

# SPORT

## Towers halt losing run - but only briefly

AFTER ending a five match losing run by winning 85-82 in a 7 Up Trophy game at Worthing on Saturday, London Towers were back to second best again on Sunday

when they slumped to a 75-67 Budweiser League defeat against Leopards at Wembley Court, writes Marcus Comfert. The game opened with a

stunning slam dunk from Kirk Mitchell, who promptly earned a foul for his basket hanging exploits, but that proved to be a rare highlight for the Towers.

The first quarter saw Towers in control and they were nine points up at one stage. But they then let it slip and at half time found themselves 31-29 down.

The lead continually changed hands in the third quarter, with Kenny Scott going on a 25 point rampage and Mitchell shooting two three-pointers, and although they trailed by three points going into the final quarter, Towers were well in contention.

But then the points just dried up. Scott drew a blank and even two more three-pointers from Mitchell failed to help as Robert Youngblood (21) and Hamri Abram (16) roared the Leopards to victory.

Towers scorers were: Scott 25, Mitchell 19, Danny Lewis 10, Martin Henlan 9, Andrew Bailey 4. Towers won Saturday's

Wembley drawn away IN the third round of the Diadora League Cup, Wembley have been drawn away to Premier Division Dulwich Hamlet.

## McGleish's faith pays dividends

Barton Flowers 0  
Edgware Town 2  
EDGWARE boss Jack McGleish kept faith with the players who had been held to a disappointing draw by Leatherhead, although positions were switched, and he was rewarded with a good win over second in the table Barton on Tuesday, writes Tom Hoeks.

Edgware could have gone ahead in the opening 15 minutes when a Paul Ferry drive drew a great save from Turner but on 10 minutes it was the visiting keeper's turn to prove his worth, Keith Harvey diving bravely to divert the ball from the feet of Guile, with the hard working Perry on hand to mop up the danger.

As half time approached Edgware were fortunate to escape in a goalmouth scramble and at the other end Jason Dale had the ball in the Barton net, but was adjudged offside.

Edgware began to get on top in the second half and they took the lead on 60 minutes when Gerry Brennan's cross found fellow defender Mark White at the far post and he crashed the ball into the net.

15 minutes later the lead was extended. Turner fumbled a high ball in his goalmouth and in the resulting scramble, Jason Dale netted from close range.

Edgware comfortably guarded their advantage to the final whistle for a good win.

Edgware: Harvey, Brennan, Sheridan, White, Ferry, A. Dale, Flynn, Coleman, J. Dale, Henning, Ferry. Subs: John, Sullivan, Collins.

Match 23 referees  
Chris A-10-55; C78 15-01-05; 530 A-15-55; 530 2-4-02; 530 number 1548.

# Smith playing 'hunt a team'

WASPS coach Rob Smith has something of a selection headache for Saturday's club match with Cambridge University at Repton Avenue on Saturday for he has lost the services of some 30 players who are involved in representative games.

19 of his top players are involved in divisional championship matches while others are being taken by Middlesex, Bucks, Surrey and Sussex for county games, and with a few others resting, it all adds up to a nightmare for Smith in his efforts to put out a side.

But despite his problems he is confident that Wasps will field a strong line-up to face the students with veteran fly half

Huw Davies and winger Lawrence Scrase expected to figure amongst his final XV. Also likely to play is a new Kiwi hooker who made an impressive debut last week for the Vandals. The match kicks off at Sudbury at 3pm.

Last Saturday Wasps gave a very good performance in difficult conditions in winning 52-5 at Moseley, scoring eight tries in the process.

The match was virtually over as a contest when they led 31-5 at half time and play became scrappy early in the second half.

But then they upped their game again and finished with a flourish, urged on by

inspirational skipper Buster White. With the pack setting up a good platform, and the possession obtained being used well, Wasps scored tries through Shane Rosier 2, Peter Scrivener 2, Will Green, Michael Skinner, Aaron James, and Trinidadian winger Peters, in his debut match.

The pick of the tries came from James, with the ball passing swiftly through countless hands before the Kiwi centre touched down.

Guy Gregory landed six conversions, but there were no penalty goals. In keeping with Wasps expansive play, they ran the ball at every opportunity.

## Rupert collects Britannic award

BESSBOROUGH Cricket Club's Rupert Thacker (centre) receives the Observer's Britannic Assurance Player of the Year award from Britannic area manager Keith Carry (right) and Observer sports editor, John Comfort.

A phenomenal season with the last earned the 22 year old opener the award. He scored 1474 runs at an average of 56.69, amassing five centuries and five half-centuries, his best innings being a superb unbeaten 137 against Kenton.

Rupert's cricketing talents were not just confined to his batting. He also held 21 catches, most of them top quality slip catches and bowled well enough to take 18 wickets.

A worthy winner indeed of the Britannic award, which includes a trophy, Britannic sponsorship items, a bat autographed by the Middlesex team, and tickets for a Britannic Assurance Championship match of his choice.



