeaten records. Hamburg came from behind to win 3-1 at bottom club Hertha Berlin, who lost its seventh league game in a row on new coach Friedhelm Funkel's debut. Hamburg were helped by an own goal and two mistakes from Hertha's teenage substitute goal-keeper Sascha Burchert. Bayern Munich was held to a goalless draw at home by Cologne, its third match without scoring in all competitions.

## Netherlands

Twente Enschede went top of the Dutch league with a 3-1 win at neighbor eracles Almelo while previous leader PSV Eindhoven was held to a goalless draw at Utrecht. Brazilian Everton gave Heracles an early lead from close range after

Twente keeper Sander Boschker dropped the ball. Costa Rica striker Bryan Ruiz equalized for Twente after 31 minutes before Blaise Nkufo and Theo Janssen wrapped up victory for the visitors in a two-minute spell after halftime.

## Russia

Champion Rubin Kazan's lead at the top was slashed to one point when it lost 2-1 at Lokomotiv Moscow and closest rival Spartak Moscow won at Amkar Perm by the same scoreline. Nigerian striker Peter Odemwingie scored two opportunist goals for Lokomotiv as Rubin, which won its first league title last season, suffered its second successive defeat. Spartak, looking for a first title since 2001, won after Brazilian Welliton, the league's top scorer, got his 16th of the season and defender Malik Fathi grabbed a 71st-minute winner. **London Reuters**

## A day Canaries will always remember

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Gençler upped the tempo in the second half, almost pinning the Canaries as the game progressed. As Fener began to look vulnerable Alex launched a lightning counterattack in the 71st minute; with only the Gençler keeper to beat, the Fener captain made no mistake, hitting the back of the net for his second goal of the game and the second for his team.

Uruguay defender Diego Lugano headed in a Gökçek Vederson corner kick in the 89th to put the match beyond reach and seal the score: Fenerbahçe 3, Gençlerbirliği 0. "What else do you expect?" Fener

coach Christoph Daum asked after the match. "This was the match all the fans were waiting for. We scored, we won and I am sure everyone went home quite happy and contented," he added.

## Kayseri hands EsEs first defeat

Inconsistent Kayserispor handed Eskişehirspor, aka EsEs, its first defeat of the season with a hard-fought 1-0 victory at Eskişehir's Atatürk Stadium. Portugal-Congolese forward Ariza Makukula's goal in the sixth minute was the only thing that separated the two teams.

Sivasspor got its first victory in eight outings after a 2-0 victory over "Şifo" Mehmet's Antalyaspor. **Okan Udo Bassey Istanbul**

## Decline and fall of Galatasaray Lions?

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Three goals in six minutes (Murat Durur in the 83rd, Emre Aygün in the 88th and Hüriyet Gücer in the 89th -- all on lightning-quick counterattacks) gave Ankara a much-needed victory and compounded Galatasaray's woes.

"This win proves that our triumph at Antep [in week seven] was no fluke," Ankaragücü coach Hikmet Karaman said after the match. "We beat a previously undefeated team and that makes us happy. I congratulate my players," he added.

## Slow starter Rijkaard

For the Galatasaray Lions, three matches without a single win are likely to bring Dutch coach Franklin Edmundo Rijkaard's coaching credentials to the fore.

Known to be a slow starter, Rijkaard had a disappointing start at Barcelona during his first year in 2003, which saw some of the club's fans call for his resignation. But he led Barca to second place in 2003-04, despite having been close to the relegation zone at one point in the earlier stages of the season.

The team went from strength to strength, and Barca finally won the La liga titles in 2004-05 and 2005-06 and clinched the UEFA Champions League title in 2006. More importantly, Rijkaard became the first Barcelona coach to have won twice at Real Madrid's Santiago Bernabeu Stadium, a feat even successful coaches like Johan Cruyff, Louis van Gaal and former Fener

coach Luis Aragones failed to accomplish.

But can he lead the Lions to victory over the Fenerbahçe Yellow Canaries at Şükrü Saracoğlu Stadium, the nest of the Canaries, where the Lions have not won for over a decade? That indeed looks like mission impossible.

