

SPORT

Euro loss cools Towers after their crucial overtime taming of Tigers

EXIDE London Towers lost the penultimate match in their European Cup pool on Tuesday night when they went down 85-70 to Honved.

The Hungarians started the brighter and led 20-9 after 10 minutes.

But Towers, who cannot now qualify for the knockout stage of the competition, fought back through James Hamilton and Martin Gottfried to edge ahead at 35-34 two minutes from the break.

However, four 3-pointers from American Steve McMahan in the second half saw Honved into a 65-48 advantage - a lead they comfortably maintained to the end.

Last Sunday Towers claimed a crucial 78-77 overtime win at Wembley over Thames Valley Tigers to remain top of the Budweiser League and take an important

1-0 series lead over a team that may well be snapping at their title heels come April.

Tigers' Dameon Page had threatened to win the game late in normal time with a 3-point shot with just 43 seconds left. But Danny Lewis matched his effort to send the game into overtime.

Towers built a 78-75 lead with 1.54 of the additional period left and, although John McCord got two points back for the visitors, they were left empty-handed after Page was unable to get a last shot off before the buzzer.

Earlier, Towers had denied Tigers a useful half time lead when they sank the first half's last seven points, including five from Lewis.

Tigers edged 59-55 ahead with a quarter left and it eventually needed 3-pointers from Lewis and Paul Deppisch late

on to ensure overtime.

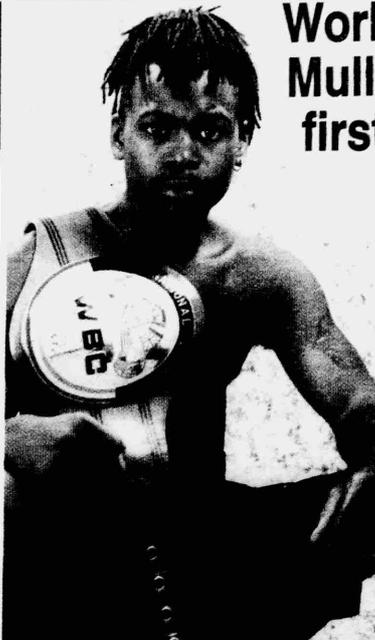
Tonight (Thursday) Towers take on Leicester Riders at Wembley Hall in the first leg of the semi-finals of the Classic Cola National Cup, tip off 8pm. Tickets for the game are available from the Towers Hotline on 0990 232 023 or Wembley Box office on 0181 900 1234.

On Sunday Towers return to League action, away to Derby Storm, tip off 7.30pm.

BUDWEISER BASKETBALL LEAGUE

Latest table

	p	w	l	pts
London Towers	10	11	2	22
Birmingham Bull	10	9	1	18
TV Tigers	12	9	3	18
Leopards	13	9	4	18
Manchester Giants	11	7	4	14
Sheffield Sharks	11	7	4	14
Newcastle Eagles	12	7	5	14
Chester Jets	10	6	4	12
Worthing Bears	16	5	11	10
Leicester Riders	12	4	8	8
Derby Storm	12	3	9	6
Crystal Palace	14	3	11	6
Watford Royals	14	0	14	0



World title is target for Mullings after another first round stoppage

A CRACK at the World title and avenging his only professional defeat are the goals of Harrow's Patrick Mullings after he emphatically retained his WB International Super Bantamweight crown at Wembley Arena on Saturday by stopping Russian, Hiviva Hydrin, in the first round.

It was his second successive first round stoppage, having won his last bout against Francy Leroy of France in similar devastating fashion.

Hydrin had been scheduled to meet the current European Super Bantamweight Champion, Spencer Oliver - the only man to have beaten Mullings in his 14 pro fights - but the Russian was regarded as too dangerous and too awkward and the bout was shelved.

But Mullings made short work of Hydrin and now he wants Oliver. However, he too is being avoided, in view of his great performance on Saturday it might just prove to be a wise decision by the European Champion.

Taking the World title, currently held by Junior Jones, is Patrick's main ambition. And he wants to do it in style, and on the champion's own doorstep, in America.

