

SPORT

Just champion as Towers start with double

LONDON Towers began their defence of the Budweiser League title in fine style at the weekend with wins over Worthing Bears and Derby Storm.

Any thoughts that Towers were short on confidence after the summer re-shuffle of their roster were allayed in a punishing second half at Worthing on Saturday.

Leading by a slender 37-34 at half time, the new-look Towers slipped into overdrive after the break and their unstoppable finishing saw them to a convincing 81-54 success.

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Deppisch ended top scorer with 34 points, Danny Lewis landed 28 and Windless 13. This Sunday Towers take on Manchester Giants at the Wembley Arena, tip off the best for last as they romped home by 101-84 against Derby.

On Sunday at Wembley Arena, Towers again saved the best for last as they romped home by 101-84 against Derby.

Now Wasps look to tame the Tigers

A BUMPER crowd is expected at Loftus Road on Sunday when Wasps take on Leicester, kick off 3pm.

Having beaten Bath, Wasps face another momentous struggle against a Tigers side containing Dean Richards, Rory Underwood and Martin Johnson. Coaching supremo Nigel Melville realises the job in hand. "Although we

were delighted with our win at Bath we mustn't think we've done it all," he said.

"Leicester are a big occasion side. We must tighten things up. We must cut out the errors and don't give too many penalties away or they will punish us."

Loftus Road for the first time on Sunday. Melville is delighted with his superstar acquisition but was quick to point out that Saturday's win was very much a team effort.

He added "Sooner or later though Inga is going to cut loose and somebody will suffer."

Of the team that played at Bath, all came through unscathed and barring training injuries there will be no changes for the Leicester clash.

That means there will be no place for Scottish international second row Andy Reed, signed last week. He will probably make his debut when Neath visit Sudbury in the Anglo Welsh Cup on October 2.

Keeping it in family

Cup clash is battle of the Bartletts

Windsor 1 Wembley 1 HONOURS were even in this ICIS Division Two top of the table clash as leaders Wembley fought out a draw with second placed Windsor on Tuesday, writes Richard Markiewicz.

The Lions made a wonderful start by taking the lead in the 6th minute when Jon-Barrie Bates' inswinging corner curled into the Windsor net.

The Royalists, however, fought back and shortly after the flying Kevin Beckles had tipped over a close range header. Richard McDowell forced home another corner kick to level the scores in the 17th minute.

Windsor held the upper hand for much of the remainder of a frantic first half and Wembley were grateful to Beckles for making another excellent save to prevent the home side from taking complete control.

The Lions were the stronger outfit after the interval however but could not break the stalemate. Steve Lawrence, latching onto Shaun Fleming's long pass, went closest to scoring but his low strike rolled inches past an upright.

At the other end, Beckles maintained the status quo, bravely smothering a McDowell drive. But both sides had to be content with a draw at the close.

Wembley: Beckles, Cumberbatch, Ellis, Walters, Shields, J.B. Bates, Lawrence, I. Bates, Boreham, Kumah, Fleming. Subs: Thompson, McLeod, Burgess.

TUESDAY'S Middlesex Senior Cup clash between Viking Sports and Wealdstone will be something of a family affair for the Bartletts, for Roy Bartlett is the president and founder of Viking while son Gordon is the Stones manager.

But it's not the first time there has been father and son conflict on the football field. "We've met on four previous occasions, three times when I was at Hounslow and once with Yeading, and I haven't lost yet," said Gordon. "Hopefully we can maintain that record."

Of this latest meeting Roy said: "We are very close, therefore neither of us really wanted this pairing. People often ask how we deal with the situation. Respecting each other's role and ambition we avoid any discussion of the game and will probably confine any reference to 'see you Tuesday.'"

However, Roy's grandchildren have no such inhibitions and are firmly supporting their dad!

Stones warm up for the Viking clash with a visit to Tring in the league on Saturday when striker Steve Fraser will be pressing for a starting spot after his fine sub's appearance against Hertford.

Chris Walton (hamstring) and Steve Bircham (bruised shin) are both injury doubts.

Bob Dowie is hopeful of returning to the Harrow Borough side at Hitchin on Saturday following an elbow injury. Lee Endersby could also be back after illness.

David Clarke has a knee operation this week and will be out for several weeks. Chris Metcalf, Colin Day and Jason Santos are all injury doubts.

A coach leaves Earlsmead for Hitchin at 12.30pm.

Borough have loaned defender Mark Weedon to Leighton Town. An ankle injury is likely to keep Andy Smith out of the Wembley side to face Barking on Saturday. Hurracia Willock is now fit and available for selection while Les Thompson, who scored a hat-trick for the reserves last Saturday, and Wayne Jones, are added to the squad.

On loan Eddie Mee has returned to Hayes.

John Coleman, Steve Hurd and John Shanahan are all injury doubts for Edgware's home game with Leatherhead. New signings Leon Latty and Carl Lindo could both play.

