

# DAILY NEWS

Monday 17 Feb 2020



**ALKASS**<sup>®</sup>  
INTERNATIONAL CUP



MOHAMMED VI ACADEMY

REAL MADRID CF

# MOROCCAN MAGIC SPANISH SPLENDOUR

 **ALTINORDU FK** **0/3**  **MOHAMMED VI ACADEMY**

 **REAL MADRID CF** **4/1**  **SPORTING CLUBE DE PORTUGAL**

# REVOLUTIONISING YOUTH FOOTBALL FROM THE EDGE OF EUROPE



## THE VERY ESSENCE OF YOUTH FOOTBALL WAS ON DISPLAY AT ASPIRE ZONE YESTERDAY, WHEN **ALTINORDU CAME UP AGAINST MOHAMMED VI FOOTBALL ACADEMY.**

The Moroccans prevailed against the Turks by three goals to nil, in a game where both sides gave their all. However, in the cold light of day, the result itself seems far less significant than what the match actually represented: a glimpse of the future, with players from two of world football's most visionary academies competing at one of the global game's leading youth tournaments.

Based in the west coast city of Izmir, Altinordu have not achieved much success at the highest levels of Turkish football. Indeed, their first team has not even played in the nation's top flight for half a century. Nevertheless, their youth set-up continues to make waves.

Altinordu's motto – Good Person, Good Citizen, Good Footballer – is much more than a media soundbite. The personal advancement of players is considered to be just as important as their professional progress.

THE CLUB BOASTS NO FEWER THAN **25 FOOTBALL PITCHES**, BASED IN FOUR FACILITIES ACROSS IZMIR AND AYDUN. AROUND **130 FOOTBALL SCHOOLS**, AND MORE THAN **12,000 PLAYERS**, ARE PART OF THE ALTINORDU YOUTH SET-UP.

The youngsters are continuously monitored, and their progress keenly observed by coaches over the course of a year. Those

who make the grade at a young age are selected to play in squads that attract scouts from some of the country's biggest clubs.

Two of their former players - 22-year-old AS Roma wide-man Cengiz Under and Leicester City's 23-year-old centre-back Caglar Soyuncu - have already made the grade at the highest level of the professional game. They are the first to emerge from a conveyor belt of talent which fosters footballers from a young age through to maturity.



Just as Al Kass International Cup is renowned as a world-leading youth tournament, the same can be said for the International U12 Izmir Cup, which is organised by Altinordu. Both competitions attract the world's leading youth sides, and Aspire Academy have made the trip to compete in Turkey in recent years alongside the likes of Manchester City, Chelsea, AC Milan, Lazio, Paris Saint-Germain, and Ajax.

From a footballing perspective, Turkey and Morocco have much in common: passionate fans; distinctive styles of play; and rich, largely untapped potential on the world stage. Both the Turkish and Moroccan diasporas have produced a string of top-class players, epitomised by the likes of Mesut Özil and Hakim Ziyech, but the challenge

lies in harnessing and fostering this potential at home. The King Mohammed VI Football Academy and Altinordu are now united in taking up this challenge.

The Mohammed VI Football Academy is unlike any of the other non-Qatari participants at this year's tournament, because they do not have a team playing in a professional adult league.

Indeed, it was only a little over a decade ago - in 2009 - when the academy was founded in the city of Salé by the nation's monarch, King Mohammed VI. Its aim is to promote football skills amongst youngsters aged 13-18, and help them progress on to a bigger stage.

SALÉ IS JUST ACROSS THE RIVER – THE WONDERFULLY NAMED BOU REGREG – FROM RABAT, AND THE ACADEMY PLACES GREAT EMPHASIS ON SUPPORTING UNDERPRIVILEGED YOUNGSTERS GROWING UP IN THE COUNTRY'S CAPITAL, BY COMBINING SPORTS AND STUDY.

Its ambition was highlighted late last year, when a three-year partnership with French Ligue 1 outfit Olympique Lyonnais was announced. In fact, the tremendous success of the academy has also led to the establishment of similar bodies in other Moroccan cities including Tangier and Agadir.

The academy is designed to encourage focus and a sense of community. Its grounds are arranged like a traditional douar (hamlet), with five buildings - accommodating administrative, sports, teaching, lodging and catering functions - positioned around a central 'village square'. Each has a central landscaped patio for relaxation. The patio walls are painted in



colours that reflect traditional aspects of Morocco, while the buildings' imposing exteriors are a sober white. Local ochre earth ties the complex to its environment, and is textured with gravel, river stones, concrete paving and timber decking.

