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News briefly

Sarries out of cup despite Sharks win

SARACENS failed to make the LV= Cup semi-finals despite thrashing Sale Sharks 50-7 on Sunday. The Men in Black were in exceptional form scoring eight tries in the one-sided win. Chris Wyles claimed a hat-trick and there were also efforts from Jamie George, Jackson Wray, Ernst Joubert, Justin Melk and Rodd Penney on his return to Vicarage Road. Sarries are in Premiership action on Saturday at title rivals Northampton Saints.

Morgan ruled out of World Cup

MIDDLESEX batsman Eoin Morgan will miss the World Cup after breaking his finger. He did not play in England's final one-day match with Australia and requires an operation which will rule him out of this month's competition.

Olympian joins Harrow club

TRIPLE JUMPER Yamile Aldama has joined Harrow Lawn Tennis Club. The Olympian, who plans to compete in London next year, has joined the adult beginners' classes under Elaina Fordland. For more information log on to www.hlct.net.

News immediately:
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Baptiste fires Boro into play-off race

by SIMON MAIL

HARROW BOROUGH manager David Howell insists his team deserve to be in contention for the Ryman Premier play-offs.

The league's top scorers climbed up to fifth in the table after thrashing Horsham 6-0 on Saturday.

Howell is adamant his side are there on merit after just one defeat in 15 league games.

The manager said: "It is a position we deserve to be in. It is not a freak run. We have been consistent for a long run now and the results have been good. The performances since October when we lost to Concord have been of a consistent nature and that is all I can ask from the players.

"We have set our sights on being consistent and making sure our performances are not up and down. If we continue this then the league will take care of itself."

Rocky Baptiste stole the show against a Horsham side, who were thumped 7-1 by Boro last month, with four goals at Earlsmead. Strike partner Troy Hewitt netted a brace and spent this week training with Championship leaders QPR.

Howell, who revealed the club

have had offers for Hewitt from Swindon and Barnet, said: "Troy is training with the QPR first team. It is a chance for him to have a look at them but there is no pressure on him.

"The best thing for him to do is to play at Rangers this week and then look at the situation. It's not my place to say whether he should stay or go.

"Rocky and Troy have struck up a great partnership. The signs were there at the start of the season and they have got a personal battle going on between them.

"One scores a hat-trick and then the other seems to get one. The objective for them is to be the top scorers in the league. If they do that then we will be in a good place."

Boro travel to Concord Rangers on Saturday. Howell's side lost to them in October but he believes they have transformed into a different team in the last four months.

Howell added: "The display against Concord was the old Harrow Borough which was inconsistent. We were preparing for the FA Cup against Chesterfield the following week so it was understandable but we have gone from strength to strength since then."



Rocky Baptiste netted four times for Harrow Borough on Saturday as they moved into the play-off spots.
Picture: PETER BEAL

Stones out on penalties

WEALDSTONE manager Gordon Bartlett was bitterly disappointed after his side crashed out of the Middlesex County Cup to Staines Town on penalties.

The Stones were dumped out in the last-eight on Monday night after a 3-3 draw at Grosvenor Vale. Peter Dean grabbed a brace and Kurtney Brooks netted his first goal for the club but they still lost 3-2 on penalties.

Bartlett said: "The players are all bitterly disappointed that it's another cup competition where we have not killed off the opposition.

"I wanted to get to a cup final. But we blew it in the League Cup, we blew it in the FA Cup and now it's happened again here.

"Some of the football we played was absolutely superb but we are not getting rewarded for it."

The Stones continued their resurgence in the Ryman Premier with a 4-2 win at Maidstone United on Saturday.

Richard Jolly kept up his superb scoring form with another hat-trick. The striker, on-loan from Sutton United, scored four goals last week and he took his tally to eight goals since returning to the club last month.

Kieran Knight was also on target as Wealdstone posted their fourth consecutive league win ahead of a home game with Canvey Island this weekend.

Bartlett added: "Canvey are strong and they have had a very good run but we're in confident mood.

"I will be delighted if we play football like we did against Staines and then I will be very confident we can win. But we won't be complacent."

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