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FOOTBALL: Stones draw positives in stalemate



Max Kretschmar celebrates scoring for Wealdstone in their 2-1 loss to Gateshead. Pic: Jon Taffel

Good point at Yeovil claims boss Maynard

WEALDSTONE were held to a goalless draw by Yeovil Town at Huish Park in midweek as they looked to get back into the National League play-off places after three weeks off due to postponed games.

Stones manager Stuart Maynard made two changes to the side that lost 2-1 to Gateshead on Saturday but was unable to break down 10-man Yeovil and had to settle for the point away from home.

"It's a good point on the road after last week's defeat and having not played for three weeks before that," said Maynard.

"We knew it was going to be a tough test and Mark (Cooper) has assembled a really good team here. You can see his style of play start to get

By Will Beaman

implemented here but I thought we could've been three or four up in the first half.

"The amount of chances we had on the counter, a little bit of extra care and extra quality in the final third and it could've been a different game."

Following the draw at Huish Park, Wealdstone currently sit 11th in the National League, just three points off the play-off places.

Being one of only two part-time clubs in the division, Maynard has received plenty of praise for the levels his team has reached this season and has shown no signs of slowing down anytime soon.

"As a management team, our aim

was to stay in the league, we set ourselves a points tally and if we can achieve that we can have a really good season," he added.

"We have to take it one game at a time and we can't get ahead of ourselves."

New signing Corie Andrews was handed his full debut against Yeovil after a move from Torquay and the forward will be hoping to score his first goal for the club sooner rather than later, having failed to net in 13 appearances for the Gulls.

"He is a proven goal scorer at this level, he had 11 goals up until Christmas for Aldershot Town and got his move to Colchester," said Maynard.

"It hasn't quite worked out for him here and there but he's a player we've

wanted for a while. It isn't going to happen for him overnight as with some of the other lads who still need to get back up to speed after the three weeks off."

Next up for Wealdstone is a tricky test against Dagenham & Redbridge at Grosvenor Vale on Saturday.

Daryl McMahon's are currently eighth after a strong first-half of the season, but a win for the Stones would see them leapfrog the Daggers and potentially put them back into the play-off spots.

"I've seen Dagenham live the other night against Bromley and as a management team we'll sit down and research them in order to prep the lads during training ahead of the next game," said Maynard.

Penalty pain for Harrow

HARROW Borough suffered penalty shoot-out heartbreak against FC Halifax Town after a dramatic FA Trophy fifth-round tie at The Rogers Family Stadium on Tuesday.

Steve Baker made two changes to the side beaten 3-0 at Hendon on Saturday as Montel Brown replaced cup-tied Anointed Chukwu and James Taylor returned to defence despite seeing little action since a knee injury in August. And Harrow pressed from the start, with George Moore having a shot blocked and sending another just wide.

Halifax's first effort was an inswinging Tyler Golden free-kick that Jacob Knightbridge turned away and Festus Arthur had the ball in the net from another free-kick, but used his arm to do so.

Moore's 20-yarder was turned behind by Sam Johnson, with Halifax attacking from the corner and Knightbridge saving Angelo Cappello's strike.

The Shaymen went ahead on 44 minutes as Rob Harker fired home from a Harvey Gilmour cross, which the hosts failed to clear, but Knightbridge saved well at his near post from Cappello, before Harrow's Ahmet Biler fired just over.

Shaun Preddie's error allowed Harker a run on goal early in the second half, with the striker lobbing over.

But Taylor's leg then buckled and he was stretchered off, with Ezra Ikebuasi switching to central defence as Keegan Bloom came on.

Ikebuasi met Moore's cross to draw a good save from Johnson, but Preddie then limped off and Samuel Adenola switched to the heart of defence as Kamon-Sherell Assidjo came on.

Harrow hit back on 66 minutes as Moore smashed a free-kick past Johnson but Arthur had another effort ruled out for a push, before the visitors regained the lead.

A clever free-kick routine four minutes from time saw Gilmour play the ball short to Harker, who turned sharply and found the corner of the net and Harrow's Isiah Noel-Williams put a chance wide after Moore and Maxime Ndambi helped on Billy Leonard's free-kick.

Then in the fifth minute of injury time a Leonard corner was cleared to the edge of the box and Moore fired a low shot through a crowd of legs to level again.

Leonard converted the first spot-kick and Jack Senior put his wide, but Adenola's effort was saved and Harker levelled, before the next eight attempts, from Harrow's Biler, Moore, Assidjo and Noel-Williams and Halifax quartet Emmanuel Dieseruwwe, Millenic Ali, Tom Clarke and Jamie Stott, were all converted.

Johnson then saved from Bloom and Keane sent Halifax through to meet Maidenhead in the last 16.

In-form Beaconsfield Town visit in the Southern League on Saturday, before Harrow visit Winchester and North Leigh.