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News briefly

Sarries set for first visit to Chiefs

SARACENS will make their first trip to Exeter Chiefs this weekend in the Premiership. The Men in Black spent last week in Miami and should be refreshed for their title run-in. Mark McCall's side have won eight consecutive games but they did suffer an unexpected home defeat to Exeter back in October.

Harrow end league season unbeaten

HARROW RFC finished Herts Middlesex Three unbeaten after easing to a 31-0 win over Hatfield. It also completed a 100 per cent record in the competition with 16 wins. Harrow scored 572 points as they were crowned champions for the second year in a row.

Tigers battle back for away point

KINGSBURY LONDON TIGERS drew 2-2 at Haringey Borough in the South Midlands Premier Division on Tuesday night. Haringey opened the scoring before Hardy Pinto Moreira equalised. The hosts regained the lead but Kingsbury levelled again through Wadah Ahmidi.

News immediately:
harrowtimes.co.uk

'Nakashima is a big loss'

by SIMON MAIL

HARROW BOROUGH manager David Howell admits mid-field maestro Kenta Nakashima will be badly missed by the club.

The Japanese talent will make his final appearance on Saturday at Lowestoft Town before he returns to his homeland.

He struck twice, including a stunning 30-yard screamer, in their 2-0 win over Folkestone Invicta last weekend which kept the Reds on course for a play-off spot.

Howell said: "It took him the best part of a season to adjust to the different style of football. I was patient with him and it has paid off."

"He was thinking of leaving in the summer because we couldn't offer him much money and it was too expensive for him in London."

"We have scored the most goals in the league (73) and he has a part to play in most of them. He has been a very influential attacking force for us."

"We missed Troy Hewitt [moved to QPR] and we will also miss Kenta most definitely. But the only good thing is there are only three league games

after he leaves."

Boro's fifth consecutive win kept them in third spot in the table. But their play-off hopes will be put to the test this weekend at fifth-placed Lowestoft.

He added: "I thought Lowestoft were the best side we played this season even though we beat them with ten men."

"They will see it as a six-pointer and as a match that they need to win."

Howell insists his team deserve to be battling out for promotion but wants them to simply focus on the remaining league matches.

He added: "Let's just focus on the last four games and if we do that then the play-offs will take care of themselves."

"We are there on merit and we just need to make sure we do our best and keep going until the end."

"It is just a great position for the club to be in. I would rather be in a position where we have things to play for. Every game we have left will mean something to us."

"I can't kid the players. They know the situation and what we have to do to reach the play-offs."



Kenta Nakashima marked his final home game with two goals in Harrow Borough's latest win.
Picture: PETER BEAL

'We are aiming to burst their bubble'

by KELLY SOMERS

WEALDSTONE goalkeeper Jonathan North is relishing the prospect of halting Billericay's promotion push.

This weekend sees the relentless Ryman Premier League pit mid-table Wealdstone against the play-off contenders.

North said, "They [Billericay] obviously have everything to play for so they will be well up for it."

"They are a strong, organised side, so it will be tough. I think we lost 1-0 at their place so we want to beat them."

"We are aiming to burst their bubble, and without sounding harsh, we want to beat them and stop them going up", the former Wales Under-21 keeper joked.

The Stones ended a disappointing run with a 1-0 victory at Hendon last weekend.

North admits the Stones' recent performances, which ended their play-off hopes after just one win in five games, have not been up to scratch.

"It has been disappointing lately, as we know ourselves that we have been good enough to win. It was a local derby (Hendon) so it gave us an added incentive and gave the game some extra spice."

With four games to go, promotion is unrealistic and the Stones could be forgiven for giving up on the season. However North strongly disagrees and has targeted victory in the Middlesex Charity Cup final next month.

He added: "We are still very up for it as we want to end on a positive note. Our fans have been brilliant so we want to do it for them."

"Having a small squad has definitely affected us though with injuries as well. However we still have four games and a cup final to go, so we are still very up for it. We want to end the season with some silverware."

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