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FORWARD hoping serious injuries are behind him



Sam Matthews is looking to kick-start his career again after joining Wealdstone. Image: Jon Taffel

Matthews out to make positive impact at Stones

NEW signing Sam Matthews wants to make up for lost time and fulfil his potential at Wealdstone.

The left-footed forward, who likes to play off the right or as a No.10, has had endured a cruel run with injuries.

He sustained a serious ankle injury half-an-hour in the first game of a loan spell at Poole Town in 2014 and then just when he was getting his career back on track, he suffered yet more first-day heartache when he injured a shoulder in the first game of Crawley's 2021/22 season. It was a problem that required more surgery.

There has been a knee injury

problem since that ended last season early and disrupted pre-season but now the 25-year-old is fit again and keen to recapture the sort of form that saw him handed a pro contract at Bournemouth.

"I've gone through a tough period," he said. "I've had to work hard and wait for opportunities to come up and then [Wealdstone manager] Stuart [Maynard] called me and invited me to train. I want to come here and make a positive impact. I feel I know what I can do and once I get some minutes and up to speed, I feel I can really help.

"There is a great balance of younger and older players and

I just want to add to that. I feel I've slotted in nicely. I want to be creative, make goals, score goal and make things happen for the team. There are some really talented players here."

Matthews has previous experience at National League level, with spells at Eastleigh, Braintree Town and Aldershot Town. The Stones will need his know-how for games against Dagenham and Redbridge on Saturday, before they host two ex-league juggernauts in Chesterfield and Hollywood-owned Wrexham.

He said: "Obviously the level has got stronger and stronger as well as the size of the clubs playing in this division now

competing means the level has gone up, but I feel comfortable coming into this level. There's plenty of tough opposition in this league, but we know we're more than good enough to compete.

"I need to get as many minutes in as I can as possible because I've missed the start of the season, so I'm really eager to make the most of all the games coming up."

Stones have now lost their last five games in all competitions following Tuesday night's 6-1 home thrashing by Notts County and will be looking to get back on track when they visit the Daggers this weekend.

Borough let winning position slip

HARROW FORCED TO SETTLE FOR A POINT IN WALES



George Moore scored Harrow's opener. Image: Bruce Viveash

FOR the third away game running, Harrow Borough were pegged back from a winning position as they had to settle for a 2-2 draw at Merthyr Tydfil on Saturday.

Steve Baker's side led the game with 12 minutes to go having played some magical football, but then conceded two and, in the end, were somewhat relieved to hear the final whistle.

Harrow opened the scoring in the 32nd minute when Isiah Noel-Williams and Montel Brown created an opportunity for George Moore to hit a precise shot into the bottom corner from the edge of the box.

The advantage was soon doubled in bizarre fashion as home keeper Will Fuller, on the left edge of his penalty area, rolled the ball to his right straight into the path of Montel Brown, who side-footed it into an unguarded goal from 20 yards.

Borough played some super stuff when the second half began, probably their best 20 minutes' football of the season, but they didn't get the third goal that would probably have put the game to bed, despite going very close through Michael Bryan and Kai Omoko Brosnan. Borough's threat level then reduced and in the 79th minute Lewis Powell peeled off the defence at a corner to plant a free header into the goal from 15 yards to bring his side right back into the game.

Late home pressure at Penydarren Park has been a feature of Harrow trips to South Wales, and this was to be no exception. Lene Burden blocked Matthew Harris' shot but, in the 86th minute, with Harrow sitting deeper and deeper, Andy Lewis was allowed to try his luck from 20 yards, and his shot skidded under a despairing Jacob Knightbridge, making it one bad goalkeeping error for each side.