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TFF Board Member

Levent Kızıl  
TFF Board  
Member  
Responsible  
of National  
Teams

Fatih Terim  
National Teams  
Coach

Hasan Doğan  
TFF President

Mahmut Özgener  
TFF Vice President

European Football Championship which is the most important football organization in the world after World Cup has another meaning for us this time. After 6 years of absence, our A National Team became one of the best of 16 teams in Europe and gathered a place in another official championship.

I believe that we will be the most colourful and exciting team of the tournament to be organized by Switzerland and Austria with the help of our fans coming from all around Europe and Turkey.

Our team that made us proud by joining this prestigious tournament had the perfect camp by all means in preparation for the tournament. Under the leadership of our National Team Coach Fatih Terim there is great friendship in the team. Our players level of form and will to win shows that they are ready for success in highest level. We know all our players play with a totally different spirit and enthusiasm when they wear the National Team jersey. I am sure that we will get out of this tough European Championship with success.

Not only our team and our citizens living in Turkey but also all the Turks around the world are in unspeakable excitement. In addition to our population of 70 million people, people in Turkish descendant people in Asia, Balkans, Middle East and Europe will be supporting our National Team. I hope and wish that our National Team will be the most exciting team of the tournament and we can make a name for ourselves there.



Hasan Doğan  
Turkish Football Federation President











# Fatih Terim

## National Teams Coach

Born September 4, 1953 in Adana. Started his football career at Adana Demirspor in 1969. Moved to Galatasaray in 1974 and played there for 10 years, claiming the captaincy. Capped 54 times for Turkey, scoring two goals. He guided the national team as a captain on 35 occasions. Following his retirement, he started his coaching career in 1987 at Ankaragücü. After a spell with İzmir team Göztepe, he was brought in charge of Turkey Under-21 team in 1990. In the meantime, between 1990 and 1993, he was the assistant to then coach Sepp Piontek. Guided Olympic National team to the championship at Mediterranean games in 1993. In October the same year, he became the coach of Turkish National Team. Guided Turkey to their first European Championship after a successful Euro 96 qualifying campaign. Following the end of the finals, he became the coach of Galatasaray. Won four consecutive league titles, two FORTIS Turkish Cup trophies. His successes were crowned after the invaluable UEFA Cup victory in 2000. Same year he accepted and offer from Italian club Fiorentina, then became the coach of AC Milan. Between 2002 and 2004 he worked at Galatasaray once again before finally arriving to the national team in 2005. He made another important achievement by taking Turkey to Euro 2008 finals.



I was honoured to coach Turkish National Team when they qualified for 2 European Championship for the first time ever in 1996. After twelve years I'm in charge once again and there's another European Championship ahead of us. We have been looking forward to take part in such a major tournament for six years. As I said before, we are here to remind us to the whole world. We left a tough qualifying stage behind and experienced a perfect preparation period for Euro 2008. We are in a situation that we should never even mention the word "losing" but always keep winning in mind. European Championships are always harder than World Cups, especially in the first rounds. Besides, very well balanced and open to surprises. We have the same target like the 15 other teams: We want to go till the end.

23. 5. 2008

FATİH TERİM



# Müfit Erkasap

Assistant Coach



Born 1957 in Şanlıurfa. Started his career in the youth setup of Galatasaray. Played as a right-back at the senior team between 1974 and 1982. Turned to coaching after his retirement. In 1995 he briefly became the caretaker coach at Galatasaray. Since 1996 he is working together with Fatih Terim. Erkasap was the assistant at Galatasaray when they lifted the UEFA Cup, four consecutive league titles and two FORTIS Turkish Cup titles. He was also with Terim at his spell at Fiorentina and his previous term at the national team.

I think I'm a member of this team as first-class leaders work together with first-class staff. I enjoy to work with a coach who listens his staff and respect their ideas. Our long and successful relationship with Fatih Terim relies on this mutual understanding, anyway. Our coaching staff and squad totally move in a great team spirit. During the course of qualifying campaign, we managed to revise 80 percent of the squad. Before the start of this campaign, our only target was reaching the finals. In this period we bot managed to achieve this and set up our collective values. Now it is the time to raise those values. I believe if we can advance the group stage, we can go up to the final. Our squad has the cabability to do this. Only if to we can completely use our potential

Müfit ERKASAP  
*[Signature]*



# Oğuz Çetin

Coach



Born February 15, 1983 in Sakarya. Started playing football at the youth side of his local club Sakaryaspor in 1978. Promoted to the senior team three years later. After playing for five years there, he joined Fenerbahçe in 1988. Claimed the captaincy in 1991. During his spell at Fenerbahçe, he lifted two league trophies, won one President's Cup and two Prime Minister's Cup. Later, he played for İstanbulspor and Adanaspor where he both stayed for two seasons each. Capped 70 times for his country. In 2000, his coaching career has started at Fenerbahçe where he shortly worked as a head coach as well. After working at Gençlerbirliği and Diyarbakırspor, he became one of the coaches of the national team.

It is a completely different feeling to be a member of national team's coaching staff, live the excitement and enjoy knowledge sharing. Despite the infrastructural problems that Turkish football faces, Turkey managed to qualify for Euro 2008 finals. I believe this happened thanks to the excitement we feel inside, working in cooperation and having a very talented squad. Honestly, we shaped our squad by thinking the smallest detail. We paid a lot of attention to answer contemporary football's needs for having dynamic, strong, quick players. Of course, players, who we believe in their talents, and personality, always had priority for us. There is a mutual confidence between us and players, this gives us a strong team spirit. I think that's Turkey's biggest advantage for the finals.

23/05/2008

Oğuz Çetin  
→ signed.



# Metin Tekin

Coach



Born May 8, 1964 in Kocaeli. Started football at the youth setup of Kocaelispor and without even playing for the senior side, he directly moved to Beşiktaş. Starting from 1982, he became a regular at the team and shortly became one of the most memorable faces of Beşiktaş. He stayed at Beşiktaş for 15 years, lifting 5 league trophies. After a spell at Vanspor in 1997, he announced his retirement. Capped 34 times for Turkey, scoring two goals. After working as an assistant at Gençlerbirliği and Samsunspor, he became the head coach at Çanakkale Dardanelspor and Altay. Since September 2004, he is working for Turkish national team.

