

DAILY NEWS

Friday 08 Feb 2019

TURKISH DELIGHT AS MADRID GET A FRIGHT



ALKASS[®]
INTERNATIONAL CUP



ALTINORDU 1 - 0 ESS

REAL MADRID 1 - 1 SUWON SAMSUNG

ALTINORDU IMPRESS AS MADRID TOIL



After successive nights of 10 goals at the Alkass International Cup, the fourth day of the tournament saw goals in short supply.

The first game of the evening saw Turkish outfit Altinordu edge out Etoile Sportive Du Sahel of Tunisia with a late goal by substitute Enis Destan.

Altinordu, a Turkish second tier side who are making their debut in the tournament, have an emphasis on producing home-grown talent and their emergence is already attracting European scouts to their matches.

Etoile Sportive Du Sahel had looked very impressive when deservedly beating Bayern Munich two days earlier but they failed to reproduce that form against Altinordu, having made several changes to their side.

The opening 45 minutes saw very few chances but the Turks thought they had taken the lead just before the break when Alihan Senturk's left-foot drive found the net following Salih Kavrazli's cross but VAR came into play and the effort was ruled out due to a foul earlier in the move.

The second half brought an improvement and both teams had the ball in the net in the closing stages. Makram Krifa thought he had put the Tunisians ahead but was adjudged to be offside, and moments later Tayfun Tatli

crossed for Destan to rise above the keeper to head the only goal of the game. The tall striker only came on as a second-half substitute but his impact was such that he received the player of the match award.

The second game saw former winners Real Madrid held by South Koreans Suwon Samsung, with both goals coming from the penalty spot.

Real enjoyed 55% possession and looked much better in the second half after bringing on lively midfielder Pau Aran, but a controversial penalty – awarded against Rafael Zamora – saw Yong Joon Cho put the Koreans ahead on 71 minutes.

Just as Suwon sensed a shock victory, Real were awarded a penalty of their own – this time Zamora winning the spot-kick, which was initially given as a free-kick until the VAR officials intervened – and the impressive Aran fired home to earn a point for the Spaniards.

Real were not at their best but they deserved to win after producing several promising moves in the second half, and with the likes of Aran and Andri Gudjohnsen looking lively in the tournament so far they still have to be considered among the favorites to lift the title on February 15.

Moez Guezeh, Head Coach of Etoile Sportive Du Sahel

"We knew the match would not be easy as it's only been two days since our last game. The team didn't have enough time to physically rest, although I have changed all the players, to give everyone a chance to play.

"It's a great tournament to be part of, and I am glad we are competing against all these European and Asian teams."

Manuel Fernandez Gomez, Head Coach of Real Madrid

"The penalty gave us the opportunity to qualify for the next round, but I think it's more than fair because we did enough things to win the match – and, of course, if we cannot win then at least we want to draw.

"Losing the match would have been very unfair, so I am happy that we equalized. "We didn't play well, we have to recognize that. We will improve, we need to improve, that's clear. But our objective was to qualify and we did that."



"I AM A BIT SAD THAT OUR TEAM LOST BUT I KNOW THAT THEY GAVE THEIR BEST ON THE FIELD, BUT LUCK WAS NOT ON THEIR SIDE TODAY."

"WE COME FOR THE TURKISH TEAM, IT'S NOT IMPORTANT WHICH TEAM IT IS. NORMALLY MY TEAM IS TRABZONSPOR. TODAY, I AM WEARING A FENERBAHCE JERSEY. THE TURKISH TEAM HAS PLAYED VERY GOOD FOOTBALL TODAY, ALTHOUGH I THINK THE OPPOSITION WERE EQUALLY STRONG."

TOP PLAYERS - MATCHDAY FOUR

MATCH 1

Furkan METIN, Altinordu
1 goal for Altinordu in their 1-0 win over Etoile Sahel

MATCH 2

Andri Lucas GUDJOHNSEN, Real Madrid
Played for Real Madrid in their 1-1 draw with Suwon Samsung



VAR IS THE STAR AS ALTINORDU OVERCOME ESS

Tournament debutantes Altinordu claimed a deserved victory at the death against Etoile Sportive du Sahel, who showed limited ambition for much of the game. However, the match was perhaps most notable for the controversial application of VAR technology, which saw a goal ruled out for either side.

