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FOOTBALL



Nathan Tshikuma curls in Wealdstone's equaliser against Hartlepool. Image: Jon Taffel

I'm so proud of this group says Wealdstone boss Cox

SAM Cox praised the collective resilience exhibited by his Wealdstone side after the cagey 1-1 National League draw with Hartlepool United on Saturday.

The Stones found themselves behind after just 3 minutes played when Jamie Miley played Alex Reid through before the latter expertly fired past Dante Baptiste to give the hosts the lead.

But Cox's side wasted no time in responding, when Nathan Tshikuma curled a brilliant effort beyond Hartlepool goalkeeper George Evans to bring the scores level in a manic start to the game.

"I'm really proud of the boys for the performance, just as proud as any other [game] this season to come here, and when we've got knocks in the camp, when we've got a few injuries, a few nig-

Tom Norton

gles and a few suspensions," Cox told the club website after the match.

"In the second half especially, when we have got a few players coming off, to show the grit and resolve that we did, to take a point from the game, we're really pleased and really proud. It's certainly a point gained for me."

Tshikuma's excellent strike came after a difficult couple of weeks out of favour, but the Wealdstone forward rewarded Cox's faith in him with a goal to bring the visitors back into the game after a testing start.

The Wealdstone manager said: "I'm really proud of Nathan on a personal

level because he has been out of the team in the last couple of games. But to come in and show the quality that he did today, and also the stuff out of possession, was really pleasing.

"He thoroughly deserved that goal. I'm really proud."

Cox unusually made 5 substitutions during the draw with the Pools, with Dylan Kadji, Daniel Nkrumah, Eddie Nsasi, Moussa Diarra and Junior Tensia all coming on in the second half, allowing the Stones boss to utilise the depth of his squad.

When asked about the number of changes, Cox said: "Dylan Kadji came in, and I think the last few games for Dylan, the Southend game - he was immense. He missed Yeovil through suspension but then came in against

Braintree and got the assist for Dan Nkrumah's goal.

"I think he was a massive plus amongst other substitutes and finishers that came on. They all had a huge impact, and sometimes that amount of changes can unsettle a side, but certainly they came on and added to that real resolve and grittiness to get us over the line and take a point from today's game."

During his post-match interview with the club website, Cox then revealed that Stones keeper Dante Baptiste had suffered racial abuse in an incident after the full-time whistle. "I hope that the person that put the abuse to Dante gets the punishment he deserves because that deserves no place in this game or here," said Cox.

Harrow overturn deficit to win Trophy shootout

FOOTBALL

HARROW Borough overturned a two-goal deficit in the FA Trophy tie with King's Lynn before eventually holding their nerve in a tense penalty shoot-out at The Walks.

Lynn looked to be cruising into the next round after a dominant first-half display.

Ross Crane opened the scoring after six minutes, capping a slick move down the right with a sharp finish.

Gold Omotayo doubled the lead from the penalty spot on 20 minutes after being brought down by goalkeeper Tom Clark. Clark kept Harrow in the contest with a string of impressive saves, denying Omotayo and Crane as Lynn threatened to run riot.

And those stops proved crucial as the tie swung dramatically after the interval.

Dernell Wynter hauled the Isthmian South Central Division visitors back into contention midway through the second half but Lynn should have restored their cushion. Adam Marriott hooked Tom Wilson's header over.

Harrow drew level seven minutes from time when Tom Dickens lost his footing, allowing Wynter to race through and coolly net his second.

Will Bailey then went agonisingly close to making it 3-2 to Harrow. With the match finishing 2-2, penalties were required and it was Harrow who held their nerve.

Marriott, Crane and Wilson all failed to score as King's Lynn went out.

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