

SPORT

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WEALDSTONE re-sign former defender Okimo

Another old face returns to Grosvenor Vale squad

By Ron Walker

A FAMILIAR face slotted straight back into the Wealdstone backline in the first game of pre-season on Saturday - for the first time in three years.

Jerome Okimo has re-signed for the Stones after leaving Braintree Town in the summer, and played a key role in the club's 1-0 win over a young Fulham team at the Vale on Saturday.

He originally spent a year at Grosvenor Vale before the versatile defender was poached by Stevenage in 2014.

In that victory over a young Cotagers side at the weekend, a solitary goal from trialist Dylan Kearney was enough to earn the Stones victory in their opening friendly, played out in front of a sizeable 445 crowd.

Manager Gordon Bartlett lined up his troops in a 3-5-2, with Eddie Oshodi and Ryan Sellers deployed as wing-backs.

The Stones nearly went ahead through Josh Hill and Elliot Beynon, but both saw first-half efforts cleared off the Fulham line in

quick succession.

Kearney smashed an effort off the crossbar with an hour gone but it was eight minutes from time when he would get his just reward, finding time to slot what would prove not only the opener, but also the vital winner.

On Tuesday night, the Stones took to the field once again in an entertaining 2-2 draw at Slough Town.

Twice the visitors took the lead, with Dan Fitchett first putting them ahead from close range from new boy Shaquille Hyppolyte-Patrick's cross.

They were pegged back by a Chris Flood goal 10 minutes after the break, before Liam Harwood restored the Stones' advantage late in the day.

Even then, Paul Hodges' looping header nestled beyond substitute goalkeeper Raven Constable to bring Slough level again.

Watford Under-23s will be the next visitors to the Vale, on Saturday at 3pm, as Bartlett's side step up their preparations ahead of the arrival of Concord Rangers for the opening National League South game of the season on August 5.



Dan Fitchett was on the scoresheet for Wealdstone at Slough Town on Tuesday night. Picture: ALAN PALMER

Boro run out of time in losing draw

BESSBOROUGH PICK UP TWO POINTS AS CLOCK PUTS PAID TO ACTON CHASE

BESSBOROUGH could not make it two wins from two - but did at least earn a losing draw against Acton in Middlesex County League Division Three on Saturday.

Having finally picked up a victory at the ninth time of asking the previous weekend, two points were not enough to move them closer towards escaping the relegation zone at Acton.

Bessborough put themselves in the field after winning the toss, and had to endure an impressive stand for the first wicket of the hosts, who put on 125 before Yasir Mehmood was bowled by Mitesh Fyas for 82.

Matthew Reeve followed shortly after thanks to Urooj Ahmed - and Acton were soon 140-3 when Fyas took Lucas Carlisle for five.

The game threatened to turn when Ahmed took James Hunt lbw, but a fifth-wicket stand of 110 before the 50 overs were complete left them 259-4.

That target might have been possible to chase had Bessborough not lost some cheap wickets early on, as Ahmed and Tharshan Kanagaraj departed for five and three respectively.

A 37 from Will Grogan off 51 and 60 from Kibreeth Rameez from 75 balls got them back in the game, and with time running out Andrew Carr added a rapid 57 from 35 balls, but it proved too little, too late as Bessborough could only reach 228-8 before the end of their 50 overs, picking up two points for their troubles.

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