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FOOTBALL: Stones given Colchester United draw

Bartlett: FA Cup tie all you could ask for

WEALDSTONE boss Gordon Bartlett admitted he found himself talking to the television throughout Monday night's FA Cup first round draw, willing a home tie, before the Stones were finally paired with League One Colchester United.

And Bartlett has now set his sights on reaching the second round of the competition for the first time.

A 2-1 win over Bognor Regis Town – secured thanks to Jonathan North's two penalty saves – on Saturday ensured the Stones were in the hat on Monday night along with 48 Football League clubs.

"I thought we had got lost in the little bag," joked Bartlett after being forced to wait until the second last tie before discovering his side's fate.

"It's funny. You know what number you are and the home team comes out and you're talking to the television saying 'I don't want them, I don't want to be away'."

"We were one of the few left and there was only one other nonleague team left.

"If you make it this far all you can ask for is a professional team

By Tom Bodell

at home. It will be interesting. It's nice to get to the first round. It's a big day, now let's go and get something."

The tie might well have attracted the interest of the FA Cup broadcasters but Bartlett doesn't expect to be selected for live television coverage by either the BBC or BT Sport.

He said: "That would be brilliant but I think we'll only get highlights so you lose out on the significance of that but we're all just delighted to get a professional side at home.

"Now our focus is on being the best we can in terms of publicity and also financially and then trying our best on the day to win." Bartlett continued: "I've been

Bartlett continued: "I've been here four times so far and it would be nice to get to the second round.

"I've been knocked out at this stage every time before but the most important thing is for the football club to progress."

Wealdstone's focus for another week at least is the National League South, though, and on Saturday they travel to leaders Ebbsfleet United.



Jonathan North is carried off by his teammates following his penalty heroics on Saturday. Picture: STEV E FOSTER/WEALDSTONE FC

Smith out of Friday fight night

RYTOM RODEI

HARROW puncher Mitchell Smith says he has lost out on sharing a card with younger brother Jez in their home town in order to gain a bigger fight in December.

'The Baby-Faced Assassin', 22, had

'The Baby-Faced Assassin', 22, had been set to top the bill at Harrow Leisure Centre on Friday evening with younger brother Jez also on the card after inking a three-year deal with Frank Warren.

But a small injury ruled Smith Snr out and he has since taken a fight against George Jupp at the M.E.N Arena on Saturday, December 19, where he will defend the WBO Intercontinental Super-Featherweight strap he won by knocking out Cristian Palma at Wembley Arena in May. "It's a bit of a gutter," said Smith

"It's a bit of a gutter," said Smith (13-0), who will be ringside on Friday when welterweight Jez puts his 3-0 record on the line over four rounds against Fonz Alexander.

"We were looking at selling seven or eight hundred tickets and looking forward to both fighting in our home town.

"But I picked up a small injury that put me back a few weeks. He understands, though, and now I'm fighting on a bigger bill so you lose to gain really.

ally.

"Jez is looking good," he continued.
"I've been training alongside him
and now I'm looking forward to the
fight."





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