

SPORT

Jones is Juniors' choice

Stones are up!

Wasps ready to give stars rest

KEY Wasps players, including skipper Lawrence Dallaglio, are likely to be rested for the Allied Dunbar Premiership clash with Richmond at the Athletic Ground on Saturday, kick off 3pm, writes Alan Bodenham.

Talks between RFU officials and Premiership clubs representatives are due to end today (Thursday) and there is every indication that these will produce no relegation from the First Division this season.

If that is the case, Nigel Melville will certainly have no reason to risk several first choice players before the Tetley's Bitter Cup Final with Saracens on Saturday week.

Dallaglio, in a candid press conference following Sunday's win over Northampton, admitted that a shoulder injury made him doubtful for this Summer's tour of the southern hemisphere.

He also said that if Wasps had not been in such a parlous position in the First Division he would not have played in recent League games.

There is however no way that he will not lead his side out at Twickenham next week.

Dallaglio apart, Wasps good performances of recent weeks have projected several players into contention for the tour.

Simon Shaw, Alex King and Will Green are strongly fancied along with Andy Gomarsall and Nick Greenstock, while Joe Worsley and Paul Sampson are possible, as are Mike Friday and Darren Molloy.



Win over Wares clinches it for jubilant Bartlett boys

By John Comfort

IT was Northwood all over again at the White Lion ground on Tuesday night as jubilant Wealdstone and their ecstatic supporters, in a bumper crowd of 653, celebrated promotion for the second successive season after their 2-0 win over landlords Edgware.

It wasn't as champions on this occasion, nor even as runners-up, but that didn't lessen the enthusiasm of the festivities at Stones' elevation to Division One of the Ryman League behind Braintree and Canvey Island.

For Wealdstone it was the first time in their history that they had secured back to back promotion.

For their incomparable manager, Gordon Bartlett, who surely has few peers outside the Vauxhall Conference, it was another addition to his lengthy list of phenomenal achievements in 13 years of management, yet there was still considerable satisfaction derived from it.

"I'm delighted," he said. "It makes the last nine months of sleepless night all worth while."

Although the promotion goal was achieved with a game still to play, the Stones boss said that he felt that the

campaign had been harder than last season when the Division Three title chase went right to the final match.

"Of the two seasons this has been the most difficult one because we've slipped up along the way. We've achieved success but with a few hiccups of our own making. Too often we've played under par and made it hard for ourselves."

With the job done for another season, after Saturday's final game at Marlow, the Stones boss intends to spend a relaxing summer with wife Jackie and their two children, Craig, 7, and Amanda, 10. "I'm going to become a family man again," he said.

The break will be well and truly deserved, for in his three years with Stones, Bartlett has led them out of the wilderness and restored the pride and glory. If for nothing else, chairman Paul Rumens will forever be remembered for his efforts in luring to Wealdstone the man who finally awoke the slumbering giant.

Wealdstone complete Wares whitewash

Edgware Town 0 Wealdstone 2
WEALDSTONE secured the three points they needed to pip Bedford to the third Division Two promotion spot on Tuesday night when they defeated Edgware for the fourth time this season,

writes John Comfort.

Edgware's hopes of avoiding an embarrassing whitewash faded and died after they had Alan Murray foolishly sent off 10 minutes into the second half for a less than complimentary remark to referee Monk. Discipline has not been one of Edgware's strong points in clashes with Stones this season. Both Steve Newing and Joe Sheridan had seen red in previous encounters.

Stones had the upper hand in this game from the moment they opened the scoring in the 12th minute.

Simon Garner's superb cross was headed against an upright by Roy Marshall and with the Edgware defence static, Dominic Sterling fired the rebound past Andy Carter.

A dipping shot from Joe Lyons was all Edgware had to offer in

response, while Stones went close to adding to their advantage on numerous occasions, the best opportunity falling to Garner who was put clear by Paul Benning but Carter somehow managed to pluck the ball away from him.

After Murray's dismissal, the Edgware ten battled on bravely but were no threat to Stones who went close through Keith Boreham and Dennis Greene before finally putting the issue beyond all doubt in the 76th minute when Marshall put Greene through to hold off Sheridan's challenge before lashing a great angled shot past Carter.

