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FOOTBALL: Ex-QPR defender signs one-year deal



SIGNED - Former QPR youngster Deon Woodman has joined Wealdstone on a permanent deal. Image: PA

Wealdstone delighted to get Woodman on board

WEALDSTONE have completed the permanent signing of towering defender Deon Woodman on a one-year contract after leaving Championship side Queens Park Rangers.

Woodman returns to Grosvenor Vale after a month-long loan spell back in February, making five appearances which included substitute showings against Maidenhead United and Gateshead.

He then joined Southend United in what turned out to be another loan spell until the end of the campaign.

Club chairman Rory Fitzgerald spoke of his delight at getting the deal done amid a hectic summer ahead for the Stones.

"We're delighted to get this deal done," he told the club website.

By Tom Norton
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"Deon is a player of huge potential, and his character means he'll fit really well into the squad. He had a few offers, so we are delighted he chose us. He's a really good addition."

Despite an uncertain year, the 21-year old is most certainly a commanding addition to Sam Cox's defensive group.

Standing six feet five inches tall, he provides a dominant presence in the air and an imposing sight for opposition forwards.

After beginning his career south of the river with Premier League

club Crystal Palace, Woodman joined QPR on a youth loan contact before permanently making the switch to Loftus Road in the summer of 2021.

The defender spent the majority of his time in West London as a regular for the Development squad but joined Isthmian League Premier Division side Dulwich Hamlet for the final six weeks of the 2022-23 season to gain more valuable playing time.

Woodman was eventually rewarded with a new contract at Loftus Road in May 2023 to keep him at the club until at least the following year, but never made an appearance for the first team despite being part of the pre-season trip to Austria last summer. He did feature in a friendly against Vorwärts Steyr on the tour:

The signing comes just a couple of weeks after the Stones secured their National League status for another season after a good run of form towards the end of the campaign.

And interim head coach Cox will be keen to build on what was ultimately a positive experience in his first senior coaching job.

*Jaydn Mundle-Smith has been named in the England C squad for their game against Nepal at Alder-shot on Monday.

The 24-year-old defender won both the Supporters' and Players' Player of the Year awards at Wealdstone last season, after making 44 appearances, and sees clubmates Jack Cook, Charlie Barker and Sean Adarkwa named in the contingency squad.

Harrowing conclusion to Borough campaign

SOUTHERN LEAGUE SEASON ENDS WITH HEAVY DEFEAT IN WALES

HARROW Borough slumped out of the Southern League Premier South with a 7-1 loss at Merthyr Town on Saturday.

With relegation already confirmed, Borough faced a side still pushing for a spot in the play-offs, while also hoping for a possible reprieve.

But in the first minute, Merthyr's Thomas Handley dispossessed Reece Mitchell on the halfway line and ran through to fire pat Tyler Tobin.

Two minutes later, Merthyr's Noah Smerdon lost out to Lonit Talla, who fired over Oliver Mehew's head to level.

But Merthyr regained the lead on 11 minutes as Ricardo Rees won possession from Toby Nnadozie and thumped a shot home.

And it was 3-1 when Callum Ryan-Phillips regained possession for Merthyr and passed to Mehew to fire into the net.

Harrow had one more good chance on the half-hour mark when Talla won the ball in midfield and ran about 40 yards to square to Reece Deakin, who didn't connect properly.

Alex John then won the ball on the halfway line from Harry Seabrook and squared it to Mehew who rocketed it past Tobin from 20 yards to make it 4-1.

Merthyr added a fifth in the 51st minute as Mehew won the ball in midfield from James Gurteen and Ricardo Rees went past Reece Yorke before blasting a low shot past Tobin. Harrow made a double change two minutes later as Excellence Muhemba and Mack Miskin replaced Nnadozie and Seabrook, but were grateful to see an offside flag raised when Rees fired past Tobin.

Harlem Hale came on for Reece Deakin on the hour, but Harrow saw Tobin sent off for a blatant foul on Callum Ryan-Phillips in the box, with Rees firing the penalty past stand-in keeper Gurteen.

Merthyr claimed their seventh goal on 78 minutes when Lewys Twamley won the ball and found Rees, who guided it through the legs of Gurteen for his fifth goal of the game.

And Harrow saw late hopes of a consolation denied when Smerdon found Jack Tutton, whose shot was deflected wide off teammate Talla. The home side's hopes of a play-off spot were shattered, though, as Bracknell drew 3-3 with Hayes to clinch fifth place.