Many Moroccan companies have lent their support to the project, as the academy is

technically a non-profit organisation. The monarch himself has also provided significant financial aid towards the academy.

It's almost 2,000 miles from Salé to Rabat, each sitting on the west coast of their respective nations. They are on the periphery of Europe where, for several generations, thousands of Turks and Moroccans have

migrated in search of work. Of course, Europe is also the global epicentre of the football industry, but Altinordu and the Mohammed VI Football Academy are already taking significant steps to redress the power balance. The scale of their success thus far can be measured on the pitches of Aspire Zone this week.



# HAT-TRICK HERO SADIK INSPIRES IMPRESSIVE MOHAMMED VI ACADEMY VICTORY



Skipper Omar Sadik was the three-goal hero as Mohammed VI Academy boosted their hopes of reaching the quarter-finals of the Al Kass International Cup with a convincing 3-0 victory over Turkish outfit Altinordu.

Powerful striker Sadik was outstanding throughout the 90 minutes for the Moroccans, who are making their debut at the tournament this year.

Mohammed VI Academy had given a good account of themselves in their opening match defeat by Italians Inter Milan, but they bounced back from that 3-1 reverse to totally dominate this match.

Mohammed VI Academy do not have a side playing in any adult leagues but focus on youngsters aged 12-21, with a focus on underprivileged youngsters from Moroccan capital Rabat.

They dominated from the start and Hassan Aqboub had the first shot on target but it was easily handled by Serhat Oztasdelen.

Aqboub was involved in much of Academy's early play down the left and he drove in a cross towards Sadik but Oztasdelen came off his line to reach the ball before the striker.

Mohammed VI Academy were very much

on top and they took a deserved lead on 20 minutes with a superb strike by Sadik. He tried to find Abdellah Baallal but the ball hit a defender and bounced up at a perfect height for Sadik to hit it first time on the half volley.

Yassine Khalifi then sent a shot wide as Mohammed turned on the pressure and the Moroccans felt Altinordu should have been down to 10 men when Mouad Dahak was pulled back by Mustafa Kocabas, who was the last man. The Altinordu skipper escaped with a yellow card.

Sadik's free-kick hit the wall and another chance was gone, but Mohammed VI Academy continued to press and Ilker Akar needed to produce a fine challenge to deny Aqboub.

Oztasdelen was again tested in the last 10 minutes of the first half as Dahak sent in a powerful drive from the corner of the penalty area. It was Mohammed VI Academy's eighth shot of a first half that saw them enjoy 65% possession with Altinordu failing to test the keeper at all during the first half.

Academy continued their domination after the break and the Turks had no answer to the power of Sadik, who doubled the advantage on 55 minutes when turning Arda Kirgil and

letting fly from the edge of the box.

Aqboub also tested the keeper as the Moroccans looked for further goals in the most dominant performance of the tournament to date.

It took Altinordu 71 minutes to have their first shot at goal when Hakan Ozturk curled his free-kick into the side netting after Ayoub El Hammami had brought down Seckin Firinci.

Sadik completed his treble with a dubious penalty on 84 minutes. Souhail Boudanane went down while challenging Melih Istar and a spot-kick was harshly awarded. The penalty may have been open to debate, there was no doubting Sadik deserved his hat-trick and he found the net with a minimum of fuss.

Last year there were three hat-tricks at Al Kass (Carles Moscardo for Real Madrid against Spartak Moscow, Chris McKee for Rangers against Etoile Sportive du Sahel, and Nathan Young-Coombes for Rangers in the same match), but we have already seen enough attacking ability at this year's tournament to believe that figure could be beaten.





## ALTINORDU F.K.

<b>GK</b> Serhat ÖZTAŞ DELEN	<b>DF</b> Arda KIRGIL
<b>DF</b> Berke KILIÇ	<b>DF</b> İlker AKAR
<b>DF</b> Mustafa KOCABAŞ (C)	<b>MF</b> Ersin Poyraz ERSOY
<b>FW</b> Yunus SEKMEN	<b>MF</b> Muhammet Zisan TURAN
<b>MF</b> Melih Serhat ÖZTAR	<b>MF</b> Furkan YÖNTEM
<b>FW</b> Muhammed Talha YILMAZ	



## MOHAMMED VI ACADEMY

<b>GK</b> Walid HASBI	<b>FW</b> Omar SADIK (C)
<b>DF</b> Ilyass LAGRIMI	<b>MF</b> Mouad DAHAK
<b>MF</b> Mohammed Younes	<b>DF</b> Ayoub EL HAMMAMI
<b>JAZOULI</b>	<b>MF</b> Yassine KHALIFI
<b>FW</b> Hassan AQBUB	<b>MF</b> Youness AKHARRAZ
<b>MF</b> Abdellah BAALLAL	<b>DF</b> Taha SOURI



### PLAYER OF THE MATCH

## Omar Sadik

“

#### How does it feel to score the first hat-trick of the tournament?

I was not expecting this, but I said I would give everything for this game, and I did. I wanted to make up for the first game that we lost. I dedicate this title to my family, my friends, and everyone who supports me.

