



It's Aston Oxborough

"I'm really enjoying playing for the Stones ...and I might be here into 2020, it's out of my hands"

There were a few nervous Stones fans at the beginning of August when the news emerged that our brilliant long-serving keeper Jonathan North would be missing for the big kick-off against Dartford.

But cometh the hour, cometh the big man. A chance scouting trip by Dean Brennan to watch Norwich's reserve side turned up trumps when he managed to convince City to send their outstanding young keeper Aston Oxborough on a four-month-long loan to Grosvenor Vale.

And now, ten weeks on, the young Norfolk lad has firmly established himself as a bit of a Wealdstone folk hero as the clean sheets and the wins started rolling in.

"I'm really enjoying it and expect to be here until early January" he said on Sunday. "But it's out of my hands - I just do what the club tell me to and it's possible I may stay for the season unless a higher-ranked club want to take me on loan". There has only



been one glitch - the opening goal against Havant when his kick out was blocked. "Yes, that was awful at the time, but I saw Hugo Lloris do something similar on Match of the Day that evening which made me feel a bit better. It can happen to even the top keepers"

How did the loan deal come about? I'm not sure to be honest. Norwich told me about it and said that Wealdstone needed a goalkeeper whilst Northy was injured. It was a good opportunity for me to come and play some senior matches so we went for it.

Were you in the youth team at Norwich?

From what age? And have you always been tall?! Yes I've been at Norwich since the age of 10. I've seen everyone come and go and it's good to see Norwich doing so well again (back in the Premier League) and in such good hands. Yeah I've always been the tallest in my age groups growing up.

What's the favourite/most memorable game you've ever played in and why?

Probably my England U-16 debut. We beat Denmark 3-1. That was a proud moment, not much beats that.

Have you always been a goalkeeper? I used to play as a centre back. Then quickly established I didn't like running so switched to goalkeeper.

What was the most memorable save you've made? I made a double save from a free kick against Wolves for Norwich U-23's. It was heading towards the top corner and I got a hand to it, but the spin on the ball meant it was travelling back towards towards goal so I had to quickly get up and claw it away for a second time. It was nominated for U-23 save of the season 2017/2018.

But I was very happy about my save for Wealdstone against Oxford too!

Whereabouts do you live? I live in Wyndham, just outside Norwich.

How do you travel to training and games? I drive to training and games. It takes me two and a half hours so it takes a bit of sacrifice but it's worth it.

What's the best team you've ever played in? Probably the England team I was involved in at U16 and U17 level.

Who were the standout players in that



Save of the season? Aston gets across acrobatically to claw away this Oxford City freekick on September 7, somehow flipping the ball over the crossbar. Awesome!



The Oxford players can't believe The Ox has kept it out... with good reason. Northy reckoned he should've held it



side? Alexander Arnold of Liverpool, Tom Davies for Everton, while Reece Oxford and Kaylen Hinds were also very good players who were at West Ham and Arsenal at the time.

Did you know anything about WFC before you signed? Not really, I knew about the Raider but that's it. The kit man Tony has filled me in with a bit more knowledge about the club though.

What are your impressions of the club, the stadium, the pitch etc? I've been really impressed. The pitch is lovely and the stadium fills up very well on a match day. It's great to play in front of a lot of vocal fans as that's a new experience for me.

Pic: STEVE FOSTER aqueoussun@googlemail.com



Aston Oxbridge