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## MAYNARD bidding to get better of Barnet rivals



Micah Obiero (above) and Max Kretschmar (right) celebrate scoring for Wealdstone against Scunthorpe United. Pics: Jon Taffel

# Wealdstone 'full of confidence' for derby

STUART Maynard's Wealdstone are full of confidence going into Saturday's crunch derby with Barnet.

Following an extremely productive November, where they picked up 10 points from four games, with the only dropped points coming in an impressive stalemate against leaders Wrexham, the Stones are 10th, just point one off the playoffs and with a game in hand on sixth-place Solihull Moors.

Up next for the Stones is the most anticipated fixture of the season: the very short trip to The Hive to take on Barnet, who currently sit fifth, just four points ahead of their neighbours.

The Stones could enter the play-offs with a win over their fierce rivals, who are managed by former boss Dean Brennan, but after his side ended a torrid run

By Will Bewsey

which saw them win just once between August and November, Maynard knows better than anyone just how quickly the league table can change.

"I don't really look at the table if I'm being honest," said Maynard.

"We have a points tally we're aiming to get to and if we get to that tally we'll have an unbelievable season and we'll probably overachieve on where we should be.

"We've just got to keep going a game at a time because this league is relentless, you can easily go and lose five on the bounce, it's just the way it is if you pick up a few injuries."

Maynard also seems to have discovered a gem in 21-year-old Kenyan

forward Micah Obiero who scored his second goal for the Stones since signing in October, with an emphatic volley into the top corner during a convincing 3-1 win over Scunthorpe United on Saturday.

"Micah can play a number of positions," added Maynard. "He's got bags of ability and pace. He's still learning the way we want to do it and way we want to play; session by session, but he's had a real impact and he's a great lad and works hard."

The former Huddersfield man, who started this season at Boston United, is enjoying life at the Stones, and hoping they can keep the momentum going into the Barnet game.

"We just have to keep pushing and keep showing spirit in games to con-

tinue this run of form, the boys have to continue to gel together," said Obiero. "There's a good mood in the camp, we have to continue to train hard, listen to the gaffer and his instructions."

Star midfielder Max Kretschmar made a welcome return to the starting line-up after injury ruled him out for more than two months, netting in an inspired performance.

He hopes to prove his reputation as a big-game player at The Hive on Saturday, saying: "They're a good team, they'll be direct, hard to beat, but we'll be prepared for that."

"Derby games, I love them. For some reason I always turn up and have a big influence on them so I'm hoping that will happen again. The atmosphere will be brilliant, we'll take a few there."

## Harrow Borough see unbeaten run ended by Salisbury

SALISBURY stole three points against Harrow Borough with a late goal after a scrappy, though not unexciting, match that would more fairly have ended in a draw in the Southern League Premier South, writes Simon Grigor.

The visitors should have taken an immediate lead when Joshua Wakefield volleyed over from Calvin Brooks' deep right-wing cross.

But Borough should then have scored too, as Montel Brown's delivery was deflected to Isiah Noel-Williams, who steered the ball past the post when it seemed easier to score.

And Harrow should also have led as the half ended with Shaun Preddie sending George Moore in on the right, with Brown meeting his cross at the near post but seeing his effort flash across the goalmouth.

Borough stepped up the pace as the second half began and Preddie's effort, after a corner, was hacked off the line. Brown brought a good save from Gerard Benfield with a shot from outside the box and then got to the right-wing byline and saw his cutback met by Keegan Bloom, whose shot was saved by the keeper's feet.

A huge scramble then saw Harrow hit the post, with the ball rebounding off Benfield and falling to Kamon-Sherell Assidjo, who shot wide when he ought to have hit the target.

But a double substitution from the visitors on the hour had seen the introduction of two players who have troubled Harrow in the past, in Brandon Goodship and Marvin Brooks.

And in the 77th minute it was the latter who got the winner as Ahmet Biler allowed Dan Fitchett to spin past him and deliver a low cross that Brooks converted from just a few yards out.

Ezra Ikebuasi flashed a header over from Billy Leonard's corner and Leonard's low drive was saved while Moore was stopped by Brooks' fine tackle.

But Harrow couldn't summon up an equaliser and their six-match unbeaten run came to an end, ahead of the long trip to Truro City on Saturday and visit from Hartley Wintney next Wednesday (December 7).

\*Harrow won 5-3 at Hanwell Town in their Middlesex Senior Cup second round tie last week.

Debutant Johnny Allotey opened the scoring, but the hosts hit back to lead 2-1 before five goals in 12 minutes.

George Moore bagged a brace, as Great Evans and Montel Brown also netted to send Borough through.