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WEALDSTONE: Boss looks to escape drop threat Stones' Seagulls win 'massively important'

MANAGER Gordon Bartlett described Wealdstone's 2-1 win at Weston-super-Mare on Saturday as 'massively important' in the Stones' battle against relegation from National League South.

Victory over the Seagulls moved the Stones five points clear of the bottom three. Wealdstone could have risen as high as ninth with victory over Hemel Hempstead Town on Monday evening, but the game at Grosvenor Vale was postponed due to heavy rain.

Reflecting on Saturday's win in Somerset, in which Marvin Morgan and Scott Davies struck to cancel out Joe McClellan's opener, Bartlett said: "I think with recent circumstances taken into account – where everyone at the bottom keeps winning – it was massively important.

"It's not necessarily about performances at this stage. Now it's about results.

"Weston-super-Mare had been on a great run. Now they've lost two on the bounce and they are in the bottom four – that's how tight it is.

"There are a lot of teams in the relegation battle."

Bartlett added: "We've got to get a

By Tom Bodell

few wins to get ourselves away and to the top of that pile at the bottom.

"I've said Margate and Havant & Waterlooville would get out of it all along. Margate have gone on a great run and are just outside the play-offs now."

Striker Morgan, signed on loan from Havant until the end of the campaign, scored the first goal of his second stint with the Stones to equalise on Saturday.

The 32-year-old played for the club between 2000 and 2004 before embarking on a successful career in the Football League.

He helped League Two side Hartlepool United pull off a remarkable escape from relegation last season, scoring once in five games.

"We know Marvin is a danger," said Bartlett. "Someone told me it was 13 years ago on Saturday that he scored his last goal for us.

"A lot has happened to Marvin and a lot has happened to Wealdstone since. It's good to get him back and it's been going on for about a month. He's got an affinity with the club."

Bartlett continued: "We felt he could be an asset in the run-in. Af-



Stones boss Gordon Bartlett looks on during their recent 1-1 draw at Maidenhead United.
Picture: ALAN PALMER

ter Josh Hutchinson went down with glandular fever we had just Jefferson Louis and Scott McGleish as our strikers and you need one or two options."

Morgan, who has previously played for Plymouth Argyle, Shrewsbury Town and Aldershot Town in the Football League, dropped out of the professional

game to take a more active role in his business interests.

"If the player's attitude is there it will rub off on the other players," explained Bartlett when asked how Wealdstone could benefit from a player with his experience in the Football League.

The Stones host second-bottom Basingstoke Town on Saturday.

Boro boss wary of relegation

By Tom Bodell

HARROW Borough manager Steve Baker says the Reds' next four or five games will determine whether they end up in a relegation battle or not.

After an encouraging start to the season a nightmarish run of nine defeats from 14 has left Boro 17th in the Isthmian Premier Division – a stark contrast to when they climbed to third in September.

However, Harrow do have a 12-point buffer between themselves and the relegation places.

Baker believes games against Leiston (home), Kingstonian (away), Needham Market (home) and Staines Town (away) will define the Reds' season.

He said: "I'm always looking over my shoulder because it's the fear of failure that drive you on as a manager. In the next four or five games we need to ensure we won't be anywhere near the relegation zone."

Harrow have had few problems scoring goals this season.

"But keeping them out has proved a far trickier proposition.

"One of the biggest problems this year has been our injuries in defence," said Baker. "In the last ten games we've scored 2.5 goals per game but let in 3.5 which is a big concern."

Harrow lost 2-1 against Canvey Island on Saturday with Marc Charles-Smith getting a late consolation from the penalty spot.

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