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FOOTBALL: Jonathan North set for knee surgery Stones bring in West Ham keeper on loan

WEALDSTONE have signed West Ham United's England youth international keeper Sam Howes on a month's loan with Jonathan North set for surgery on his knee.

North has been plagued by a knee problem for some time. But, owing to the nature of the injury, he has been able to carry on between the sticks for the Stones until an adequate replacement was found.

Chesham United stopper Shane Gore had been signed on a dual registration from the Southern League side when North was sent off earlier in the campaign. However, he is no longer at Grosvenor Vale.

The man who will deputise for North is England Under-18 goalkeeper Howes. He was part of the Three Lions Under-17s side which won the UEFA European Under-17 Championships in Malta in 2014.

Howes was named Young Hammer of the Year for the 2013/14 season and has been a regular for the east Londoners' Under-18 and Under-21 sides.

Wealdstone have twice been thwarted in their attempt to face Weston-super-Mare in the FA Trophy this week.

By Tom Bodell

Gordon Bartlett's side were due to face the Somerset outfit on Saturday but the game was postponed until Tuesday due to heavy rain.

However, the fixture still didn't go ahead on Tuesday as the pitch at Woodspring Stadium was still waterlogged.

The Stones travel to Chelmsford City on Saturday in the National League South.

In the Isthmian Premier Division Harrow Borough made it five defeats from seven as they lost 3-0 at Enfield Town on Tuesday evening.

The Towners went in front when Harry Ottaway's shot deflected off Mark McLeod after 24 minutes.

Borough fought back and went close through Fejiri Okenabirhie before Marc Charles-Smith glanced Joshua Webb's free-kick over the bar.

Enfield grabbed a second after 65 minutes when Evans Kouassi met fellow substitute Bobby Devyne's cross and nodded beyond Conor Hudnott.

Devyne wrapped up the win with ten minutes remaining, capitalising on Michael Peacock's error.



Sam Howes on international duty for England's Under-18s against Switzerland.
Picture: ACTION IMAGES

Boxer to face Jupp challenge

MITCHELL SMITH PLANNING TO DROP A WEIGHT IN NEW YEAR FOR WALSH SHOT

HARROW's Mitchell Smith (13-0) plans to move down to featherweight after Christmas and hopes to fight Ryan Walsh for the British title.

Smith defends his WBO Inter-continental super featherweight strap against George Jupp (12-2) at the Manchester Arena on Saturday night.

But once that bout is out of the way the 23-year-old is planning to drop to 126lbs for the new year.

He told Boxing Scene: "I'm going to move down to featherweight after Christmas."

"You've got the likes of Ryan Walsh who has the British title. He's in Frank Warren's stable and I'd love a fight with him."

"His brother came into my gym one day and had a bit to say, so we had a bit of needle over the ring."

"But I don't like him and I know I hit harder than him, that I'm better than him and I know that if I catch him he'll go over."

But Southern Area super-featherweight champion Jupp stands in Smith's way first and believes the former Bushey ABC fighter hasn't fought anyone of note yet.

He told Sporting Life: "Mitchell is a very good all rounder, easily my toughest test."

"But he hasn't beaten anyone great. Who's he fought? I'm his toughest opponent to date."

"Mitch and I sparred a few years back and I know that on my day, I can mix at that level," added the 24-year-old.

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