

News briefly

Sarries set for Wembley clash

SARACENS will face Harlequins in front of more than 75,000 fans at Wembley this weekend. The Premiership champions know that a win over Quins will take them top of the table. The Men in Black warmed up for the game with a comprehensive 45-9 win at Sale. Tries came from Chris Wyles, Ernst Joubert, Alex Goode, Michael Tagicakibau and Hugh Vvyvan.

Harrow win sends them top of table

HARROW RFC returned to the top of Herts Middlesex Two after an 18-17 win over OMTs. Gary Conroy scored four penalties in the first half as Harrow opened up a 12-0 lead. Two tries from the visitors put them 17-15 up but Conroy nailed a kick to give Harrow the win.

Harrow School to host sports camps

Sport Academies are holding Easter camps at Harrow School. The camps, which will run from April 2-5, will cover a range of sports and are open for six to 14 year olds of all abilities. Places on the camp can be booked by logging on to www.sportacademies.com or by calling 0844 3358217.

News immediately: harrowtimes.co.uk

North breaks leg in Stones' Canvey defeat

by SIMON MAIL

WEALDSTONE manager Gordon Bartlett admitted their 3-1 defeat at Canvey Island paled into insignificance after a horrific injury to goalkeeper Jonathan North.

The Stones were stunned in the first half on Tuesday when North suffered clean breaks of both the tibia and fibula bones in his right leg following a collision.

North had an operation yesterday [Wednesday] and is expected to be out of action until the new year.

Bartlett said: "We are all bitterly disappointed but all our thoughts are with Jonathan. The result pales into insignificance after what happened with Jonathan.

"He is a young, fit lad and has been absolutely fantastic for us this season.

"We are probably looking at the new year but I don't want to put a time frame on it.

"The lads' reaction was one of shock and the players were very subdued after the incident. The match was stopped for about 25 minutes and no-one wants to see that on a football pitch."

Wealdstone's play-off hopes were dealt a significant blow after the defeat but came out of the match with real credit after a dominant performance which warranted much more.

The hosts found themselves 2-0

up at the break and Wealdstone conceded a third against the run of play. Substitute Connor Smith pulled one back but the unlucky Stones had nothing to show for their performance.

Bartlett added: "The response the players gave in the second half once they got over the shock was an absolute credit to them. The football we played at times was outstanding and they showed their character.

"We had 14 shots in the second half but their keeper was outstanding and it summed up our bad luck on the night.

"We were so dominant but the fact is we lost and our play-off chances have taken a dent. But we're Wealdstone and we don't do anything the easy way."

The Stones fought back from 2-0 down to claim a 2-2 draw at home to East Thurrock United on Saturday.

The visitors were reduced to ten men in the second half and Wealdstone capitalised with goals from Richard Jolly and Alex Dyer clinching a point.

Wealdstone face a difficult trip to Bury Town this weekend.

Bartlett added: "Bury are a good side and are currently in the play-offs so we have to go there and win at places like that. We will have to be fired up to get a result there on Saturday."



Lee Chappell attacks during the Stones' midweek defeat to Canvey Island.

Picture: STEVE FOSTER/WEALDSTONE FC

Reds sunk by lowly Aveley

HARROW BOROUGH slumped to a 3-2 defeat at second bottom Aveley in the Ryman Premier.

The Reds paid the price for a dire first half as they failed to put more distance between them and the relegation contenders.

It did not take long for Aveley to open the scoring as a through ball eluded Danny Leech and Danny Francis fired past goalkeeper Jack Bonham.

Dave Anderson's side fell further behind after 27 minutes when Francis tried a long-range shot which Bonham could only palm into the net.

The visitors pulled one back three minutes before the break after Garry Jones' cross was headed home by Danny Buckle.

Boro could have even gone in level if Buckle's shot had not bounced back off the post.

The Reds did equalise after 56 minutes when Jones again turned provider and steered the ball in for Simeon Akinola to fire through a crowd of players from 12 yards.

But Aveley regained the lead in the 74th minute when a long throw was knocked down and Kayan Kalipha hooked a shot over his shoulders and past Bonham.

The visitors responded and came close to grabbing an equaliser. Leech had an effort cleared off the line by Sam Holloway.

Buckle also came close to adding a second goal but his effort was blocked.

Boro return home to Earlsmead this weekend to face play-off hopefuls Canvey Island.

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