

observer SPORT

Injury problems for Stones

Slough Town 2 Wealdstone 2
WEALDSTONE paid a heavy price for playing this last-minute friendly at Slough on Tuesday night - they picked up injuries to Lance O'Brien, Paul Morris and Samson Olaley.

Morris got a nasty cut above his eye in the 30th minute, just before Steve Browne scored on his debut, meeting a Mark Harrison cross to put Stones ahead.

Slough scored twice within three minutes around the hour to take the lead. Landeg netted their equaliser in the 60th minute and White put them ahead three minutes later.

But Wealdstone fought back well and they finally drew level when Harrison's free kick was headed home by Dennis Bryant in the 80th minute.

Stones other injury problems came at

the final whistle. Centre half Lance O'Brien, who has now signed for Stones, came off with blood pouring from a wound above his eye and Samson Olaley aggravated a knee injury to add to Tony Jennings' problems.

Wealdstone: Williams, Corbin, Harrison, Byatt, O'Brien, S. Browne, La Ronde (Eriemo), Morris (C. Browne), Wilkins, Olaley, Lynch.

Marvellous Matt's hammer blow

Harrow Boro 2 West Ham Utd 1
WEST Ham paraded the superb skills of former England midfielder Alan Devonshire at Earlsmead on Tuesday night, but even he had to take a back seat to Boro's talented Matt Loddy, writes John Comfort.



• Matt Loddy - dazzling match winner.

Loddy won this highly entertaining pre-season friendly for Boro's four minutes from time with a goal that would have grounded any Football League ground as he collected the ball on the halfway line and carved open the Hammers' defence with a spectacular 55 yard run before slotting past keeper McAlister.

Loddy also had a hand in Boro's first goal in the 8th minute when his effort was blocked after a good build up between Steve Scott and Mark Adams and Adams fired home the loose ball.

At the 25th minute when Tony Mucklin beat Mackenzie after playing a great one-two with Adam King on the edge of the Boro's area.

Harrow Boro's: MacKenzie, Payne, Johnson (Howard), Cassidy, Bateman, Evans, Emmanuel, O'Connor, Scott, Loddy, Adams. Subs: Dicker, Stuart.

Randall the saviour

Rayners Lane 1 Finchley 1
THE brilliance of keeper Peter Randall and the return of skipper Paul Abell inspired Rayners Lane to a draw with Vauxhall-Opel League side Finchley in their final pre-season friendly on Tuesday, writes Aaron Gransby.

Finchley had taken the lead after quarter of an hour with Rayners Lane equalising seven minutes later. Steve Brian put Sean Nevin through and he swelled before scoring with a cross-shot.

Nevin, Brian, Reg Barton and Duncan Ferguson all went close as Lane continued to pile on the pressure, but it was keeper Randall who kept them level as their legs began to tire.

He made five excellent saves to deny Finchley, and on the two occasions he was beaten, Paul Abell and Darrell Clements came to his rescue with goal-line clearances.

Rayners Lane: Randall, Clements, Cockram, Abell, Mills (Lynn), Schurer (Kieley), Barton, Meaney, Brian, Nevin, Ferguson.

Lions' run ends

Wembley 1 Hounslow 2
A DETERMINED Hounslow side proved too strong for Bryan slotted home a header and narrowly missed earning their first defeat in four games.

The Lions went behind in the 38th minute when Gary Jenkins mis-hit a shot which went in off a post against the in-spired midfielder play from Steve Smith.

And then 17 minutes into the second half, home centre O'Hagan, Brown, Smith, Dolback Paul Janaway nudged an inling (Bryan), Pedlar, Wilianocent-looking cross into lions.

his own net to make it 2-0. One minute later Paul Bryan slotted home a header and narrowly missed earning their first defeat in four games.

In the closing minutes, keeper Jeff Fanner saved brilliantly in a two-on-one situation, diving at the feet of Wilson.

