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Tarryn Allarakhia scores for Wealdstone at Wrexham. Pic: Jon Taffel

Stones welcome York after Wrexham battle

By Will Beaman

WEALDSTONE welcome York City to Grosvenor Vale on Saturday, having lost 3-1 to high-flying Wrexham in a hard-fought battle at the Racecourse Ground last weekend.

The home side opened the scoring through Paul Mullin before being pegged back by a fantastic solo effort from Tarryn Allarakhia.

But just minutes after the equaliser, former Stones winger Jacob Mendy fired a precise effort into the corner to restore the home side's lead.

Wealdstone midfielder Max Kretzschmar was then sent for an early bath after a second yellow card and the hosts, with the man advantage, added a third goal on the break through Sam Dalby.

The Stones began the brighter of the two sides, creating the first real opportunity of the match just five minutes in.

In classic Allarakhia fashion, he picked up the ball on the halfway line, drove towards the Wrexham goal and fired his effort agonisingly wide of the post.

Looking for the breakthrough and finding good pockets of space in and around the Wrexham penalty area, the Stones saw long-range efforts from Allarakhia and Kretzschmar go close.

Finding a lot of their success in set-pieces, Wrexham looked to utilise this in the 12th minute when havoc in the box from a corner saw a chance fall to Ollie Palmer that was well blocked by Miguel Freckleton.

Stuart Maynard's men continued to play the possession-based football that has brought them much success this season in a hostile atmosphere and held their own until the 40th minute when the hosts took the lead.

Top scorer Mullin nodded home after a pinpoint, inswinging cross from Elliott Lee broke the line to give him a free header and a flurry of Wrexham half-chances followed the goal.

The most notable chance fell to Lee, who struck a fierce effort towards the Stones goal on the volley that whistled wide of the post.

An action-packed second half sparked into life just five minutes after the restart when Allarakhia beat the offside trap and used fancy footwork to take the ball round Mark Howard and smash it past a number of bodies on the line to send the 225 travelling fans wild.

Just three minutes later, the home side responded in strong fashion when former Stones winger Mendy picked up the ball on the edge of the box and hit a finely struck effort into the bottom corner.

The match failed to pick up any sort of pace after goal with the referee picking up on a vast number of fouls to keep the game at a slow pace.

In the 72nd minute the Stones produced their next chance when the ball was laid off to substitute Tarrelle Whittaker on the edge of the box, but he could only find the hands of the keeper with his curling effort.

Putting the home side under pressure in search of an equaliser, the Stones went close again when the lively Allarakhia found space in the box

and fizzed an effort across goal that just missed a teammate's head.

Kretzschmar received his second yellow card of the game on 79 minutes - and the eighth yellow card of the match at that point, which increased to 11 by the final whistle.

And with the visitors down to 10 men, the hosts smelt blood and utilised their numerical advantage when Mullin was sent through on goal on the counter attack and saw his effort parried by Sam Howes, who had relatively little to do throughout the game, into the path of Dalby who finished from close range.

*Stones lost 3-2 to Brentford B in their Middlesex Senior Cup quarter-final tie on Tuesday, after Romeo Beckham's late winner.

Tristan Crama and Frank Onyeka put the Bees 2-0 up in the first half, before Tarrelle Whittaker and Olufela Olomola replied.

But substitute Beckham, son of former England captain David, headed home in injury time to dump Stones out.

Point is a positive for Harrow

MAKESHIFT SIDE ENJOYS STALEMATE AT SALISBURY

HARROW Borough travelled to Wiltshire to play Salisbury on Valentine's Day and shared the Southern League Premier Division South spoils after a goalless draw, writes Simon Grigor.

The visitors - having lost 2-0 at bottom club North Leigh on Saturday - began with a cobbled-together line-up which included a back three of the returning Sonny Hart, Ezra Ikebuasi and Jaden Sharman, a midfield four of Kai Omoko Brosnan, Isiah Noel-Williams, Samuel Adeola and Johnny Allotey, and a front three of Montel Brown, Anointed Chukwu and Kamon-Sherell Assidjo. Harrow's best chance of the night came when Chukwu found Brosnan and his pin-point cross was headed over the bar by Brown from five yards.

Gerard Benfield then came out of his goal and got himself in a desperate chase for the ball with Assidjo. There was contact at one point, and Assidjo stumbled but stayed on his feet. If he'd fallen, it would have been a stonewall penalty, but his honesty wasn't rewarded as the ball was cleared. Brown and Assidjo then had shots blocked following an Adenola cross before, with the interval approaching, the Whites had a period of dominance. James Plant, their most dangerous player on the night, ran into the box on the left and fired a shot across goal and Brandon Goodship drew a good save from Jacob Knightbridge after a quick break.

With half the ground closed, Harrow supporters had to watch the second half from further back than most of them like to be.

But it turned into an opportunity to study a masterclass from Knightbridge and terrific organisation from Hart, Ikebuasi and Sharman, as they stood up to a home side that dominated the second period.

In the last 15 minutes, the hosts upped the ante and Goodship's inswinging free-kick from the left eluded everyone and came off the far post.

Nassim Kherbouche got to the ball but Knightbridge reacted brilliantly, going down to his left to save.

Knightbridge then pulled off a very similar, but equally terrific, save to stop Goodship, and the last serious effort of the night saw Plant's cross driven wide by Calvin Brooks.

The five minutes of stoppage time saw Harrow back on the attack with two corners, both cleared.

And with defeats elsewhere for Winchester and Hendon, the point was even more valuable for Harrow and they moved a place above the relegation zone.

Swindon Supermarine visit The Rogers Family Stadium on Saturday.