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FOOTBALL: Boss hoping to make more signings



Wealdstone's Deon Woodman celebrates scoring against Slough

Image: Jon Taffel

Cox: Stones still need one or two new faces

NEW Wealdstone boss Sam Cox believes his side still need "one or two" signings for a positive start to the upcoming National League season after a 2-1 win over Slough Town in their final pre-season friendly.

Deon Woodman headed the Stones in front after just ten minutes before their latest summer addition, Nathan Tshikuna, doubled the advantage soon after.

Slough's Jaiden Drakes-Thomas grabbed a late consolation for the visitors, but Cox's side held out for a momentum-building win ahead of their 2025/26 National League campaign.

Cox said: "We've got a really tight squad, and we knew it was going to take the period of pre-season to get

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the bodies in the building we needed, and we're probably still not quite there.

"We probably still need to add one or two, and we know we've had to be patient with what we've been given.

"It's going to require a squad of 18-20 to get through this long season, but they've been fantastic.

"It's not easy to take such information on in such little time. The way we're asking the boys to play and the identity we're trying to give the boys in such a short time is going to take time."

Tshikuna joined the club on Fri-

day and went straight into the starting line-up to face Slough.

Cox added: "Nath was someone I've admired for a while. He offers great experience at this level, and was someone we identified early on in pre-season.

"But as we say, we have to be a little bit more patient with some of those boys that go off elsewhere and stuff doesn't quite come off for them.

"When we get an opportunity to sign them, we have to try to get them through the door, and we're delighted to get him over the line.

"He's a great lad first and foremost. I want good character and good people, and he fits that mould, and I thought he was excellent."

Cox also provided an update on

Tshikuna's fitness after he seemed to go down injured late on in the win.

"He picked up a little knock towards the end," he said.

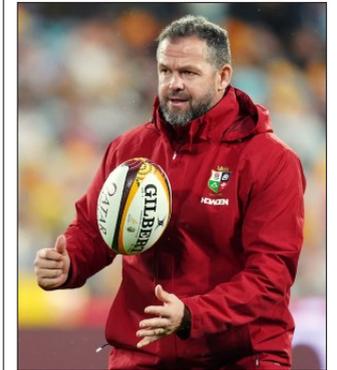
"We hope it's nothing too worrying, but I thought he complimented that midfield four very well, and we look like we're in a good place if we can keep them fit."

Wealdstone begin their season when they welcome last season's National League South champions Truro City to Grosvenor Vale on Saturday.

They entertain Wolves U21s in the National League Cup on Tuesday (7pm), having also been drawn to face Leicester, Nottingham Forest and West Brom's youngsters in their group.

Farrell up for another Lions tour

HEAD COACH LEAVES DOOR OPEN TO 2029 AFTER SERIES TRIUMPH



British and Irish Lions head coach Andy Farrell

Image: PA

ANDY Farrell has left the door open to leading the next British and Irish Lions tour after presiding over a 2-1 series victory against Australia.

The Lions' dream of finishing their tour Down Under with a 100 per cent record ended with a 22-12 defeat in the final Test at a rain-lashed Accor Stadium, but they return home having achieved the main objective.

A first series triumph since 2013 puts Farrell in pole position to take charge of the next expedition to New Zealand and the Ireland boss admits his passion for the Lions has only grown over the last two months.

He said: "Everyone knows what I think about this concept and I suppose that says it all.

"I love everything the Lions is about and I've thoroughly, thoroughly enjoyed the last eight weeks.

"There are always ups and there are always downs, but the inner circle is a special place to be.

"Read into that what you want but I suppose four years, there's a long time between drinks isn't there?"

An extraordinary third Test that produced three failed HIAs and saw James Ryan knocked out was paused for 37 minutes early in the second half after the players left the field because of lightning strikes in the area.

"I hope I'm not in a game like that again, actually. Rigor mortis was setting in at one stage there for the lads!" added Farrell.

"I suppose that is what you come to expect with a schedule like the Lions schedule. We have seen it all now haven't we!

"We were trying to work out what the rules were and what was going to happen. What came off the back of that is Australia hit the ground running and thoroughly deserved their win."