Bassett brings Jones to earth

VINCE JONES: Fairytale start with Wimbledon.

VINCE JONES, the former Wealdstone reserve who brought down mighty Manchester United last Saturday, was warned by his new boss this week: "Keep your feet on the ground."

Jones, a 22-year-old utility man, was sold by Wealdstone to First Division Wimbledon for £10,000 two weeks ago.

And, after only two games, he has already made quite an impression. In his debut at Nottingham Forest he gave away a penalty as the Dons went down 3-2.

But in his first home match at Plough Lane on Saturday, the one time hod carrier made amends in spectacular fashion, scoring the only goal in his side's 1-0 win over star studded United.

Jones also hit the post during an all action display which won warm praise from his new manager Dave Bassett — coupled with a warning.

Said Bassett: "It's been a great week for him. The press have been on to him and it's been real Roy of the Rovers stuff.

"But I've told him to enjoy this week while he can because he's got to watch his place," he added.

"Lawrie Sanchez is trying to get back in and Vince could be out in a week."

Bassett, who has master minded Wimbledon's meteoric rise from Fourth Division to First on a shoe string budget, continued: "I am more concerned to see Vince doing well in a year's time.

"If he's in my team in 12 months then I have done the right thing in buying him. If

By Simon O'Neill

he's in the reserves then I could have made a mistake.

"One thing's for sure, the boy wants to be a professional footballer and he will not fail for want of effort and enthusiasm.

"Now he has got to get on with learning the game," said Bassett. "We will give him every chance to do that."

Jones himself is understandably stunned by his rapid transformation from part time pro to First Division headline grabber.

"I can't really believe it," he said after Saturday's game.

"It's like a fairytale. As I scored the goal I looked up and saw a load of my mates in the crowd and just ran towards them."

He had just returned to Lower Mead after playing for Swedish side IFK Holmsund when Wimbledon moved in.

Bassett, a close friend of Stones' boss Brian Hall, wrapped the deal up within days. But he did not buy Jones on an impulse.

"Our physio Derek French knows Vince very well and I coached him myself when he was 11 at Bedmond Boys," he explained.

Jones also had trials at Wimbledon when he was 17, but Bassett decided at the time not to take him on.

He joined Wealdstone three years ago from Herts County League side Bedmond Social and Bassett said: "The Wealdstone experience has done him a world of good. It has made him a man and given him some discipline."

Stones boss Hall said of Jones: "He is a superb athlete who desperately wants to be a professional footballer. I hope he makes it."

Jones returned to his old club last week clutching a bottle of champagne. "He told us not to open it until we won," said Hall.

FIXTURES

Saturday, December 6

GM Vauxhall Conference: Wealdstone v Weymouth (Lower Mead, 3)

Vauxhall Opel League — Division One: Boreham Wood v Kingsbury Town (Broughinge Road, 3); Wembley v Oxford City (Vale Farm, 3)

Hellenic League — Premier Division: Thame United v Rayners Lane

London Spartan League: Yeading v Edgware

Suburban League: Edgware v Camberley; Harrow Borough v Feltham

Suburban League Cup — 2nd round replay: Banstead Athletic v Wembley

Junior Inter-League Trophy: Middlesex County League v London Commercial League (Lucas CAV, Northolt, 1.15)

Monday, December 8

Middlesex Senior Cup — Replay: Wealdstone v Hampton (Lower Mead, 7.30)

Tuesday, December 9

GMAC Challenge Cup — 1st round: Witney Town v Harrow Borough

Vauxhall Opel League — Division One: Hampton v Kingsbury Town

Wednesday, December 10

Middlesex Charity Cup: Edgware v Finchley (White Lion, 7.30)

WF Capital League: Wealdstone v Barnet (Lower Mead, 7.30 — provisional)

Wealdstone pair in line for recall

SOCCER PREVIEW

STRUGGLING Wealdstone could have Gary Donnellan and Dennis Byatt back for Saturday's home clash with Weymouth.

Donnellan is available again after suspension and Byatt has recovered from a bout of flu.

Striker Keith Tonge, substitute for much of the season, has been ruled out with tonsilitis.

Stones will be aiming to halt their alarming slide in the GM Vauxhall Conference against a Weymouth team with an appalling away record.

The south coast club have won only once in ten outings, scoring a mere nine goals on their travels.

They currently lie 12th in the league, with 29 points from 21 games.

On Monday, Stones entertain Hampton at Lower Mead in a Middlesex Senior Cup first round replay.

They are also scheduled to face Barnet at home on Wednesday in the Capital League, but this match is subject to confirmation.