#### How do you feel about the possibility of next game against FC Rangers or Aspire?

I know it will be a tough game against either as they are both aggressive teams but we will do our best and play as we did today, as a team.

”

## THE EXPERTS SAY...

### NICK SUMMERBEE

“

#### First hat-trick of the tournament!

The team fully deserved this win, they were the better team. This was a big result for them. I was watching Omar Sadik at the start of the game even before I saw the hat-trick, and I thought was fantastic. I believe there's a lot more to come from him.

#### They have increased their chances of reaching knock-out stage...

Barring a surprise win for Altinordu over Inter Milan, should Mohammed VI Academy finish second in group C they will face either Aspire Academy or Rangers in the quarter finals. Rangers are defending champions and are determined. They have a belief that they'll win the tournament, so Mohammed VI really have to battle that. Aspire Academy as hosts are also keen to do well in their home tournament which leaves Mohammed VI Academy with a tough challenge ahead of them and the confidence from this win will be much needed.

”

**ALTINORDU F.K. HEAD COACH**

**Murat Ozkutukcu**

“

Our tactic was focused on passing the ball to the wings, and I thought we could win this game playing like this. But they are a very good team and their number 9, Omar Sadik, did very well in so many ways. The only thing that helps us now is to win our next match against Inter Milan, and we will do our best to get the result we need to make it to the next round.

”



**HEAD COACH MOHAMMED VI ACADEMY**

**Gavier Laurent**

“

**Well done on a fantastic win. Are you happy with the result?**

We are happy about the result yes, because we are almost qualified for the quarter final. This was our first objective, and also to show a good quality game. I'm so proud!

**Were you expecting that performance and hat-trick from Omar Sadik?**

It's been a long time since he scored. He'd previously scored four goals in a match and we asked him to watch those goals, evaluate himself and be prepared. We worked on developing his confidence further. I'm happy for him because he's a strong player. He demonstrated great offence techniques and we are proud of him.

”



**HEAR IT FROM THE FANS**

**ALTINORDU F.K. SUPPORTER GHADA MOHAMMED SAID**

“

The Qatar Turkish School supported the students in coming to cheer for Altinordu F.K. This inspired me to bring my kids and their friends to the game. This is our second year attending the tournament. The game is going well, and we hope that team advances with the boost of our cheering.

”



**ADEL, A FIRST-TIME AL KASS CUP SPECTATOR, SAID**

“

Football is my favorite sport and I'm always up for a chance to watch a good match. It's my first time coming to the tournament. Mohammed VI Academy seems to have the chops and I wish them the best of luck with this game and the coming ones.

”

**BEST BANNER WINNER**





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# SUPER SPANIARDS LOOK THE REAL DEAL AS THEY OUTCLASS SPORTING



Real Madrid secured top spot in Group D of the Al Kass International Cup with an impressive 4-1 victory over Sporting Clube de Portugal at Aspire.

The Spaniards had begun the competition with a 5-3 victory over Russian side FC Zenit in one of the best games the event has witnessed in recent years and they again turned on the style against tournament debutants Sporting.

Sporting are hugely successful at youth level in Portugal but the Lisbon club were no match for the 2017 champions.

Real's Under 16 squad, as with their senior side, possess superb passing quality and the likes of Nico Paz and David Pecellin – better known as Pece – stood out as the Spaniards took their goals tally to nine in two matches.

Gonzalo Garcia showed his aerial ability early on with a great leap but his header was tipped over the bar by Sporting keeper Diego Calai, but Real didn't have to wait long for the opener as they went ahead on eight minutes.

Spanish youth international Abraham Nobrega got clear down the right and pulled the ball back for Pece, who steered it goalwards. The ball hit Ricardo Piedade's arm, which took the pace off the shot, but it just had enough momentum to cross the line.

Yeray Lancha displayed great skill to weave his way through the Sporting defence soon afterwards but his shot was blocked by the feet of Calai.

