

= Serdar Tasci =

Serdar Tasci ( Turkish : Taşcı , [ ˈtaʃtʰi ] ; German : [ taski ] ) ( born 24 April 1987 ) is a German professional footballer who plays as a centre @-@ back for Russian club Spartak Moscow .

Tasci started his career with VfB Stuttgart in 2006 and played with the club until 2013 , captaining the side from 2011 . He played for the club nearly 250 times and helped them win the 2006 ? 07 Bundesliga . He missed a large part of the 2013 ? 14 season with an injury in his first season with his new club , Spartak Moscow . He represented the German national team from 2008 and 2010 , gaining 14 caps , including the 2010 World Cup , in which Germany came third .

= = Club career = =

= = = VfB Stuttgart = = =

Tasci was born in Esslingen , Baden @-@ Württemberg , Germany , to Turkish parents from Artvin . He started playing football when he was six ; he then played for the youth teams of SC Altbach , Stuttgarter Kickers and Stuttgart . Before the 2005 ? 06 season , he joined Stuttgart 's second team , playing in the Regionalliga ( third division ) . Prior to 2006 ? 07 , he was promoted to the club 's Bundesliga side . In October 2006 , he signed a contract that ran until 2010 with the club .

After being included as an unused substitute in a match against Nürnberg , Tasci had his professional debut against Arminia Bielefeld on 20 August 2006 ; the match ? the second of the season ? was a 3 ? 2 win in which Tasci was substituted for injured Danish striker Jon Dahl Tomasson in the 68th minute . Tasci 's first goal followed a week later in a game against Borussia Dortmund in a 1 ? 3 defeat . Tasci 's second goal of the season came on 29 October 2006 , in a 3 ? 0 win over Schalke 04 . At the end of the season , Tasci had made twenty @-@ six appearances and scored twice ; he helped the club win the Bundesliga . He came on for Sami Khedira in extra time when Stuttgart lost 3 ? 2 to Nürnberg in the final of the DFB @-@ Pokal . Manager Armin Veh said of Tasci , " He is a big surprise and with his 20 years plays well beyond his years . "

In the 2007 ? 08 season , Tasci made a strong performance against Schalke in the opening game ; kicker described his performance as clever and cool . Tasci made his Champions League debut on matchday one , as Stuttgart lost 2 ? 1 to Rangers . He scored his first goal of the season in a 4 ? 1 loss against Hamburg on 20 October 2007 . Tasci made twenty @-@ one appearances that season , most of which he missed due to injuries .

In the 2008 ? 09 season , Tasci found was paired with Khalid Boulahrouz in the center @-@ back position . In the qualification round of the UEFA Cup against Hungarian side Gy?ri ETO , Tasci scored his first European goal in a 2 ? 1 victory , taking his club to the next round . In December 2008 , Tasci 's manager and mentor Veh was sacked . On 4 April 2009 , Tasci scored his first league goal of the season in a 2 ? 1 win over Bochum . Tasci missed the rest of the season after injuring his knee in a 2 ? 0 loss against Eintracht Frankfurt . He required surgery but decided not to have it , ending his 2008 ? 09 season .

At the start of the 2009 ? 10 season , on 29 August 2009 , Tasci extended his contract with Stuttgart until the summer of 2014 . A buy @-@ out clause was included as part of signing a new contract . He scored his first Champions League goal as Stuttgart drew 1 ? 1 with Romanian side Unirea Urziceni in the Group @-@ Stage matchday two on 29 September 2009 . In his first half of the season , Tasci captained three matches as a replacement for Thomas Hitzlsperger . However , Tasci sustained " a stress fracture in his foot " that could have put him out for the remainder of the season . He recovered after a few weeks and returned to the first team , where he scored his first goal of the Bundesliga season , in a 1 ? 1 draw against Bochum on 5 December 2009 . Following Hitzlsperger removal of captaincy , Tasci was reportedly furious over not being chosen as a vice @-@ captain . On 12 March 2010 , Tasci scored his second league goal of the season , in a 2 ? 1 loss against Schalke . A week later on 19 , Tasci was declared injured as he suffered a adductor problem . Six days later , he was declared fit , and was an un @-@ used substitute in a match

against Bayern Munich . That season , Tasci made twenty @-@ seven appearance despite recurrence of injuries he sustained during the 2009 ? 10 season .

At the start of the 2010 ? 11 season , Tasci attracted interest from clubs around Europe . Stuttgart 's league rival Hamburger , as well as foreign clubs such as Tottenham Hotspur and Juventus reportedly expressed their desire to sign Tasci . This move was denied by his agent ; he said that Tasci would stay at Stuttgart only . On 15 July 2010 , Tasci expressed his desire to stay at the club . After being excluded from the opening game of the season , Tasci made his first appearance in a 3 ? 2 loss against Borussia Dortmund . He scored his first goal for the club in the Europa League Group @-@ Stage matchday one in a 3 ? 0 win over Young Boys . He then suffered a thigh problem that kept him out for a long time . In late November , Tasci returned to training with a bandage on his right knee . Once again , he was on the sideline after experiencing ongoing problems with his thigh injury despite reporting himself fit . He returned to the field on 19 December 2010 in the match against Bayern Munich , which Stuttgart lost 5 ? 3 . Despite his injury , Tasci would go on to make twenty @-@ six league appearances . He continued to attract interest from Zenit Saint Petersburg , Tottenham Hotspur , Málaga and Arsenal .

