

What have Capello, Defoe,
Bullard and Bamby
all got in common?

News briefly

Morgan comes to the rescue

EOIN MORGAN hit an unbeaten century as England scraped to a two-wicket win over Bangladesh in the second one-day international on Tuesday. The Middlesex batsman was in supreme form as he struck 110 not out to get the visitors out of a hole. Bangladesh, who lost the first game, scored 260 for six. England were relieved to reach the target off 48.5 overs.

Huge cup scalp for Harrow

HARROW RFC thrashed Ickenhams 77-0 in the first round of the Middlesex Federation Vase on Saturday. The win was all the more impressive considering Ickenhams currently top the league above Harrow, Herts and Middlesex Three. Simon Bram earned man-of-the-match on his long awaited return from injury.

Another defeat for Saracens

SARACENS were beaten for the fourth time in their last five Guinness Premiership games after losing 16-14 to Bath on Sunday at Vicarage Road. Wikus van Heerden's effort put the hosts in front but a penalty try in the second half sent the Men in Black to defeat. Sarries face a trip to bottom side Leeds Carnegie on Sunday.

Harrow Borough extend unbeaten run at United

by SIMON MAIL
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HARROW BOROUGH manager David Howell is refusing to talk up his side's play-off chances despite extending their unbeaten run to eight league games.

Boro have climbed to seventh in the Ryman Premier, their highest position of the season, after picking up a 3-0 win at Maidstone United on Saturday and a 1-1 draw at fourth-placed Hastings United on Tuesday.

Howell, who won February's manager of the month award, said: "The players deserve all the credit for our form. It is a great testament to the players."

"But if we start to take note of our league position then we're riding for a fall.

"The league table gives you false hope and the only time it tells the truth is at the end of the season. My philosophy is that if you are high up the league you need to keep on doing what you're doing. And if you're struggling at the bottom you have to work even harder.

Boro fought back from 1-0 down to draw at United after a second-half header from Rocky Baptiste. But Howell insists his team dominated for long periods and should have taken all three points.

He said: "In the second half we were too strong and quick for them. They didn't get out of their half until the last five minutes.

"We should have had the game won but I was happy with how we played. To go there 48 hours after the Maidstone United win, to the team in fourth place and to command the game showed our fitness levels were incredible.

"It was one of the most one sided halves of football. Once Rocky scored the equaliser I think they would have been happy to stop the game there and then.

"I set a target to get seven points from four away games. We managed that, despite one game being postponed, so we've reached that with a match to spare."

Boro eased to victory at muddy Maidstone last weekend after efforts from Baptiste, Tobi Jinadu and Dwayne Clarke.

Howell's side play strugglers Bognor Regis Town at Earlsmead this weekend but the manager is full of respect for the opposition.

He said: "Bognor are probably the best passing side in the league. They're a real footballing side but sometimes they shoot themselves in the foot. For us, it's a matter of counteracting their passing game."



Award winner: Harrow Borough boss David Howell was named manager of the month for February.
Picture: RON WHITFIELD

Hendon loss leaves Stones in big trouble

WEALDSTONE boss Gordon Bartlett admits his team badly need to regain their confidence after another blow to their promotion hopes.

The Stones were beaten 2-0 at home to Hendon on Tuesday night which left them with only one Ryman Premier win in nine games. It was also their third consecutive defeat at the St George's Stadium.

Bartlett said: "I have got confidence in these players because it's the same group that did so well early on in the season. They haven't turned into a bad team. This is a good side on a very bad run of form.

"Sides at this level are much of a muchness so confidence and the mindset is a major factor. The mindset is a problem for us, we're not playing with any confidence or fluency. The main thing is to get individuals into a positive mindset with confidence in one another."

Wealdstone have slipped to 11th in the table, six points behind the top-five, but Bartlett still believes his team can get 30 points over the rest of the season which he thinks will earn a play-off spot.

Bartlett said: "We have thrown away a wonderful position but we have to resurrect that by getting results. I think 70 points should get in the play-offs and we have 16 games left. It is achievable but getting the first three points is the biggest problem."

The Stones travel to Cray Wanderers on Saturday in desperate need for a win to kick-start their season. Bartlett insists his team have to focus on their own display if they want to get back on track.

"We have got to ensure that we pick up a win," the manager added. "That will boost our confidence and other things will follow. We cannot look at anybody else. It's about what we do."

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