

SPORT

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WEALDSTONE: Late show rescues Hawks point

No panic for Barlett as injuries stack up

GORDON Bartlett says he will not make any panic additions before Wealdstone's clash at Metropolitan Police in the FA Trophy on Saturday, after joking he'd have more players in the treatment room than on the pitch.

By Tom Bodell

have more people in the treatment room than on the pitch.

"There won't be any panic because within a couple of weeks we won't be far away again.

The Stones picked up four points in three days by following up Saturday's 2-0 win over Bath City with a 2-2 draw against Whitehawk on Monday, secured by Josh Hutchinson's injury time goal.

"You don't sign somebody and then have a surplus. The bad news is we have a couple of games coming up where we might be a bit light – the usual story with this season," he chuckled.

But that point came at a cost for the Stones with skipper Tom Hamblin (dead leg) and influential midfielder Elliott Godfrey (foot) both withdrawn through injury.

Wealdstone took a first half lead against the Hawks when Jonny Wright tucked home. But, two goals in the second half from Danny Mills turned the game in the visitors' favour.

The good news for Bartlett is that Saturday represents a break from the National League South with a trip to Imber Court in the FA Trophy third qualifying round. But the bad news is the Stones are back at The Vale on Monday evening with Gosport Borough the visitors in the league.

Wealdstone kept plugging away and were duly rewarded when Hutchinson stabbed home from a short corner deep into injury time.

"We'll assess the walking wounded come Thursday but it's not looking good," said Bartlett on Monday night.

Despite the point, Bartlett didn't get the performance he was looking for. He said: "That's not a performance at all. That's great work ethic and if the lads pull together and show spirit like that [we can go far].

"God knows what sort of side we'll have on Saturday. We'll probably

"At times we played some decent football but it was a bit sloppy on other occasions. But they're a decent side and I'd have settled for



Wealdstone celebrate Josh Hutchinson's last-gasp equaliser against Whitehawk on Monday evening. Picture: ALAN PALMER

point beforehand."

He continued: "They're a good footballing side – as we know. We said they'd have more of the ball than us so what we needed to be was solid and keep a good shape. That was exactly what we did and we felt we could catch them on the counter-attack.

"I think we conceded two poor

goals in the second half. It was very frustrating but we made a bold decision with about 15 minutes to go and went 4-4-2 – which left us very open – and we got something out of it.

"We deserved it because the work ethic over the last two games has been excellent, particularly without the ball."

Boro boss targeting survival

HARROW BOSS STEVE BAKER SAYS SURVIVAL IS STILL HIS FIRST GOAL

HARROW Borough boss Steve Baker admits he is still looking at the bottom of the Isthmian Premier Division table, even after beating league leaders Dulwich Hamlet on Tuesday night.

A stunning second half goal from Joshua Webb was enough to hand the Reds a 1-0 win at Earlsmead three days after losing 2-1 at home to struggling VCD Athletic.

That win means Boro are five points off the play-off places in 12th. But Baker is not getting carried away. "The first results I look for every week are the bottom four," he said. "That's not me being negative, that's just where the club has been over the last four years.

"We're well ahead of where the club were last year. The first target is 50 points and if we get that, we will have to reassess.

"The table is so compact you could lose a few and then be looking over your shoulder."

Baker was far from impressed by Saturday's performance against VCD and said: "I was fuming on Saturday. I thought we were an embarrassment and 2-1 flattered us.

"It was the lack of attitude and effort which concerned me and we had some strong words afterwards and again on Tuesday night."

Harrow go to Wingate & Finchley on Saturday.

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The Harrow Times is published by Newsquest (London) Ltd, Observer House, Caxton Court, Caxton Way, Watford, Herts WD18 8RJ part of the Newsquest Media Group Ltd, Loudwater Mill, Station Road, High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire HP10 9TY, a Gannett Company. Printed by Newsquest Oxfordshire at the Harrow Times, 0.6%.

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