

Bartlett: 'I'm starting to feel sorry for my players'

Wealdstone manager Gordon Bartlett says he is starting to feel sorry for his players after their 2-1 defeat at Boreham Wood but insists the Stones are good enough to avoid relegation from the Conference South, writes Adam Newson.

Bartlett's side led at Meadow Park, thanks to Johnny Wright's first half goal, until the 87th minute.

Their good work was then completely undone.

Wood equalised via Lee Angol and the hosts grabbed all three points in stoppage time as midfielder Sam Cox curled home a shot from the edge of the penalty area.

The defeat leaves the Stones 19th in the table - although the two sides below them, Weston-Super-Mare and Staines Town, have three and two games in hand respectively.

"Conceding late goals is becoming the story of our season," Bartlett said.

"In our last three league games we have conceded late goals and that has cost us vital points.

"Those games have been against second placed Basingstoke Town, Maidenhead United who are seventh and Boreham Wood who are top of the table.

"So we are matching the top teams but we have been punished in games for individual errors and losses of concentration.

"As a manager you can feel sorry for yourself but I am starting to feel

sorry for the players as they are putting in the effort during matches."

Wealdstone do not have a game this weekend and are next in action on Monday when they travel to Chelmsford City, who have lost just one of their last six league matches.

While many managers bemoan busy fixture schedules, Bartlett is frustrated with the lack of games.

He feels his players are not playing regularly enough and many of his first team squad featured in the mid-week reserve match against St Albans City.

He explained: "Last season we were playing almost every three or four days.

"That helped us gain momentum in the league and we obviously won the title.

"This season, because we have gone out of cup competitions, we may end up playing a dozen fewer games and that is a huge number.

"We are not a million miles off picking up results though and I am confident that, once we do that, we will remain in this division."

The Stones have confirmed Jack Mills, who can play in defence or midfield, has been released by the club.

"He wants to play matches and I can't guarantee that here," Bartlett said. "He has made the decision to go and that is fine with me.

"I need people that are going to dig deep and fight for their place in



The Stones celebrate their opener at Boreham Wood but were beaten after the hosts scored two late goals. Picture: STEVE FOSTER/WEALDSTONE FC

the squad and side."

The Stones were without Luke O'Nien, who is on loan from Championship club Watford, at the weekend due to an Achilles injury.

Bartlett says the midfielder should be available for the trip to Chelmsford next Monday and has been impressed with the 19-year-old's attitude and determination.

The Stones boss said: "You can't

fault Luke's for enthusiasm, he lives and breaths it.

"He works so hard and has to be dragged off the training pitch.

"What is difficult for Luke is that he is so versatile, that means he isn't regularly playing in one position.

"I think that will need to happen for him to develop as a professional because there is no faulting his determination and attitude."

Ruthless Boro thump Wood

Harrow Borough cruised into the quarter finals of the Middlesex Senior Cup after they claimed a comprehensive 7-0 win at Northwood.

Boro boss Dave Anderson fielded a strong side whilst opponents Wood rested several players ahead of their FA Trophy clash with Dorset on Saturday.

Both selections led to a one sided contest. Harrow broke the deadlock in the 13th minute when Jerome Walker crossed and Carl McCluskey finished off at the far post to open his account for the club.

The advantage was doubled when Lewis Driver was fouled in Northwood's penalty area. A spot kick was awarded, Ben Long stepped up from 12 yards and converted.

Driver then struck a quick-fire brace. His first was from close range after good work from Kamaron English and the duo combined again for Driver to slot home from close in.

After the interval, Harrow wasted several chances to add to their lead. However, the fifth of the evening arrived with 18 minutes remaining.

McCluskey broke through Wood's off-side trap and comfortably finished past the hosts' goalkeeper.

Walker then added his name to the scoresheet after being teed up by McCluskey and Ryan Debattista struck a debut goal to complete the rout.

Tuesday's success made it back-to-back victories for Harrow. They had clinched a 1-0 win against Kingstonian in the Ryman Premier on Saturday.

The winning goal was scored in the 32nd minute by Nik Salapatas.

Michael Bryan's low delivery was stepped over by Marc Charles-Smith and that gave Salapatas room to finish and secure Borough their first away points since the end of August.

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