



Football star Luis Figo with young fans from Hackney Free & Parochial School, raising the profile of the Stop TB campaign

# Figo scores against TB

By **Sylvia Arthur**

**FOOTBALL** star Luis Figo was mobbed by fans when he visited Hackney Free and Parochial School, E9.

The Inter Milan midfielder and Portugal international was there to launch a global campaign against tuberculosis (TB).

The one-time European and World Player of the Year took part in a penalty shoot-out with schoolchildren at the launch of the 'I Am

Stopping TB' campaign, which aims to raise awareness of the disease as one of the biggest killers in the world today.

TB is an illness that usually attacks the lungs, but can affect any part of the body. It spreads when infectious people cough, sneeze or talk and propel TB germs into the air. Hackney has one of the highest rates of TB in the country.

Speaking at a press conference with former Portuguese president and

UN Special Envoy, Dr Jorge Sampaio, Figo said: "The fight against TB is a big one and if I can increase knowledge of the disease with my presence, then I will."

The launch was held on the eve of the release of a new report from the World Health Organisation.

Dr Vanessa Saliba, Public Health Strategist at City and Hackney PCT, said: "TB is preventable and curable, and people have the right to free treatment and support."