



## FOOTBALL WINSTON NAMED NEW MANAGER OF WINGATE

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# Bolton's Cohen looks forward to Greece double

**BOLTON** midfielder Tamir Cohen says Israel will be going all out to beat Greece when they resume their 2010 World Cup qualifying campaign on Saturday night, writes Andrew Sherwood.

The first of two meetings between the sides in the space of four days, Israel lie a point behind the Greeks, who lead Group Two, though Cohen is under no illusions as to the task Dror Kashtan's side face.

Speaking to the *Jewish News*, Cohen said: "Greece are a very good team who have players playing all over Europe, in Italy, Germany and Portugal. We know a lot about their players and will have a lot of respect for them."

"They will be two tough games but our manager wants us to win this game so I think we'll go out with that in mind [in terms of the approach of our play]. We really want to win the game on Saturday in Ramat Gan, and know a lot on next Wednesday's game in Greece will depend on the outcome of this first game."

Well poised to qualify for next summer's tournament in South Africa, Cohen insists the good position they find themselves in doesn't mean they'll be under even more pressure going into

• Find out how Israel fare against Greece by logging onto [www.totallyjewish.com/sport](http://www.totallyjewish.com/sport)

what will arguably be their biggest game of the campaign. "I don't think we're under any more pressure to perform" he says, "especially when playing at home. There will be 50,000 Israeli fans in the ground and they can produce a very warm atmosphere for us. We haven't lost too many games in front of them in recent times, the fans always provide great support and I hope we can put in another good performance for them on Saturday."

Referring to his side's chances of qualifying from the group, he said: "I think we can qualify. We're in a good position to do so and everyone around the team, players and managing staff believe we can do it and we need a positive attitude going into the games."

And although the 25-year-old hasn't played a competitive minute for Bolton this season due to injury, he insists he's ready and fit should he be called up for the game. "I've been working very hard to get into shape at Bolton and if I get the chance to play for the team, I am fully fit and ready to go."

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BY ANDREW  
**SHERWOOD**

LAURA Saperstein's return to London saw her maintain her unbeaten record as she recorded her seventh straight win, though admitted she wasn't at her best as she beat her Bulgarian opponent on points.

The 37-year-old was always in control during her 4x2 minute round fight at Bethnal Green's York Hall on Sunday, with the referee awarding her a 40-36 points victory over Galina Gymlikska, in a Super Featherweight clash.

Speaking about her performance, she told the *Jewish News*: "How I would I describe that fight? I wasn't thoroughly pleased with myself. I think it was a good win and I nearly stopped her a couple of times but I felt I wasn't quite as sharp as I would have liked to have been."

What didn't help her cause were far from ideal preparations which also saw a late change of opponent. "Preparations hadn't been ideal at all," she said, "plus I gave away nine pounds in weight. She's had plen-

ty of fights and has fought pretty much all of the big names around the various weights from Jane Couch's size and down. She's experienced and has only been stopped a couple of times so she's not someone who was going to be easy to be got at especially over four short rounds, but I just felt I lacked a little bit of zing."

"As well as the loss in weight I had lots of insanity going around beforehand. I was in tears half an hour before I went into the ring but you then have to put that to one side and focus and it's not always easy. I don't think I had the time to have a proper run-up to the fight and then my initial opponent pulled out three days beforehand and that was all really, really stressful."

I was preparing for one fight and then had to change for another one but it was a very clear victory so I'm happy with that."

Fighting at the world-famous boxing arena was another positive she took from her return to the UK and referring to the crowd said: "For the first couple of rounds they were dead quiet and I thought 'Oh god, they're bored', but then as the

fight went on there was a bit of yelling. The last thing you want to be doing is to be performing in front of a completely quiet hall where you feel like a complete idiot, but I think people started to warm to it and enjoy it as it went along."

"It's a fantastic place to box here at the York Hall, there's always a great atmosphere. I've really enjoyed working with [promoter] Miranda Carter and she just made it a pleasant experience. This is the first time I've come to a fight and felt - or had no stress from them and I felt at home here today which is nice, I felt part of it and not just 'the girl'."

A comprehensive win, she's now looking straight ahead to her next fight – and hopefully sooner rather than later. "I think I'll probably try and box again in a month," she said. "As I said, I wasn't that pleased with the performance and I would like to improve on it and if I can, strike while the iron's hot. I've only just now started working with my new trainer so now I can go in there, we can analyse that, consolidate, improve on that and get back in there as soon as possible."

Summing up her afternoon, she added: "It was a decent win on the way to achieving what I want to achieve but still plenty of work to do and plenty of learn."

# Seventh straight win for Saperstein



Saperstein (right) lands a punch on her way to her seventh straight win on Sunday

Picture: Marc Morris