EURO 2008 is an important career step for coaches as much as it is for players. To be a member of this Squad, helped me to gain new experiences. To be inside the national team when there is a revision and challenge for reaching EURO 2008 finals made me improve myself. It is also enjoyable that we work together with a coach who shares his knowledge with his assistants and pays attention to your ideas. At this stage, I can say that our team is used to playing together. We can play our own style football and that's what big teams do. We have a team who never gives up, always challenges on the pitch whatever the score is. I think that attribute will be a big help for us in the finals.

23.05.2008

Metin Tekin



# Eser Özaltındere

## Goalkeepers Coach



Born in 1954, Ankara. He studied History of Philosophy at İstanbul University. Has a Masters Degree from Ankara University's Academy of Economic and Administrative Sciences. During his spell at Adana Demirspor, he was called up to the national team. After this, he joined Galatasaray and continued his consistent performances. Capped 8 times for Turkey's senior side and 7 times for Under-21s. For a long time, worked as a goalkeeping coach at Galatasaray and played a key role for breeding young and talented goalkeepers. Since Fatih Terim's arrival to the national team, he is the goalkeeping coach and also the chief of National Teams Goalkeeping Coaches Department.

As a person who works neatly and in a professional manner in his job, it's a huge advantage for me to work with a coach like Fatih Terim who has the same attributes. I believe that on the qualifying stage and pre-Euro 2008 stage we have called up the rightest names according to our criterias. When making the selection of goalkeepers for the national team, it should be considered that we try to give a way to Turkish goalkeeping with a message. During EURO 2008 Turkish goal will be kept by safe hands and I have no suspicion about this.

Eser Özaltındere  
*Eser Özaltındere*

23.5.2008











## 23- Volkan Demirel

Club: Fenerbahçe  
Date and place of birth:  
17.10.1981, İstanbul (TUR)  
Height: 1.91 m  
Weight: 72 kg  
International Caps/Goals: 21/0

Coming through the youth ranks of the team, Volkan turned professional at TFF 2. Division club Kartalspor. In 2002, he joined Fenerbahçe. He wore the Fenerbahçe shirt for the first team at a warm-up match against TSV Dorfen. He made his Turkcell Super League debut for Fenerbahçe on 26 April 2003 against Samsunspor. His first appearance for Turkey's national teams was on 6 September 2001 at Turkey U20s 2-1 win against Greece in the Mediterranean Cup. He made his senior Turkey debut on 28 April 2004 when Turkey beat Belgium 3-2. After Rüstü Reçber's transfer to Barcelona, he became No.1 at Fenerbahçe. Since 2003 he is the first-choice goalkeeper of Fenerbahçe even though he goes to the subs bench time to time.



Euro 2008 finals are something like a dream come true for me. When I wore the Turkey shirt for the first time, the date was 23 May 2004 and we won 2-1 against Greece Under-21s. My international career debuted on that day and it was crowned with a senior cap on 28 April 2004 when I came off from the subs bench in the second half against Belgium. In that game, we managed to defeat Belgium, who were among the best teams of that time, with 3-2 score at away. Now I have the opportunity to participate in a major tournament for the first time in my life. I believe this will be fruitful both for my ~~life~~ career and our national ~~team~~. UEFA Champions League matches that I played for Fenerbahçe proved that Turkish clubs can easily compete with leading European opposition. That surely brings self-confidence and thanks to that I have no suspicion that we can reach the success.

Demirel



# I- Rüştü Reçber

Club: Beşiktaş  
Date and place of birth:  
10.05.1973,  
Antalya (TUR)  
Height: 1.85 m  
Weight: 78 kg  
International Caps/Goals:  
116/0

After turning professional in 1991 at Antalyaspor, Rüştü joined Fenerbahçe in 1994. Made his Turkcell Super League debut against Petrolofisi the same year. He played his first match for Turkey on 14 December 1994 at his country's 2-1 loss against Switzerland in Ali Sami Yen stadium. Having taken part in Euro 96 and Euro 2000, Rüştü was Turkey's first choice goalkeeper in 2002 FIFA World Cup where Turkey won the third place. After the tournament, he was shown as one of the best goalkeepers in the world along with Oliver Kahn and the following season, he was transferred to FC Barcelona. In 2004, he returned to his former club Fenerbahçe. After his second spell at Fenerbahçe, he moved to Beşiktaş in the beginning of last season. Rüştü Reçber is married to Işıl Reçber; has one daughter and son.



I am having the pride for making contribution to the successes that Turkish national team reached over the last 15 years, the period that Turkish football's performance sky-rocketed. After enjoying EURO 96 and EURO 2000 experiences, I was a member of squad who won the world third place in 2002 FIFA World Cup which was staged in Korea/Japan. This was a golden memory for Turkish football history. We have barely missed to take part in major tournaments in the last six years and now we set our sights on brand new EURO 2008. We are full of hope, ambition and self-confidence. I can see the light of victory in the eyes of all players of the team which is an amalgamation of experienced and young players. If we believe in our power and play our real football on the pitch we can achieve anything. I remember our joyful return from Far East with victory in year 2002 just like yesterday, and hope that we will repeat the same scene during our return from Vienna...

RÜŞTÜ REÇBER



## 12- Tolga Zengin

**Club:** Trabzonspor

**Date and place of birth:**

10.10.1983, Artvin (TUR)

**Height:** 1.92 m

**Weight:** 81 kg

**International Caps/Goals:**  
2/0

Started playing football at one of Trabzon's leading amateur clubs, Trabzon İdmanocağı in 1995. In 1998, when he was 15 he was transferred to Trabzonspor youth setup. Five years later, he signed his first ever professional contract with Trabzonspor. He made his Trabzonspor debut against Galatasaray on 2 October 2005 at Ali Sami Yen stadium. In that season, Tolga had chances to play but he was more like an understudy to Brazilian goalkeeper Jefferson. Starting from Konyaspor match which dates back to 21 January 2007, he became the first-choice goalkeeper in the team. He wore the national team shirt for the first time on 3 November 1998 against Slovakia for U15 team and then took part in all other age levels. He made his senior team debut on 12 April 2006 at Turkey's 1-1 draw against Azerbaijan. He was the man in the goal at Turkey's friendly match against Belarus on 26 March 2008.



As a player who have worn Turkey shirt at the age of 15, I have been enjoying to be a national team player for 10 years. However, it is totally a different excitement to be included in the senior Turkey squad and to be picked for EURO 2008. I have started to dream to play in such a big tournament when I was called up to Turkey U-15 side in 1998. On the day that I won my full cap at a friendly against Azerbaijan, I have started seriously to believe my EURO 2008 dreams could come true. The competition that I faced with other goalkeepers at my club, Trabzonspor helped me to improve myself. I'm aware I'm the third-choice goalkeeper in the team but I have left a positive season behind and feel ready to play anytime. I see EURO 2008 as the biggest experience of my career so far.

