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FOOTBALL



Connor McAvoy celebrates scoring for Wealdstone. Image: Jon Taffel

Teams await FA Cup test with mixed emotions

BARNET and Wealdstone turn their attentions to the FA Cup first round this weekend.

The Bees make the long trip to League Two rivals Fleetwood for their tie, while Stones host South-end United in an all-National League contest at Grosvenor Vale.

And they go into those games with somewhat mixed emotions after their efforts last weekend.

Dean Brennan's Barnet shared the League Two spoils at Barrow from a 2-2 draw in a dramatic first ever EFL meeting.

The hosts played almost an hour with 10 men after MJ Williams was sent off for lashing out at Idris Kanu.

Loanee Josh Gordon needed just

By Lee Power

nine minutes to mark his return with a goal as he slotted home from Connor Mahoney's pass to put Barrow ahead.

Nik Tavares spared keeper Owen Evans' blushes when he cleared Gordon's effort off the line after he was caught out by a Elliot Newby long ball.

And Callum Stead levelled in the 51st minute as he collected the ball in the box and fired home his third goal in five appearances.

Barnet, who saw Stead have a second chalked off for offside, were ahead on the hour when Adam Sen-

ior unleashed a stunning strike.

Moments later Senior hit the bar with another great strike and Stanway fumbled Nnamdi Oforborh's shot before producing a point-blank save to keep out Stead's follow-up.

After his heroics, Tavares had his head in his hands when Newby's strike deflected off him as the hosts levelled.

Barnet almost stole the points at the end amid a goalmouth scramble which was eventually cleared.

Sam Cox, meanwhile, saw his Wealdstone side come from two goals down to secure a 4-2 National League victory over bottom-of-the-table Sutton at Grosvenor Vale.

The U's, unless in nine going into the game, went ahead after

the 16th minute in slightly fortunate circumstances when Anthony Georgiou's clearance struck Lewis Simper and beat Dante Baptiste in the Stones goal.

And the visitors doubled their advantage in the 24th minute when Simper turned provider, teeing up Kai Jennings to rifle home left-footed on his debut.

Micah Obiero pulled one back for the hosts in the 32nd minute and they were level eight minutes into the second half as Sak Hassan volleyed home Phil Chinedu's cross from the left.

Connor McAvoy put the home side ahead when he headed home a 63rd-minute corner and Georgiou wrapped it up in stoppage time.

Smith is on top of the world

BOXING



Mitchell Smith with the title Image: Leigh Dawney

HARROW'S comeback kid Mitchell Smith was feeling on top of the world at The O2, North Greenwich last Saturday after stunning 'The Terminator' Arnie Dawson to claim the WBO European lightweight title.

The 32-year-old, who twice took a layoff from the sport - over seven and a half years to be exact, last won the European regional version of WBO mantle at super-featherweight after defeating Hungary's Zoltan Kovacs at ExCeL, Victoria Dock back in November 2014, broke Clacton-based Dawson's solid eight fight unbeaten record with a unanimous ten round points decision - 96-93, 98-91 (twice).

"I don't feel real, it stills feels I'm just about to wake up," Mitchell, who advanced to 19 wins in 20 bouts, told ringwalkmedia12 YouTube channel. "I can't come to terms with it. Before the fight I always fancied myself to be back on the big stage. But to think I can come back and win a title, in my eyes I just won myself a world title, that's the way im looking at it.

I'm a realist, I know how what I've got left in the locker. I've just ticked every box and more. I would never expect to come back and win a title as major as that.

"I know it's not a massive title but this will give me a top 15 to 20 ranking in the world. It gives me some sort of clout and go right who can I take on next, who's going to give me a pay day?" Mitchell, who is promoted by Frank Warren's Queensberry Promotions and appeared on the undercard of Fabio Wardley's stunning WBO interim world heavyweight title over Joseph Parker, describe how he defeated 22-year-old Dawson.

"I just dug deep in a very difficult fight against a hungry fighter," Smith continued.