

SPORT

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Wasps look for a repeat performance against Irish

LONDON Irish visit Loftus Road in the Allied Dunbar Premiership on Sunday, kick off 3pm, and Wasps will be all out to repeat their stunning performance of a fortnight ago when they dumped the same opponents out of the Cup, writes Alan Bodenham.

The hangover from their mid-season slump continues to affect Wasps and leaves them with only London Irish and Bristol below them in the table. Automatic relegation is un-

likely this season however, but a win is still vital though as it would put Wasps far enough in front of the strugglers to avoid the embarrassment of a play off.

Lawrence Dallaglio's side continue to improve and received a further boost this week with the return of centre Rob Henderson. The Irish international, who has been out with a groin injury, so nearly tasted an unlikely victory in Paris on Saturday and will be inspired to do well

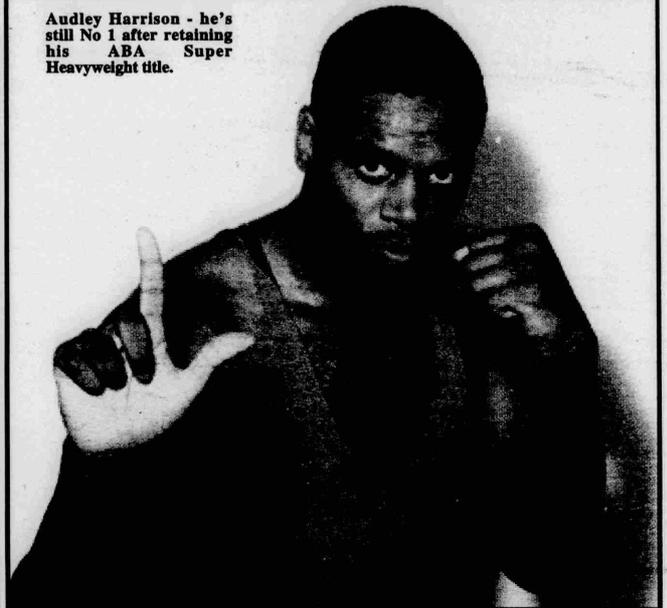
against his old club.

The Irish have their injury problems, but they too are likely to be inspired by the performance of their national side at the weekend.

● Wasps and England captain Lawrence Dallaglio apparently faced taunts of 'Judas' from some fans during last Sunday's match with Saracens, a marked reference to the currently intensifying club or country struggle. He was said to have been unaffected by the jibes.

Games glory the target for Harrison after retaining ABA crown

Audley Harrison - he's still No 1 after retaining his ABA Super Heavyweight title.



COMMONWEALTH Games glory is now the goal for Audley Harrison after another devastating performance saw him retain his ABA super heavyweight title at the National Indoor Arena, Birmingham, last Wednesday.

26 year old Audley, who boxes for the famous Repton Boxing Club and lives in Kingsbury, took on Rover Boxing Club's Dean Redmond in the final and, in his own words, "Everything went according to plan." "I was nice and relaxed. I put him down in the first, and then in the second and after I put him down again - that was it. The referee stopped the fight."

Audley, who is currently in his third year of

a BSc degree in sports studies and leisure management at Brunel University, is now turning his attention to international competition - and ultimately the Commonwealth Games in Kuala Lumpur in September.

This week he is in Italy with the British team for the European Championships qualifying tournament.

"It's been a good year and things are going well," he said. "I've done everything domestically but now I want to show that I can do it nationally."

Audley's enthusiasm, dedication and undoubted talent makes it difficult to believe he will not succeed in that aim.

Borough booster

Fears eased by rare home victory

Harrow Borough 2 Basingstoke Town 0
BOROUGH'S prospects of retaining their Premier Division status were given a significant boost on Tuesday with this much needed win - remarkably their first at home in the league for almost four months, writes John Comfort.

Goals from Pat Gavin and Mark Xavier secured the points but it was a good performance all round from the Earlsmead outfit with several individuals making notable contributions.

High on the list was on loan keeper Noel Imber who did not have a happy match against Bromley, but more than made amends with a confident

display and a number of good saves at vital stages.

New signing, centre back Darren Gorman, made a sound debut, while in midfield Jon-Barrie Bates was particularly impressive.

The first of Imber's crucial stops came after only seven minutes when let Alan Carey through on goal. But the keeper blocked his low shot with his legs. Later in the half a diving save from Imber kept out a good strike from Bruce Tydeman.

Borough's best chance of the first period came in the 18th minute following a great run down the left by Nko Ekoku. His cross found Xavier at the near post but, with the goal at

his mercy, he delayed his shot, allowing Steve Beeks to hustle the ball away for a corner.