Tolga Zengin

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## 20- Sabri Sarioğlu

**Club:** Galatasaray  
**Date and place of birth:** 26.07.1984, Samsun (TUR)  
**Height:** 1.70 m  
**Weight:** 63 kg  
**International Caps/Goals:** 15/1

Started playing football at Yeni Özkartalspor in 1995. Joined Galatasaray in 1999 and turned professional two years later. Lifted Turkcell Super League trophy at Galatasaray where he came through youth ranks. Played his first ever Turkcell Super League match with Galatasaray against Trabzonspor on 4 May 2003. Wore the national team shirt first time on 27 July 1999 against Moldova for Turkey U16s and played in all other age levels. He made his senior debut for Turkey at a Euro 2008 qualifier against Hungary on 7 October 2006. He scored his one and only goal for Turkey in the match against Bosnia-Herzegovina which was played at 2 June 2007 and ended with a 3-2 defeat of Turkey.



I have made my senior Turkey debut at a EURO 2008 qualifying match against Hungary. I am very pleased to be attending to the finals following the end of my first big test. I am aware that to be a part of this squad is an important step for my career and it gives me a huge excitement. I think we halved the road by advancing into the finals but the bigger test will be starting soon. Because for such a country like Turkey where people live and sleep with football, it does not mean the target was reached with just qualification to the finals. I believe we have the potential to reach further successes in the tournament. We had a perfect preparation period. Our squad is settled and consists of players who play together for a long time. We want to rock Turkey with the achievements we will make in the championship.

SABRİ SARIOĞLU

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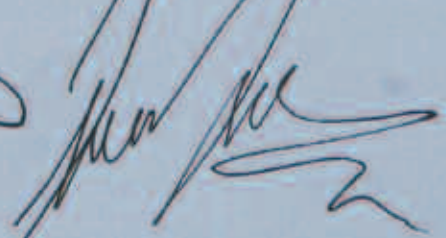
## 4- Gökhan Zan



Club: Beşiktaş  
Date and place of birth: 07.09.1981, Hatay (TUR)  
Height: 1.92 m, Weight: 85 kg  
International Caps/Goals: 20/0

Turned professional at TFF 2. League side Hatayspor in 1999. One year later, he moved to Dardanelspor where he played for three seasons. During his spell there, he was selected for Turkish youth national teams and caught the eye with his performances. Beşiktaş won the race to get his signature in 2003. He spent 2004/05 season on loan at Gaziantepspor. Returned to Beşiktaş's first team the following year and now he continues his successful play. His international career was launched in 2000 when he played for Turkey U19 side and he made his senior debut on 2 March 2006 at a friendly against Czech Republic which ended 2-2. Despite experiencing many injury setbacks, he is still regarded as one of the most important figures of Turkish defence.

Since the first day that I faced an European opposition, I always thought that Turkey were not short of them. Having the international experience from the youth tournaments in the past, gave me a great self-confidence as well as my other team mates. Euro 2008 qualifying matches were the first serious tests for me at my international career. Besides the injuries I picked up several times, I believe I passed those tests. I'm not worried about the strength of the teams in the finals. Because I think Turkey can beat any team in the world if they play their true football on the pitch. Personally, I'm looking forward to the matches with a big excitement. With the fan support we will have in Switzerland, I'm sure that we can put a "Turkey mark" on the Euro 2008 tournament.

22/05/08 GÖKHAN ZAN 



# 15- Emre Aşık

**Club:** Ankaraspor

**Date and place of birth:** 13.12.1973,  
Bursa (TUR)

**Height:** 1.83 m

**Weight:** 76 kg

**International Caps/Goals:** 27/1

After turning professional at Sönmez Filamentspor, he played for Balıkesirspor, Fenerbahçe, İstanbulspor, Galatasaray, Beşiktaş respectively.

He returned to Galatasaray after his spell with Beşiktaş and in the beginning of last season he was sent on loan to capital city club Ankaraspor. He has been playing for Turkey's youth teams since the age of 18. Played his senior international for Turkey at a FIFA World Cup qualifying match against Poland which Turkey beat 2-1 in 27 October 1993.

He played a key role at Turkey's qualification to Euro 96, especially with the goal he scored at Turkey's 2-1 win over Sweden.

He was one of the members of the squad that won the world third place at 2002 FIFA World Cup. After a long absence from the national side, he celebrated his return at the 4-1 victory over Greece.



It's been 15 year now since the day I made my Senior Turkey debut. I lifted several league trophies with Fenerbahçe, Galatasaray, Beşiktaş within that period. Although I had some hard times, I never give up my desire to compete at the highest level. At the age of 34 I am still in the Turkey Squad and this a perfect proof my words. Despite all the experience I have Euro 2008 finals will be my first major tournament. I had played a key role at Turkey's qualification to Euro 96 with my headed strike against Sweden but missed the tournament through injury. I had spent my best days in the national team in 2002 when we claimed the world third place in the FIFA World Cup which was a historic success. Now it will be quite memorable for me to have new victories in the final big tournament of my career.

