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FOOTBALL: Stones boss hopes to add striker Wealdstone make Calcutt contract offer

WEALDSTONE boss Gordon Bartlett hopes to sign former loanee Connor Calcutt ahead of the new National League South season which starts this weekend, joking he would prefer the campaign to begin a month later.

It has been a nightmare pre-season for the Stones boss who has seen new signing Oliver Duffy decide to go travelling, Carl Martin get a new job with Watford and now goalkeeper Jonathan North has picked up an injury, adding to an already packed treatment room.

However, in a rare bit of good news for the beleaguered Bartlett, forward Calcutt could return to the Vale on a permanent basis after a short loan stint last season.

The former Stevenage striker featured in Saturday's 3-1 win over a Queens Park Rangers XI and speaking to the *Harrow Times*, Bartlett confirmed an offer had been made to the 21-year-old forward.

"We have made him the offer and he trained with us on Tuesday night," revealed Bartlett. "He is thinking it over and he will hopefully come back with a positive answer sooner rather than later."

Positivity has been in a short sup-

By Tom Bodell

ply during a pre-season Bartlett has described as one of the worst of his career. And with the Stones' second campaign in the National League South getting underway at Bath City on Saturday, the problems are continuing to mount.

"I would prefer the season to start in September I think," chuckled Bartlett.

"We had our final friendly on Monday against Slough. I always put in a 'safety' friendly with no intention of putting out a full side. This was for the lads who are lagging behind a little bit in terms of fitness," he explained.

"Six of them have not trained at all for a fortnight due to various unforeseen circumstances and it showed that many of them are undercooked."

Bradley Hudson-Odoi, Scott Davies, Michael Corcoran, Jefferson Louis, Josh Urquhart and Scott McGleish all featured in the 2-0 defeat at Slough, with striker McGleish getting his first start of the summer.

The 41-year-old had been called into action off the bench to replace



Wealdstone 6-0 Hampton & Richmond Borough
Middlesex Senior Cup

the injured North between the sticks for the final 15 minutes of the R's win after the keeper's knee locked.

But Bartlett is not expecting a repeat at Twerton Park this weekend. He said: "Jonathan will play if we can't sign anyone before Saturday."

"We have run for about five seasons like this because we had Sean

Cronin who was happy to go in if necessary.

"Jon trained for a whole session on Tuesday night and threw himself into it. In time he is going to need an operation to sort this out because you never know when it might happen," stated Bartlett. "But your number one priority is your next football match."

Boro bag silverware once more

COCKFOSTERS ARE BRUSHED ASIDE AS
HARROW MARCH TO CUP DOUBLE WIN

Steve Baker picked up the second trophy of his brief stint as Harrow Borough boss on Saturday as the Reds won the Middlesex Charity Cup with a 3-0 win over Cockfosters.

Boro previously beat Hanwell Town to lift the Middlesex Senior Cup for the first time since 1993.

The final was originally scheduled to be played in May, however, finalists Enfield Town fielded an ineligible player and were expelled from the competition.

New signing Tom O'Regan made an instant impression, squaring the ball from the left into the path of Ben Long who took two attempts to beat the Cockfosters goalkeeper after 15 minutes.

Chances continued to go the Reds' way, with Joshua Webb, Marc Charles-Smith and Anthony Page also squandering opportunities to enhance their lead.

And in the 47th minute, Boro's lead was stretched after more good work from O'Regan down the flank. The winger beat a defender and played a cut-back for Long to nudge into the net at the far post.

The third arrived in the 67th minute, O'Regan capping a fine display after connecting with Lewis Driver's pass.

Harrow kick off their Isthmian Premier Division season at home to Hampton & Richmond Borough on Saturday.

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