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FOOTBALL Stones back in training for pre-season



Junior Tiensia has signed for the Stones

Image: PA

It feels like home for returning boss Cox

WEALDSTONE boss Sam Cox was delighted to lead his first session since returning to the club as manager as the Stones arrived back in training ahead of pre-season.

After signing a contract to take the reins as manager for the second time, Cox had been eager to get to work as he looks to improve the Stones position in the National League following a close scare with relegation last time out.

"It's lovely to see so many familiar faces from my last tenure here. Staff and players, along with the boys that are coming in to bolster the group and some looking for opportunities. It feels like home, back where I left off," said Cox.

On the summer business com-

By TOM NORTON

pleted so far, the recently appointed Stones boss spoke glowingly about the two latest additions, Junior Tiensia and Sak Hassan.

Cox explained: "Two great additions to the group. Junior, we know the pedigree that he has. He obviously played in the EFL last season and did really well. To get him was a real coup for us. He was one of the targets that I identified.

"Junior was one of our first targets, and we managed to get him through the door. He's going to be great for the group. He's a great personality with great energy and enthusiasm.

"Then you've got Sak, who I spoke about last week. Again, he's someone who caught my eye early, and I've been monitoring him for a long time now. He's going to be a player who I think the fans are really going to love. He's exciting to watch; his dynamism on the ball and what he'll offer in the final third will be great for the group."

"I'm big on characters and personalities, and he's someone that I've really admired for a long time, so he's going to be fantastic for the group."

The National League club are hoping to make further signings to bolster the squad ahead of what promises to be another challenging season.

Cox added: "Since the announcement got made that I was gaffer, my phone hasn't stopped with agents and

players looking for that opportunity. We've narrowed it down. We've got twelve (players) in today that are going to be in and around the group for the foreseeable future, the next couple of weeks. That will get narrowed down as the weeks go on, but certainly, we've got some really exciting players in there today.

"I just can't wait for the games to start coming now, and we'll see game by game, session by session, who the players are that are going to be fit for the group and are going to benefit us going forward."

Wealdstone welcome Championship newcomers Charlton Athletic to Grosvenor Vale for a friendly next month as part of the club's pre-season fixture schedule.

'England can make an impact'

RUGBY



Jamie George in training

Image: PA

SARACENS star Jamie George believes England have got all the potential to make a big impact in their forthcoming two test series against Argentina, writes Ziad Chaudry.

The experienced 34-year-old hooker was encouraged with the way an experimental England XV side, that featured five uncapped players, performed despite falling to a 26-24 defeat to France VX in a highly entertaining pre-tour warm up at Allianz Stadium, Twickenham last Saturday. The reigning Guinness Six Nations champions snatched victory during the final minutes after two converted tries from Paul Mallez and Romain Taoffenua saw them overturn a 24-12 deficit. England coach Steve Bothwick, a former Sarries player, was without 13 of his regular first teamers due to British & Irish Lions duties, including Maro Itoje, Elliot Daly and Ben Earl.

George's fellow Sarries colleagues Nick Isiekwe, Theo Dan and Tom Willis, who incidentally was amongst the four England try scorers, also featured in the Twickenham defeat.

"I was really proud of a lot of what we did," George, who shared the England captaincy duties with Sale Shark's George Ford, told RugbyPass TV.

"I think it showed we've got a lot of potential, but I think it also showed the difference of when we're right on it and when we're not.

"We allowed France back into the game and we've got a lot to fix up with our maul. That's the bare minimum of what this team should be about - character, fight, spirit - and I'm really pleased with that.

"I'm really pleased with some of the big performances, younger players stepping up, and I'm really excited that those guys are going to now kick on and have a big impact in Argentina too."