23.05.2008

Emre Aşık



## 2- Servet Çetin

**Club:** Galatasaray

**Date and place of birth:** 17.03.1981,

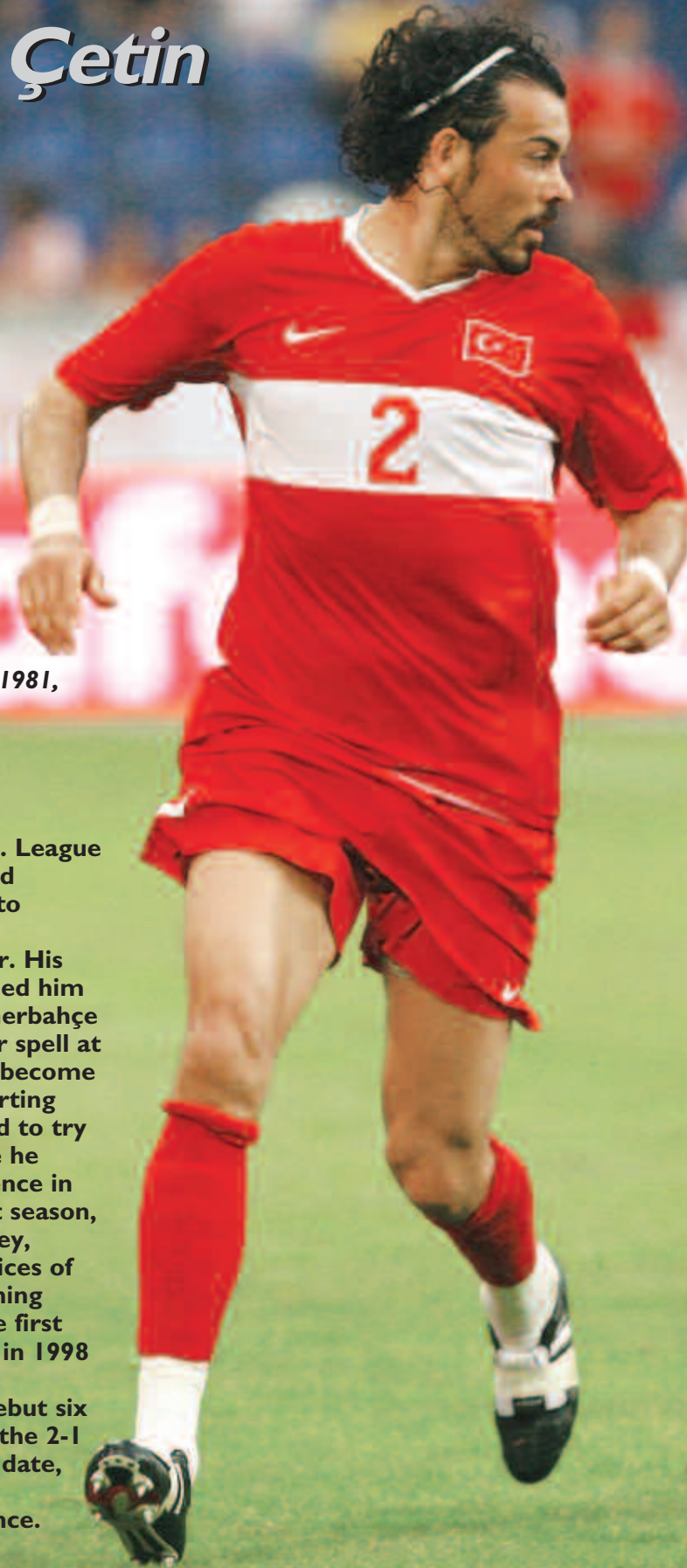
**İğdir (TUR)**

**Height:** 1.91 m

**Weight:** 84 kg

**International Caps:** 29/1

Turned professional at TFF 2. League side Kartalspor in 1999. Joined Göztepe in 2001 and moved to Turkcell Super League club Denizlispor the following year. His enormous success there earned him a move to Turkish giants Fenerbahçe in 2003. During his three-year spell at the İstanbul club he failed to become one of the regulars of the starting eleven. As a result, he wanted to try his luck with Sivasspor where he succeeded to make a resurgence in 2006. At the beginning of last season, another top team from Turkey, Galatasaray secured the services of Servet following his eye-catching performance at Sivasspor. He first wore the national team shirt in 1998 for Turkey U17 team against Romania. Made his Turkey debut six years later in August 18th in the 2-1 defeat by Belarus. Since that date, he is one of the regulars of Turkish national team's defence.



As a player who participated in the qualifying matches of EURO 2004 and 2006 FIFA World Cup I was deeply saddened Turkey missed the chance to qualify for the finals of these two major tournaments. Although in terms of my club career I have reached my best form nowadays, on the international level I have a huge hunger for success. Maybe just because of this hunger, I played with lots of sacrifice and ambition during the EURO 2008 qualification. It was not easy for us to qualify for the final round but we showed everyone that Turkey could produce victories even while passing over a critical period, with our win against Norway. Now we will face one of the best teams of Europe. With the experience I had, we are definitely not short of them. My team mates and I will show the whole world what we can achieve when we play from the on the pitch.

SERVET ÇETİN  
*Servet Çetin*











### 3- Hakan Balta



Club: Galatasaray  
Date and place of birth: 23.03.1983,  
Berlin (GER)  
Height: 1.84 m Weight: 80 kg  
International Caps: 8/1

As a product of Hertha Berlin's youth setup, Hakan Balta joined TFF 1. League Vestel Manisaspor in 2003 when he was 20 years old. He made a big contribution to his team's promotion to the top flight. Played his first Turkcell Super League match against Malatyaspor on 13 August 2005. His successful performances at the Aegean club earned him a move to Galatasaray in the beginning of last season. In his first year, he lifted the league trophy. Hakan made his Turkey debut at a friendly international against Azerbaijan on 12 April 2006. Took part as a left-back in Turkey's critical matches against Norway and Bosnia-Herzegovina which both can be regarded as turning points. After these successful tests, he played against Sweden and Belarus and that makes him the first-choice in the left-back position.

When Turkey won the third place in 2002, I was in Germany and as a Turk outside his own country, I was very proud of the success we had. At that time, I wanted to be part of the national team so much. When I was offered a contract by Vestel Manisaspor who was coached by former Turkey coach Mustafa Denizli, I accepted it to have more publicity and play for the national team. I had the same thoughts when I moved to Galatasaray. I can't tell my joy when I debuted for the national team against Azerbaijan. I feel happy to make a contribution to the national team for EURO 2008 qualifiers though I took part through the end of the campaign. Now it is time to make Turkey's voice heard even louder with the finals and I don't have a slightest suspicion that we can achieve it.

Hakan Balta 22.05.2008

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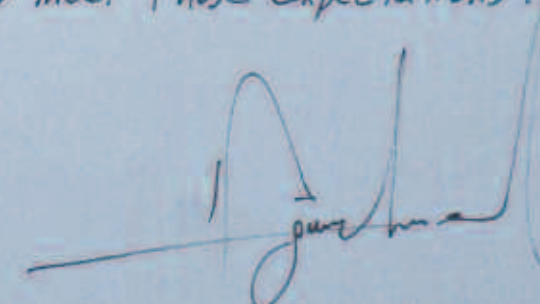


## 16- Uğur Boral

Club: Fenerbahçe  
Date and place of birth:  
14.04.1982, Zile (TUR)  
Height: 1.78 m Weight: 72 kg  
International Caps: 8/0

Started football at his local club Gaziosmanpaşa Karadenizspor in 1999. Two years later, he turned professional at Alibeyköy. After spells with Kocaelispor, Gençlerbirliği and Ankaraspor, he joined Fenerbahçe in 2006. Played his first Turkcell Super League match against Gençlerbirliği for Kocaelispor on 11 August 2002. In his first year at Fenerbahçe, he lifted the league trophy. He made his Turkey debut on 1 March 2006 in a friendly against Czech Republic. Despite playing seven matches for the national team, he did not take part in a competitive match.