At the final whistle, Division One bound Stones celebrated while Edgware were left to dwell on what might have been. They led the table earlier in the season but fell away badly on the run in.

Edgware: Carter, Smart, Sheridan, Hurd, Elliott (Harmer), McCluskey (Whytock), Lyons, Murray, Glynn (Fraser), Brennan, Coleman.

Wealdstone: Imber, Lamb, Sterling, Waugh, Peaks, Marshall, Walton, Garner (Boreham), Bircham (McKay), Greene, Benning (Dobson).



Wembley all set for seaside stroll

A CARNIVAL atmosphere is likely to intrude Wembley's final game of the season at Bognor as many of the club's officials and players are spending the Bank Holiday weekend at the seaside town.

Jesse Hall (thigh) is the only injury doubt for manager Peter Grant, who along with his assistant Scott Cousins, had hoped to play themselves, but sadly their registrations missed the League deadline.

Victory at Yeading could make Harrow Borough decidedly unpopular for it would almost certainly send their relegation haunted neighbours down to Division One. Mark Xavier, with an ankle injury, is Borough's only doubt. Darren Coleman is back after suspension.

Skipper Fergus Moore and Brian Jones are hoping to be fit for Wealdstone's final game at Marlow.

Defender Richard Homer is also in contention for a place after being unavailable for the derby clash with Edgware. Steve Newing is attending a

wedding and will miss Edgware's game at home to Met Police.

Rayners Lane contest the Middlesex League's Alec Smith Cup Final at Harrow Borough on Saturday, looking to prevent rivals Willesden Constantine completing a treble having already won the League title and Russell Grant Middlesex Cup.

Fixtures

Saturday May 2
Ryman League Premier Div: Yeading v Harrow Borough.
Ryman League Div One: Bognor Regis Town v Wembley.
Ryman League Div Two: Edgware Town v Met Police (White Lion ground, 3pm), Marlow v Wealdstone.
Ryman League Div Three: Kingsbury Town v Ware (Silver Jubilee Park, 3pm).
Middlesex League Alec Smith Cup Final: Rayners Lane v Willesden Constantine (Earlsmead, 6.30pm).
Tuesday May 5
Guardian Insurance Cup Final: Oxford City v Sutton Utd (Earlsmead, 7.30pm).

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Week 47
£50 1935; £50 2-08-123; £65 A-02-483; £75 M-10-164; £150 A-12-391.

Edgware start search for successor to McGleish

EDGWARE Town begin interviewing candidates for the manager's post tonight (Thursday) and they could be in a position to name the successor to Jack McGleish by the weekend.

Borough are winners on their Jersey jaunt

HARROW Borough enjoyed a successful Channel Islands trip which ended on Monday evening with a 3-1 win against a Jersey FA XI.

Three goals in the first 32 minutes effectively settled the outcome. Nko Ekoku was involved

in the first two, scored by Paul Adolphe and Steve Brown, and manager Alan Parry netted the third with a great 25 yard strike.

Steigenberg pulled one back for Jersey but they were denied a second by a fine penalty save from David Hook.

Towers in mood for Budweiser repeat

EXIDE London Towers coach, Kevin Cadle, may be making his 11th straight visit to the Budweiser Championship semi-finals but his appetite for the Wembley Arena showcase will be as sharp as ever this weekend.

"It's special compared to every other trophy because it's the end of the season," he said "and there's only one team left. At the end the winner is the team that gets to smile last and that's what this weekend presents."

Towers need to retain the Championship to have a trophy to show for their season's efforts, but the man from Buffalo, who joined the club in 1994, knows that it's no fore-

gone conclusion.

"We've won five titles in the last two seasons and some people feel there's an obligation almost for us to take something from this season. It's not good because while I don't

mind the expectations I put on myself, I think sometimes other people also have expectations that I am supposed to win everything every time and it's just not possible."

Towers' semi-final op-

ponents at Wembley on Saturday are the Thames Valley Tigers, tip off 8.45pm. That follows the Birmingham Bullets v Manchester Giants semi final, tip off 6.45pm.

The Final will take

place on Sunday, tip off 6.30pm and will be preceded by the 3rd/4th place play off at 4pm. Tickets for both days are available from the Wembley Box Office on 902 0181.

The Rise Wembley

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