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‘PRIVILEGE to be playing in the quarter-finals’ Stones have to stick together and believe

BOBBY Wilkinson is out to prove the doubters wrong this weekend when Wealdstone take on Billericay Town in the quarter-finals of the FA Trophy.

The Ruislip-based club travel to the Bostik Premier Division leaders, who have a couple of familiar faces among their squad in Jamie O’Hara and Kevin Foley, who previously played for Tottenham Hotspur and Wolves respectively.

Win Saturday’s game and the Stones will be just one round away from playing at Wembley, but the Stones boss is expecting a difficult test when the two teams lock horns.

Speaking to the *Harrow Times*, he said: “We are in for a real tough one. They have got some fantastic players and they’re a good side. As everyone knows, I’ve watched them twice now. It’s going to be a right challenge for these players but it’s a privilege to be playing in the quarter-finals for Wealdstone.

“We’ve got to go there, conduct ourselves well, believe that we can win and all stick together and see how we get on at the end of the day. No one’s going to expect us to go there and win. We’ve got to make sure that we upset a lot of people on

By Bradley Hayden

the day.”

Having previously recorded six wins on the bounce, the Stones have stuttered somewhat recently, losing two games in the space of three days at the hands of National League South leaders Dartford and 15th-placed Gloucester City.

Reflecting on two disappointing results, Wilkinson said on Tuesday: “We are all disappointed as a group not to pick up any points. But we understand that’s football and that’s going to happen. We went down to 10 men on Saturday, went 1-0 up and then got sucker punched with two good goals.

“Last night, we more or less went with the same team. First 25 minutes we were outstanding. We didn’t take our chances and then we got punished on the break and then got punished with a sloppy goal.”

Despite those results, the Stones remain just four points from the play-off places and a defiant Wilkinson believes that the club still has plenty to play for over the rest of the campaign.

He said: “One thing I have to make clear, is even if things don’t go our



Bobby Wilkinson is aiming to lead his side within one game of Wembley on Saturday.
Picture: JON TOFFAL

way on Saturday, we’ve got a lot to play for. You win two games in a week and you could be back in there.

“We’ve made it a little bit difficult for ourselves, but that’s the challenge and you never give up. You never give up until mathematically you can’t get in there. You have to keep believing and stick together.

“We are still in with a fighting chance to make the play-offs. If we don’t make it, then we have to regroup and then we’ve got to make a team that will make the play-offs. But right now, everyone has been giving it their all.

“We know it will be difficult, but you have to keep believing,” Wilkinson added.

Hamlet end Harrow’s cup hopes

**BOROUGH BATTLE ON AFTER BEING
THREE GOALS DOWN AT THE BREAK**

HARROW Borough’s London Senior Cup hopes ended at the quarter-final stage on Tuesday after they were beaten 4-2 at Dulwich Hamlet.

The contest was effectively over by the interval after a one-sided opening period ended with Harrow 3-0 down, but they were able to restore some pride with a battling display after the break.

The hosts were on the front foot from the outset and went in front after 14 minutes when Reise Allassani brought down a long pass and in one movement twisted past two defenders before firing home.

The scorer created more havoc in the 32nd minute when he was pulled back in the area and Ashley Carew made no mistake from 12 yards.

And two became three eight minutes later when Carew again converted after being set up by Nathan Ferguson.

Borough had more of the game after the break but they were to go 4-0 behind in the 72nd minute when Kenny Beany fired past Melvin Minter.

To Harrow’s credit though, they kept going and pulled one back six minutes later when George Moore converted a fine free-kick from 25 yards.

The visitors were to score again in injury time when Howard Hall sent substitute Anthony O’Connor clear and he calmly finished.

Borough had also lost away on Saturday, 1-0 at Metropolitan Police in the Bostik Premier Division.

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