Harrow Borough have no fixture on Saturday, so manager Keith Chamberlin will give most of his first team a run out in the reserve game against Feltham at Earlsmeade.

On Tuesday. 'Boro are away yet again, this time at Witney Town in the 1st round of the GMAC Challange Cup.

They are not due back at Earlsmeade for a home match until December 27, when they entertain Hayes in the league.

By that time, 'Boro will have travelled all over the South-East, to Bognor (twice), Canterbury, Carshalton, Witney, Yeovil and Dagenham.

The awayday marathon has left the club with a two pronged cash problem, no money coming in through the turnstiles and vastly increased travel and meal costs.

"We don't get very big gates," said Chairman Peter Rogers. "So we are not being affected as much as other clubs might.

"But it is a very difficult time for the club and particularly the players," he added.

Wembley manager Alan Dafforn has the task of lifting his side after their controversial exit from the FA Trophy at Crawly on Monday.

Lions are at home to Oxford City on Saturday and Dafforn says: "We have got to get our spirit back for the game."

Sylvester Williams and Dereck Brown have both been added to his squad.

Manager Terry Dyson takes ***Kingsbury Town*** to his former club, Boreham Wood, in the league on Saturday.

Dyson came to Silver Jubilee Park after being controversially sacked by the Herts club two seasons ago.

Striker Bobby Hutchinson is in line for a recall after missing Monday's Herts Senior Cup tie at Hendon. Steve Ardener is the likely deputy for keeper Mick McDonough, who has a fractured cheekbone.

Tough battle for Wasps

Wasps 22, Gosforth 13

THIS was a game which the Wasps deserved to win but only just. A tremendous forward battle ensued and finished with honours just about even. Whenever the Wasps backs did run the ball they were cut down by ferocious tackling and near the end the visitors were well on top.

The game opened with the Wasps taking the lead with a Stringer penalty goal but Johnson brought the scores level with a penalty goal.

Following heavy Wasps pressure and a five yard scrum, Rose got the first try. A spell of even play followed until the home captain, Peglar made a fine forty yard break and a round of passing ended with Rose crossing for the second try, which Stringer converted.

Johnson reduced the margin with his second penalty goal but before the break Young restored the ten point margin with a well struck drop goal and at half time the home side led by 16 points to 6.

Three minutes into the second half Gosforth reduced the margin with a Johnson drop goal and, despite many attacks, the Wasps backs were thwarted by excellent Gosforth defence.

Their only reward was two penalty goals by Stringer.

The last ten minutes saw the visitors on top and heavy pressure was rewarded with a try by Johnson and they were almost over on two occasions in the last five minutes.

A mainly forward battle saw the Wasps record another victory by 1 goal, 1 try, 1 drop goal and 3 penalty goals, 22 points to 1 try and 3 penalty goals, 13 points.

Wasps: Stringer, Bailey, Titcombe, Simons, Smith, Young, Bates, Theodoli, Bowers, Prebyn, O'Leary, Pinnegar, Rigby, Rose, Pegler. Rose was substituted by Holmes after 36 minutes.

ON SATURDAY, at the Wasps ground, London Division play Midland Division. The London side will include most of the Wasps team.

Manor bounce back to end losing run

Roxeth Manor 23, Brunel University 13

ROXETH MANOR put their run of dissapointing results behind them with a 23-13 victory over a well-drilled Brunel University side on Saturday.

Despite being forced to make changes, Roxeth started well and pushed Brunel off their own ball at a five-metre scrum for Neil Smith to touch down.

The opening score gave Roxeth the confidence to start running the ball and a second try soon followed as full back Dave Williams joined the line to crash over. Williams also converted the score.

Roxeth then sat back and allowed the University back into the game with a penalty and an unconverted try and they trailed by just three points at the break.

Brunel fought back after the interval and took the lead with their second try of the match.

That spurred Roxeth back into action and further tries were added by scrum half Dave Harris and second row Andy Miller, with Williams converting one and kicking a penalty.

Roxeth: Dixon, Brock, Tencani, Miller, Beaumont, Hainsworth, Summers, Smith, Harris, Phillips, Dillon, Seabridge, Sewby, Symonds, Williams.

Gaytonians teach students a lesson

Old Gaytonians 40, West London Institute 6

OLD GAYTONIANS turned in a sparkling display to record a resounding 40-6 victory over West London Institute on Saturday.

Gayts pressed from the start and from a long line-out Bev Thomas kicked ahead and Alan Yarrow dribbled the ball over to open the scoring.