UEFA Champions League matches I played for Fenerbahçe this season showed me how international successes make a player happy. Thanks to these matches, I have the feeling of self-confidence as well. When we beat Inter, Sevilla, Chelsea and other, we proved that we can beat any opposition. I will take part in EURO 2008 finals with this ambition. I have only played and friendly matches for Turkey and that increases my ambition to take part in a competitive international. Our three-level preparation period was perfect. We reached the summit in terms of friendship and game strategy. We know what Turkish people are expecting from us and we will strive to meet those expectations.

  
Uğur Boral



# 13- Emre Güngör

Club: Galatasaray

Date and place of birth: 01.08.1984, İstanbul (TUR)

Height: 1.81 m Weight: 81 kg

International Caps/Goals: 1/0

Started playing football at Bakırköyspor. Signed for Ankaragücü and turned Professional in 2001. He was loaned out to Türk Telekomspor in 2003 and the following season the move became permanent. In 2004, Ankaragücü re-signed the player and Emre became an important figure at his side's defence. In the mid-season transfer windows last season, Galatasaray secured the services of the player. During the absence of experienced Cameroonian international defender Rigobert Song due to African Cup of Nations, he caught a place in the starting eleven and did not lose his place until the end of the season. In the end, he enjoyed lifting the league trophy in his first year. On 20 February 2001, he played his first match for Turkey at U-15 level. After this, he played for all youth sides of Turkey.



I had mixed feelings on the eve of EURO 2008 finals. When the provisional squad for EURO 2008 was announced, I was disappointed that I wasn't included. When I was brought in to the squad after the injury of my Galatasaray team-mate Servet Çetin, I felt like as if I'm in a dream. Of course no player would want any of his team-mates to get injured. But I used the chance I've been given quite well and finally made it in the 23-man squad for EURO 2008 by showing a decent performance in the training camps and friendly matches. Now I want to play in the tournament matches and make the best possible contribution. As I played for Turkey's youth sides in the past, I know the value of international matches. Moreover, playing at a European Championship is arguably the most important chance for any player in the world. I wish there will be a victory in the end.

EMRE GÜNGÖR

A stylized, handwritten signature of Emre Güngör in black ink.











## 7- Mehmet Aurelio



**Club:** Fenerbahçe  
**Date and place of birth:**  
15.12.1977,  
Rio de Janeiro (BRA)  
**Height:** 1.78 m  
**Weight:** 75 kg  
**International Caps:** 19/1

While playing for one of Rio's Regional League teams, Olaria, he was discovered by Özkan Sümer, the legendary player, coach and president of Trabzonspor. He spent two seasons there before moving to Fenerbahçe in 2003/04 season. Gained Turkish citizenship in July 2006 and selected "Mehmet" as a first name. After he was granted Turkish citizenship, he was called up to the national team by Fatih Terim. Made his Turkey debut against Turkey's 1-0 win over Luxembourg on 16 August 2006. After this game, he became a regular at Turkey's midfield and played a key role at Turkey's successful EURO 2008 qualifying campaign. Scored his first goal for Turkey against Hungary on 12 September 2007.

Footballers in the world play for the national teams which are different from their own nationalities. I don't know the feelings of such players but in my position, I totally feel like a Turkish player. I have the same excitement like them. When the national anthem is played, I can feel my heart trembling. I did my utmost for the national team since my debut day. Euro 2008 will be a new experience for me. I'm 31 and it's a bit early to say whether I would be able to be in the 2010 FIFA World Cup. Maybe Euro 2008 will be the first and last for major tournament for me. This will increase my motivation and ambition to do my utmost in the finals.

Mehmet Aurelio.



## 6- Mehmet Topal

**Club:** Galatasaray  
**Date and place of birth:** 03.03.1986, Malatya (TUR)  
**Height:** 1.87 m  
**Weight:** 76 kg  
**International Caps/Goals:** 5/0

Started his career at Malatya Belediyespor in 1999. Three years later, he turned professional by joining Çanakkale Dardanelspor. His rising form at Dardanelspor earned him a move to Galatasaray in September 2006. In his second season with the Istanbul giants, he lifted the Turkcell Super League trophy. He wore the national team shirt for the first time on 25 May 2005 against Switzerland at U19 level. Later he became a Under 21 international. He made his senior Turkey debut by coming off the subs bench on 78th minute at a friendly against Sweden on 6 February 2008. He was named in the starting eleven against Belarus on 26 March 2008 and played for entire 90 minutes.



Looking back from the current position in my career, I am sure I made the right choice when my father told me not to waste my time by playing football. Because my father and mother who are quite far where I live now, will be proud of me when I wear the national team shirt. I have been called up to the national team thanks to my efforts at trainings and I feel honoured because of this. I don't see myself as a young player, I feel like a mature and experienced footballer. I know very well that my duty for the national team did not end after I made it in the finals squad. The real task will be in the finals. I will give my 100 per cent not to let people down who have faith in me.

MEHMET TOPAL

A stylized handwritten signature of Mehmet Topal in blue ink, written below the printed name.



## 5- Emre Belözoğlu



Club: Newcastle United  
Date and place of birth:  
07.09.1980, İstanbul (TUR)  
Height: 1.70 m  
Weight: 68 kg  
International Caps: 56/4

Started football at Zeytinburnuspor's youth setup. When he was only 16, he signed for Galatasaray in 1996 and managed to find a place at match squads. He tremendously developed his talents and became a member of UEFA Cup and UEFA Super Cup winning team along with four consecutive league titles. This success earned him a move to Inter in 2001 and Newcastle United in 2005. He played his first national team match at U15 level with a match against Azerbaijan on 7 December 1994. Made his senior Turkey debut in the 2-0 loss against Norway on 23 February 2000. Played a key role in Turkey's world third place winning team in 2002 FIFA World Cup.

As a player who used to collecting major trophies, spending the most of the seasons sidelined because of injuries, increases my motivation to play at Euro 2008. I had lifted UEFA cup and UEFA Super cup with Galatasaray in 2000; won the world third place with Turkey two years later. Now I feel myself totally ready for Euro 2008 Finals with my hunger for success and playing Football. I know many players from the opposition teams from English and Italian Leagues. In terms of quality, my team mates are not short of them. If we can manage to do this, no opponent could stand ahead us.

