

News briefly

Striker boosts Wood attack

NORTHWOOD have strengthened their push for a Ryman One North play-off spot by signing experienced striker Eugene Ofori. The Ghana-born front man has joined Wood, who beat Waltham Abbey 1-0 on Tuesday, after being released from Boreham Wood in November.

Tigers held by City

KINGSBURY LONDON TIGERS drew 2-2 at Welwyn Garden City in the South Midlands Premiership on Saturday. The Tigers took the lead when Joel Pardal fired into the bottom corner of the net. But two quick goals handed City a slender half-time advantage. The visitors left it late but a great piece of skill by Edson Cata set up Isaac Mopi for the equaliser.

Strauss searches for leveller

MIDDLESEX batsman Andrew Strauss leads England into the final Test against the West Indies tomorrow (Friday) in Trinidad. The England captain will try to guide his country to a win which would level the series, after they were frustrated in the fourth Test draw.

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Stones blown off track by Billericay

by SIMON MAIL
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WEALDSTONE's Ryman Premier promotion hopes were derailed after a 2-1 home defeat to Billericay on Tuesday night.

The Stones led 1-0 at half-time but they came unstuck after the break in dreadful weather conditions at Grosvenor Vale.

Manager Gordon Bartlett said: "We gave away two very poor goals and it was extremely disappointing."

"They were difficult conditions to get it down and play the ball about. But we came out second and wanted to build on our display on Saturday when we were excellent in the second half."

"It was frustrating. The conditions were horrendous with gale force winds. We were 1-0 up and the wind was in our favour but we didn't score enough goals."

Wealdstone made the most of the wet and windy surface early on and opened the scoring through Kieron Forbes. The former Watford youngster ran onto a loose ball and rifled a shot past goalkeeper Tony Tucker.

The home side survived a scare later in the half when Carl Martin was forced to head off the goalline.

But the Stones were guilty of several big misses which were to prove costly. Danny Spendlove fired wide when well placed and Ryan Ashe was also off target after a fine run from Forbes.

The visitors sensed the match was changing and they equalised when Jamie Dormer planted a shot past Sean Thomas.



Wealdstone struggled in the wet conditions on Tuesday as they tumbled to defeat against Billericay. Picture: WEALDSTONE FC

The winning goal sparked protests by the home side amid claims Dave Wareham was offside. The Stones tried to salvage a late equaliser but they were unable to find another goal.

Wealdstone fared much better on Saturday when they easily beat struggling Margate 2-0 at home.

A strong second-half showing helped Bartlett's side overcome the visitors. Davis Haule handed Wealdstone the lead after 55 minutes when he followed

up Spendlove's effort. The victory was sealed when substitute Callum Martin struck a superb 20-yard shot into the net.

The Stones will look to bounce back from their latest disappointment when they visit seventh-placed Canvey Island on Saturday.

Bartlett said: "It will be another difficult fixture but I go into every game expecting us to be good enough to win and this will be no different."

Boro set for vital tussle

HARROW BOROUGH face a crucial game in their hopes of Ryman League survival when they host Hendon on Saturday.

Boro earned a valuable 2-2 draw at high-flying Sutton United on the weekend but all eyes are turning towards the relegation six-pointer at Earlsmead this weekend. Hendon and Boro sit side by side in the table – but manager David Howell has played down the significance of the contest.

Howell said: "Like I've been saying all along, it's only three points. I'm not trying to understate it but if we lose we could stay up. We could win and still go down."

Boro will go into the clash without a number of key players after they were injured at Sutton. Skipper Wayne Walters has a hamstring problem and Dorian Smith has a calf strain. They could also be without defender Simon Dahl who is suffering from flu.

Boro rescued a point at Sutton after an 87th minute equaliser from Daniel McGonigle. The attacker headed home to give the visitors a deserved draw.

Boro took the lead after a cross-shot by Dewayne Clarke. But they were stunned by two quick goals from United which gave them the half-time advantage.

Howell was pleased with his side's display and felt they were well worthy of the draw.

He said: "The bottom line is a point, despite scoring so late, was the least we deserved from the game. They're a very strong side but we created plenty of chances. If anything, I think we could have taken the three points."

"We started very well but they had a lot of chances later on in the first half. Andray Baptiste made some unbelievable saves but also misjudged their first goal."

"It was one of those days for him after he turned up at the wrong ground. He only got here at 2.35pm."

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