Xavier later wasted another chance, firing over from close in after being set up by Pat Gavin's knock down.

Although Borough looked the sharper side after the break they had a let off in the 64th minute when Gary Issott's poor pass was intercepted by Paul Wilkinson who put Carey clear. However, the diving Imber superbly turned his goalbound strike away for a corner.

It was a crucial save, for two minutes later the home side took the lead following an Alan Paris free kick. Defender Danny Barker missed with his at-

tempt to clear and Gavin just got a touch to send the ball past keeper Graham Benstead and agonisingly slowly into the corner of the net.

Borough's advantage was never threatened and they put the outcome beyond doubt with a second goal five minutes from time. A deep ball from Sean James was flicked on by Ian Rutherford, with his first touch after coming on as a substitute, and Xavier raced through to blast a rising drive past Benstead.

A fine goal to round off a fine performance.

Harrow Borough: Imber, Ekoku, James, Gorman, Paris, Webster, McGarrell (Lord), Issott, Gavin (Rutherford), Xavier, Bates. Other sub: Green.

Stones miss magic of banned Jones

Wealdstone 1 Witham Town 1
WEALDSTONE were certainly missing the magic of the suspended Brian Jones on Tuesday when they dropped two valuable promotion points to lowly Witham, writes Graham Smith.

The home side started off brightly with efforts from both Keith

Boreham and Dennis Greene going close.

Paul Lamb then had a fine shot tipped over the bar by Kriethn and from the resulting corner Paul Bennett's header was just wide.

After 34 minutes another good run by Boreham ended with his shot being saved but Stones should

have taken the lead a minute later when a Boreham shot was miscleared by the keeper to Greene who sliced his shot well wide of the gaping goal.

It is now a month since the striker last found the net.

Seven minutes before the break a cross from man of the match

Lamb found Boreham but his free header went straight into Kriethn's arms.

With Wealdstone running out of ideas in the second half, Witham came more into the game and they were unlucky not to score in the 52nd minute when a header from Braybrook hit the crossbar.

Then Darren Bonfield kept his side in the game with a good save from Gianluca Tei.

However, it was Stones who went ahead after 75 minutes. An excellent run by Lamb ended with him being brought down in the box and Boreham scored from the resulting spot kick.

But the lead did not last long and Witham took a point when Nash's cross was headed home by the unmarked Tei for the visitors' equaliser.

Wealdstone: Bonfield, Lamb, Sterling, Moore, Benning, Marshall, Gayle (Walker), McKay, Boreham (Garner), Greene (Celair), Bircham.

Edgware out to put brake on leaders

EDGWARE look to end the 31 match unbeaten run of Braintree Town when they visit the league leaders on Saturday.

They will be without Graham Ash, who starts a long suspension incurred through Sunday football, but Gerry Brennan, Mark Ivers and Craig Elliott are all on the verge of full fitness and could figure in Jock McGeish's squad.

Harrow Borough boss Alan Paris has been active, signing centre back Darren Gorman from Sussex League side

Midhurst, ex Sutton defender Chris Green, striker Johnny Kumah from Kingsbury and winger Stefan McGarrell from Walton, as well as taking keeper Noel Imber on loan from Wealdstone.

But Gavin Maguire, who rejoined the club from Marlow last week, has been released after being sent off in his first game back against Bromley.

Borough have also released Ricky Denny.

Paris has David Hook (rib muscle) and Darren Coleman (ankle) still out through injury

and they will both miss Saturday's home game with Bishops Cleeve.

However, striker Ian Rutherford is now fit and is added to the squad.

Ian Bates returns to the Wembley line up for their vital bottom of the table clash at Thame.

Sofiane Sardi has been released by the club and is expected to join Enfield.

Brian Jones has completed his suspension and will be available for Wealdstone's vital home match against promotion rivals Met Police.

Although they have made some progress, both Chris Walton and Stan Bowler are still absent through injury.

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Soccer fixtures

Saturday March 14
Ryman League Premier Div: Harrow Borough v Bishops Stortford (Earlsmead, 3pm).
Ryman League Div One: Thame Utd v Wembley.
Ryman League Div Two: Braintree Town v Edgware Town; Wealdstone v Met Police (White Lion ground, 3pm).
Ryman League Div Three: Epsom & Ewell v Kingsbury Town.

Tuesday March 17
Midx Charity Cup semi-final: Wembley v Hampton (Vale Farm, 7.30pm).
Vandanel Trophy semi-final: Wealdstone v Epsom & Ewell (White Lion ground, 7.45pm).
Ryman League Premier Div: Harrow Borough v Dagenham & Redbridge (Earlsmead, 7.45pm).

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