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Micah Obiero netted for Wealdstone against Notts County earlier in the season. Image: Jon Taffel

Magpies will respect Wealdstone says boss

WEALDSTONE face a daunting trip to National League title hopefuls Notts County on Good Friday, having taken just one point from their last four games, writes Lee Power.

Stuart Maynard's men saw last weekend's home game against Aldershot postponed and are due to welcome Solihull Moors to Grosvenor Vale on Easter Monday.

But first they must travel to Meadow Lane to face a Magpies side still battling it out at the top of the table with Wrexham.

Second-placed County are three points adrift of the Welsh club, having played one more game, with the two sides due to meet in front of the live TV cameras on Monday.

But Magpies boss Luke Williams is taking nothing for granted and knows Wealdstone will pose a threat, despite seeing his side win 6-1 when they came to London back in late October.

"We would like to go to Wrexham

with some hope of still being able to make an impact," Williams told the club website.

"If we lose on Friday, that becomes less likely that we can go there and make a big impact by winning.

"I'm sure the players understand it would be pointless to focus all our energy on playing Wrexham before we focus all our energy on playing against Wealdstone who, by the way, are a very good team.

"They have a very good model and can pose you a lot of problems.

"The players understand that, they know there's a game that needs to be focused upon thoroughly before we can turn any attention to Wrexham.

"We understand the noise from outside, that's completely natural and we accept it. But the noise from inside the camp is about Friday."

County were in pole position when two goals from Adam Chicksen and others from Macaulay Langstaff, Matt Palmer, Aaron Nemané and

Geraldo Bajrami put Stones to the sword in their previous encounter.

Micah Obiero netted a consolation for Stones, who would lose a sixth successive match against Dagenham & Redbridge a few days later.

But Williams is well aware of the job done by Maynard, whose side have lost seven in 24 league games since.

"Without a doubt he has done a brilliant job. When you watch them you can very clearly see the work unfolding in front of you on the pitch," he added.

"They have a different set-up to us, more challenging than we do. We're extremely well catered for; we know that and appreciate that.

"The work Stuart has done there is really excellent, of a very high level. There's a lot of respect.

"To put the game at their place into context, we started very well and were able to score goals early on and the other thing we must remember in

that game was that we scored goals that are very difficult to convert.

"On a different day that wouldn't have been the case. It was almost like a perfect storm in terms of the way we started, difficult opportunities to score being converted.

"Everything fell into place for us on that day and once you are in front very early you have a different confidence, play with a different freedom and we were able to be very dominant on the day.

"We don't look at that game and feel like everything is ok, we're going to be fine, this team is going to be easy to play against.

"We're not naive enough to think we were that good on the day that was inevitable.

"We know there was a combination of us playing well and some good fortune that gave us a really great start.

"This team is very well coached and have a very difficult model to play against. We're fully aware of that."

Harrow Borough defeated once again

HARROW Borough suffered another defeat in the Southern League Premier in midweek, going down 1-0 at Hartley Wintney.

They made two changes from the defeat against Dorchester as Ezra Ikebuasi returned to central defence with Hamilton Bunga dropping to the bench and Johnny Allotey stepped in for Isaiah Noel-Williams.

The early signs were not good as Laaref managed to put a right-wing cross wide when it looked easier to score, then with 10 minutes or so on the clock, referee Mr Lowe took the players off the field, as the sun set, to allow those observing Ramadan to take on some sustenance.

When the game resumed, the simplest of through balls by Soyemi saw Cooksley charging beyond a square back-line to beat Jacob Knightbridge with ease for the only goal of the match.

A Kai Omoko Brosnan shot hit teammate Ben De Lacy-Turner, but there was little otherwise in the way of a Harrow response.

Knightbridge saved Cooksley's free-kick and Nuur put another one just wide, before Soyemi controlled a left-wing cross and crashed an effort against the post. Brzozowski in the home goal gathered Brosnan's far-post header from De Lacy-Turner's cross, with Soyemi shooting just wide at the other end.

But when Brzozowski fumbled Samuel Adenola's cross, there was no Harrow attacker alert enough to get to the ball. Ahmet Biler was an exception, but Steve Baker made two substitutions at half-time, although it made little if any difference.

Biler made a good block to stop Akers doubling the lead, before Harrow's sole serious effort on goal saw a good move end with De Lacy-Turner cutting in from the left and hitting a low shot that Brzozowski saved, full-length to his left. Normal service was soon resumed as Cooksley's shot was deflected past the post after a long period of home pressure. Ikebuasi gave the ball away, allowing Soyemi through on goal, but Knightbridge saved but the young keeper dropped a right-wing cross and was relieved to see the ball cleared.

He then saved from home substitutes Parker and Wyllie, before Anointed Chukwu had a shot blocked for a corner in a rare Harrow attack.

As the game went into stoppage time, tempers flared and Lowe dished out two yellow cards, when there might have been more.

A fifth straight defeat left Harrow six points from safety with only four games left and after hosting Truro City on Good Friday, they travel to Met Police on Monday. Both kick-off at 3pm.