Patrick's began boxing at the tender age of 11 and, in a long and successful amateur career, he won the Junior ABA, the NABC and the Senior ABA titles.

He turned professional in December 1994 and is managed and promoted by Frank Maloney. He trains at Lambeth's Fitzroy Lodge Gym under the guidance of Dean Powell and in the evenings works out locally at Northolt ABC. He is open to any offers of sponsorship.

County League votes for two divisions

THE Hampton Trust Middlesex County Cricket League has voted to split their number into two divisions for the 1999 season.

The new divisions, at first, second and third team level, will be decided on final placings over the 1998 season.

Clubs finishing in the top half of the table will make up the new First Division with the remainder placed in the Second Division.

There will be a system of promotion and relegation between the divisions, with two up and two down, but there will be no relegation from the Second Division into any other league or competition.

For the 1998 season, only one overseas player will be permitted to play in each team in each division of the league, and players who have played a first class game in the preceding 12 months will not be eligible to play in the league.

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Wasps aim to get on track

Dallaglio looks to stop the rot in Quins clash

LAWRENCE Dallaglio will take inspiration from England's rousing performance against the All Blacks when he leads Wasps in their vital Allied Dunbar Premiership clash against bitter London rivals, Harlequins, at the Stoop on Saturday.

The Wasps skipper is determined to get his side's season back on track after losing four games in a row.

"We love beating the Harlequins," said Dallaglio. "They are like a red rag to a bull as far as we are concerned so we will be all out to get them."

The last few weeks have brought a se-

By Alan Bodenham

ries of selection headaches for Wasps supremo, Nigel Melville. Centre Nick Greenstock dislocated a shoulder at an England training session and will not return until the New Year. Damien Hopley would have been the ideal replacement. His comeback was progressing smoothly until he broke down badly in a recent Vandals game at Saracens and he is not expected to be seen again this season.

Prop Will Green was also injured on England duty and is also out.

There is better news, however, about Alex King. The fly half was unable to make his long awaited home international debut following a knee operation but he tested his fitness for the Vandals at Sudbury last night (Wednesday) and provided there was no reaction, he will orchestrate Wasps' challenge on Saturday.

Melville and Quins boss Andy Keast will undoubtedly take part in a battle of wits in the build up to Saturday's encounter and neither man will name their final lineups until near kick off time.

Banned duo miss Stones' Vase tie

WEALDSTONE bid for a place in the fourth round of the FA Vase at Great Wakering Rovers on Saturday without skipper Fergus Moore and striker Steve Bircham, who are both suspended.

But Dennis Greene should be back to face the Essex

Senior League club after recovering from a bout of flu, and Paul Lamb is available after completing a ban.

If a replay is required it will take place on Wednesday at the White Lion ground, kick off 7.45pm, with Tuesday's scheduled league visit to Horsham being postponed.

Stones midfielder Terry Hibbert, who has been unable to command a regular place in the side, has been signed by neighbours Northwood.

David Clarke's suspension keeps him out of the Harrow Borough team to visit Heybridge.

Former Borough defender Rob Marshall has rejoined the club on a month's loan from Stevenage.

The selection problems of Wembley manager Paul Shields for Saturday's visit to Croydon have been eased with the return of Eddy Mee from suspension, Craig Elliott, who missed the last two games due to a chest infection, and Dean Ross, who has recovered from a shoulder injury.

Richard Dee, a YTS footballer, is Shields' latest signing.

Edgware, now down to fourth, look to get back into promotion contention with a home game against Bracknell.

They will again be without both Steve Hurd and Lee Smart, who are suspended.

It could be Wares v Stones in Trophy

EDGWARE Town have had an incentive for winning Tuesday's Associate Members Trophy match against Ford United, for the winners have been drawn at home to Wealdstone in the third round.

In the Full Members Cup, Harrow Borough have been drawn away to either Dagenham and Redbridge or Romford.