Emre Belözoğlu

A stylized, handwritten signature of Emre Belözoğlu in black ink.



# //- Tümer Metin

**Club:** Larissa  
**Date and place of birth:**  
14.10.1974,  
Zonguldak (TUR)  
**Height:** 1.74 m  
**Weight:** 69 kg  
**International Caps:** 23/7

Turned professional at Kilimli Belediyespor in 1993. Tümer played at Zonguldakspor between 1994 and 1997. Then he moved to Samsunspor where he stayed until 2001. During his four-year stay at Samsunspor, he showed a consistent performance and this helped him to move to Beşiktaş. He spent 5 seasons at Beşiktaş where he won the league title in their centenary. Later, he joined Fenerbahçe and enjoyed the same success and became the only Turkish player ever to lift league trophy in a centenary for both clubs. In the mid-season transfer window last season, he joined Greek club Larissa from Fenerbahçe. Made his senior Turkey debut at a relatively delayed date, on 12 February 2003 at a goalless match against Ukraine, five months after playing for Turkey A2s against Germany. Under Fatih Terim's guidance, he made significant contribution to Turkish national team.



I made my Turkey debut at a relatively older age but I spent my finest days under this shirt. I scored the most critical and memorable goals of my career with Turkey shirt. Being excluded from the final squad for 2002 FIFA World Cup was a huge disappointment for me. Maybe Euro 2008 will be the final tournament that I can participate in so I want to be a part of the success that can take the former victory to a new level. I say victory because I truly believe in it. During my spell at Larissa, I had the opportunity to closely know Greek players. I see no obstacle which could prevent us to repeat the success they had in 2004. Turkish National team is capable of being European champions thank to team and technical staff quality, the support of 70 million Turkish fans. My team mates and I will be after this target in Euro 2008 which is not that distant.

TÜMER METİN



# 22- Hamit Altıntop

Club: Bayern München  
Date and place of birth:  
08.12.1982, Gelsenkirchen (GER)  
Height: 1.82 m  
Weight: 82 kg  
International Caps: 42/2

Hamit signed his first professional contract with Wattenscheid in 2000. Like his twin brother Halil, he left Wattenscheid in 2003 but opted to join Schalke 04 instead of Kaiserslautern. After a four year spell there, he moved to the biggest club in Germany, Bayern München and lifted the league trophy in his first year. Together with his twin brother, he played his first match for Turkish national teams on 14 November 2000 against Bulgaria at U18 level and scored his first goal in this match. Respectively, he played for other youth teams and made his senior debut against Denmark on 18 February 2004. He used to play as a midfielder but later switched to right-back position. Interestingly, scored his first two goals for Turkey in the same match that were both from free-kicks, in the 2-2 draw against Norway on 28 March 2007.



On the days that we were shown among the hot prospects in Germany with my brother, we had received an offer from German National Team but without even hesitating I have told them I would like to play for Turkey instead. Each time I play for the national team, I feel as if I am debuting. After Turkey missed 2006 FIFA World Cup, my desire to play at EURO 2008 got higher. This increased my motivation and ambitions during the qualification campaign. Despite the serious injury I had and the operation I underwent, I put a lot of efforts to recover. I couldn't feel relaxed if I had left my friends alone in the tournament. Our national team players have proved that they can achieve anything if they really believed and concentrated properly. I believe this will be the key in our success at EURO 2008.

Hamit Altıntop 22.



# 19- Ayhan Akman

Club: Galatasaray  
Date and place of birth:  
23.02.1977, Bursa (TUR)  
Height: 1.73 m  
Weight: 69 kg  
International Caps: 11/0

Having turned professional at Gaziantepspor in 1995, Ayhan moved to Beşiktaş three years later for an almost record-breaking transfer fee. However, he made his breakthrough after joining Galatasaray. First played for Turkey on 12 November 1991 against France at U15 level. Later on, he respectively took part at all other youth national teams. Ayhan made his senior debut for Turkey against Israel on 18 February 1998. He was a member of Turkey's Euro 2000 finals squad but never found the chance to play. After a five-year break, he made a return to the national team for the match against Albania on 26 March 2005. Gave another two-and-a-half-year break before returning to Turkey squad for the match against Malta on 8 September 2007.



I was only able to participate in a major tournament only once in my career. I was a part of the squad who advanced into the quarter finals at EURO 2000 but wasn't able to play. Thus, EURO 2008 has a different meaning for me. I'm 31 and I feel close to making my first appearance in such a tournament. Everyday I'm learning new things though I am in the mature period of my career. Up to now, I wasn't able to contribute a lot for the national side but with EURO 2008 I will do my best to help. Considering the point where Turkish football is, I believe Turkey are one of the favourites.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to be 'Akman'.



# 14- Arda Turan

Club: Galatasaray  
Date and place of birth:  
30.01.1987, Istanbul (TUR)  
Height: 1.76 m  
Weight: 72 kg  
International Caps: 19/1

Started football at  
Altintepsi Makelspor before  
joining the youth setup of  
Galatasaray in 2000.

Two years later, he signed a  
professional contract with  
the Istanbul club. He was  
loaned out to another  
Super League club Vestel  
Manisaspor in 2004/05

season. Thanks to a  
significant performance rise,  
he returned to Galatasaray  
the following year,  
becoming an indispensable  
player of the team. Played  
his first match for Turkey at  
U16 level at a 4-1 away  
victory over Romania on  
16 July 2002 and scored on  
his debut. Made his senior  
Turkey debut in the 1-0  
away friendly win against  
Luxembourg on  
16 August 2006. Since this  
match, he was one of the  
key players for the national  
team and he proved this  
during Euro 2008  
qualifying campaign.



When I wore the national team shirt for the time, I was 25. At the age of 16, I lifted Balkan Championship trophy at youth level. I have played for all levels of Turkey youth national teams and faced most of the strongest oppositions. This experience helped me to have self-confidence. I saw teams who were once exaggerated in the eyes of the people, were not that invincible. At a very young age, I learnt that young Turkish players, who have been guided carefully and trusted, could achieve many things. Then, whichever the opposition is, I went to the pitch with the tough of victory on my mind. Euro 2008 will be the first major tournament I will participate in my senior team career. I truly believe our national team will repeat the success in 2002 FIFA World Cup which I have watched with big pride and excitement in past. ---

23.05.2008

ARDA TURAN

A handwritten signature of Arda Turan in black ink.



