

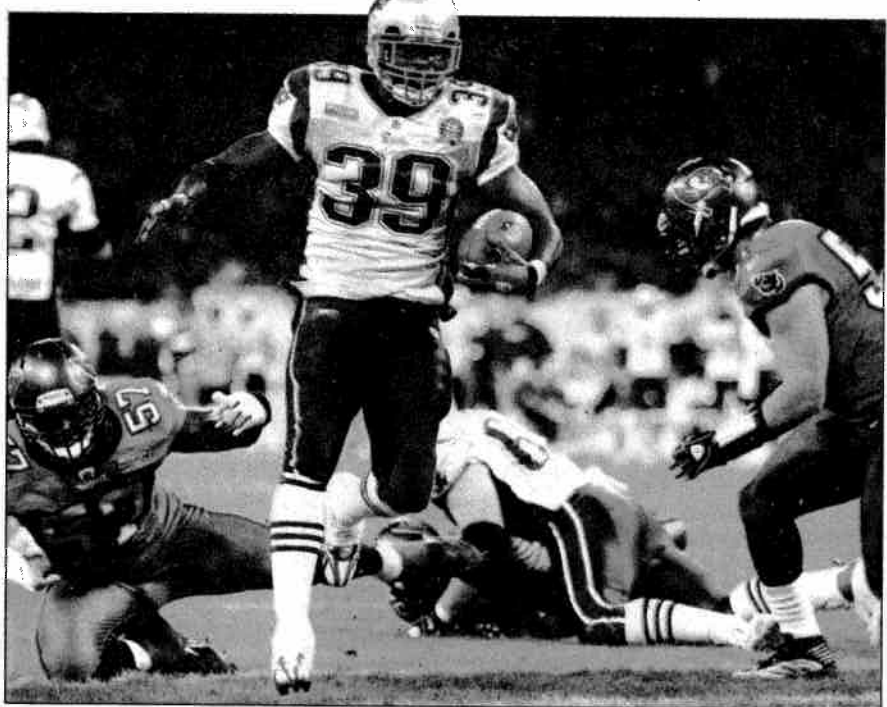
## Rain stops day Blitz kids miss out on a Wembley dream

HEAVY rain denied youth players from London Blitz American Football Club a dream visit to Wembley on Saturday.

Youngsters from the Finsbury Park-based club had been invited to watch the Tampa Bay Buccaneers training ahead of their clash against the New England Patriots in the NFL International Series.

Unfortunately the weather got the better of the Wembley groundsman and the training session was cancelled for fear of the turf cutting up ahead of Sunday's showdown.

When the action went ahead, running back Laurence Maroney (pictured scoring a touchdown) helped lead the Patriots to a 35-7 points victory.



### WOMEN'S FOOTBALL

WITH STEVE BARNETT

## Super sub Lisa fires first win for settled Town

GREATER LONDON LEAGUE  
DIVISION ONE

LEYTON 0, CAMDEN TOWN 2

CAMDEN Town look to have found their feet in Division One after netting their first win of the season on Sunday.

Having drawn their previous two matches, Town beat Leyton 2-0 to start what they hope will

be a steady climb up the table.

After a goalless first 45 minutes, the home side took the lead when super sub Lisa Spirakes unleashed a fierce shot that the keeper could only parry into the net. The points were made safe when Spirakes turned provider to set up Deena Blumenkrantz, who scored from close range to extend Town's unbeaten run to three games.

## Hampstead keep title chase on track

DIVISION TWO NORTH

HAMPSTEAD 2, KATABELLA 1

TITLE-CHASING Hampstead overcame neighbouring rivals Katabella on Sunday to continue their 100 per cent start to the season.

Dubbed the NW3 derby, the first half was easily forgettable as both teams cancelled each other out. The only real chance fell to Hampstead's in-form striker Val Toro, who failed to make the most of Claire Arnold's dangerous low cross.

The match burst into life after the break with Hampstead's Char Blackmore starting to pull the strings in midfield. It was her defence-splitting pass that led to the opening goal as she played in Toro, who cleverly stepped over the ball allowing it to roll on to Arnold.

The striker dummied Kats' keeper Anne Schultness before slotting the ball into an empty net.

Hampstead doubled their advantage late on when substitute Catriona Forbes, returning to action after 13 months on the sidelines injured, came on to score what proved to be the winner. She raced on to Sheri Ben-Atar's through-ball before curling her shot past the keeper and into the bottom right corner.

Katabella battled until the end and pulled a goal back when Helen Fraser curled a sensational 30-yard free-kick into the top corner.

It proved little more than a consolation as Hampstead held on to clinch a vital victory, leaving them nine points behind leaders Newham Women with three games in hand.

After the game Hampstead manager John Baker said: "It wasn't pretty football in the first half, and the girls were told as much at half time.

"To their credit they responded wonderfully and we pulled it together to take the points. No team can play brilliantly in every game, but it is a sign of potential champions when you can take three points despite playing poorly," he added.

# Indo board big hit for PE kids

CHILDREN from Rosary Primary School in Haverstock Hill have discovered a radical new way of keeping fit and having fun in their PE sessions.

They have been putting their balance and co-ordination skills to the ultimate test after being introduced to the Indo board in a new campaign called Bringing the Ocean into Schools.

Originally designed to help keen surfers improve their balance before going into the water, the multi-functional fitness board consists of a wooden deck placed upon a specially moulded plastic roller or cushion.