Pece, a former star of the Real Betis academy, had a fine effort on 25 minutes but Calai pulled off his fourth save if the match.

Real had been very much the better team but were rocked by a 35th minute equalizer. Diogo Travassos played a neat one-two down the left with skipper David Moreira before crossing for Luis Gomes to score with a well-taken diving header.

Sporting were level for just two minutes before classy midfielder Paz sent in a perfectly executed dipping free-kick to restore Real's lead on 37 minutes.

The Spaniards could have added a third when Abraham found Garcia but he

couldn't keep his effort down, although Tristan Celador's side didn't have to wait long to find the net again.

Paz once again showed his passing quality on 42 minutes when threading the ball inside David Montero and Pece burst through to fire home his second of the match.

Sporting should have pulled one back midway through the second half as Mateus Fernandes sent in a fine cross and Samuel Justo leapt well but failed to get his header on target.

Real made him pay just two minutes later as Garcia found substitute Ekaitz Redondo Borrajo who took a good first touch before firing home on 69 minutes. The young striker showed the form that saw Barcelona and Atletico Madrid trying to sign him before he joined Real from Bilbao club Danok Bat, for whom he had scored 40 goals in a season.

Real will now feel confident of challenging for Al Kass honours, while Sporting will battle it out with Zenit for the right to join them in the quarter-finals.

4 REAL MADRID X 1 SPORTING CP





### REAL MADRID

- GK** Guillermo SÚNICO ALONSO    **MF** Nicolás PAZ MARTÍNEZ
- DF** Manuel SERRANO SALAZAR    **DF** Ángel GRANADOS CRUZ
- DF** Alex SÁNCHEZ SIBACHA        **FW** David PECELLÍN GARCIA
- MF** Marc CUCALÓN PINA (C)        **DF** Diego JURADO FLORES
- FW** Yeray LANCHA PÉREZ         **FW** Gonzalo GARCÍA TORRES
- FW** Abraham José NOBREGA MARINA



### SPORTING CP

- GK** Diego CALAI                        **MF** Samuel JUSTO
- DF** Ricardo PIEDADE                **FW** Youssef CHERMITI
- DF** Rui Filipe CARREIRA            **MF** Mateus FERNANDES
- DF** David MOREIRA (C)            **FW** Diogo TRAVASSOS
- MF** Tiago OCTAVIO                   **DF** David MONTEIRO
- FW** Luis GOMES



### PLAYER OF THE MATCH

## David Garcia

“ I am very happy to be the match’s MVP and we’re all happy since we pulled it all together as a team. We came here to win, we came here to fight for the tournament, and that’s what we’re going to do.”

”

## THE EXPERTS SAY...

### RHODRI WILLIAMS

“

#### What’s your reaction after the Real Madrid v Sporting CP?

Real Madrid was fantastic. They looked great in the match which they won against FC Zenit but I think they settled after that first game. They’re strong and technically gifted. I won’t try to predict a winner but I have a hunch Real Madrid will be in the final stages of the tournament.

#### Do you think Sporting CP may have been a bit nervous?

The first game is always tough for every team. Kashiwa Reysol lost their first game to PSG and then went on to win against Barcelona! So yes, today there was pressure on Sporting and they were up against a big team from Spain. We heard from the Sporting head coach before the game who said they’d know their level after the game, and well – they had known exactly what their level is and they’ve got some hard work ahead of them in the next few days before their next game.

**Overall, the Al Kass tournament is showing us exciting football: 35 goals in 8 matches!**

”

**REAL MADRID'S PLAYER**

**Gonzalo Garcia Torres**

“

*We played this match perfectly against Sporting Club De Portugal. We prepared really well for the game, but it was very difficult, as they have been very good. In the end, we achieved a great victory.*

”



**FOOTBALL FANS AND PASSIONATE PLAYERS! – MEET EDUARDA AND HELENA**

“

**What's brought you here to the match?**

*Eduarda: We're both big football fans firstly, and we attend a lot of events at Aspire as well as coming here for training with our teams. We like to kick a ball around or just get to know people. A lot of people walking by ask us to come and play with them. We meet loads of people that way. Aspire is like a big community. The facilities are awesome and the grass is always well kept.*

**So you're also players?**

*Helena: We play for Evolution Sports Qatar, a program that includes football, basketball and swimming. We play football and players get the opportunity to travel with their team. We hope to have the opportunity to travel to England quite soon. We learn a lot from coach Paul and Jordan.*