Fixtures

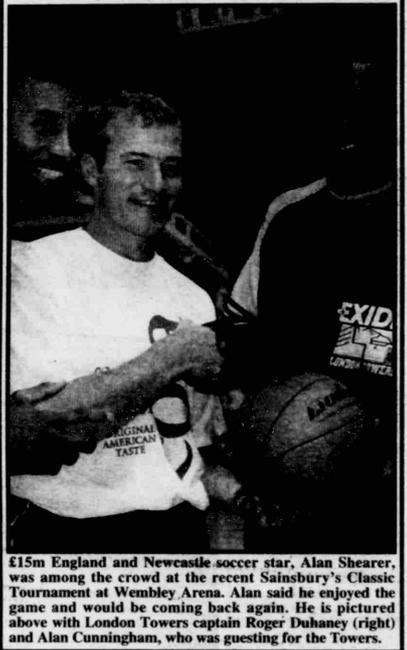
Saturday September 21
ICIS League Premier Div: Hitchin Town v Harrow Borough.
ICIS League Div Two: Edgware Town v Leatherhead (White Lion Ground, 3pm); Wembley v Barking (Vale Farm, 3pm).

ICIS League Div Three: Epsom & Ewell v Kingsbury Town; Tring Town v Wealdstone.

Middle League: Rayners Lane v Spelthorne (Lucas Ave, 3pm).

Tuesday September 17
Middle Senior Cup: Kingsbury Town v Grimsdown Flowers (Silver Jubilee Park, 7.30pm); Viking Sports v Wealdstone.

ICIS League Div Two: Windsor v Edgware Town; Horsham v Wembley.
Wednesday September 25
ICIS League Premier Div: Harrow Borough v Bromley (Earlsmead, 7.45pm).



£15m England and Newcastle soccer star, Alan Shearer, was among the crowd at the recent Sainsbury's Classic Tournament at Wembley Arena. Alan said he enjoyed the game and would be coming back again. He is pictured above with London Towers captain Roger Duhaney (right) and Alan Cunningham, who was guesting for the Towers.

Finnerty is Wares' Cup hero

Ford Utd 2 Edgware Town 3 SEAMUS Finnerty scored a brace of goals for the second match running to send Edgware safely, if not entirely convincingly, through in this FA Cup replay to an away tie against Barton in the second qualifying round, writes Tom Hoops.

Ford looked dangerous from the outset and it was no surprise when the impressive Wallace sent a spectacular 25 yard volley over the stranded Andy Carter to give them the lead after only nine minutes. Edgware's equaliser came out of the blue five minutes later. Dave Instone showing brilliant control to lob over his marker and crash the ball home from 20 yards.

However, Edgware posed little further threat and after 31 minutes Ford went back in front. Wallace being given too much time and space before sending an unstoppable shot past Carter.

But the half ended in tragedy for Ford as full back Tarling was carried off with a broken leg after a fair 50-50 challenge with Murphy.

The interval 'prompting' of manager McGleish injected some semblance of order and urgency to Wares play in the second half.

But with Gerry Brennan having to clear off the line and Carter saving brilliantly from Wallace, it seemed there was no way back for the visitors.

However, Finnerty had other ideas and on 75 minutes he

powered forward and hit a breathtaking equaliser from 25 yards. And with four minutes left he sent his team to victory by unerringly converting a spot kick after Mark Ivers had been hurled to the ground in the penalty area.

Edgware: Carter, Brennan, Mangan, McCluskey, Instone, Flynn, Kirby, Finnerty, Ivers, Newing, Murphy. Subs: Hutchinson, Whytock, Lyons.



Super Steve boosts Stones

Waldstone 5 Hertford Town 1 SUBSTITUTE Steve Fraser inspired Stones to victory on Tuesday after they had struggled against a Hertford side forced to field defender Gary Riddle in goal after keeper Dean Wilson failed to turn up, writes John Comfort.

For all their pressure, Stones rarely looked like scoring and only managed one solitary shot on target in a goalless first half. But they soon lived up when Fraser came on for the injured Chris Walton at half time.

Within four minutes of the restart Fraser's cross was headed back across goal by Fergus Moore for Terry Hibbert to head the opening goal and on 75 minutes Fraser headed in

Stones' second from a Steve Bircham cross. Six minutes later Fraser robbed a defender and put Lee Walker in to make it 3-0 and with five minutes left Lee Tekell netted number four after a good run and cross by Bryan Hammat.

In injury time Dave Farrowden's penalty reduced the arrears for Hertford after Roy Marshall was adjudged to have handled in the area, but Stones had the last word, Fraser picking up a loose ball and curling a great 20 yard strike into the corner of the net to complete the scoring.

Waldstone: Bonfield, Massey, Hibbert, Moore, Waugh, Marshall, Walton (Fraser), Tekell, Walker, McBride (Smith), Bircham (Hammat).

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