

Twickers or bust for Wasps



DAVE PEGLER... 'We must not fall at this hurdle.'

WASPS go into Saturday's John Player Cup semi final against Leicester with skipper Dave Pegler insisting: "We must not fall at this hurdle."

Pegler believes that losing in the semis is the most heart-breaking way to go out of any competition.

And he says: "We might as well have gone out in the first round if we lose on Saturday."

England International Paul Rendall's return brings Wasps back to full strength as they bid to reach their second Twickenham final in a row. They lost 25-17 to Bath last year.

Despite having home advantage, and the majority of an ex-

pected 3,000 plus crowd behind them, Wasps will start as underdogs.

But Pegler feels that his men are more than capable of causing an upset. "There are no nerves," he says. "Just great anticipation among the players."

"In all honesty Leicester probably deserve to be starting as favourites. But I doubt that there will be as much as three points in it at the end."

Leicester have the psychological advantage of having already beaten Wasps at Sudbury this season by 17-14.

They will be without flying England winger Rory Underwood, who is on duty with the

RAF, but otherwise will also be at full strength.

A fierce row has broken out, however, about the selection of Wayne Richardson in their front row in preference to Ray French.

The burly Richardson was brought in for his scrummaging ability — leaving French out in the cold, and seething with anger.

Wasps' starlet Howard Lamb made a fine debut in the back row as England Colts crushed Italy 22-10 at New Brighton, Cheshire, on Saturday.

Wasps' all conquering Ladies team cruised into the final of the Women's Rugby Football Union League Knockout with a 26-0 win at Leeds.



PAUL RENDALL... Returns to the Wasps' line up.

New deadline

DUE to a change in The Observer's production deadlines, all sports copy must reach our offices no later than first post on Tuesday.

Club call

A FOOTBALL extravaganza takes place this Sunday at Hounslow FC in Denbigh Road, Hounslow, starting at 10 a.m.

The day long event should be of interest to all soccer clubs. There will be details of how to arrange soccer tours from experienced travel agents, reduced prices for kit and equipment and coaching advice from Gordon Bartlett, Middlesex County FA's full time coach.

Knockout!

HARROW ABA held its annual grand open tournament at the Harrow Leisure Centre last Thursday ... and it proved a knockout success.

A sell-out crowd at the Byron Hall was treated to an action-packed evening of boxing.

And the Observer joined them at ringside.

Report and pictures page 26.

May's day

ERIC MAY has been appointed chairman of Harrow Borough Football Club, with Denis Russell as his vice-chairman. The decision was made at a meeting of the club's board of directors last Wednesday. Mr May's appointment will enable former chairman Peter Rogers to concentrate solely on football administration.

Bronze run

TEENAGER Paul Toogood took a bronze medal in the 800 metres at the Dairy Crest AAA under 20's championships at Colford on Saturday.

Paul, 18, of Oakington Manor Drive, Wembley, who runs for Shaftesbury, clocked a personal best 1 min 58.1 in the youth final.

Six pages this week

More sport pages 24-28

'Stones have a say in title race'

AVOIDING relegation may be Wealdstone's aim in the last six games of a generally depressing season.

But the club will also have a big say in the destination of the GM Vauxhall Conference title.

For 'Stones must play three of the top contenders, starting with a visit to Altrincham on Saturday April 4.

They then take on Enfield and Barnet at home over Easter in fixtures crucial to both their title chasing neighbours.

"Easter is an important period in every league in the country," said 'Stones' boss Colin Meldrum. "You can find you have escaped from relegation or won promotion if you have a good Easter."

"It is a period that sorts the men out from the boys because you have two or three games over a few days. If we are safe by then, there will be no pressure on us, but Barnet and Enfield could have it all to play for."

'Stones' remaining fixtures are: Home — Gateshead, Enfield, Barnet, Kidderminster. Away — Altrincham, Dagenham.

Kerr the centre of attention

SEVERAL League clubs have been showing a keen interest in Harrow Borough lately.

Crystal Palace manager Steve Coppell and Portsmouth boss Alan Ball were both at Boro's match at Croydon last week, along with scouts from Tottenham and Wimbledon.

Their interest in the club has co-incided with Boro's undefeated 16-match run — and the arrival of American World Cup striker John Kerr.

Portsmouth are said to be showing the strongest interest in twenty-one-year-old Kerr, who played in two World Cup qualifying games for the USA.

He has netted five goals in ten games since joining Boro and manager Keith Chamberlin says: "If these people are watching anybody it has to be Kerr."

