

Bartlett hails best home result

Wealdstone boss Gordon Bartlett labelled the Stones' 3-0 win over Gosport Borough as their best home result of the season, stating he never doubted the ability of match-winner Jefferson Louis.

The 36-year-old forward was the star of the show as Wealdstone reacted brilliantly to consecutive Conference South losses against Bishop's Stortford and Havant & Waterlooville.

Louis played a part in the Stones' opener – scored by Matty Ball – before netting the second himself and laying on the third for strike partner Scott McGleish – some five years his senior.

Speaking afterwards, boss Bartlett said of the win: "It is probably our best result.

"We dug deep and got a very good result against a side that I did state before the game, if they lose they do not normally lose by many, and we beat them 3-0 – I think that is testament to how well we have done."

Louis drew some criticism from Stones supporters following his move to Grosvenor Vale earlier this year but the former Margate and Hendon striker now has five goals in 12 outings for the club.

Assessing the impact of the Harrow-born hitman, Bartlett enthused: "I never had any doubts about his ability. He can be a little bit inconsistent – even in games – but by God he is a handful.

"All I can say is he is playing with a smile on his face. There are one or two things we would like him to do better but I am sure there are one or things Jeff would like to do better.

He continued: "But you can't ask



Jefferson Louis celebrates after scoring Wealdstone's second.

Picture: Steve Foster/Wealdstone FC

for much more than he has given us in the last month where has been very effective and I do not think there are many defenders who would like to mark him.

"He loves a battle; he was in a war tonight and he won it."

The win was Wealdstone's first in three after a 3-1 loss at Havant & Waterlooville on Saturday.

But Bartlett refused to criticise his players after defeat in Hampshire, instead putting the onus on his squad to re-capture the form which has seen them rise to 11th.

He explained: "The game against Bishop's Stortford was my concern. On Saturday, for 50-odd minutes I thought we were better than Havant.

The disappointment was the reaction

after the goal.

"All we said before the game was, 'you set your own standards, boys,' and the last couple of games I think we have dipped below."

Bartlett also confirmed Nathan Mavila has completed his loan stay and returned to West Ham United.

Stones host second-placed Boreham Wood on Saturday at 3pm.

Harrow remain in relegation zone despite away draw

Harrow Borough manager Steve Baker is targeting 12 points from the next four games as his side battle to beat the drop from the Isthmian Premier Division.

Currently third-bottom and five points from safety, Harrow took another step in the right direction on Saturday when they drew 0-0 at ninth-placed Leiston.

And with Canvey Island (16th), VCD Athletic (23rd), AFC Hornchurch (20th) and Lewes (17th) to come, Baker is fully aware Harrow are entering a make-or-break period of the season.

He stated: "We will take each game at a time but I think these matches will determine where those teams all finish.

"Results on Tuesday night went well for us and everyone else is level on games now so that position looks a lot better.

"The only thing we can ask is to win every single one of those games. We have got to target a win every game but nine points would not be a disaster," he explained.

Boro more than held their own against Leiston on Saturday but Baker was disappointed not to see his side work the Suffolk outfit's goalkeeper.

He said: "I thought we were good and played very well in the first half considering the pitch was awful and it was blowing a gale.

"But we did not create a good chance on the day, despite having lots of corner and free-kicks.

"We did enough without creating that one opportunity," he added.

Harrow host Canvey on Saturday before VCD Athletic visit on Tuesday.

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