With Gayts forcing the Borough Road students into handling mistakes, a second score soon followed, as full back Neil Gunning joined the line to score, with Yarrow converting. The students kicked a penalty to reduce the half-time arrears to 10-3.

Gayts then took command in the second half and Yarrow increased their lead, pouncing on a fumble by the Institute full back.

The Students replied with a penalty, but with the Gayts forwards dominating the loose, further tries were added by wing Minihan, with two, and Warren Thomas.

Yarrow added two penalties and four more conversions to take his tally for the afternoon to 24.

Old Gayts: Wright, Rees, Hanlon, Cimpoies, Flack, Rigby, Geddes, Mawtad, Berge, Fallon, Minihan, B Thomas, Yarrow, W Thomas, Gunning.

Court's derby joy

Sudbury Court 20, Pinner 6

SUDBURY COURT bounced back from last week's disappointments to overcome local rivals Pinner and Grammarians at Vale Farm.

Court won by five tries to a goal but also missed all their conversions and five penalties.

The game began in confusion for them, however, when the referee removed two of their players for wearing boots with illegal studs.

Despite this, Court took the lead midway through the first half with a Neil Perren try. Pinner replied with a converted try and Court had to wait until their two missing players returned in the second half to gain the upper hand, Colin Watson, Michael Broderick, Neil Perren and Brian Thomas scoring a try apiece.

Sudbury Court: Ashbourne, Thomas, D Smith, Moore, Strudwick, Griffiths, Mitchell, Whent, D Watson, Wilkinson, Gearin, Miles, C Watson, Perren, C Broderick.

Reeves' record boosts Wembley

Old Actonians 0, Wembley 36

FLY-half Mark Reeves led the way with 28 points as Wembley crushed Old Actonians on a cramped pitch on Saturday.

Reeves' amazing total is thought to be an individual points scoring record for the first team.

He started the rout of Actonians single handed, with two tries, two conversions and a penalty. Seb Skelton then added two more tries, both converted by Reeves, as Wembley finally came to terms with a pitch which limited movement of the ball along the back line.

Wembley: Raywood, Nicco, Smyth, Williams, Hayes, Reeves, Skelton, Reynolds, Horobin, Skirton, Bell, Walker, Graham, Manning, Barnes.

Other scores: Wembley II 16, Enfield OG's 9; Wembley III 4, Enfield OG's II 16.

Weakened Kings miss absentees

Old Kingsburians 3, Old Meadonians 6

THE absence of six first team regulars proved too much for Old Kingsburians as they went down 6-3 at Northwick Park on Saturday.

A Mick Knox penalty was their only reply to Meadonians in a poor match.

Five of the missing regulars were at the wedding of the sixth — John Fitzgerald — on Saturday.

They should all return for this Saturday's local derby with Old Gaytonians, also at Northwick Park. The game starts at 2.15.

Happy Harrow

Biggleswade 6, Harrow 25

HARROW chalked up a fine away victory on Saturday, beating Biggleswade 25-6.

Flanker Graham Howgate opened the scoring, going over in the corner after Harrow had moved the ball the length of the pitch, with full back Alex Tsitsis converting and later adding a penalty to give the visitors a 9-6 interval lead.

The second half saw Harrow take control, with their pack dominating the scrum and line-outs. From one scrum on the Biggleswade line, centre Peter Seaton crashed over to score under the posts.

No 8 Steve Armstrong added two more tries and Tsitsis kicked two conversions to wrap up Harrow's win.

Harrow: Tsitsis, Pond, Seaton, Curtis, Wheeler, Donovan, Hyde, Hehir, Reeve, Buchanan, Wright, Ord, Howgate, Hanson, Armstrong.

FIXTURES

Saturday, December 6

LONDON Division v Midland Division (at Wasps); Rosslyn Park v Wasps; Old Kingsburians v Old Gaytonians; Harrow v Bacavians; Roxeth Manor v Sudbury Court; Wembley v Hitchin.

Expert coaching for Rooks Heath girls

MEMBERS of the England ladies soccer team passed on a few tips to youngsters at Rooks Heath High School last week.

They were at the school for a final training session before their clash with Scotland at Wembley Arena last Wednesday.

The England team have used Rooks Heath for pre-international training for the last four years.

And staff and pupils alike have obviously been impressed by their talent.

"They are very skilful indeed," said Rooks Heath teacher Howard Cartz.

The training did the trick for England's ladies, as they beat Scotland 3-0 in an exhibition match before the Daily Express five-a-sides at the Arena.

● England Ladies footballer Gillian Coultard (second right) shows the girls at Rooks Heath High School how to keep possession of the ball.

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