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BOSS believes ahead of FA Trophy semi-final

Wilkinson: 'I want to take Wealdstone to Wembley'

BOBBY Wilkinson is determined to write his name into the club's history books by leading Wealdstone to the FA Trophy final at Wembley in May.

The magic of the cup has certainly hit the Ruislip-based club after their 5-2 win over Billericay Town in the quarter-finals, meaning just Brackley Town stand between the Stones and a place in the final.

Stones travel to their National League North opponents for the first leg of the semi-final on Saturday, with the return due to played at Grosvenor Vale on March 24.

Playing at Wembley would be an impressive feat for Wealdstone, who won the trophy back in 1985, and Wilkinson says guiding the Stones to the final would be one of the biggest achievements in his career.

He said: "On a personal note, it would be something I would never forget. It would be an eye opener to everyone about how well we've done in our first year and that's what I always go back to.

"When we took over, we were third from bottom and we've got to the semi-final of the trophy in our first year together. Imagine what we could be like in two or three years'

By Bradley Hayden

time?

"For me personally, it would be up there with one of my biggest achievements. I want to take my family to Wembley. I want to take Wealdstone FC, these players and fans to Wembley."

The Stones head into the first leg with a sense of feeling hard done by following a 1-0 defeat at National League South leaders Havant & Waterlooville on Tuesday, leaving them five points outside the play-offs after picking up four points from matches against Braintree Town and Welling United.

Brackley sit third in the table and Wilkinson is expecting a tough contest.

Speaking on Tuesday, he said: "No one gives us a chance of going to Wembley. The reason is and I think this is true, but I was told yesterday that Brackley are the only team in Europe who are yet to lose at home. They've only conceded nine goals at home this season.

"If we go there and don't get something, then it could be over. I'm not going there to sit in. I'm going there to win. As long as I know we gave it



Bobby Wilkinson says taking Stones to Wembley 'would be something I would never forget'.

our all, I'll be happy, as I would be kicking myself if we went there and tried to hold on and ended up getting beaten in that manner.

"It's going to be a massive challenge for this football club but if we all stick together like we did at Billericay Town, then look what happens."

Wilkinson has also confirmed that

goalkeeper Jonathan North is in discussions to extend his stay at the club, but talks have been put on hold until after the semi-final

"That's good positive news for everybody at the football club," the manager added. "We are still building here and there's a long way to go, but I'm just so proud of what we are achieving in our first year."

Borough lose to the new leaders

BEATEN HARROW HOLD NEW TABLE TOPPERS AT BAY UNTIL SECOND HALF

FOLKESTONE Invicta underlined their promotion credentials by winning 3-0 at Harrow Borough to take over at the top of the Bostik Premier Division table.

Steve Baker's side managed to keep the new leaders at bay until nine minutes into the second half on Saturday when Adam Yusuff converted a penalty. The scorer was to double his tally in the 73rd minute before a late third from Joseph Taylor completed the scoring.

Folkestone had almost taken the lead in the first minute when a defensive mix-up let them in but Melvin Minter pushed away the shot.

The visitors continued to dominate the early stages but the remainder of the opening period was to be dull, although Minter was to be forced into action to deal with another close call at his near post.

Ryan Moss did have the ball in the Invicta net early in the second half, but was flagged offside.

The deadlock was broken though, when Howard Hall bundled over an opponent and Yusuff converted from 12 yards.

Borough were forced to chase the game and were undone again when the ball was headed to Yusuff, who ran across goal before turning and firing home.

Harrow refused to lie down but the scoring was wrapped up when a corner from the right was driven hard and low across goal, eluding everyone until it reached the far post where Taylor converted.

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