

News briefly

Shock defeat for Saracens

SARACENS slumped to a shock 23-9 home defeat to Exeter Chiefs in the Premiership on Saturday. The Men in Black were well below par as they crashed to their first league defeat at Vicarage Road since February. Ryan Davis' first-half try handed the visitors a 10-3 lead at half time. Sarries pushed forward in the second half but they were hit on the break as prop Brett Sturges scored to leave Sarries without a losing bonus point.

Harrow ease to Watford win

HARROW RFC's brilliant form continued with a convincing 55-0 win at Watford on Saturday. The one-sided result maintains their 100 per cent record in Herts Middlesex Three after five games. Harrow's next match is a friendly at Ruislip Seconds this Saturday afternoon.

Royston setback for Kingsbury

KINGSBURY LONDON TIGERS lost 1-0 at Royston Town in the South Midlands Premier on Saturday. The visitors had to play striker Hardy Pinto Moreira in goal after not having a recognised goalkeeper available. He was beaten in the 56th minute when Tom Malins volleyed in the winner.

Harrow Borough set for Spireites showdown

by SIMON MAIL
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HARROW BOROUGH manager David Howell believes a giant-killing win over Chesterfield in the FA Cup would represent the greatest achievement in the club's history.

The Ryman Premier outfit host the League Two leaders in the first round on Saturday afternoon in front of an expected crowd of 1,500 at Earlsmead. Boro are huge underdogs but Howell has called on his side to leave with no regrets.

Howell said: "It is only the third time we have been in the first round and we've only reached the second round once before. It is an amazing feat but if we could get into the second round by beating the League Two leaders then it would be the best achievement in the club's history."

"I know from my experience in football that sometimes you can let the occasion run away from you. I want the players to enjoy the moment but, when it comes down to business, for them to perform to the best of their ability and have no regrets."

"My hope is that we give a good account of ourselves and do the club proud. I want the supporters to leave with their heads held high and proud of the performance we have given."

Boro earned their place in the first round after a stunning 4-2 win at Eastbourne Borough, which featured a hat-trick from Troy Hewitt. The talented striker has been passed fit for the clash after missing their 2-0 home defeat to Concord Rangers on Saturday with an ankle injury.

Howell was disappointed with his side's performance against Concord but does not feel it will have any effect on the cup tie after making a number of changes.

He said: "I am confident that we've got a chance. It would be silly to think otherwise but we obviously won't underestimate Chesterfield. Our best chance is on Saturday but if we could take them to a replay then that would be a victory of sorts. If we managed to do that it would quadruple the difficulty of our task."

"They are the best passing side in their league. They have three good strikers and I just think they have a lot going forward as you can see by their results. They are a side geared to attack and score goals."

Stones hit by late equaliser

WEALDSTONE were denied their first away win of the season in the Ryman Premier after Canvey Island snatched a 97th-minute equaliser on Tuesday night.

The Stones looked set to take all three points after Scott Fitzgerald opened the scoring but an injury time effort from Alex Rhodes stole a 1-1 draw.

Shots on goal were few and far between until former Watford striker Fitzgerald fired the visitors in front after 77 minutes.

The referee signalled only four minutes of injury time but the match continued beyond this and Rhodes rescued a point for the Gulls.

The draw extended Wealdstone's unbeaten run to six games after a dramatic 5-3 win at Kingstonian in the FA Trophy on Sunday.

Wealdstone took the lead inside 40 seconds when Peter Dean volleyed home superbly. Matt Gray levelled for the home side within four minutes in a frenetic opening. Greg Ngoyi restored the Stones' lead but a penalty from Bobby Traynor made it 2-2.

Wealdstone regained the lead midway through the half when striker Ngoyi struck his second of the match. Traynor headed home before the break to leave the sides level heading into the second half.

The Stones went ahead for the fourth time after 54 minutes when Dean rounded the goalkeeper and squared for Ngoyi to complete his hat-trick.

Wealdstone put the match beyond Kingstonian, to seal their second win over them within a week, with 20 minutes remaining when Danny Spendlove raced through and smashed an effort into the net.

The Stones travel to Cray Wanderers in the league on Sunday afternoon.



Harrow Borough manager David Howell hopes to pull off a huge FA Cup upset against Chesterfield this weekend.

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