But he stressed that no official approaches have yet been made to Boro

and he would be making no moves until contact had been made.

A student at Syracuse University, California, Kerr is in England studying English Law and is still undecided whether to stay here or return to the States.

He is going to play in the Summer League in Canada at the end of the season and will decide in August if he is going to return.

Harrow Borough Reserves are back in the Suburban League title hunt after Saturday's fine 2-1 win at Hayes.

Mark Bridges' curling free kick put them ahead after 20 minutes. But Hayes drew level when Colin Payne headed a bizarre own goal, appearing to be shoved as he went to pass back to Kenny Lavender.

Three minutes remained when Steve Whitehead popped up to clinch the points, heading home a Tony Guard corner.



JOHN KERR ... attracting the attention of several League clubs.

SOCCER PREVIEW

Wembley look to Shodeinde to end goal famine

PETER SHODEINDE returns to league action after suspension on Saturday charged with the task of getting Wembley back on the goal trail.

Lions have hit the net only once in four games since losing the services of Shodeinde and his fellow striker Lance Cadogan, who has a fractured jaw.

Full back Charlie Flaherty could also be in line for a recall in the home clash with Billericay Town after recovering from a knee ligament injury.

Centre back Dennis Byatt is Wealdstone's only doubt for Saturday's clash with Gateshead at Lower Mead. He injured a calf at Stafford last Saturday.

Rayners Lane manager Don Durkin expects to make changes for the trip to Biester on Saturday in a bid to solve his side's goal scoring problems.

On Wednesday, Lane entertain second placed Hounslow, with the game being played at Lower Mead.

Harrow Borough face a 'six pointer' against third-placed Slough on Saturday and face the prospect of going into the match

without Steve Emmanuel and Lawrence Holmes.

Emmanuel (hamstring) and Holmes (thigh strain) have only a 50-50 chance of playing as fourth placed Boro look to stretch their unbeaten run to 17 matches.

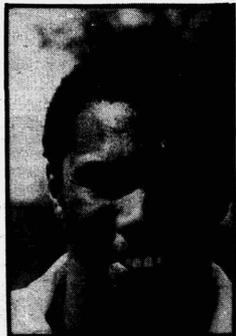
On Friday (April 3) Boro entertain a side from Jersey at Earlsmead.

Edgware go to struggling Danson at full strength on Saturday.

Harrow St Marys try to put their disappointing exit from the Middlesex County League Cup behind them with a home match against Mill End.

—FIXTURES—

Saturday March 28
 GM Vauxhall Conference: Wealdstone v Colindale (Lower Mead, 3pm)
 Wembley Opal League — Premier Division: Slough Town v Harrow Borough; Division One: Southwick v Langley Town; Wembley v Billericay Town. (Vale Ex. 5pm)
 Herts Seniors Football League: Biester v Rayners Lane.
 London Sports League: Danson v Edgware.
 Middlesex County League — Division One: Harrow St Mary's v Mill End (Radstock Road, 3pm)
 Suburban League: Edgware v Chertsey Town.



● Peter Shodeinde.

Harrow Borough v Chalfont St Peter.

Monday March 30
 Suburban League: Wokingham Town v Harrow Borough.

Tuesday March 31
 Wembley Opal League — Division One: Tilbury v Wembley.

Wednesday April 1
 Herts Seniors Football League: Rayners Lane v Hounslow (Lower Mead, 7.30pm)
 Friday: Harrow Borough v Jersey FA XI (Earlsmead, 7.30pm).

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Five alive

ENTRIES are now being invited for the eighth Metropolitan Police Five-a-side Youth Football Competition — the biggest five-a-side competition in the world.

The competition is open to teams of boys and girls aged between nine and 17 and entry forms are available from police stations. Entrants do not need to be members of established teams or youth clubs. Closing date for entries is Monday, April 27.

The early rounds of the competition will be played on a Borough basis between May and August, the quarter and semi finals will take place during September and October, with the finals played at Wembley Arena in November.

Signing on

STRIKER Tony Smurthwaite has joined Wealdstone after an extended trial.

The 20-year-old, who came to work in London from his native North-East, made his debut in the 2-1 Capital League win at Wycombe Wanderers.

Posidonia Celtic stormed into the final of the Harrow Sunday Challenge League's Parker Cup with a 3-0 win over Heather, with Steve Costello, Danny Walsh and Steve Sutton scoring.

Harrow St Mary's third team beat Northolt 1-0 with a goal from Colin Gray.