Barca and its fans were patient and allowed Rijkaard to learn from his mistakes. Galatasaray and the other two big Istanbul teams are, however, not as patient. In fact they are not patient at all. The cursing and swearing by and fighting among Besiktas fans on Saturday should give Rijkaard insight into what to expect if the Lions drop points again.

The Lions now trail the league-leading Fenerbahçe Yellow Canaries, who beat Ankara's Gençlerbirliği 3-0 in Istanbul later on Sunday, by five points. Rijkaard and his Lions therefore have no room for error.

"As I have always said, we win matches together and lose together," Rijkaard said after the match. "It was a disheartening result."

Luckily for the Lions, there are no Super League matches this weekend because of the Turkish national team's commitments in the 2010 qualifiers against Belgium away on Saturday and in Bursa against Armenia next Wednesday.

The Dutchman therefore has plenty of time, and he should strive to put his house in order instead of weeping like the mythological Niobe.

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PHOTOGRAPHERS: EDDIE KEOGH

# HUMBLING EDUCATION OF EX-SIVAS COACH UYGUN

MICHAEL KUSER ISTANBUL

Bülent Uygun stunned Sivasspor fans when he called it quits on Sunday. Last year's miracle worker faced an uphill battle after a dismal start to the regular season and disappointing results in Champions League play, but did he have to give up so early?

Sivasspor's coach resigned in week eight of the Turkcell Super League season, ironically announcing his departure after a 2-0 home win against Antalyaspor, the team's first victory of 2009-2010. The Yigidolar, Sivasspor's nickname, played eight games under Uygun this season: one win, one draw and six losses.

Compare the situation to last year, when Uygun was taking his small town heroes on an unlikely ride to the heights of Turkish and international soccer. The young coach, 38, had started running the show in Sivas partway through the season a few years ago, took them to a fourth-place finish in 2007-2008, when he was named manager of the year, and last season coached the team almost to the championship, the Yigidolar finishing in second place, five points behind Beşiktaş.

That performance won the team a berth in the highest echelon of UEFA soccer, the Champions League, but if the gods of soccer could humble the mighty Black Eagles of Beşiktaş this year, what hope was there for puny Sivasspor to keep flying high? Beşiktaş won the Turkish Cup and the Super League title last season, but a shaky start this time round has led some to call for coach Mustafa Denizli's head. Indeed, the Eagles' match, and win, against Denizlispor on Saturday was marred by different camps of Beşiktaş fans fighting each other. Maybe Uygun wanted to leave before it turned ugly.

## Where's the soldier?

Uygun earned the nickname "Soldier" when he played for Fenerbahçe, where he was an attacking midfielder, celebrating his goals with a soldier's salute. He led Fener in scoring with 22 goals in the 1993-1994 season. He later came to Sivasspor, first as a player, then returning as coach. But he said he had already started thinking like a coach when he was playing.

As he told Sunday's Zaman last June, "I took the good



Bülent Uygun announcing his resignation in Sivas on Sunday.

bits from [Carlos Alberto] Parreira, [Holger] Osieck, Fatih Terim and all of the other coaches with whom I had worked. I viewed every training session as an experiment. After I quit playing, I watched more than 100 matches in Europe. I attended the training courses and read the best books about it. And I developed my own system, which I call 'TürBülen'."

The name was inspired by turbulence and was meant to refer to the fluctuations during a season. "If you look closely, you can see that my team does not suffer from performance loss," he said in that interview. "We distribute our performance for all of the 34 matches. At this point my system shines. Moreover, I also integrated basketball with my system. I teach zone press to my players during the training sessions."

Uygun's extraordinary success attracted the interest of other coaches in Europe and Brazil, who studied his unusual methods. Now the question is what part the coach played in this year's meltdown at Sivas.

## Pride before the fall?

It is very unusual for a coach to bring a second-tier team from the cellar to the top of prime-time soccer in one or two seasons. Perhaps it is asking the impossible to expect them to stay at the summit. Can anyone take a small city team

and push aside one of the perennial İstanbul Big Three? Trabzonspor has for years held the honors of being listed alongside Galatasaray, Fenerbahçe and Beşiktaş, but it's a very insecure job, especially when other new kids on the block -- think Bursaspor -- believe they deserve top billing.

