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MAYNARD predicts 'very bright future' for Freckleton



Wealdstone defender Miguel Freckleton. Pic: Jon Taffel

Stones boss hails new arrival after superb debut

By WILLIAM BEWSEY

WEALDSTONE appear to have unearthed another on loan gem in the shape of defender Miguel Freckleton.

The 18-year-old only joined from Sheffield United last Thursday and less than 48 hours after meeting his teammates, he played a starring role in the goalless draw with high-flying and high-scoring Wrexham in front of a record crowd at Grosvenor Vale on Saturday.

"I thought Miguel was excellent," said manager Stuart Maynard. "He's a player we tried to get in the summer; he's athletic, he's powerful, he's got a very bright future."

Freckleton follows in the footsteps of Fulham duo George Wickens and Connor McAvoyn and Charlton pair Aaron Henry and Charles Clayden who have spent time on loan at the Stones in the

last year and since kicked on at their parent clubs.

"The loan market is a market that we've utilised as a management team and as a club to great success, so we have no doubt Miguel will be another effective piece of recruitment for the club," said Maynard. "Miguel is an athletic, left-footed centre-back and he's very comfortable on the ball. He has that bit of aggression and bite that you need to play in the National League too, so he has all the attributes to play higher. We're delighted to have him on board and look forward to working with him."

Freckleton showed all those qualities

on Saturday as Stones became only the fourth side to prevent Wrexham scoring this season. Alongside 19-year-old Charlie Barker and captain Jack Cook, the home side barely gave the Hollywood-funded forward line of Paul Mullin and Ollie Palmer a kick.

"We believe in youngsters and there's not many teams in the National League that throw two youngsters in their back three when you're coming up against Ollie Palmer and Mullin," said Maynard. "We believe in the lads and we'll keep installing that belief. We knew that we had to work their front two into the ground, and we knew that in the first half we had to be patient with the ball and keep going round the back of them, really work them into the ground, so when they got a half chance, they were

tired."

According to Maynard, Freckleton turned down two top-ten National League clubs to join the Ruislip-based club on loan until January and remarkably Saturday was his first senior start. He was on the books of Bristol Rovers as a scholar and then briefly played for Mangotsfield United in step 4 of the football pyramid before he snapped up by the Blades' academy in December 2021.

"The non-league experience has helped me out," said Freckleton. "I was 16 playing with men and it built me up. I then went to Sheffield United when I was 18 and I kept going forward since then. I just wanted to come back to men's football to get some more experience. It's been good. It was a good first game."

Borough snatch last-gasp victory

EVANS NETS INJURY-TIME WINNER FOR HARROW



Great Evans secured a dramatic win. Image: Harrow Borough FC

JUST as it looked as if Poole Town's second-half pressure was going to be rounded off by a stoppage-time goal, Harrow Borough grabbed a dramatic 2-1 in the final minute of added time after a very exciting game on Saturday.

Harrow made a lively start and Montel Brown should have put them ahead in the opening minutes, side-footing straight at Poole keeper William Butler, who also saved Kai Omoko Brosnan's follow-up. Jacob Knightbridge was also in early action, turning round Jack Dickson's shot, though he would have been relieved when Tony Lee headed over from the resulting corner.

An even contest saw more action at each end, George Moore's shot saved by Butler, Wes Fogden shooting across goal for Poole and Adeoye Olumuyiwa stopping Brosnan with a wonderful challenge when the youngster was through on goal.

The second half saw Poole very much in the ascendant. Knightbridge saved Lee's far post header, before Luke Pardoe's effort came back off the near post.

Keegan Bloom also hooked an effort off the line after a sharp break.

In the 71st minute Harrow went ahead.

Moore got into the box on the right, Butler beat out his shot and Brown reacted quickly with a ballistic finish.

Billy Leonard fired a low 30-yarder just wide, but Poole fired up the engines for a late onslaught. Declan Rose fired across the goal but, in the 87th minute, when the home defence failed to clear the ball, Fogden skipped past a defender and fired home a low shot.

More Poole pressure continued as the game went into stoppage time, and Rose had a goalbound drive blocked. But in the 95th minute, Moore rose to meet a Leonard corner. The header was blocked, but the ball came back to Great Evans who smashed it into the net.