Altinordu, based in the western city of Izmir, may be a less familiar name than Turkish giants such as Galatasaray, Fenerbahce and Besiktas, and their record is certainly more modest than their illustrious counterparts, having won just one league title back in 1967. However, in recent times Altinordu have gained an enviable reputation for their development of youth players and, judging by the talent contained within this Al Kass squad, it is easy to see why.

ESS had been hugely impressive in their opening game against Bayern Munich, which was far more one-sided than the 3-2 scoreline suggests. But in the opening stages of this match, Altinordu more than held their own, their neat interplay frequently leaving the Tunisians chasing lengthening shadows as the sun set over Aspire Academy.

For much of the first half ESS were pinned back, with the Turks enjoying the vast majority of possession. Even so, they seemed in no hurry to test Tunisian keeper Hassen Fradj, content instead to stroke the ball around and await an opportunity, which duly arrived on 40 minutes.

There seemed little danger when Alihan Senturk picked up the ball midway inside the ESS half on the left, but the skilful forward set off on a slalom run, easily beating two defenders before striking low and hard into the far corner. The watching Turkish fans were delirious, but their joy was short-lived following the intervention of VAR technicians, who had spotted a foul in the centre circle in the build-up to the goal.

Altinordu maintained their dominance as the second half got underway, fashioning the occasional chance as the game settled back into a familiar pattern. However, as the match entered its final quarter, the young Turks began to show signs of fatigue - and ESS looked to capitalise.

Roared on by a vociferous support, the Tunisians began to take the game to

Altinordu, carving out a series of chances as they abandoned their previous caution. The best of these fell to Khalil Mahmoudi with 20 minutes remaining, when he was put through on goal and rounded keeper Emirhan Emir, only to see his tame shot cleared off the line.

Altinordu were on the ropes and, with five minutes left, substitute Makram Krifa had the ball in the net for ESS, only for VAR to once again intervene and grant the Turks a reprieve, with the 'goal' ruled out for the most marginal of offsides.

Two minutes later, Altinordu took full advantage of their good fortune, as substitute Enis Destan rose to meet a looping cross and head home the winner. On balance, it was no more than the Izmir side deserved for an accomplished display that oozed class, while lacking a cutting edge at times. Next they face Bayern, in a match that the Germans must win to have any chance of advancing past the group stage. If today's game is anything to go by, the Munich titans will have their work cut out.



X

MATCH SCORE

1

ALTINORDU F.K.

0

ÉTOILE SAHEL

ALTINORDU F.K.

- GK Emirhan EMIR
- DF Furkan METIN (C)
- DF Anil DOYURAN
- DF Rahmi Salih KAYA
- DF Ravil TAGIR
- FW Tunahan ÖZTÜRK
- MF Tayfun TATLI
- MF Efe Mustafa ÇETIN
- MF Alihan SENTÜRK
- MF Yigit Emre ÇELTIK
- FW Salih KAVRAZLI



ÉTOILE SPORTIVE DU SAHEL

- GK Hassen FRADJ
- DF Mohamed Amine KECHICHE
- DF Yosri GANDOUZ
- DF Montassar BEN CHABCHOUBI
- FW Ahmed GUERMITI
- FW Mohamed Adem OUERTANI
- DF Mohamed Firas AMRI
- DF Sountalma SIDIBE ASSOUMANE
- MF Omran DZIRI
- FW Khalil MAHMOUDI
- MF Nassim KHADHER (C)



MAN OF THE MATCH

Furkan METIN, Altinordu
MVP of the Match



THE EXPERTS SAY...

Chris Makin -
Al Kass Analyst

Étoile Sportive Du Sahel made a lot of changes for today's game, following their victory over Bayern Munich two days ago. They only needed a point to get through to the next stage so maybe that took away a part of their attacking play. But you have to give full credit to Altinordu. Right from the first minute, you sensed that they came here to win. I thought the VAR system got it wrong when they had a goal disallowed in the first half. The goal should have stood. In the last 15 minutes of the match, Étoile Sportive were more attack-minded and created some chances but what a goal by Altinordu, it was a fantastic way to win the game. They really deserved to win, they were superb.