The trouble at Sivasspor started almost before the applause died last season, as the club management decided to rip apart the very team that had almost grabbed the crown. Seven players left for other teams, and 14 new players signed on, so Uygun basically had to rebuild a team from scratch over the summer break and whip them into shape for the UEFA Champions League in just a few weeks.

It should have come as no surprise that Sivasspor struggled all through the lead-up to real competition. While at training camp in the Netherlands, they played five games, won one, drew one and lost three, with only five goals for and 14 against. When the score really counted, they were slammed 5-0 away by Anderlecht in their Champions League qualifying round first-leg match in Brussels. Sivasspor somewhat redeemed their pride on the return leg, but were eliminated despite the win.

This season the team has also suffered from injuries, but the real question is: How much responsibility did Uygun have for all the transfers during the season break? Perhaps we will never know. It could be a classic case from business school, a great idea, a strong entrepreneur, but under-capitalized for the long run.

To give Uygun the benefit of the doubt, I suspect he hated to see his team traded out from under him, but figured that if anyone could succeed in the circumstances, he could. He would take these new players, each unfamiliar with the others' style and personality, and shape them all in his mold. People want miracles? He'd do it.

When Sivas scored two goals in the first 20 minutes against Anderlecht during the return match, for a moment the fans hoped that a miracle was possible, that they could blank the Belgian champions 6-0 and come out on top. Maybe that's the day Uygun himself realized that he is only human, that even he cannot build a champion in a few weeks or months. Miracles do exist, but this particular fairy tale is over.



Bülent Uygun

PHOTO: TODAY'S SPORTS, MAHMUT BURAK BURKÜK

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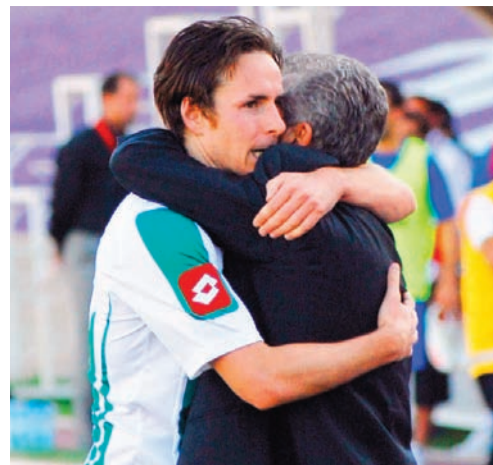
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## BANK ASYA LEAGUE 1 STANDINGS

	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
Konyaspor	7	5	2	0	11	6	17
Kartalspor	7	4	2	1	8	3	14
Bucaspor	7	4	1	2	17	10	13
Altay	7	3	3	1	9	4	12
Karabükspor	7	3	3	1	10	8	12
Çaykur Rizespor	7	3	3	1	11	11	12
Boluspor	7	3	2	2	11	11	11
Mersin İdmanyurdu	7	3	1	3	10	7	10
Adanaspor	7	3	1	3	9	12	10
Gaziantep BŞB	7	2	3	2	7	4	9
Karsiyaka	6	3	0	3	6	8	9
Samsunspor	7	2	2	3	11	11	8
Kayseri Erciyesspor	7	2	2	3	8	10	8
Giresunspor	7	2	1	4	6	10	7
Dardanelspor	6	2	0	4	6	9	6
Hacettepe	7	1	2	4	3	6	5
Orduspor	7	0	3	4	2	7	3
Kocaelispor	7	0	3	4	4	12	3



Konyaspor's Norwegian midfielder Branimir Poljac embraces coach Hüsnü Özkara after scoring the only goal against Karabükspor. Picture at left shows a scene from the Bucaspor-Adanaspor match.

## Konyaspor widens lead at Bank Asya League 1 summit

ESRA MADEN İSTANBUL

Konyaspor, which is yearning for a quick return to the Turkcell Super League after being relegated to the Bank Asya League 1 this season, beat visiting Black Sea side Kardemir Karabükspor 1-0 at Konya Atatürk Stadium on Sunday.