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Player of the Year



## Shanahan is the Stones saviour

WEALDSTONE fans thought they'd seen the last of humiliation and embarrassment after last season's disasters, but they came within five minutes of being treated to another huge dose in this Middlesex Senior Cup tie on Monday, writes John Comfort.

Although Stones were below full strength, that was no excuse for their pathetic, gutless performance and only a belated extra time goal from John Shanahan prevented a shock defeat.

It all seemed to be going well when Stones took the lead four minutes into first half stoppage time as Simon Quail and Rod Braithwaite combined well on the left and Quail squared the ball for Billy Hudson to shoot home.

But they failed to heed the warning sounded minutes earlier when Bedford's Kenny Mitchell broke clear and shot against a post, with the ball rebounding into the grateful arms of Kevin Robbins. Mitchell got free again two minutes after the break and this time he made no mistake and fired the visitors level.

Stones were little more than a shambles after that and after Paul Webb had wastefully blazed their best chance of regaining the lead over an open goal, the tie went to extra time.

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## Suspension blues hit Glen

With most of his injured players recovered, suspensions now blight Wembley boss Glen Charles' selection plans.

Charlie Flaherty, Paul Shields and Ashley Cumberbatch are all banned and miss Saturday's home clash with promotion chasing Staines.

However, Matthew Cattlin and Kenny Page, who took a knock against Wivenhoe,

should be fit to ease the manager's problems.

Harrow Borough's bid to return to winning form is unlikely to get much change on Saturday when they visit second in the table Slough Town, who are current favourites to take the Diadora League title and make a swift return to the Conference.

Borough have John Hurlock

and Terry Benning doubtful through injury, while Graham Pearce is still suspended.

Gerry Solomons starts a three match ban for his sending off against Tonbridge and misses Wealdstone's visit to Newport.

Manager Fred Callaghan could hardly have been pleased with the performances of the fringe players in his squad who were given the chance to show what they were capable of in Monday's unhappy cup clash with Bedford. So it is likely to be back to normal, with Darrell Page, Tyrone Kent and Richard Buzaglio all set to return.

Northwood keeper Kevin Beckles has agreed to join Edgware and his transfer will go through this week.

But he will have to wait before making his debut. Edgware have no game on Saturday and Keith Harvey's

good form means that Beckles has to wait for his chance.

Royers Lane look to extend their five match winning run in the league which has taken them up to 4th in the table, when they visit Cheltenham Saracens. Roland Mathews should be fit after an ankle ligaments injury and manager Don Durkin is hoping to make a new signing in time for the fixture.

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## Soccer fixtures

Saturday November 19	
Diadora League Premier Div: Slough Town v Harrow Borough	
Diadora League Div One: Wembley v Staines Town (Vale Farm, 3pm)	
Diadora League Div Three: Epsom & Ewell v Kingsbury Town	
Besser Homes League Southern Div: Newport IOW v Wealdstone	
Mellitic League: Cheltenham Saracens v Rayners Lane	
Tuesday November 22	
Diadora League Div One: Wembley v Maidenhead Utd (Vale Farm, 7.30pm)	
London Challenge Cup: Kingsbury Town v Uxbridge (Silver Jubilee Park, 7.30pm)	
Mildred Charity Cup: Waltham Abbey v Wealdstone	
Wednesday November 23	
Carlsberg Cup: Chessham Utd v Harrow Borough	

## The latest league tables

DIADORA LEAGUE		Premier Division	
Hayes	14	5	0 22 13
Slough T.	14	5	1 27 129
Bromley	14	5	3 26 120
Aylesbury Utd.	12	3	2 24 11 24
Chesham	12	3	4 23 11 24
Enfield	15	5	4 20 20 23
St Albans City	14	5	3 20 20 23
Queens Park	12	3	4 23 21 22
Harrow Bears	10	7	7 24 24 22
Chessham Utd	10	8	4 23 21 22
Purfleet	13	3	4 22 21 21
Weybridge	15	5	5 23 18 20
Yiewsley	14	4	4 23 21 19
Blanche St.	15	4	5 21 14 17
Kingsbury	15	4	4 23 21 18
Hendon	15	4	4 24 21 18
Dulwich Hamlet	15	4	4 23 21 18
Middlesex	14	4	3 21 24 15
Waltham & H.	11	2	5 16 21 11
Midletton	15	5	8 18 21 11
Hitchin	12	1	6 15 20 9
Wokingham T.	12	1	10 10 30 4
Division One			
Borough Wood	14	11	1 23 16 34
Basingstoke	14	4	3 23 23 28
Staines	14	3	3 24 16 27
Alverthorpe	15	8	1 24 16 25
Whytham	16	8	1 23 23 25
Neasay	14	8	5 23 23 23
Silchester	14	7	2 23 21 23
Totting & Mitch.	15	5	2 18 12 23
Charley	15	3	3 23 22 22
Abingdon Town	15	3	6 22 22 21
Woking	15	5	5 16 18 20
Uxbridge	15	5	5 16 18 20
Maidenhead	14	6	2 24 26 20

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