ALKASS CREATES HISTORY WITH ALL-FEMALE REFEREEING ROSTER

The eighth edition of the Alkass International Cup is playing a valuable role in preparing match officials for the 2019 Women's World Cup.

Referees who will officiate in France in June are currently in Doha undergoing training and attending seminars and conferences, and they are also gaining valuable experience in taking charge of matches involving sides from a range of countries and continents, which will assist them ahead of this summer's global tournament.

The training seminars, hosted by Qatar Football Association, have been attended by 75 officials, but this is the first year that Alkass has used all-female officiating teams. Indeed, it is the first time worldwide that an all-female team has taken charge of a men's tournament, and it is providing essential practice ahead of the Women's World Cup.

Pierluigi Collina - Chairman of FIFA's Referees Committee and arguably the most famous match official in history - has been heavily involved in training the referees, and has also watched them perform at the Alkass event this week.

Kerry Seitz is responsible for the FIFA Woman Refereeing Project for the Road to France. Explaining the role Alkass is playing in assisting preparations for France, she said: "The referees who have been selected to officiate at the Women's World Cup are attending a seminar at Aspire this week. We're using the Alkass competition as a part of our training process, so it works out really well."

"We have this really world-class competition with top teams from all around the world taking part. We're also testing video assistant referees (VAR). These officials are assessing - we are assessing - whether we are using VAR for the Women's World Cup. It is great to be able to test VAR in live games."

Seitz has been impressed with the performance of the referees this week, saying: "Everything has been very positive. The officials are adapting really well. The only leagues in the world using VAR are men's leagues, so most of these women do not have exposure to it. This is our second seminar with VAR, and they are learning incredibly quickly. Ultimately, it is being used in the way it's supposed to be, which really is as a tool only when there is an obvious mistake, not for every situation. So, minimal use but maximum benefit is the idea."

VAR has already come into play several times this week, leading to goals being disallowed, penalties awarded, and even a penalty decision being changed to the awarding of a free kick, but Seitz admits that not everyone is in favour of the technology.

"We have a situation in which the football community really still needs to learn and better understand how and when VAR is used. This will take a little time, but people will see the advantages. The 2018 World Cup in Russia was such a success, and the benefits of VAR were very clear. It was also used at the Asian Cup recently and people would say it was a great success."

"The FIFA Council will decide in March how we proceed, but clearly if you read the feedback from the World Cup in Russia, the

announcement is that VAR is the future."

Those officiating in Doha this week have been international referees for many years. But Alkass has provided an opportunity to officiate live high-quality games with video assistant referees. Seitz said: "We don't want to see a lot of difficult situations, but the opportunity to test the referees is something we're always looking forward to - real life situations. As for the quality of the teams and the actual games themselves, we have referees who do their top division's men's football in their country. It's an opportunity to fine-tune. We're always learning, always improving - that's the mentality of referees, so the opportunity of such a tournament is great for us."

Seitz believes female referees are proving more than capable, stressing: "The skills it takes to be a very good referee are the same whether you are a man or a woman. You have to read the game, you have to understand football."

"We often face a little bit more of a challenge as women, because culturally

people don't necessarily expect women to play a leadership role and so, when they see that the official knows what they're talking about, people just forget and move on. That's been our experience here at this tournament. I think they're surprised to see a female official, then the game begins and nobody thinks about it again. It's not important who they are, just that they perform well."

Explaining the selection process for France, Seitz said: "It is solely based on quality on the pitch. It is very competitive. We started with over 300 people, now we are down to 75. It's very exclusive to be part of this 'club' and they earn it. This is all through hard work. And the number of events depends on the year, how many competitions, how many seminars that we host. This year, before we start the World Cup in June, we have four different activities for the officials."

Seitz, an American, has been very impressed with the facilities at Aspire, saying: "I always heard about the quality of the facilities here at Aspire. I heard that they're fantastic at this particular venue. So, people prepare you. It's

amazing, you can't wait until you see it and still I am impressed. They spare no expense, the football pitches are amazing, the indoor pitch that we're using is incredible, so while you hear about it, it's not until you really see it that you can understand the quality of the complex, and what Qatar has to offer for football. They are building it in a strong way from the bottom. Bringing in local people to build the future. It's just an amazing facility and it is being done in such a way that you can see the professional approach, for instance in how such a youth competition is put together."

