

SPORT

Tuigamala staying?

Wasps bid to keep Samoan ace

WASPS officials are very hopeful that Va'aiga Tuigamala will be staying with the club until the end of the season.

They have had a series of meetings with their Wigan counterparts this week and significant progress has been made.

The awesome Western Samoan has become a favourite with both teammates and fans alike since his arrival in September and if he stays it would be a real boost to Wasps' Courage League title bid.

By Alan Bodenham

It is no secret that Tuigamala has enjoyed his return to the Union code, something that is not surprising, said Nigel Melville, Wasps director of rugby. "He has been playing union since he was a little lad and is really only new to the league code."

Whatever happens, Tuigamala will face Bristol at the Memorial Ground on Saturday, the scheduled end of his present contract.

Meanwhile, as Wasps are negotiating for Tuigamala's union spell to be extended, two of their England stars are pondering the prospect of making a move in the opposite direction and joining Wigan for the summer.

Wigan sent scrum half Shaun Edwards to Loftus Road on Sunday to watch skipper Lawrence Dallaglio and Chris Sheasby and both players were said afterwards to have shown interest in the possibility of temporary transfers to play for the northern club in the Super League.

Soccer programme is wiped out by the big freeze

THE winter weather hit soccer in a big way on Saturday with all five of the senior local clubs frozen out of the action. It was bad day all round for the ICIS League. Their programme was decimated with only two of a scheduled 38 matches being played.

Edgware Town seemed set to get a game in on Tuesday when the Hillingdon Borough pitch was declared fit in mid afternoon for a Middlesex Senior Cup tie. But the match referee wisely thought otherwise and game was called off an hour before the kick off.

Local rugby was also badly hit by the weekend with all junior matches being called off. Wasps did manage to play their Courage League game with Harlequins thanks to the under-soil heating at Loftus Road, but perhaps wished they hadn't as they lost 19-17.



Wasps scrum half Andy Gomarsall gets his backs on the move in Sunday's clash with Harlequins.

King kicked a last gasp penalty at Loftus Road. Defeat at West Hartlepool last week has plunged Bristol deep into the relegation mire and they will be very determined to get a result against Wasps.

After the bruising clash with Harlequins on Sunday, there have been several visits to the treatment table this week and fitness reports are awaited on several Wasps players.

With this in mind, Melville and his coaches will not be selecting their team until tomorrow (Friday).

Banned Stones duo miss table top clash



Banned Wealdstone duo Roy Marshall (left) and Steve Bircham, who miss the top of the table clash.

BOTH Roy Marshall and Steve Bircham will be missing from the Wealdstone line up for Saturday's top of the table clash with Braintree Town at the White Lion ground.

Both have accumulated five bookings and will be starting two match suspensions.

The timing could not have been worse as league leaders Stones will be looking to avenge one of only two defeats they have suffered in Division Three this season.

However, manager Gordon Bartlett is said to be busy in the transfer market and a couple of new signings to boost his side are a likelihood before Saturday's clash.

Former Hayes and Swindon midfielder Dean Hooper has joined Harrow Borough on loan from Stevenage and could make his debut at Kingstonian on Saturday.

Borough will be without Brian Jones and Gary Issott, who are serving suspensions. If Borough's Middlesex Senior Cup tie with Staines was called off last night, it will be rescheduled for this Wednesday.

Edgware Town can do neighbours Wembley a favour

on Saturday if they get a result when they visit second in the table Leatherhead.

With no injuries or suspensions, manager Jock McGeish has a full squad to select from.

Wembley will be without a game on Saturday as scheduled opponents, Barking, are involved in an FA Vase tie.

Fixtures

Saturday January 11
 ICIS League Premier Division: Kingstonian v Harrow Borough.
 ICIS League Division Two: Leatherhead v Edgware Town.
 ICIS League Division Three: Wealdstone v Braintree Town (White Lion ground, 3pm); Lewes v Kingsbury Town.

Tuesday January 14
 Middx Senior Cup: Hillingdon Borough v Edgware Town.
 Associate Members Trophy: Wembley v Tilbury (Vale Farm, 7.30pm).
 FA Youth Cup: QPR v Wimbledon (Earlsmead, 7pm).

Wayne is best

WEMBLEY have named defender Wayne Walters as their Carlton Player of the Month for December.

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Gayts open up massive 1000 point lead at top

OLD Gaytonians Athletic Club extended their lead at the top of the Chiltern Cross Country League to more than 1000 points with a commanding team performance in the fourth round fixture at Watford on Saturday, writes Tony Bush.

