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FOOTBALL



Wealdstone boss Sam Cox before the Isuzu FA Trophy clash with Cheshunt Town at Grosvenor Vale. Image: Jon Taffel

Stones win in Trophy 'but should have scored more'

WEALDSTONE manager Sam Cox believes his side should have won by a greater scoreline after the Stones progressed to the next round of the Isuzu FA Trophy with a hard-fought 2-1 win over Cheshunt Town.

Following an eventless first half, striker Micah Obiero gave the National League side the lead with a tidy finish just 6 minutes after the restart.

Conor McAvoy then doubled the hosts' advantage on the hour mark as the Stones looked to be cruising to a comfortable victory over the Isthmian League Premier Division outfit, but a lapse in concentration allowed Cheshunt's Jess Effa time and space to halve the deficit to set up a nervy finish.

But Cox's side remained strong and

By TOM NORTON

eventually dragged themselves over the line to progress to the next round of the competition.

Speaking to the club website post-match, Cox said: "I thought the performance, especially in the second half, was excellent. I think the way we dominated the ball and created those opportunities in the final third, it was probably the most we've created all year.

"I think the way we got into those areas was the most pleasing thing. Some of the things that we've been working on and speaking about in training – they came to fruition in today's game. Of course, we would have liked to have

more [goals] on the scoresheet. I think if you look across the game, it probably should have been a lot more than it was.

"I think we probably could have managed the game better in the last 10 minutes. Obviously, with them scoring the goal, it made the scoreline probably a bit more flattering towards them."

"I thought today that we were superior, and the scoreline probably should have been a lot more than it was."

The toothless attacking first-half display will undoubtedly come as a concern to Cox, but a motivational half-time team talk seemed to spur the Wealdstone players on to make the breakthrough early in the second 45 minutes.

"The messages at half-time were to keep doing the right things, make sure that we're excellent in doing the simple stuff, and you'll get your opportunities," revealed the Stones boss.

"I think it was an all-round effort [to get the win]. We got to rest a few players today and bring in a few. It was a really good performance overall."

Away from domestic cup competition, Wealdstone faced bottom club Truro in the National League on Tuesday night and were soundly beaten 2-0 by John Askey's side.

Cox's team now sit 11th in the National League after winning just 2 of their last 5 league games and face Halifax Town on Sunday, who sit level on points with the Stones after 22 matches played.

Littler starts PDC with 3-0 victory

DARTS



Luke Littler

LUKE 'The Nuke' Littler had a satisfactory start to his Paddy Power PDC World Darts Championship defence at Alexandra Palace, Wood Green., The 18-year-old darts sensation from Warrington defeated Lithuanian Darius Labanauskas 3-0 on last Thursday's opening night of the lucrative £5 million tournament.

Littler completed victory in set three by taking the last two legs with checkouts of 124 and 120.

"I'm very happy with the performance," said world number one Littler who next face Welshman David Davies, a winner over who Mario Vandenbogaerde, in round two this Sunday afternoon (December 21)

"It felt very special to be back. This was my first ever PDC tournament so I have a lot of memories here. A win is a win and that's the hardest game out of the way," Luke Humphries who is hoping to regain the title that he won back in 2024 began his quest with a 3-1 success over Ted Evtets.

The 30-year-old 'Cool Hand' from Newbury was on red hot form with his flights by scoring eight 180s. He next plays the oldest player in the tournament 71-year-old Singapore native Paul Lim this Monday (December 22).

"That's probably the best I've played in the opening round of the World Championship ever," said Humphries.

"I got a little bit comfortable but I managed to win the game. I'm not going to think that because I had one bad set that my performance wasn't good enough however I'm going to take the positives."

The meeting with Lim, who scored a memorable 3-1 upset over Nederland's Jeffrey de Graaf, is a rematch of their 2021 first round encounter at Ally Pally when the Singapore slinger succeeded 3-2. y Sports.