# 17- Tuncay Şanlı

**Club:** Middlesbrough  
**Date and place of birth:**  
16.01.1982, Sakarya (TUR)  
**Height:** 1.82 m  
**Weight:** 70 kg  
**International Caps/Goals:**  
54/15

Started his career at his local club Sakarya TEK Spor in 1999 and only two months later TFF 1. League team Sakaryaspor snapped him up. Fenerbahçe completed the move for the player in 2002. Made his debut for Fenerbahçe against Gaziantepspor on 11 September 2002. Enjoyed three league titles successes at the İstanbul club and wrote his name on the history of Turkish football by scoring three goals against Manchester United at UEFA Champions League which made him the highest goalscoring Turkish player in a Champions League match. In the beginning of last season, he joined English Premier League team, Middlesbrough. He wore the national team shirt for the first time on 22 May 2000 against Belarus at U-17 level. He made his senior Turkey debut on 20 November 2002 against Italy. He was a member of third place winning team at Confederations Cup in 2003.



As a player whose international career started at the age of 17 I always had different feelings every time I wear national team shirt. I still remember the first time I wore it as if it was yesterday. I was among the players who were included in the rejuvenation process of the national team after 2002 FIFA World Cup and played in the final two minutes against Italy at a friendly international. I was a part of the team who won the third place at FIFA Confederations Cup. Each international showed me that Turkish players are not short of their European opponents and increased my ambitions. My performances at Premier League for Middlesbrough increased my self-confidence. I believe that Turkish football will make a new peak point with EURO 2008. Me and my team mates are aiming to boost the reputation of Turkish football with a successful drive.

Tuncay Şanlı



# 18- Kâzım Kâzım

Club: Fenerbahçe  
Date and place of birth:  
26.08.1986, London (ENG)  
Height: 1.88 m  
Weight: 76 kg  
International Caps: 4/0

Kazım started his professional career at English club Bury. At the age of 19, he moved to Brighton Hove & Albion. On 31 August 2006 he signed a three-year contract with Sheffield United. He caught the eye of Turkish national team officials with his successful display at his new club. He was called up to the national team squad for Turkey Under-21's match against Switzerland on 24 March 2007. He played for the entire match, moreover scored a goal. He came off the subs bench on 62nd minute to make his senior Turkey debut at a friendly against Brazil on 5 June 2007. Immediately after this, he was snapped up by Fenerbahçe. Especially, in the second half of 2007/08 season, he found his form and reached the summit of his performance with the goal he scored against Chelsea in UEFA Champions League.



I had to make a choice between Turkey and England national teams and I opted for Turkey, because success is more appreciated there. When I talked to Turkish football federation officials, they gave me a warm welcome and made me feel like I'm a part of Turkey. This affected my decision to choose Turkey. When you look at me, I might not seem like a typical Turk, but actually I am. When I walk in the streets of London, nobody could know that I'm Turkish. In that case, to be called up to the national team is like a dream come true for me.

My second dream was to be included in the final squad ~~for~~ the Euro 2008 and this came true as well. Now I would like to have a third one. Namely, lifting the European Championship trophy. Why not?

Colin Kâzım - Richards











# 10- Gökdeniz Karadeniz

Club: Rubin Kazan  
Date and place of birth: 11.01.1980, Giresun (TUR)  
Height: 1.69 m  
Weight: 66 kg  
International Caps: 48/6

Turned professional at Black Sea club Trabzonspor in 1998. Until the mid-season transfer window last season, he continuously and consistently played for the club. He moved to Rubin Kazan for a record-breaking transfer fee of 8.7 m. Euro, making him the most expensive Turkish player ever. Gökdeniz made a bright start to his career in Russia, scoring consecutive goals and assisting his team-mates. He wore the national team shirt for the first time in the same match with Emre Belözoğlu against Azerbaijan in 1994 at U15 level. He came off the subs bench to make his senior Turkey debut at the 4-0 defeat by Czech Republic on 30 April 2003.



It's really hard to explain what it means to be a national team player. I have been wearing the national team shirt since I was 15 and I made my senior team debut at the age of 22. The goal I scored against FYR Macedonia in June 2003 during my third international match for the senior team, is still the most valuable goal of my career. After missing out on EURO 2000 and 2006 FIFA World Cup, qualifying for the final round of EURO 2008 is one of the most important milestones of Turkish Football. I have no suspicion that we will be successful in the tournament. I believe this success will further ease Turkish players move to abroad and as the number of our players who are playing abroad increase, Turkish football will develop.

Gökdeniz Karadeniz



## 8- Nihat Kahveci

Club: Villarreal  
Date and place of birth:  
23.11.1979,  
İstanbul (TUR)  
Height: 1.75 m  
Weight: 71 kg  
International Caps: 54/15

Nihat, who is a product of Beşiktaş's youth setup, was promoted to the senior team in 1997/98 season. From this season until 2002 he played 115 league matches, scoring 53 goals. In the summer of 2002, he moved to Spanish club Real Sociedad. Following his first season, he turned into a top marksman and made a lot of contribution for his team's title cause. He picked up several serious injuries but on each occasion he managed to successfully recover. When his contract with Real Sociedad expired, he joined Villarreal on a free transfer. Unlucky Nihat had another serious injury setback here but made a great comeback once again and took his team to UEFA Champions League. Wore the national team colours for the first time on 18 February 1998 for Turkey Under-21s. Made his Turkey debut on 7 November 2000 against Sweden. The goals he scored for Turkey during Euro 2008 qualifying period helped Turkish National Team to reach the finals.



We have been waiting for Euro 2008 finals for six years. As a player who was a member of world third place winning squad. I can easily say that staying out of major tournament over the last years. mostly disappointed players who enjoyed a big success in the past. In 2002 World Cup, I found the chance to briefly play in two matches. After that time, my personal career has been on the rise but I couldn't take part in major tournaments as Turkey barely missed. For Euro 2008 qualification we did our utmost to meet Turkish people's expectations and we succeeded in this. It even made me happier to see my goals played a key role at our success. Now we believe in ourselves more than ever and we will do our best to take Turkish football to a place where it deserves to be.

22.05.2008

Nihat Kahveci

A handwritten signature of Nihat Kahveci in black ink.