The board has been

by STEVE BARNETT

adopted by Sports Coaches into Schools (SCIS), who have made it their mission to get more youngsters involved in sports.

The activity has proved a big hit with pupils at Rosary School, who have taken to the Indo board like a surfer to water.

Ellie Themistokleous, 10, said: "I think it's really good, schools are missing out on so much fun.

"I feel sad for the schools who haven't had the chance to try it out."

Classmate Kai Ovie, 11, added: "The Indo board has really improved my balance and co-ordination

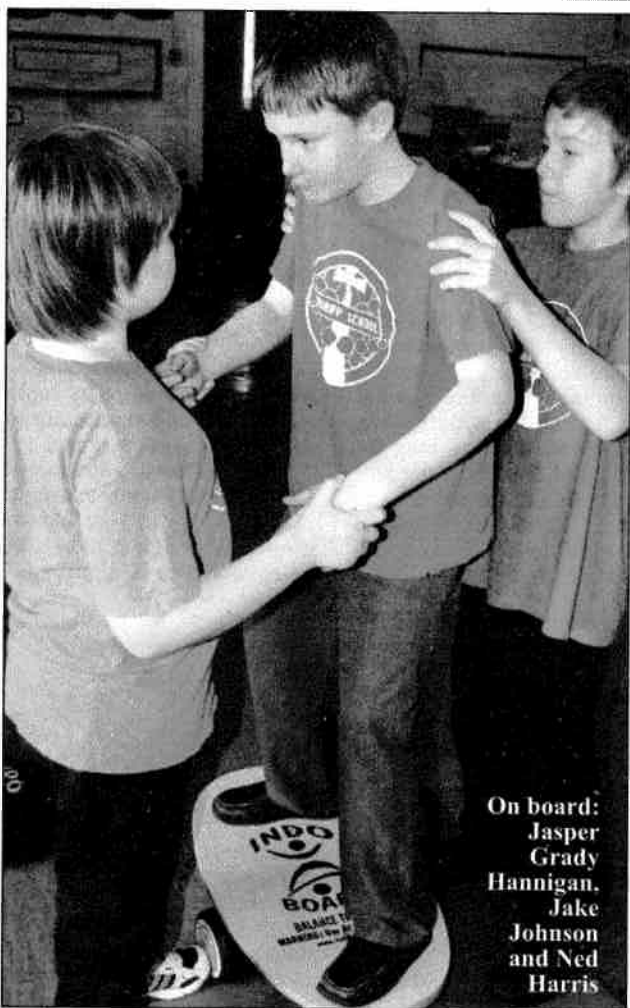
skills, which have helped make me better at other sports like football."

SCIS liaison officer Rob Betts has invited all schools across Camden and Islington to sign up for an Indo board taster session, and try something new to motivate the kids.

"This is a really fun option for schools and gives children something new to look forward to within their PE sessions.

"It's proving a big hit and we're inviting any schools that are interested to get in touch to arrange a trial session."

Anyone interested in arranging a class can contact Rob on 07791 981 732 for further information.



On board: Jasper Grady, Hannigan, Jake Johnson and Ned Harris

## Wenger gets the point

IN THE GROVE

with STEVE BARNETT



PREMIER LEAGUE

WEST HAM 2, ARSENAL 2

ARSENAL Wenger refused to blame complacency after watching the Gunners throw away a two-goal lead against West Ham on Sunday.

Goals from Robin van Persie and William Gallas looked to have given Arsenal an unassailable lead at Upton Park. But the Hammers hit back to earn a point thanks to strikes from Carlton Cole and Alessandro Diamanti.

"It is not complacency," Wenger said afterwards. "We just have to continue to play in a rigorous way, respect the game we love, and the pass.

"That is what we forgot sometimes and we have paid for it. We play at top quality

and at the moment we do not get rewarded for what we produce."

The result follows the Gunners' disappointing Champions League tie away against Dutch side AZ Alkmaar, which saw them concede an equaliser deep into stoppage time.

It was clear which of the two draws frustrated Wenger more. "In the Champions League it can happen that you are 1-0 up and are caught on a free-kick in the last minute," he said.

"But against West Ham it did not have to happen. At 2-0 we lost the way we want to play the game. And when a team come back to 2-1 and you are away from home you are always under threat that the game will go to 2-2."

## Roman the reckless

OFF THE SHELF

with DAN CARRIER



CARLING CUP

SPURS 2, EVERTON 0

IT was a night for understudies to shine - but while David Bentley reminded the critics of his A-list qualities, the enigma that is Roman Pavlyuchenko fluffed his lines.

Spurs breezed past Everton and into the last eight of the Carling Cup with goals from Tom Huddlestone and Robbie Keane securing victory.

But all eyes were on the squad players desperate to shine: Gareth Bale sat wide on the left, Bentley patrolled the right and Alan Hutton came in at full back.

It was the performance of Pavlyuchenko, however, that the crowd were keen to assess, with his name sung loudly at

the start. Harry Redknapp gave the Russian 90 minutes to prove himself, but the striker seemed short on confidence and did little to persuade the manager that he deserves to rise up the pecking order.

Another serious concern for Redknapp is Keane's continued inability to stick the ball in the back of the net.

The Irish hitman missed a series of good chances, and even scuffed a penalty - although was able to hammer home the rebound.

On Saturday Spurs were hit by a late sucker punch in their Premier League tie against Stoke. Despite dominating the match throughout, they slumped to a 1-0 defeat after sub Glenn Whelan scored a smash-and-grab winner.

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