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MANAGER SAM COX SAYS IT WAS A 'TOUGH DAY AT THE OFFICE'



Wealdstone 'keeper Dante Baptiste makes a save during the match against Boreham Wood. Image: Jon Taffel

High-flying Wood put four past Wealdstone

LUKE Garrard's Boreham Wood cruised past Wealdstone with a comprehensive victory at Grosvenor Vale, propelling them to second in the table.

First-half goals from Abdul Abdulmalik and Matt Rush put the Wood in control with a brace from substitute Lewis Richardson completing the rout.

"I thought it was a really accomplished performance," Garrard said. "The boys were superb today. That's back-to-back clean sheets – it's so important. We're the second highest scoring team in the division. If we're going to have a strong platform in terms of not conceding, we're going to create chances."

Wood made the best possible

By Nicole Cho-Yee

start when, inside two minutes, Abdulmalik seized on Anthony Georgiou's under-hit back-pass and coolly chipping Dante Baptiste.

Wealdstone responded positively from the edge of the box forcing Ted Curd into a low reflex save to deny the hosts an equaliser.

But despite the Stones' endeavours to battle their way back into the contest, the visitors doubled their lead on 26 minutes as Rush profited from a scramble in the box to convert past Baptiste from close-range.

The Stones went close to halving the deficit when skipper Enzo Boldewijn drove forward and rifled an effort from range that whistled just over the crossbar, while Tshikuna stung the palms of Curd with a powerful strike from distance after the break.

However, ruthless Wood weren't to be denied and on 52 minutes it was three. Dom Hutchinson was dispossessed near the half-way line, prompting a counter-attack which resulted in Richardson slotting home past Baptiste.

Again, Wealdstone responded well with Dan Nkrumah denied by Curd while, at the other end, Baptiste produced a brilliant point-blank save to thwart Zak Brunt.

Curd was forced into another save after Olufela Olomola was put through one-on-one and Wood duly punished their hosts again on 82 minutes when Richardson pounced to send a powerful shot past Baptiste.

Wealdstone manager Sam Cox conceded: "It was a tough day at the office today. I think they showed their quality in all areas of the pitch, especially in the top half of the pitch – they caused us a lot of trouble.

"The goals that they've scored are from transitional moments and set pieces – we were the orchestrators of our own downfall in periods. I thought overall, they well and truly deserved to get the win."

Hood sets doubles record to beat Rock



Justin Hood on the march

UNDERDOG Justin Hood reeled off a record 11 consecutive doubles en route to a stunning 4-0 win over Josh Rock in the last 16 of the PDC World Darts Championship at Alexandra Palace. The 32-year-old debutant continued his stunning run in the tournament and only missed his first double when he threw for the match at 2-0 up in the fourth set. He stepped back to take out the match on a 119 finish in the following leg, guaranteeing a career-best payday of at least £100,000 and taking him closer to his dream of opening a Chinese restaurant.

Hood, playing his first season on the PDC tour, said in his on-stage interview: "It's not a fairytale - I know what I can do and it's nice to prove it up there."

"The only time I had a bit of nerves was when I was throwing the leg before (the last one). I'm not used to this. I usually get hate messages. This is mad."

Hood set the tone for the tie when he won the first set with an 11-dart break of throw, leaving 11th seed Rock to watch on with wonder as he stormed to victory, finishing with a 101 average and 10 180s.

Jonny Clayton confirmed his rise to fourth in the world after hitting back from a set down to defeat Sweden's Andreas Harrysson in their last-16 clash. Harrysson paid the price for failing to take his chances after leading 2-1 and also missing four darts to re-establish his one-set lead at 3-2.

Clayton said: "There's a lot of things on my mind and moving to world number four was one of them."

"Every time I looked up, Andreas was hitting doubles. It was tough, I didn't play my best and had a lot of loose darts, but that's what pressure does to you." Krzysztof Ratajski is also through to the quarter-finals after pulling away to defeat Luke Woodhouse 4-2.