

SPORT

Smith puts the icing on the cake for Wasps

Moseley 9 Wasps 22

DESPITE an impressive scoreline this was a somewhat flattering result for Wasps, writes Alan Bodenham.

Manager John Langley was even forced to admit after the Courage League clash: "We didn't play that well."

If Wasps expected a less daunting task than the match with Leicester last week they were soon disillusioned. In the opening minutes Moseley laid siege to their line. Only excellent defensive tackling kept the home side at bay.

RUGBY

Mark Rigby was replaced by Mark Rose after only 12 minutes with a recurrence of the hamstring injury which kept him out of the Leicester game.

Wasps soon bounced back with Simon Smith almost scoring after a cross field move that started when Pilgrim collected a kick that failed to find touch.

It was turning into a rough encounter with Moseley locks Robin Taylor and Steve Lloyd enjoying a bruising battle with their opposite numbers.

The home side deservedly took the lead after 28 minutes when Carl Armitz kicked a penalty.

Wasps replied with Damien Hopley. The young centre showed why he is such an exciting prospect when he collected a short pass from Rob Andrew, and demonstrating speed and strength, broke through the Moseley defence to score close to the posts.

Andrew converted the try, having earlier missed two penalty attempts. After the break Wasps immediately went on the attack.

They elected to run a very kickable

penalty and were rewarded when Chris Wright, in his characteristic style, evaded the lunges of much bigger men to score.

Rob Andrew kicked a penalty to increase the lead midway through the second half but with 12 minutes to go Moseley set up a grandstand finish when winger Dave Spiller scored.

With five minutes to go Rob Andrew kicked his second penalty and in the dying seconds Simon Smith put the icing on the cake for Wasps after Buzzza and Hopley exchanged passes to put him in the clear.

Wasps: Buzzza, Smith, Childs, Hopley, Pilgrim, Andrew, Wright, Holmes, Simmons, Probyn, Kinsey, Pinnegar, Harris, Rigby (Rose), Ellison.

Rugby fixtures

Saturday October 20
 Courage League Division One: Wasps v Gloucester.
 London League SWW: Welwyn v Kingburians.
 Middle Div. 1: Harrow v Hendon (Grove Fields, 3pm).
 Middle Div. 3: Rozeth Manor OB v Old Islingtonians (North London Poly, 3pm); Quinton v Wembley.
 Club match: West London Institute v Old Gaytonians.

Midfielder breaks leg in cup tie

By Ian Gallagher

Tip-off saves club stand hit by blaze

AN ANONYMOUS phone call saved Wealdstone Football Club's biggest stand from destruction on Sunday.

Firefighters were called to tackle a blaze at the club's ground in High Mead, Wealdstone after the tip-off at 11.30pm.

Thousands of pounds worth of damage were caused by the fire, with one out-building completely destroyed and damage to the stand and the club's bars.

Club Secretary Peter Braxton said: "The police think the fire was started after a break-in at an outbuilding and are treating it as arson."

"It damaged part of the back of the stand and an outbuilding which has had to be demolished because it was unsafe."

"We were very lucky really, another quarter of an hour and the whole stand would have gone up."

Police suspect someone was sleeping rough at the ground at the time but do not know if this was linked to the fire.

LUCKLESS midfielder Ian Fergusson returned to Wealdstone on Saturday after a six-match ban - only to break his leg in the cup clash with Ruislip Manor.

His misfortune has landed worried boss Alan Gane with a major headache.

Now five of his first-choice midfield players will be out of Saturday's Beazer Homes Premier Division match with lowly Weymouth.

"We have got a good defence and attack, but nothing in the middle," sighed Gane.

As well as Fergusson, out go:

● STEVE Browne with damaged knee ligaments.

● PAUL Goyette with a depressed broken-check bone.

● IAN Hendry with a damaged achilles heel.

● STEVE Smart with damaged knee ligaments.

The injury-crisis means the Stones boss will almost certainly call up Barry Blackman and Leo Donnellan for the 3pm home game against Weymouth.

Gane was understandably "very disappointed" with the disastrous result against Vauxhall League Division Two South minnows Ruislip Manor in the FA Cup on Saturday.

But he said yesterday: "If we regain our confidence we should win Saturday's game."

He predicts that Fergusson, however, will be out of action for at least two months.

Meanwhile it's D-Day for struggling Harrow Borough on Saturday when they travel to Aylesbury.

New Borough boss Peter Lawrence said: "Since I arrived here I have stuck to the same side. If you keep changing it the players will never settle."

Vauxhall League Division One side Wembley are also faced with problems.

Paul Shields and Paul Fitzgerald began three-match suspensions this week and Ronnie Johns and Bobby Hutchinson are both doubtful for Saturday's FA Trophy match with Marlow.