Richard Godden returned to competition after a mysterious illness and finished an excellent 3rd in the senior race to stake a claim to an individual medal.

David Frampton also ran well to take 6th spot.

A feature of the 50 points team victory in this category was superb team packing, with all 10 scorers finishing in the top 40.

Notable performances came from 19 year old James Stephenson, 34th in his first cross country race since 1995, and Mark Curson, who placed 35th after a long absence through injury.

Adam Bowden ran a splendid race to win the un-

der-15 race with a strong finish up the final hill to lead Gayts to an eight point victory in this age group.

Mark McIntosh also ran well for 4th spot and there were good performances from Abbas Noor, following illness, Daniel Prazer and Andrew Francis.

Gayts won the under-17 event by just a single point and are now almost level with Milton Keynes with one race remaining.

Robert Fisher was again Gayts' leading runner in 6th spot and he was well supported by Sean Hunt, Pravin Mepani and Chad McLeod, who all finished in the top 12.

The under-13 squad were surprised by a very short course but still performed well to place 2nd.

Siemon Taylor ran well for 7th spot and was well supported by Matthew Barratt, Stuart Spencer, on his return from injury, and Ryan O'Connor.

Gayts placings
 Senior Junior (6 miles): 3 Richard Godden 32.34; 6 David Frampton 33.05; 27 Laurence Rudge 35.20; 28 Andy Holmes 35.26; 29 Chris Finelli 35.34; 32 Steve Jones 35.42; 33 DeRoy Simon 35.46; 34 James Stephenson 35.47; 35 Mark Curson 35.52; 39 Mike Lepps 36.14; 48 Graham Edmonds 37.05; 50 Gareth Noble 37.12; 73 Ross Bloom 39.06; 78 Graham Sillitoe 39.22; 85 Nigel Flint 40.29; 87 John Camrubi 40.44; 125 Tony Bush 48.31.
 Teams: Gayts 1st.

Under-17 (4 miles): 6 Robert Fisher 24.52; 8 Sean Hunt 25.03; 11 Pravin Mepani 25.31; 12 Chad McLeod 25.33; 14 Matthew Nicholls 25.54; 18 Geoff Thompson 26.56; 21 Alan Thompson 27.57; 24 David Morren 29.57. Teams: Gayts 1st.
Under-15 (3.5 miles): 1 Adam Bowden 17.28; 4 Mark McIntosh 17.36; 10 Abbas Noor 18.35; 11 Daniel Prazer 18.38; 13 Andrew Francis 18.42; 17 Tim Steere 19.51; 20 Michael O'Connor 20.06; 21 Michael Stratton 20.10; 23 Peter Norris 20.19; 25 Mark Morren 20.30; 31 Chris McMenaman 23.11. Teams: Gayts 1st.
Under-13 (1 mile): 7 Siemon Taylor 6.57; 12 Matthew Barratt 7.05; 13 Stuart Spencer 7.07; 19 Ryan O'Connor 7.26; 23 Leon Saunders 7.30; 25 Gary Harrison 7.34; 26 Andrew Garland 7.37; 30 Paul Cousins 7.44; 37 James Moulton-Smith 8.18; 39 Kirun Sreenivasan 8.20; 40 Neil Murphy 8.25. Teams: Gayts 2nd.
 Overall team positions: 1 Old Gayts 6489; 2 Windsor 5486; 3 Milton Keynes 5383; 4 Oxford 4901; 5 Vauxhall 4304; 6 Aylesbury 4276; 7 Bracknell 4224; 8 Watford 3895; 9 Wycombe 3889; 10 Dacorum 3326; 11 Slison 3171.

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Danny is Player of Month
 LONDON Towers guard, Danny Lewis, has won the Budweiser League's Player of the Month award for December.
 The honour, based on statistics for the month, is recognition of the key contribution made by Lewis in helping the Towers stay in the hunt for honours both at home, where they are currently joint top of the Budweiser League, and in the European Cup where Towers have reached the last 32.
 Now in his third season with the Towers, the 26 year old Budweiser League All-Star from Kalamazoo, Michigan, averages 19 points per game and ranks 2nd in the League for assists (averaging 8 per game) and 3rd for steals (3.3pg).
 The Coach of the Month award went to Joe Whelton of the Manchester Giants.
Towers go top
 See page 111
 Danny Lewis. Picture by DZ Photography.

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