A goal from Norwegian midfielder Branimir Poljac in the 17th minute was more than enough to give the Konyans maximum points and increase their lead atop the standings to 19, three more than their closest rivals. "We are heading in the right direction," Konyaspor coach and former Turkish national team player Hüsnü Özkara said.

Kartalspor beat another Black Sea side, Orduspor, 1-0 at their Kartal Stadium in İstanbul to move up to second place. Ghanaian midfielder, Shaibu Yakubu, who played for Hacettepe last season, scored the only goal of the match in the 14th minute. Ordu completed the game with 10 men after striker Müslüm Yelken was sent off by referee Hüseyin Sabancı.

Coachless Bucaspor ran riot, crushing visiting Adanaspor 4-1 at the Yeni Buca Stadium. Coach Kemal Kılıç called it quits last week and a new coach had not been acquired by Sunday when Buca welcomed Adanaspor.

Kılıç had led Bucaspor to three victories in their first three matches. But instead of infusing the Aegean club with confidence, boosting its self-esteem and keeping it at the top of the standings, the victories were followed by an alarming slide. Buca, like Galatasaray in the Super League, was without a win in three games. And so Kılıç, the Jonah in the boat, had to go. He went, and Buca hit Adana for four with goals by midfielders Kenan Aslanoglu in the seventh minute, Sercan Kaya in the 26th, Yılmaz Özlem in the 57th and striker Mehmet Batdal in the 74th. Mbilla Etame scored the consolation goal for Adanaspor, which completed the game with 10 men, after midfielder Onur Acar was red-carded by referee Banş Şimşek in the 85th.

Elsewhere in the Bank Asya League 1 on Sunday, Gaziantep Büyükşehir Belediyespor beat visiting Çaykur Rizespor 3-0 with a brace from Ertan Koç in the 10th and 44th and a late goal from Ugur Tülümen in the 83rd. In other matches, it was Samsunspor 3, Boluspor 0; Kayseri Erciyesspor 1, Mersin İdmanyurdu 0; and Giresunspor 1, Hacettepe 0.

### THE BEST AND THE WORST OF WEEK 7

Team of the week: .....Bucaspor  
 Player of the week: .....Ertan Koç (Gaziantep BŞB)  
 Goal of the week: .....Shaibu Yakubu (Kartalspor)  
 Referee of the week: .....Banş Şimşek (Buca-Adana)  
 Coach of the week: .....Hüsnü Özkara (Konyaspor)  
 Surprise team of the week: .....Gaziantep BŞB  
 Flops of the week: .....Rizespor, Mersin İdmanyurdu

### Penalty takers, watch out! Opponents are studying you

Penalty takers, you better change your tactics from now on because opposing coaches and goalkeepers are watching you.

Exactly 68 minutes into the Turkcell Super League week 8 opening game between Trabzonspor and Gaziantepspor at Trabzon's Hüseyin Avni Aker Stadium on Friday night, Trabzonspor earned a penalty kick. Central referee Tolga Özkalfa adjudged his namesake, Giresun-born Antep midfielder Tolga Seyhan, had pulled down Trabzonspor captain-defender Egemen Korkmaz in the box after a cross from the right flank by Argentine midfielder Gustavo Alejandro Colman. And so the no-nonsense Özkalfa did not hesitate to point directly to the penalty spot, despite fierce protests from the Antep players.

Colman took the resultant spot kick, but Gaziantepspor goalkeeper Mahmut Beşgin parried the ball away for a corner kick, thereby saving his team from defeat. The match ended exactly the way it started, 0-0.

"When our coach is analyzing games [on video], he explains every position to us one by one," Mahmut, the player of the match, said. "Colman usually kicks the ball to that [right] corner. And so it was. And I dived full length and made the save," he explained. "My performance does not matter. What matters is the overall performance of the team. We played well as team and are happy we garnered one point from this match, at a time when the going was getting tough," he added, alluding to Antep's 3-1 home defeat at the hands of Ankaragücü in week 7. **İstanbul Today's Sports**



Gustavo Colman



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