Kingsbury Town are at home to Stevenage on Saturday following their goalless draw away to Vauxhall Motors in midweek. Edgware Town manager Brian Rider is expecting to field a full-strength squad against Hemel Hempstead on Saturday.



● Wealdstone in action against giant-killers Ruislip Manor on Saturday. For a full report on the embarrassing Stones' result turn to page 63

Rock-bottom display

Wembley 3, Chesham United 4.

DESPITE the scoreline this was by no means a seven-goal thriller.

Instead it was a rather scrappy affair with Wembley letting the game slip because of sloppy defending and lack of commitment.

Painful memories of last season's winter of discontent came flooding back to fans - the result meant their team dropped into the bottom four.

What was all the more depressing was that opponents Chesham United, despite having several experienced players, were a mediocre outfit.

The game began in sensational fashion when Bobby Hutchinson fired the home side ahead after only 13 seconds.

He strolled through a motionless Chesham defence and clipped Paul Shields' long punt over the keeper, notching his 14th goal of the season.

Two minutes later Chesham equalised. Charlie Flaherty gave away a free-kick on the edge of the Wembley penalty area which was quickly taken and tucked past Andy Smith.

After the early excitement the game developed into a dull, untidy, midfield struggle.

Few openings arose until four minutes before half-time when Chesham's Byron Walton found some space on the right flank, overcame Paul Shields' attempted challenge and crossed to Mark Dawbar, who swept the ball home.

Eight minutes into the second half Robert Larkin levelled the scores with a penalty after Sean Norman handled a Gulfer cross.

Fans sensed a Wembley revival, but alas the Lions lacked the neces-

sary fighting spirit. Their confidence was further diminished when more poor defending enabled Chesham to swing the game their way with two more goals.

In the 58th minute Chesham's Gary Attrell waltzed his way round three immobile defenders on the left wing and crossed to striker Byron Walton who thumped the ball home.

Eleven minutes later a blunder by keeper Andy Smith allowed the visitors to sneak a fourth.

In the final minute a brilliant pass from Gulfer threaded its way through to the unmarked Lance Cadogan who scored with ease.

Wembley: Smith, Larkin, Fitzgerald, Johns (Sailsman), Shields, Graham, Cadogan, Flaherty, Gulfer, B. Hutchinson (H. Hutchinson), Byron.

Harrow Borough 1, Wivenhoe Town 3.

TROUBLED Borough plunged deeper into the relegation mire on Tuesday night after losing their first-ever match against Wivenhoe.

The visitors' arrival was delayed by travel problems and they lacked three of their best known players - but after a shaky start they ran out worthy winners, writes Tony Booth.

Boro began confidently and when Wivenhoe failed to clear a cross from halfway in the ninth minute Paul Ripley's 20-yard shot was deflected wide of the diving keeper.

Minutes later Hopson saw his effort cleared off the line, leaving Ripley to miss the ball when he had a chance to shoot.

Such waste was sorely punished by the visitors who netted two penalties in the space of six minutes.

As the second half wore on, Wivenhoe looked more and more confident and it was no more than they deserved when, after James had cleared off the line in the last minute, the ball was swiftly returned to the box and Clarke shot home.

Harrow Borough: Crompton, Stocker (Arnall), Alexander, Payne, Shea, O'Connor, James, Pye, Cooper, Ripley (Mudd), Hopson.

Rayners Lane 2, Waltham Abbey 3

RAYNERS Lane were dumped out of the Middlesex Senior Cup by a defensively-sound Abbey side.

Lane were a goal behind after two minutes when an Abbey forward tapped in from close range after they failed to clear a corner.

Goals from Vemi and Coakley, during a heavy spell of pressure from Lane, revived hopes - but Abbey made sure of victory by catching the home side on the break on two occasions. Lane: Rendle, Clements, Hynes, Taylor, Cockram, Coakley, Heaney, Wood (Obeng), King (Griggs), Abell, Vemi.

Football fixtures

Saturday October 20
 Beazer Homes League Premier Division: Wealdstone v Weymouth (Lower Mead, 3pm).
 Vauxhall League Premier Division: Aylesbury United v Harrow Borough.
 Vauxhall League Division One: Wembley v Woking (Vale Farm, 3pm).
 Vauxhall League Division Two North: Edgware Town v Hemel Hempstead (White Lion Ground, 3pm); Kingsbury Town v Stevenage Borough (Silver Jubilee Park, 3pm).
 Tuesday October 23
 Vauxhall League Premier Division: Harrow Borough v Kingsthorpe (Earlsmead, 7.30pm).
 Capital League: Sutton v Wealdstone (7.30pm).

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