## 9- Semih Şentürk

**Club:** Fenerbahçe

**Date and place of birth:**  
29.04.1983, İzmir (TUR)

**Height:** 1.83 m

**Weight:** 78 kg

**International Caps:** 4/1

Semih started his career at one of İzmir's local teams, Özcamdibispor in 1998. One year later, he joined Fenerbahçe. He spent 2001/02 season on loan at TFF 2. League side İzmirspor. Played his first competitive match for Fenerbahçe on 17 February 2001 against Siirt JETPA Spor. Despite the fact that he is much regarded as a substitute striker as he is famous with the goals he scored after coming off the subs bench, he became the top goalscorer of Turkcell Super League with 17 goals last season. Semih wore the national team shirt for the first time on 8 June 1999 against Romania at U15 level and played at all levels of youth teams. He was named in the starting eleven against Norway on 17 November 2007 and that was the senior Turkey debut of the player. This was followed by another start against Bosnia-Herzegovina.



You can count my positive and negative attributes on the pitch but I think that patience and anticipation are my two biggest advantages. I have always been a player who waited to be landed an opportunity by trying to improve myself. I think I positively used all the chances I've been given. Although I didn't play regularly in the starting eleven, I became the top goalscorer of the season and this both lifted my morale and self-confidence. On the other hand, having this title increase my responsibility and raised the expectations from me. Nevertheless, I am ready to shoulder this and do my utmost if I have the chance to play at EURO 2008.

SEMIH ŞENTÜRK



## 21- Mevlüt Erdinç



Club: Sochaux  
Date and place of birth: 25.02.1987, Saint-Claude (FRA)  
Height: 1.81m  
Weight: 76 kg  
International Caps: 3/0

Mevlüt started his career in the youth setup of French club Sochaux. At the age of 19, he started to play at Ligue 1. He was selected for France U-17 squad for the Meridian Cup in 2005. During the tournament held in Kuşadası, he received an offer from Turkey which he later accepted. Born to parents originally from Yozgat, Mevlüt is one of the eight children of the family. Left his native Lyon to go Sochaux when he was 14 to be a football player. He was one of the most striking players of French league thanks to the goals he scored last season. He wore the national team shirt of Turkey for the first time on 25 May 2005 against Switzerland at U-19 level and scored on his debut. When he won his first U-21 cap against Georgia, he scored once again. His senior debut just came last March when Turkey played a friendly against Belarus.

Before I made my debut for Turkey, I had played for youth teams of France. When I was with France U-17 team, we were crowned champions at meridian cup in Turkey. During my stay there, Turkish Football Federation officials have invited me to play for Turkey, without even hesitating. "My father and mother are Turks. so am I. Of course I will play" I answered. Thinking about the point that answer brought me now, I feel proud. I am only 21 and I was selected for EURO 2008 squad of Turkey. I have enough self-confidence and did not afraid of anyone. I have proved that I've improved my finishing ability with the performance that I showed at French league. I have a big desire to play in the EURO 2008 matches and make a contribution to our team.

Mevlüt ERDİNÇ









**Şükrü Hanedar**

*National Teams Administrative Responsible*



**Hüseyin Coşkun**

*National Teams Manager*



**Aylin Sungur**

*Assistant of the Coach*



**Metin Çakıroğlu**

*Analyst*



**Doctors**

**Cengiz Dinç**

**Bülent Bayraktar**



**Media Officers**

**Yiğiter Uluğ**

**Emrah Kayalıoğlu**



**Performance Team**

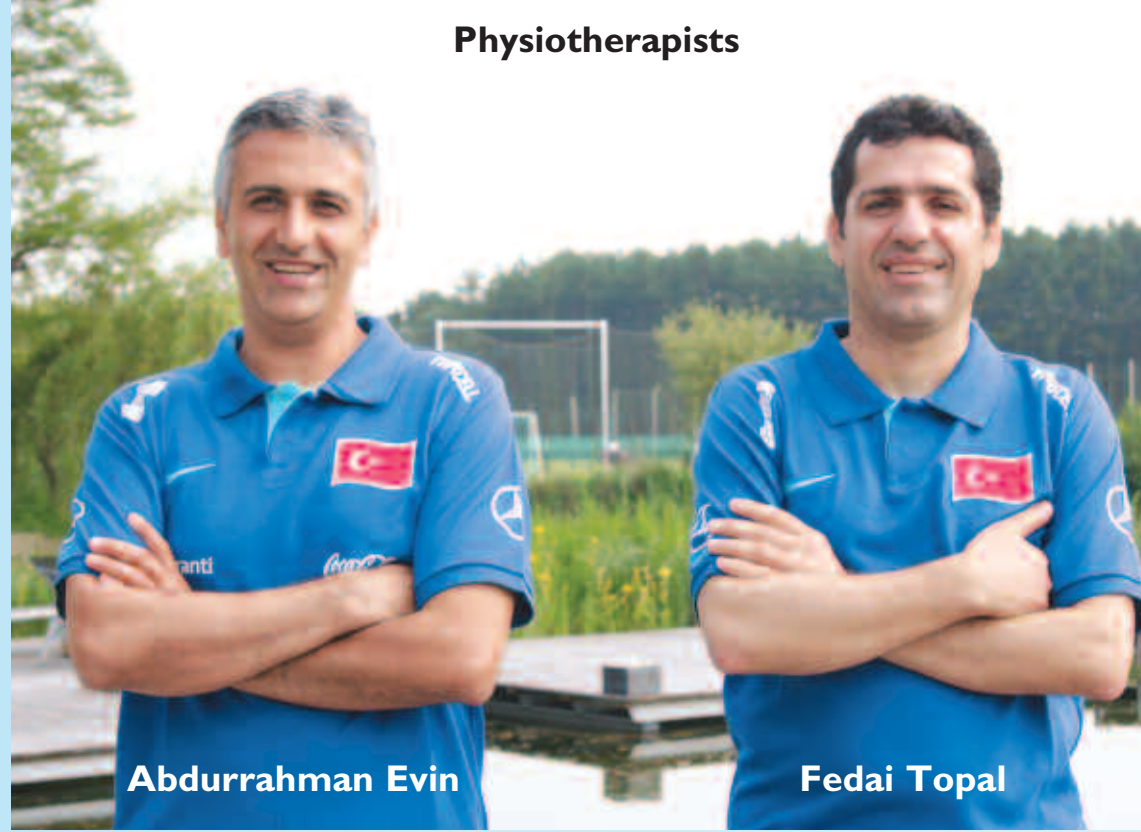
**Megan Mangano**

**Scott Piri**

**Cezmi Turhan**



### Physiotherapists



**Abdurrahman Evin**

**Fedai Topal**

### Kit Managers



**Cüneyt Çelik**

**Cengiz Çelik**

**Kenan Solak**

### Masseurs



**Ilia Ginovic**

**Mehmet Akpençe**

**Uğur Durul**

### Cooks



**Mustafa Yanık**

**Ali Ekber Aksoy**