**How much time do you dedicate to football each week?**

*Eduarda: Honestly, as much time as we can! We enjoy the sport. It definitely brings people closer together. That's how Helena and I became best friends. It was when we started coming to the pitches together.*

”

**SPORTING CP HEAD COACH**

**Jose Joao Gomes**

“

*It was a difficult game and intense. For the first 20 minutes, players were very nervous. We lost the ball quickly. With the intensity of the Real Madrid players, our players did not respond in turn.*

*Our experience at Al Kass and here at Aspire has been wonderful so far. The facilities for the youth are incredible and the ambiance during the games has been excellent.*

”

**SPORTING CP TEAM MANAGER**

**Francisco Rocha**

“

*I think our players entered the game very nervous to go up against a team like Real Madrid, and that really affected the game. We then scored our goal and again Real Madrid was incredible and our team's motivation went down. We believe in them and this experience is very good for them.*

”



**AHMED, SAMIR, AND ALI - REAL MADRID FANS AND WINNERS OF THE POSTER COMPETITION (REAL MADRID V SPORTING CP)**

“

*Football is my favorite sport and I'm always up for a chance to watch a good match. It's my first time coming to the tournament. Mohammed VI Academy seems to have the chops and I wish them the best of luck with this game and the coming ones.*

”



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# GAMES SCHEDULES

## GROUP STAGE

GROUP A	GROUP B	GROUP C	GROUP D
 <b>Aspire Academy</b>	 <b>Paris Saint-Germain FC</b>	 <b>FC Internazionale Milano</b>	 <b>Real Madrid CF</b>
 <b>Rangers FC</b>	 <b>FC Barcelona</b>	 <b>Altinordu FK</b>	 <b>FC Zenit Saint Petersburg</b>
 <b>Suwon Samsung</b>	 <b>Kashiwa Reysol</b>	 <b>Mohammed VI Football Academy</b>	 <b>Sporting Clube de Portugal</b>

DATE	NO.	TEAMS	TIME	VENUE		
Thu 13.02.	1	Paris Saint-Germain	3-0	Kashiwa Reysol	16:45	5
	2	Aspire Academy	3-1	Suwon Samsung	19:00	5
Fri 14.02.	3	Inter Milan	3-1	Mohammed VI Academy	16:45	4
	4	FC Zenit	3-5	Real Madrid	19:00	4
Sat 15.02.	5	Suwon Samsung	2-3	Rangers FC	16:45	5
	6	Kashiwa Reysol	2-1	FC Barcelona	19:00	5
Sun 16.02.	7	Altinordu FK	0-3	Mohammed VI Academy	16:45	4
	8	Real Madrid	4-1	Sporting Clube de Portugal	19:00	4
Mon 17.02.	9	Aspire Academy	VS	Rangers FC	16:45	5
	10	Paris Saint-Germain	VS	FC Barcelona	19:00	5
Tue 18.02.	11	Inter Milan	VS	Altinordu FK	16:45	4
	12	Sporting Clube de Portugal	VS	FC Zenit	19:00	4
<b>POSITION 9 - 12</b>						
Wed 19.02.	13	Position 10	VS	Position 9	16:45	5
	14	Position 12	VS	Position 11	19:15	5
<b>QUARTER FINALS</b>						
Wed 19.02.	15	1st Group A	VS	2nd Group C	16:45	4
	16	1st Group C	VS	2nd Group A	19:15	4
Thu 20.02.	17	1st Group B	VS	2nd Group D	16:45	5
	18	1st Group D	VS	2nd Group B	19:15	5
<b>PLAY OFFS POSITION 5 - 8</b>						
Fri 21.02.	19	Loser Game No. 16	VS	Loser Game No. 18	16:45	4
	20	Loser Game No. 15	VS	Loser Game No. 17	19:15	4
<b>SEMI FINALS</b>						
Sat 22.02.	21	Winner Game No. 16	VS	Winner Game No. 18	16:45	5
	22	Winner Game No. 15	VS	Winner Game No. 17	19:15	5
<b>PLAY OFFS POSITION 5 - 8</b>						
Sun 23.02.	23	Loser Game No. 19	VS	Loser Game No. 20	16:45	4
	24	Winner Game No. 19	VS	Winner Game No. 20	19:15	4
<b>POSITION 3 - 4 &amp; FINAL</b>						
Mon 24.02.	25	Loser Game No. 21	VS	Loser Game No. 22	15:30	5
	26	Winner Game No. 21	VS	Winner Game No. 22	18:00	5

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