Football in Qatar has seen a massive spike in popularity since the country won the Asian Cup for the first time last week, and Seitz believes this interest will intensify as the 2022 FIFA World Cup gets ever-closer. "Winning the Asian Cup is something that they should be really proud of. It's an incredible accomplishment, and I am very excited about what it means for football in this region, and especially Qatar, as we are working towards the World Cup."





REAL MADRID SNATCH DRAW IN GAME OF TWO PENALTIES

Former winners Real Madrid came from behind to snatch a draw against South Koreans Suwon Samsung in a game of two penalties. Yong Joon Cho put Suwon ahead on 71 minutes but the Koreans' hopes of victory were dashed when the impressive Pau Aran levelled in the closing stages.

The Spaniards controlled the first half but created few chances as the South Koreans got everyone behind the ball and made it difficult for Real to find a route to goal. The introduction of Aran, who starred in Real's 3-2 victory over Spartak Moscow two days earlier, for the second half sparked more creativity from the Spanish side. Aran and Peter Carmona went close with two efforts apiece as the favorites stepped up a gear and it seemed a matter of time before Real took the lead. But the Koreans stunned the Spaniards when taking the lead with a harshly-awarded penalty. Intaek Hwang went down but Rafael Zamora appeared to have played the ball and could not believe a penalty had been awarded, and Cho's made no mistake with a perfect spot-kick. Talented Icelandic youngster Andi Gudjohnsen – the son of former Chelsea and Barcelona star Eidur – and Victor Gordo went close with headers as Real tried to find an equalizer and they appealed for

a penalty after Carmona and keeper Kim collided when going for a high ball, which led to the Spaniard being taken off with a cut to his head. As Real pushed forward, the Koreans made a dangerous counter attack that saw Hojoon Lee through on goal but Miguel Ramon did well to get back to make a crucial tackle. Real finally drew level on 90 minutes after Zamora was brought down. Initially a free-kick was awarded but VAR intervened and the decision was changed to a penalty. Aran stepped up to score his second goal of the tournament, beating the outstretched hand of Kim from the resultant spot kick. With seven minutes added on, following the delay caused by Carmona's injury, Real tried to find a winner but despite the influence of player of the match Gudjohnsen they had to settle for point.



X



MATCH SCORE

1
REAL MADRID

1
SUWON SAMSUNG FC

REAL MADRID

- GK Lucas CAÑIZARES CONCHELLO (C)
- FW Carles LLARIO MOSCARDÓ
- DF Alberto RETUERTA CUADROS
- DF Rafael MARIN ZAMORA
- DF Victor ROFINO GORDO
- MF Adrián ESTEBAN RUBALCABA
- MF Peter Federico GONZÁLEZ CARMONA
- FW Andri Lucas GUDJOHNSEN
- MF Raúl DACOSTA CERQUEDA
- MF Fernando RODRIGUEZ RUFO
- MF Mario JIMÉNEZ RUBIO



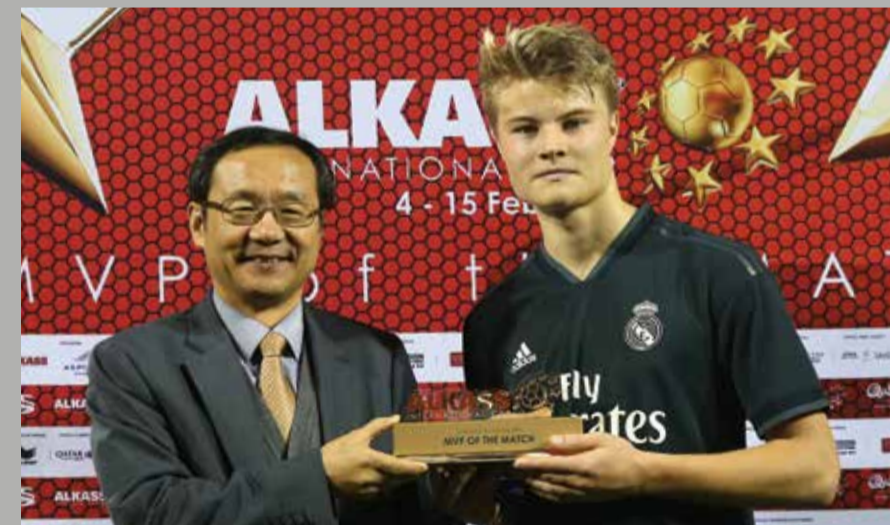
SUWON SAMSUNG FC

- GK Gihun KIM
- DF Minjae KANG
- MF Sejun PARK (C)
- DF Hojun SON
- FW Donghyeon KIM
- MF Jisang HWANG
- FW Jaeha LIM
- FW Namju YU
- DF Hyukjin SHIN
- FW Seungwan RYU
- DF Jaehyuk MOON



