

A PRE-SEASON football match between Wimbledon and the Kuwait national side came to a premature end after a fortieth-minute flare-up involving the Wimbledon striker, Dean Holdsworth.

The game, played at Roehampton in south London, boiled over when Holdsworth, who, with Robbie Earle, had given Wimbledon a 2-1 lead, was involved in an altercation with some of the Kuwaiti players. The Kuwaiti manager, clearly upset, walked on to the pitch and took his players off with five minutes of the first half remaining.

John Fashanu, the Wimbledon captain, said: "It was remarkable. Their manager just came straight on and ordered his players on to the coach. They did not even have a shower, but left without saying another word to us. Dean was only looking after himself."

Holdsworth, the Premier League club's leading scorer last season, would only say: "I cannot see what all the fuss was about."