In the 2011 ? 12 season , Tasci scored his first goal of the season in a 3 ? 0 win over Hannover on 10 September. and scored his second in a 1 ? 1 draw against Borussia Dortmund on 29 October 2011 . Halfway through the 2011 ? 12 season , on 12 January 2012 , Tasci was appointed the new captain of VfB Stuttgart by Bruno Labbadia . Seven days before being appointed , Tasci and Cristian Molinaro were involved in an incident at training . Tasci third goal came on 10 April 2012 in a 3 ? 1 win over Augsburg . Despite injuries , he appeared twenty @-@ eight times that season .

In the 2012 ? 13 season , Tasci revealed that Spanish club Barcelona was interested in signing him . But in late July , he said that though he was linked with a move to Barcelona , AC Milan and Manchester City , the clubs had not officially approached him . This occurred as the club was making budget cuts , including the wages bill . As the season started , Tasci remained as captain of Stuttgart . In October , Tasci injured his Achilles tendon that kept him out for a short while ; he made his return against Hamburg on 21 October 2012 . Tasci scored his first goal for the club in an Europa League 5 ? 1 win over Steaua Bucure?ti to help the club progress to the knockout stage . On 1 December 2012 , Tasci received a straight red card for a serious foul play on Milorad Pekovi? in a 1 ? 0 victory over Greuther Fürth . Later in April 2013 , he was sidelined as he suffered from an achilles tendon rupture . Tasci made his return a week later as Stuttgart beat Schalke 2 ? 1 on 11 May 2013 . In the DFB @-@ Pokal Final , Tasci captained Stuttgart for the match , which the club lost 3 ? 2 to Bayern Munich .

In the 2013 ? 14 season , Tasci sustained an injury during a match against Mainz in the opening game of the season and was replaced by Konstantin Rausch . At treatment , it was revealed that Tasci had torn his lateral meniscus . With one year left on his contract , Tasci said he was aiming to make progress to sign a new contract , having expressed a desire to prolong his contract to stay at Stuttgart .

= = = Spartak Moscow = = =

On 30 August 2013 , Tasci moved to Russian Premier League side Spartak Moscow for an undisclosed fee . Upon leaving Stuttgart , Tasci told the press : " It was not an easy decision . The present decision is not a decision against VfB , but for the new task . I had an incredibly great time at VfB , have played in the youth here , then I turned pro and recently been the captain . I have always said that I am a VfBler and that I will remain . " Immediately after joining the club , his debut was delayed by the injuries he sustained while at Stuttgart and he did not play for three weeks . He made his first appearance with the club on 2 October 2013 when he appeared in training . After damaging his meniscus , Tasci announced he would return in January following an operation . Tasci made his debut for the club on 17 March 2014 in a 2 ? 2 draw against Anzhi Makhachkala . Tasci would make three more appearances that season .

In April 2014 , Izvestia reported that Tasci could be leaving Spartak Moscow , leading to interest from Turkish sides Fenerbahçe and Beşiktaş . Despite making four appearances during the 2013 ?

14 season , Tasci said he was learning Russian , though he communicates well in German with his team @-@ mates Lucas Barrios , José Manuel Jurado and Patrick Ebert . He could also communicate in Turkish with his new manager Murat Yakin .

Under the management of Yakin , Tasci made his first appearance of the season against Dynamo Moscow on 10 August 2014 , only to come off in the 23rd minutes following an injury , as Spartak Moscow won 2 ? 1 . Tasci then scored his first Spartak Moscow goal on 2 November 2014 , in a 3 ? 3 draw against Kuban Krasnodar . After making twenty @-@ three appearance and scoring once in all competitions , Tasci was offered a new contract by the club .

= = = = Bayern Munich = = = =

On 1 February 2016 , Tasci returned to the Bundesliga , signing for the title holders and league leaders Bayern Munich on loan for the rest of the season , amid an injury crisis in defence . He made his debut on 20 February , starting in a 3 ? 1 home win over SV Darmstadt 98 at the Allianz Arena and playing 53 minutes before being replaced by Juan Bernat .

= = International career = =

Because of his Turkish descent and German birth , he is eligible to play for either Germany or Turkey , but in October 2006 he decided to pursue a career in Germany despite interest from Turkey . Tasci explained his decision to pursue his career in Germany , saying , " It was a decision for Germany and not against Turkey , but in the end , it 's German coach Joachim Löw , who made the most effort for me to come " .

Tasci made his debut for the Germany national under @-@ 21 football team on 6 February 2007 in a 2 ? 0 win against Scotland and went on to make his senior international debut for Germany on 20 August 2008 in a friendly match against Belgium in Nuremberg , which they won 2 ? 0 . The debut came exactly two years after his Bundesliga debut .

He was called up to the Germany squad for the 2010 World Cup in South Africa by coach Löw , being the second player of Turkish extraction in the squad , along with Özil . Tasci made his World Cup debut as a substitute in Germany 's third place match , against Uruguay , coming on in the 91st minute for Mesut Özil . His World Cup debut was a disappointment ; Tasci struggled to touch the ball in his 125 seconds on the pitch ; the club 's sporting director Jochen Schneider said : " But for Serdar Tasci the World Cup from a purely personal point of view was certainly not satisfactory " .

= = Personal life = =

While playing for Stuttgart , Tasci left school in February 2007 , four months before he was due to leave . Despite this choice , he said he intended to study sports management . He has one sister .

In August 2013 , the owner of a website faced legal action when he used Tasci 's name on his social network page .

= = Career statistics = =

= = = Club statistics = = =

As of 30 April 2016 .

1 . ^ Includes German Cup and Russian Cup .

2 . ^ Includes UEFA Champions League and UEFA Cup / Europa League .

= = = International appearances = = =

As of 19 August 2013

= = Honours = =

VfB Stuttgart

Bundesliga : 2006 ? 07

Bayern Munich

Bundesliga : 2015 ? 16

DFB @-@ Pokal : 2015 ? 16