

News briefly

Ofori goals give Wood point

EUGENE OFORI scored twice as Northwood earned a 2-2 draw at Leyton in Ryman One North on Tuesday night. The striker netted his first goal for the club after nine minutes of the game. But two efforts from the hosts turned the match around before Ofori's second rescued a point. Wood visit Brentwood Town on Saturday.

Tigers green with envy

KINGSBURY LONDON TIGERS suffered a disappointing 2-1 home defeat to Leverstock Green on Tuesday in the South Midlands Premier. Marco Tagbajumi scored the consolation. The Tigers beat Cockfosters 3-0 at the weekend. Edson Cata chipped in the first before strikes from Tagbajumi and teenager Wadah Ahmidi.

Strauss ton not enough for win

ANDREW STRAUSS hit another century on the weekend but could not prevent England losing the second one-day international against the West Indies. The Middlesex batsman struck 105 but the visitors lost by 21 runs. The third one-day match gets underway in Barbados tomorrow.

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Ashe fires Stones into contention

by SIMON MAIL
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RYAN ASHE's early goal gave Wealdstone a crucial 1-0 win over AFC Hornchurch on Tuesday night to keep their play-off hopes alive.

The Stones are only six points off the top-five with seven matches remaining after an excellent week which started with them earning a 2-2 draw at second-placed Staines.

Stones manager Gordon Bartlett said: "It might be a bridge too far to get in the play-offs for us this season but if we didn't make it this year then I think it will give us a great chance next year. This is the best group of players I have worked with here.

"We set a target of four points this week and we've given ourselves a chance going into the last seven games. I thought we showed great commitment and work ethic on the weekend to come back from 2-1 down and with ten men [goalkeeper Sean Thomas was sent off].

"We kept our belief at half-time and went out and got our just rewards."

Ashe maintained his rich vein of form, with his fourth goal in three games, by heading in the winner after two minutes against promotion rivals Hornchurch.

Wealdstone face a pivotal week in the Ryman Premiership with home games against Horsham on Saturday and Ashford Town next Tuesday. Bartlett believes their next two games will determine whether they can reach the top-five.

"We will know by next Tuesday where our destiny lies. If we lose the two games then we can forget about reaching the play-offs. But we need one more for safety and if we can win five of our last seven matches then I don't think we will be a million miles away."

Bartlett plans to recall Carl Martin to the squad for this weekend's game with Horsham. The defender has been rested after spending last week on trial with Aldershot.

The manager added: "They are very interested in him and will keep an eye on him. They would like him to go back there during pre-season."



On form: Ryan Ashe struck his fourth goal in three games to give Wealdstone the points over AFC Hornchurch on Tuesday night.

Picture: WEALDSTONE FC

Howell bemoans attack

HARROW BOROUGH manager David Howell is concerned by his blunt attack after they misfired for the second consecutive match.

Boro slipped into the relegation zone in the Ryman Premier after a frustrating 0-0 draw at home to Sutton United on Tuesday night. After their goalless draw at home to Tooting and Mitcham on Saturday, Boro were again unable to get the breakthrough at Earlsmead. It was their 11th draw this season, the most in the league, and Howell accepts his side need to start turning them into wins.

"We have drawn too many games. What slightly perturbed me was that if we had won one and lost the other this week we would have ended up with more points than we did.

"I was disappointed with our play in the attacking third. We let the opposition off the hook by choosing the wrong options. If we make the right decisions, then the goals will start to come.

"We haven't attacked teams collectively because the forwards have been playing as individuals. We have got into good positions where we should have done better. We've let teams off lightly. The cohesion going forward just hasn't been there."

Howell hopes his side can sharpen their attack on Saturday when they visit rivals Ashford Town. Boro are only two points behind them and a win could go a long way towards helping them avoid the drop.

The manager said: "We go to Ashford and we beat them 1-0 earlier in the season. But we knocked them out of the League Cup last week when they were missing three or four regulars.

"They will be looking to avenge that defeat but we know they are one of the teams that are catchable."

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