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FOOTBALL Injury-hit Harrow all but safe from drop

Baker looks to make 'four or five' signings

HARROW Borough boss Steve Baker is aiming to bring in "four or five" new players over the summer to boost his options after seeing his injury-ravaged squad all but secure their Ryman Premier Division status for another year.

The Reds, who have been decimated by injuries, ensured their survival – barring a mathematical improbability – with a 1-0 victory over Wingate and Finchley last Saturday.

Farnborough would have to win their final three fixtures by a hatful of goals and hope Boro lose both of their final two. Even if that did happen, it still probably wouldn't send Harrow down because, at the moment, four other teams separate them from that final relegation slot.

Now the Reds are hoping to supplement the team they have got with some new additions for next season.

Baker said: "We are looking at maybe four or five new faces coming in next year, not massive changes, but a few to freshen things up."

He says next year's aim will again be survival first and then looking to beat this season's points tally.

Fejiri Okenabirhie got the only goal of the game to chalk up a third straight win for the Reds and see

By Dave Peters

off the challenge of Wingate and Finchley in a game where Borough produced one of their best displays in the last couple of months.

Baker was delighted with the performance and to get over the line, although he says he won't relax fully until the calculators and goal difference columns confirm it.

He said: "The last few months have been quite tough going and in the last few weeks we have turned that around. Some key players have come back and we've played well."

He says he has never known an injury list like the one his team has suffered this season.

He said: "I hope we have used up all our bad luck. It is not an excuse. We are dealing with facts and the fact is that in the last three or four months our injury list has been horrendous. We have been making three or four changes every game and that makes it very difficult."

He reckons he has only been able to pick the same defence three or four times this season and Borough's incredible injury curse struck again in midweek as their patched-up side fell to a 3-0 defeat at



Harrow Borough edged to victory over Wingate & Finchley on Saturday.

Picture: BRUCE VIVEASH

home to The Met Police.

They were always going to be up against it from the moment they submitted their team sheet which was missing Joshua Webb, Anthony Page, Shaun Preddie, Michael Barima, Michael Bryan and Marc Charles-Smith.

And their troubles increased when defender Tom Willment ag-

gravated his back and neck injury in the warm up and had to pull out before a ball was even kicked. Then, less than 45 minutes later, Harrow lost their second centre-half of the night when Michael Peacock picked up an injury and could not continue either.

Both are doubts for Saturday's trip to title challengers East Thurrock.

Unbeaten run ends for Stones

INVESTIGATION INTO CROWD TROUBLE AT WHITEHAWK ADDS TO SIDE'S WOES

WEALDSTONE fell to a 3-0 defeat at Whitehawk on Saturday in a day to forget on and off the pitch.

Gordon Bartlett's side had arrived protecting a three-match unbeaten run but they came a cropper on the South Coast.

They fell behind in the tenth minute as Hawks' Mike West fired an unstoppable volley past keeper Jonathan North.

And their day did not improve.

Striker Bradley Hudson-Odoi conceded possession to Hawks' David Martin who set up Danny Mills who easily got past the exposed North to double the hosts' advantage.

The second half saw some improvement from Wealdstone but any thoughts of a revival were dashed when Josh McLeod-Urquhart brought down Alex Osborn in the area and Martin accepted the gift to convert.

Stones did rally and were unlucky not to trouble the scoreboard with efforts from Scott Davies and substitute Jefferson Louis, but on a day when little went right for the away side, home keeper Craig Ross denied them both to preserve his clean sheet.

Meanwhile, an investigation is under way into crowd trouble at the Vanarama Conference South game.

Stones did arrange a friendly against Staines for Monday night but that fixture was called off. The side host Maidenhead United on Saturday.

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