

SPORT

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FOOTBALL: Players starting to return to action Stones boss expects his team to improve

WEALDSTONE manager Gordon Bartlett hopes the fans will see the best of his side from the middle of this month after the most frustrating start to a season he has experienced.

The Stones were without 11 players, for a mixture of reasons ranging from injury and illness to personal circumstances, on the opening day of the season and the first month has seen the squad decimated.

Bartlett is gradually getting players back into the fold, with the injured Tom Cadmore (knee) and Dale Binns (toe) expected to be available within ten days, but still thinks it will take some time for the team to find their fluency.

Bartlett said: "It's like a jigsaw where most of the pieces are there now but the picture is not quite there.

"It has been the most frustrating start where players have not been available for weird and wonderful reasons. But it's been out of our hands so we have just had to deal with it."

The Stones boss added: "We are a month behind in terms of our fitness, preparation and organisa-

By Simon Mail

tion. But hopefully by the middle to the end of this month we will get closer to what we want. There is no magic wand to know exactly when it will happen."

Wealdstone were held to a goalless draw at Hayes & Yeading United on Saturday. But it was a game that left Bartlett frustrated.

He said: "It was very frustrating. We started very well indeed but the final ball was lacking. There was a game to be won but we didn't create enough chances.

"It was one of the most open game of footballs I've been involved in but the final ball just wasn't sharp enough from us."

The point leaves Wealdstone 18th in the table with five points from their opening eight games. The Stones return home this weekend to face sixth-placed Chelmsford City.

Bartlett said: "I would expect us to create a bit more than we did in the last match.

"We are undoubtedly playing catch up and we need to try to chip away so we can start climbing up the table."



The Stones had to settle for a point at Hayes & Yeading United.
Picture: STEVE FOSTER/WEALDSTONE FC

Reds face 'toughest game yet'

HIGH-FLYING BOROUGH REFUSE TO TAKE 'MASSIVE' CUP CLASH LIGHTLY

HARROW Borough manager Steve Baker believes their FA Cup first qualifying round tie at Northwood this Saturday will be their toughest game this season.

The Reds are flying high in sixth in the Ryman Premier Division but Baker is not taking anything for granted despite facing a team competing at a lower level in the Southern Division One Central.

Baker said: "It's a massive game for us but we are expecting our toughest game yet this season. Even though they are in the division below, they have started the season well and it's a local derby.

"It's a one off game and they have nothing to lose so it will be as tough if not tougher than anything we've faced in the league. I don't expect there to be any but if there is complacency then we'll get knocked out."

Boro maintained their impressive start to the campaign with a 1-0 home win over Burgess Hill Town on Tuesday night, Lewis Driver firing home the winner in the sixth minute.

But the side were beaten 3-1 at home to Kingstonian in their first defeat of the season on Saturday.

Ty Smith gave the visitors the lead before a harsh penalty against Michael Peacock enabled Pelayo Pico Gomez to make it 2-0.

Dylan Cascoe pulled one back before Jake Kempton sealed the win.

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