

News briefly

Tomkins scores on Saracens debut

JOEL TOMKINS scored twice on his debut as Saracens eased to a 41-14 LV= Cup win over Worcester Warriors. Two tries from the visitors gave them the early advantage before the Premiership champions took control in the second half. Tomkins marked his first appearance with two efforts and there were also tries from Jamie George, Justin Melck and Peter Stringer.

Harrow surge to biggest victory

HARROW RFC claimed their biggest win of the season as they trounced Old Abbotstonians 88-5. The win kept them top of Herts Middlesex Two as they ran in 14 tries. It took their total in the last four games to 261 points and 43 tries. It bodes well for this weekend's game against bottom club London French.

Wealdstone host college trials

THE date for next season's Stanmore College trial has been confirmed for Friday, February 17. Teenagers aged between 16 and 18 who want to study an A Level or BTEC qualification and play football to a semi-pro standard should email r.marchena@stanmore.ac.uk

News immediately:
harrowtimes.co.uk

Stones gunning for FA Trophy upset

by SIMON MAIL

WEALDSTONE will target an FA Trophy scalp this weekend when they travel to Conference South promotion chasers Dartford.

The Stones earned their place in the third round after upsetting Barrow last month.

Gordon Bartlett's side will face a massive challenge at second-placed Dartford on Saturday. The hosts have won their last six matches in all competitions and the Stones will go there as big outsiders.

Wealdstone warmed up for the cup tie with a 2-0 home win over Tooting & Mitcham United in the league on Tuesday night.

Bartlett's team could have opened the scoring inside the first minute at Grosvenor Vale but Richard Jolly was unable to control Scott McCubbin's pinpoint through ball.

The hosts remained on top and went close minutes later when Scott Fitzgerald hit an ambitious 40-yard volley which sailed just past the post.

Visiting goalkeeper Jack Giddens was called into action after 15 minutes when he palmed away Sean Cronin's header. Jolly almost tucked away the rebound but somehow the defence managed to keep the ball out of the net.

Wealdstone were in control and again went close to the breakthrough after Jolly was released but his effort rolled agonisingly wide of the target.

Tooting almost grabbed the lead against the run of play when James Hammond was forced to block a close-range strike from Charlie Stimson.

The Stones deservedly took the lead just before the half-hour mark. Jolly's header was pushed onto the bar by Giddens and Britt Assombalonga tucked away the rebound.

Wealdstone had to wait until injury time to put the game beyond doubt. Striker Jolly showed real strength to hold off a defender before side-footing the ball past the goalkeeper for his 29th of the campaign.

It was a much-needed three points after the Stones' long unbeaten run ended at Lowestoft Town on Saturday.

Bartlett's side were beaten for the first time since November as their 15-match unbeaten run ground to a halt.

The match started promisingly for the visitors when Assombalonga fired them in front. But two goals from third-placed Lowestoft condemned the Stones to only their sixth league defeat of the campaign.



Brit Assombalonga's goal was in vain during the Stones' defeat to Lowestoft Town.
Picture: STEVE FOSTER/WEALDSTONE FC

'The first half was dreadful'

HARROW BOROUGH manager Dave Anderson labelled his side's first-half performance as "dreadful" after they crashed to a 3-1 home defeat to Wingate & Finchley.

The Reds were caught out early on as two mistakes by goalkeeper Will Viner handed Wingate a 2-0 lead.

Wayne Walters headed Boro back into the match in the second half before a third goal from the visitors killed off their hopes of a memorable comeback by the side at Earlsmead.

The setback was all the more disappointing after the Reds had won their last two matches.

Anderson said: "Our first-half performance was dreadful. We gave away two really soft goals and looked like a team with no life to us."

"It was very disappointing and we had really firm words at half-time. The performance in the first half I just can't accept. It was our worst display in the last ten games."

"We spoke before the game about being careful but all our fears were brought to life at the start of the match."

The Reds, who are languishing in 17th spot in the Ryman Premier are at home to Concord Rangers this weekend.

Anderson said: "I hope it's just a blip but I haven't got a crystal ball. I'm expecting nothing but a tough game against Concord."

"They are a strong side and it will be a difficult match. But I'm looking for a faster start, middle and end to the match after our last performance."

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