



Tottenham and England midfielder Aaron Lennon (C) fights for the ball with Arsenal's Kolo Toure (L) and Alexander Hleb during their Premiership match at the White Hart Lane Stadium on Saturday.

Jenas spikes Gunners

AFP, London



Jermaine Jenas ensured Arsenal's tortuous week had a sting in the tail as his dramatic injury-time goal gave Tottenham a 2-2 draw against their fierce rivals on Saturday.

The England midfielder sent a spectacular 25-yard drive skidding into the bottom corner with virtually the last kick of the game, just when Arsenal were preparing to celebrate their third win in a week.

The visitors had already overturned Robbie Keane's first-half goal thanks to strikes from Ivory Coast international defender Kolo Toure and Togolese international striker Emmanuel Adebayor, but they had no answer to Jenas's extraordinary intervention, more than four minutes into stoppage time.

It was a suitably unhappy ending to an unsettled few days at the Emirates stadium, which is still absorbing the impact of David Dein's shock departure as vice-

chairman and the subsequent

set-pieces this term.

Once again, his defenders

failed dismally to deal with a Jenas

corner, which was headed down by

Michael Dawson and over the line

by the lurking Kean.

The Frenchman's consternation

was compounded shortly after

wards when Freddie Ljungberg

hobbled off to be replaced by

Fabregas, but the Spaniard's

introduction appeared to lift the

visitors.

They came agonisingly close to

snatching an equaliser moments

before half-time, when a clever

one-two between Emmanuel

Eboue and Alexander Hleb ended

the Ivory Coast defender smacking

the post with a cross-shot.

The interval did nothing to

disrupt Arsenal's rhythm and the

second period quickly turned into a

siege.

Toure made the woodwork

shudder again with a thumping

effort from Fabregas' corner,

Adebayor clipped the top of the

crossbar with a looping header and

when Gilberto saw a ferocious 20-

yard drive deflected narrowly wide,

Wenger must have feared his

side's perennial profligacy was

going to cost them again.

Not so. In the 63rd minute,

Toure comfortably evaded the dozy

Pascal Chimbonda to meet

Fabregas' in-swinging free-kick at

the back post. He scuffed his first-

time shot, but the ball bobbed in

rewards.

By now, the momentum was

with Arsenal and an increasingly

bedraggled Spurs began to creak.

Julio Baptista, sent on as a substit-

ute, might have made an immediate

impression but dragged a 20-

yard shot wide, but the ball bobbed

in rewards.

With 13 minutes remaining,

Toni Huddlestone conceded a

needless free-kick tight by the

right-hand touchline. Fabregas

swung over an inviting cross and

Adebayor, left alone eight yards

out, headed neatly into the net.

That appeared to be that, with

Spurs showing no hint of being

able to conjure an equaliser until

stoppage time, when Jenas pro-

duced his unlikely party-piece to

snatch a point.

Macedonia warned

AFP, Geneva

Football's world and European governing bodies warned Macedonia on Friday that it could be thrown out of international competition if the president of the Macedonian football federation is replaced.

FIFA and UEFA said in a joint statement that "a small number of football delegates" held a meeting on April 14 to discuss the replacement of Macedonian footballing chief Hari Hadz-Risteski at an "elective conference" next month.

The two governing bodies warned that the "any decision or actions taken by such an illegal body against the duly elected leadership... would not be recognised either on a national or an international level."

"Such illegal actions are serious violations of FIFA and UEFA statutes and may therefore lead to the suspension of the Football Federation of (Macedonia) and a consequent ban on participation in any international competition," they added.

The governing bodies had called on the Macedonian government to stop interfering in the country's football association, after its offices were closed and some of officials detained for questioning in January. The warning was repeated last month.

FIFA and UEFA on Friday called on the Macedonian football family to "unify and solve its problems through internal dialogue rather than through illegal actions."

Macedonia currently lies fifth in qualifying group E for Euro 2008 with seven points, six points adrift from group leaders Croatia and four points behind closest rivals England.

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