Wembley: Fanner, Hutchins. Hounslow: O'Hagan, Brown, Smith, Dolback Paul Janaway nudged an inling (Bryan), Pedlar, Wilianocent-looking cross into lions.

The doubts are finally dispelled Gayts champs - on merit

By **Tony Bush**

OLD Gaytonians Athletic Club won the British League Division Three title in spectacular style at Luton on Saturday when they won the final fixture of the season by a massive 61 points to ease ahead of Windsor at the top of the table.

The uncertainty over the Gutteridge drug affair dragged on into the weekend but Gayts emphatic victory puts paid to any doubts.

Whatever the league's final decision over Gutteridge, Gayts are champions on merit and have gained promotion to Division Two.

Gayts scored their highest ever total of 279 points at Luton and won 16 of the 36 events. In a dramatic finish to the meeting they gained 10 first places and three seconds in the last 14 events.

Gayts stars in a superb team performance included Seoul Olympian Sam Nchinda who equalled the League record of 10.5 in winning the 100 metres and he also took the 200 metres in a club record of 21.4.

Roban Samuel equalled his personal best of 10.8 to win the 100 metres while Mark Philips took the B 200 metres.

Nchinda, Samuel, Philips and Steve McKay won the sprint relay in a club record time of 41.5, one of the fastest times in Britain this year.

Scottish international Hamish McInnes also had a splendid double victory. He outstrided Windsor star Gareth Brown to win the 800 metres and took the 1500 metres with a sharp burst of speed in the home straight.



• Old Gaytonians celebrate their League title triumph at Luton. More pictures on page 78.

Ray Smith made a splendid debut to win the triple jump with a personal best of 14.99m and Gary McCullough returned to the team after injury to win the B event with a leap of 14.85m and also won the B long jump.

Wembley thrower Dave Messom took second in the javelin with a good throw of 68.80m. Guy Perryman substituted for the injured Philip Parry and won the B event as well as taking second spot in the shot.

Pinner's Ian Harkness postponed an operation on his wisdom teeth to make his league

debut in the 3000 metres and was rewarded with second place behind Scottish international Neil Tennant in a personal best of 14.40m.

Mark Littlejohns finished second in the 400 metres hurdles and set a personal best of 15.8 to win the B high hurdles. Mike Bartlett ran a fast 15.7 for third in the A event.

Mark Cursons ran a well judged race to come second in the 3000 metres steeplechase and there were good B string victories for Nigel Flint in the 1500 metres, Mike Lepps in the 5000 metres, Jason Rawlings in the steeplechase

and Howard Lamb in the shot. Gayts have now won promotion for the fourth consecutive season and take their place among the top 14 clubs in Britain.

British League Div. Three Team Result at Luton: 1 Old Gayts 279; 2 Hillingdon 218; 3 Windsor 210; 4 Leeds 198; 5 Sheffield 187; 6 Luton 128.

Gayts place: 100m A 1 Sam Nchinda 10.5 (league record), B 1 Roban Samuel 10.8 (PB); 200m A 1 Sam Nchinda 21.4 (PB), B 1 Mark Philips 22.1; 400m A 4 Kerry Blackburn 50.3, B 4 Jim Moseley 51.0; 800m A 1 Hamish McInnes 1:26.0, B 5 Nigel Flint 2:02.5; 1500m A 1 Hamish McInnes 3:54.2, B 1 Nigel Flint 4:00.3; 100m hurd. A 3 Mike Bartlett 15.7, B 1 Mark Littlejohns 15.8 (PB); 400m hurd. A 2 Mark Littlejohns, B 4

Mike Bartlett 61.0; 3000m steeplechase A 2 Mark Cursons 9:21.0, B 1 Jason Rawlings 9:42.7.