The latest soccer tables

RYMAN LEAGUE

Premier Division

	p	w	d	l	f	a	pts
Dagenham	19	11	5	3	40	22	38
Sutton Utd	19	11	5	3	40	22	38
Kingstonian	20	10	7	3	36	21	37
Harrow	17	10	6	2	28	21	31
Boreham W	17	8	4	5	26	22	28
Purfleet	17	6	5	6	25	27	27
Walton & H	19	8	6	5	20	27	27
Aylesbury	20	8	3	8	25	33	27
Enfield	17	8	3	8	20	34	27
Heybridge	16	9	1	7	22	28	25
St Albans	16	7	3	6	21	24	24
Canshallon	15	6	5	4	27	25	23
Basingstoke	15	6	4	5	25	23	23
Bromley	15	5	7	6	24	23	22
Dulwich H	19	5	6	8	30	31	21
Hesham	19	5	3	11	25	30	20
Gravesend	18	6	2	10	31	34	20
Hitchin	14	4	7	13	25	27	19
Bishops St	20	6	1	13	25	36	19
Yeading	19	4	6	9	22	29	18
Basingstoke	19	4	6	9	25	16	16
Oxford C	19	4	12	16	44	13	13

Division Two

	p	w	d	l	f	a	pts
Marlow	19	9	4	6	37	34	31
Tooting	18	9	3	6	29	22	29
Chalfont	20	7	8	5	31	28	29
Spurting	18	8	6	3	23	25	26
Northwood	18	8	6	4	30	30	24
Hungerford	19	6	7	6	33	30	24
Wingate & F	19	6	6	8	34	36	23
Bracknell	20	5	6	9	30	44	21
Windsor	18	5	6	8	30	31	20
Barnet	17	5	5	7	25	28	20
Leighton	16	2	8	11	19	27	20
Wingate & F	17	3	7	12	23	28	11
Horsham	18	3	4	11	23	37	13
Clifton	18	2	4	13	23	38	11
Egham	18	3	2	13	19	46	11
Chesham	20	1	6	16	19	52	6

Division Three

	p	w	d	l	f	a	pts
Ford	15	9	4	2	34	14	31
Harrow	16	8	7	1	31	19	31
E Thurrock	14	10	4	2	16	30	30
Wingate & F	15	8	4	3	37	17	28
Ware	15	8	3	4	26	17	27
Clapton	14	8	2	4	17	26	26
Hornchurch	16	4	8	7	33	22	22
Audley	14	6	3	5	25	21	21
Croydon Ath	17	6	3	8	26	24	21
Epsom	15	6	3	6	27	24	21
Flackwell H	14	5	4	5	21	19	19
Tring	15	4	6	6	21	25	19
Compton C	14	5	3	6	28	27	18
Cammerley	13	4	5	4	26	18	17
Dorking	15	5	2	8	26	40	17
Wingate & F	14	3	7	18	29	15	16
Kingsbury	16	3	12	19	37	10	16
Lewes	16	1	3	12	14	40	6
Southall	17	1	2	14	12	51	5

No Grays day for Wembley

DUE to Grays Athletic's involvement in a rearranged Essex County Cup tie, Wembley's visit there for a Ryman League Division One fixture on Tuesday was postponed.

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Edgware's Steve Fraser wins an aerial duel in Saturday's clash with Windsor which Wares lost 4-0.

Soccer fixtures

Saturday December 13

FA Vase 3rd round: Great Wakering Rovers v Wealdstone.
Ryman League Premier Div: Heybridge Swifts v Harrow Borough.
Ryman League Div One: Croydon v Wembley.
Ryman League Div Two: Edgware Town v Bracknell (White Lin. 9pm).
Ryman League Div Three: Kingsbury Town v Ford Utd (Silver Jubilee Park, 9pm).
Midx County League: Stonebridge

Town v Rayners Lane (2pm).
Monday December 15
Ryman League Premier Div: Purfleet v Harrow Borough.
Tuesday December 16
Midx Charity Cup: Ashford Town v Kingsbury Town.
Associate Members Trophy: Ford Utd v Edgware Town.
Ryman League Div One: Abingdon Town v Wembley (7.45pm).
Ryman League Div Two: Horsham v Wealdstone (7.45pm).

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