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## HOPEFUL - Forward returns after his injury



Wealdstone in action against Rochdale. Image: Mike Renny

# Adarkwa set to go after brace in Southend win

WEALDSTONE match-winner Sean Adarkwa says he "hasn't felt pain since coming back from injury" after the forward scored a brace in the 3-2 National League victory over Southend United at Grosvenor Vale on Tuesday night.

Adarkwa endured an injury-ravaged 2024/2025 campaign, missing significant periods as the Stones narrowly survived relegation from the National League on the final day.

The 24-year-old has since returned from the sidelines in scintillating form for Sam Cox's side, adding another two goals to his tally in the win over the Shrimpers after Enzo Boldewijn had opened the scoring for the hosts.

"I feel good.

"Obviously, today was quite a tough

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game on the legs, but I haven't felt pain since I've come back from injury, so that's a positive sign," Adarkwa told the club website post-match.

"I feel really good, and I feel confident."

Adarkwa's uptick in form has come at a crucial time for Wealdstone, who had lost their last three National League outings after winning the opening trio of fixtures.

And the forward was keen to praise the performance of his teammates as the Stones rallied to an important win in front of their home support.

"I thought we stuck in.

"I thought even after they scored to make it a draw, we kept going, and I got the two goals.

"I'm really thankful.

"I thank God, and we got the win.

"I'm happy to be honest," said Adarkwa.

"The Stones winger was tasked with taking a penalty in the 68th minute, but a lengthy delay might have cast some doubt in his mind, although he brilliantly tucked his spot-kick away to make it 3-1 on the night before Southend's Gus Scott-Morris struck late on to set up a nervy ending.

Adarkwa admitted: "Obviously, it's not ideal to wait that long, because even right at the start when I got it, I'd shaped up to take it straight away.

"I had to wait a few more minutes,

but I knew where I wanted to go, and it went in, so I was happy when it went in."

On his second strike of the night, he said: "It was very good play from Daniel Nkrumah, and I was just there at the right time.

"It's important to get in and around the box, in the middle of the goal.

"A lot of chances are there, so that's where I'll be looking to be this season."

The Stones travel north to face Scunthorpe United this weekend (3pm kick-off), looking to rediscover the excellent form they showed earlier in the campaign.

Adarkwa added: "I think it will be another test.

"I'm confident that we can get the result if we play to our best."

## England run in 14 tries in 92-3 rout of Samoa



England's Helena Rowland

JESS Breach plundered a hat-trick as England continued their march through the Rugby World Cup group stage by overwhelming Samoa 92-3 at Franklin's Gardens.

The mismatch between professionals and amateurs produced a predictable outcome with the Red Roses registering a 29th successive victory, sending records tumbling in the process. It was their highest number of points scored in a World Cup match and their biggest margin of victory, while player of the match Helena Rowland's individual haul of 27 points was the most in the nation's history.

She carved out her own slice of Red Roses history with the final act of the game when she converted Claudia Moloney-MacDonald's try that was scored on the stroke of full-time.

Breach led the charge by lifting her total of Test tries to 52 with a trio of classy finishes and there was an eye-catching double from Megan Jones as England crossed 14 times against opponents ranked 15th in the world.

The win came even though head coach John Mitchell had made 13 changes to the starting XV after the United States had been thrashed in the tournament opener.

Samoa's head coach Ramsey Tomokino described the showdown against a side that has never lost a World Cup group game as "mission impossible" and it took just 172 seconds for the size of the task to hit home.

The Islanders' early tackling was ferocious but their organisation failed to match their intent.

The Red Roses were being presented with acres of space to attack, while their scrum was also dominant. Samoa were run ragged and struggled to cope with the variety of their opponents' play, something reflected in the scoreline.