High Jump: A 3 Harvey Griffiths 1.95m, B 4 Mike Bartlett 1.90m; pole vault A 5 Ian Webb 3.50m, B 2 Mark Hayman 3.80m; long jump A 2 Dennis Nicholson 6.80m, B 1 Gary McCullough 6.77m; triple jump A 1 Ray Smith 14.59m (PB), B 1 Gary McCullough 14.50m; shot A 2 Guy Perryman 15.06m, B 1 Howard Lamb 12.24m; discus A 5 Guy Perryman 40.04m B 2 Len Steers 37.04m; javelin A 2 David Messom 68.80m, B 1 Guy Perryman 48.26m; hammer A 5 Stuart Clark 48.62m, B 3 Len Steers 46.24m.

4 x 100m relay 1 Gayts (Roban Samuel, Steve McKay, Mark Philips, Sam Nchinda) 41.5 (record); 4 x 400m relay 5 Gayts (Mark Philips, Jim

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Morris to miss Stones opener

AN injury crisis has rocked Wealdstone's preparation for their first game back in the Beazer Homes League against Moor Green. Paul Morris looks likely to be out and with Mark Lawrence suspended and Danny Bailey away, the midfield is heavily depleted.

Shipper Everal La Ronde is expected to start the game and former Brentford player Terry Rowe could play alongside him and Steve Browne if he looks good at training to-night and his international clearance from the USA comes through.

Striker Lawrence Holmes is doubtful for Harrow Borough's match with promoted Marlow in the Vauxhall-Opel Premier. He has a bruised face and a late decision is expected on him. If he is not fit, manager Keith Chamberlin will keep faith with the team that started on Tuesday against West Ham with Mark Adams partnering Mat Loddy up front

and Eamon O'Connor playing in midfield.

Wembley begin their Vauxhall-Opel first division campaign at Boreham Wood in what promises to be a tight game. Forward Paul Bryan is pushing for a place in the starting line-up after scoring on Tuesday.

Paul Goodison, Dwight Marshall and Carl Lindo are likely to be Alan Dafforn's front three at Kingsbury Town's entertain Leatherhead in the Vauxhall-Opel first division.

Rayners Lane boss Don Durkin is sweating on the futures of Lee Randall and Russell Payne, neither of whom turned up for Tuesday's game with Finchley, before naming his team to face Pegasus.

Edgware Town are at home to Bromley Athletic in the Greene King Spartan League.

Preview of new season - page 70

Soccer fixtures

Saturday August 20
Beazer Homes League Premier Division: Wealdstone v Moor Green (Lower Mead, 3pm).
Vauxhall-Opel League Premier Division: Harrow Borough v Marlow (Earlsmead, 3pm).
Vauxhall-Opel League Division One: Kingsbury Town v Leatherhead (Silver Jubilee Park, 3pm); Boreham Wood v Wootton Bassett (Wootton Bassett, 3pm).
Federated Homes League Premier Division: Rayners Lane v Pegasus Juniors (Lucas Avenue, 3pm).

Tuesday August 22
Beazer Homes League Premier Division: Gosport Borough v Wealdstone.
Vauxhall-Opel League Premier Division: Tooting and Mitcham v Harrow Borough.
Vauxhall-Opel League Division One: Kingsbury Town v St Albans City (Silver Jubilee Park, 7.30pm).

Wednesday August 24
Federated Homes League Premier Division: Wallingford v Rayners Lane.
Greene King Spartan League Premier Division: Edgware Town v Bromley Athletic (White Lion Ground, 7.30pm).

Keith is director

HARROW Borough manager Keith Chamberlin has been appointed a director of the club. He takes over the press and public relations brief from Steve Williams, who has just been appointed the Suburban League fixture secretary.

MIDFIELDER Eamon O'Connor has left Wembley to join Harrow Borough. O'Connor, who has represented the Vauxhall-Opel League, signed last Thursday.

WEALDSTONE have signed Solomon Eriemo, who has just been appointed the Suburban League fixture secretary.

Chris Wright and Lance O'Brien from the players who were on trial during the pre-season friendlies. But Richard Greene has left the club.

RAY Mangan has been released by Harrow Borough and has re-joined his former club Edgware Town.

WEMBLEY are expected to sign former Edgware winger Lawrence Murphy from Harrow Borough this week.

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