

SPORT

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News briefly

Harrow Boro lose to City

HARROW BOROUGH lost 4-3 to a Birmingham City XI at Earlsmead on Tuesday night. Trialist Dean Green fired Boro in front before two goals handed City the lead. A Rocky Baptiste header and Troy Hewitt made it 3-2 to Boro but two goals from Marcus Bent pinched the win.

Tigers bounce back with win

KINGSBURY LONDON TIGERS earned their first win of the season with a 3-0 victory at Harefield United on Tuesday night. It was a fine response after the Tigers were beaten 3-1 at home to Biggleswade United in the South Midlands Premier on Saturday. Paulius Olisaukas netted a consolation for the hosts but they could not salvage a point. The Tigers host FC Clacton in the FA Cup this weekend.

Sarries confirm Wembley dates

SARACENS will play Leinster in the Heineken Cup at Wembley this season. The Men in Black will take on the Irish giants on Saturday, October 16 with a 5.45pm kick off. The Premiership side will also face rivals Wasps on Boxing Day at the famous stadium. Sarries are expected to confirm two more dates at Wembley later in the season.

England coast to Pakistan victory

by SIMON MAIL
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ANDREW STRAUSS praised his team-mates after England earned their sixth consecutive Test win.

England stunned Pakistan by bowling them out for 72 on the opening day. The tourists were always up against it and despite a spirited fightback in the second innings they fell to a nine-wicket defeat on Monday. The hosts lead the series 2-0 heading into the third Test on Wednesday at the Oval.

England skipper Andrew Strauss said: "We had to work pretty hard for it in the end. There were a few butterflies in the morning knowing we had to chase over a hundred.

"We were quite reassured though by the fact the wicket seemed to have died, so we had to withstand some pressure and thankfully we got over the line.

"Our bowlers were exceptional and our lead of 180-odd was crucial to have."

The Middlesex batsman struck 25 in the first innings and followed up with an unbeaten 53 as England easily reached the target of 118 on the fourth day.

His club team-mate Steve Finn picked up another three wickets. He claimed two for ten and one for 57 as he took his tally to 27 wickets in his first six Tests.

The 21-year-old Watford star said: "It was fantastic to beat them so comprehensively and obviously great to be part of the win again. I took three wickets but I didn't bowl too many overs. I felt that I gave a lot in the field and ran around a lot even though I didn't take that many wickets. I only bowled 24 overs but the other guys were bowling really well. I was happy to take three relatively important wickets.

"The way we prepared for the game was to win comprehensively. That was the idea and there is no compromise for good preparation. At the same time, we're not going to bowl a team out for 72 each week. We're not going to have it all our own way. They were always going to come back into it."



In bat: England skipper Andrew Strauss and Jonathan Trott, left, in action against Pakistan. Picture: ACTION IMAGES

Stones seal double deal

WEALDSTONE have strengthened their squad by signing two defenders.

The Stones have captured former Grimsby Town player Wes Parker and also swooped for Sean Cronin.

Wealdstone continued their pre-season programme with a 3-2 win at North Greenford United on Monday night.

The visitors took the lead within two minutes of the start when Danny Burnell's cross was fired home by Kieron Forbes.



Former Chesham striker Danny Burnell. Picture: ANITA ROSS-MARSHALL

Greenford equalised on the half-hour mark but Wealdstone quickly regained the lead when Burnell netted his first goal for the club.

With less than five minutes left the hosts found an equaliser but they were beaten by an injury time winner for the Stones. Burnell finished sharply on the turn to hand the Ryman Premier side their third warm-up win.

The Stones lost 2-1 at home to Slough Town on Saturday afternoon.

The visitors were on top for long spells and deservedly raced into a two-goal lead. But Wealdstone netted a consolation when new signing Parker headed home eight minutes from the end.

Gordon Bartlett's side travel to Ryman Division One outfit Wingate and Finchley on Saturday before hosting Enfield Town in their last friendly on Monday.

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