MAN OF THE MATCH

Andri Lucas GUDJOHNSEN,
Real Madrid
MVP of the Match



THE EXPERTS SAY...

Nick Summerbee – Al Kass Analyst

Real Madrid were lucky to get away with it for me. I didn't think they were as good as what we saw before. Real Madrid should have done better. Suwon Samsung were solid and organized. When you play a top quality side and against some of the best youngsters in the world, you have to defend a lot. They are probably not used to playing such top opposition like Real Madrid but they did the job and made it difficult for them so they deserve something. But VAR is a problem, I do have to say that. Both the decisions tonight were crazy decisions for me.



Qatar

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See You in 2022

The Supreme Committee for Delivery & Legacy (SC) is well advanced in the planning and delivery of host country operations for the 2022 FIFA World Cup Qatar™.

The SC is also making rapid progress in building stadiums and other infrastructure, and ensuring the tournament and its preparations contribute to Qatar's sustainable development.

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Hosting the tournament is already creating a lasting legacy. Through infrastructure, education, football for development, support for regional innovation and a dedication to improving workers' welfare, our efforts are forging a better future for Qatar, the Middle East, Asia and the world.

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GAMES SCHEDULE

GROUP STAGE

GROUP A		GROUP B		GROUP C		GROUP D	
 Aspire Academy	 Paris Saint Germain FC	 FC Bayern München	 Real Madrid CF				
 Rangers FC	 AS Roma	 Altinordu FK	 FC Spartak Moscow				
 Raja Club Athletic	 Kashiwa Reysol	 Etoile Sportive Du Sahel	 Suwon Samsung F.C				

DATE	NO.	TEAMS	TIME	VENUE
Mon. 4 Feb	1	Paris Saint Germain FC	16:35	5
	2	Aspire Academy	18:45	5
Tue. 5 Feb	3	FC Bayern München	16:35	4
	4	FC Spartak Moscow	18:45	4
Wed. 6 Feb	5	Raja Club Athletic	16:35	5
	6	AS Roma	18:45	5
Thu. 7 Feb	7	Altinordu FK	16:35	4
	8	Real Madrid CF	18:45	4
Fri. 8 Feb	9	Aspire Academy	16:35	5
	10	Kashiwa Reysol	18:45	5
Sat. 9 Feb	11	FC Bayern München	16:35	4
	12	Suwon Samsung F.C	18:45	4

POSITIONS 9 - 12

Sun. 10 Feb	13	Position 9	VS	Position 10	16:35	4
	14	Position 11		Position 12	19:00	4

QUARTER FINALS

Sun. 10 Feb	15	1st Group A	VS	2nd Group C	16:35	5
	16	1st Group C		2nd Group A	19:00	5
Mon. 11 Feb	17	1st Group B	VS	2nd Group D	16:35	5
	18	1st Group D		2nd Group B	19:00	5

PLAY OFFS POSITIONS 8 - 5

Tue. 12 Feb	19	Loser Game No. 15	VS	Loser Game No. 18	16:35	4
	20	Loser Game No. 16		Loser Game No. 17	19:00	4

SEMI FINALS

Wed. 13 Feb	21	Winner Game No. 15	VS	Winner Game No. 18	16:35	5
	22	Winner Game No. 16		Winner Game No. 17	19:00	5

PLAY OFFS POSITIONS 8 - 5

Thu. 14 Feb	23	Loser Game No. 19	VS	Loser Game No. 20	15:00	4
	24	Winner Game No. 19		Winner Game No. 20	17:45	4

POSITIONS 3 - 4 & GRAND FINAL

Fri. 15 Feb	25	Loser Game No. 21	VS	Loser Game No. 22	15:00	5
	26	Winner Game No. 21		Winner Game No. 22	17:45	5

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