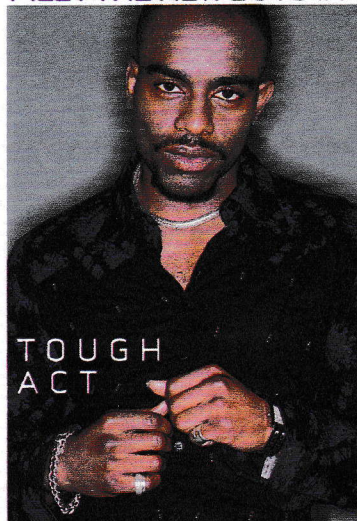
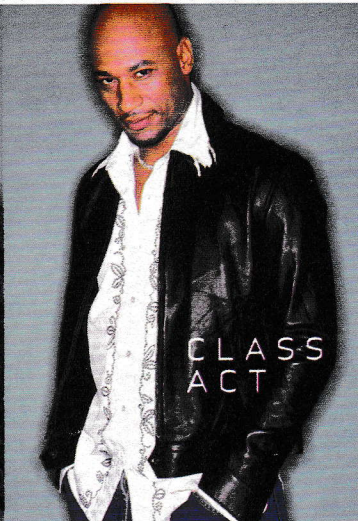


MEET THE NEW BOYS IN TOWN



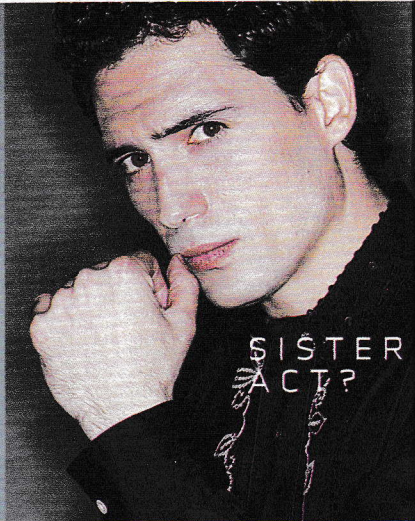
TOUGH ACT

CURTIS ALEXANDER
Age 26
Position Striker
Signed from Paris St Germain
Transfer fee Free
 The brother of Harchester United star Linton Alexander, Curtis arrives at the club with a happy-go-lucky attitude but also a simmering feud with team-mate Monday Bandele.



CLASS ACT

STUART NAYSMITH
Age 33
Position Defender
Signed from Manchester City
Transfer fee Free
 The rock-solid former England star comes to the club as player/coach in order to bolster the defence and share his wealth of experience. One of the lads, he'll give morale a much-needed boost too.



SISTER ACT?

MARCEL SABATIER
Age 23
Position Midfielder
Signed from Paris St Germain
Transfer fee Undisclosed (but believed to be substantial)
 The golden boy of French football, Sabatier's silky skills will electrify the Dragon's Lair fans - but it won't just be his stunning free-kicks that get the ladies excited.

TASH WENT THROUGH A TRAUMATIC BIRTH - NOT EVEN KNOWING IF HUSBAND JAMIE WAS DEAD OR ALIVE

SABATIER'S SKILLS WILL ELECTRIFY FANS

Another of the club's blonde bombshells, Tash Parker, is recovering well after the traumatic birth of her daughter Hope. Tash went through the birth not knowing if husband and Harchester star Jamie was dead or alive, having gone into labour just minutes before the coach crash. Fortunately she had support throughout the birth... from none other than ex-lover and injured striker Monday Bandele.

So it looks as though baby Hope faces an uncertain future following the horrific crash, just like Harchester United itself. There are whispers that a mystery consortium, with the help of an unlikely backer who's keen to keep his involvement secret, is bidding to take control of the club.

On the pitch, manager Patrick Doyle has been trying to re-build the wreckage of a team so cruelly demolished on the

eve of its finest hour, a UEFA Cup Final against Italian heavyweights AC Milan.

Doyle, who is desperate for Premiership success after last season's disappointing 15th place finish, has brought in three new players (see above), all of them top-drawer, including sizzling French World Cup star Marcel Sabatier - the David Beckham of French football - who was bought from Doyle's old club, Paris St Germain. But will the arrival of a sexy Frenchman really ease Harchester United's problems off the pitch?

Talking of which, it looks as though Karl Fletcher will be fit for the start of the new campaign. Fletch may have escaped the burning bus, but the flames of passion are always raging when Harchester's star player is around.

Dream Team, from Sun 6, 8pm, Sky One



UEFA Cup Final
AC Milan 1 Harchester United 0 (Shevchenko 93)
Amsterdam Arena, att: 50,000
 Bill Shankly once said: "Football is not a matter of life or death - it's more important than that." Well, Shanks might have changed his tune if he'd been here for this emotional UEFA Cup Final.

Milan's ice-cool Ukrainian striker Andrei Shevchenko scored the injury-time goal that killed off Harchester, but the real tragedy of this extraordinary match had taken place 24 hours earlier on the M1.

The game went ahead as a mark of respect for the players who died, with the team cobbled together on the day from Harchester's reserves. Incredibly, some of the survivors of the coach crash join in, putting up a valiant effort against the invincible Italian giants.

There were, of course, tears shed at the end of this epic game all right, but they had nothing to do with football.

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