

SPORT

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FOOTBALL



Wealdstone boss Gary Waddock (left) and his assistant Danny Payne (right). Image: Jon Taffel

Stones boss impressed by team's attacking form

GARY Waddock lauded the character of his Wealdstone players after the Stones twice came from behind to secure a crucial 3-2 National League victory over Tamworth.

Dylan Kadji and Sean Adarkwa both struck either side of Stefan Mols's opener and Ben Acquaye's effort to keep the match on level terms at half-time.

Micah Obiero's 68th-minute winner then allowed the Stones to defend their lead at Grosvenor Vale and seal three valuable points for Waddock's team.

Speaking to the club website post-match, a gleaming Waddock said: "They've got character and personality. When things are not going our way, and if we go down, we'll always

Tom Norton

battle away to try to get back in the game.

"I thought we played some good football at times, especially in the second half. I think everybody is pleased with that result."

Despite another important win, the Stones were once again susceptible to poor defensive awareness, as Tamworth twice took the lead before the break.

On concerns of lapses in concentration at the back, Waddock added: "I'd like to keep a clean sheet, but I'd also like to win games 7-6. It doesn't bother me," he joked. "It's entertain-

ing. As long as we show the same character that we showed tonight.

"I'd like to mention the staff as well. The staff has been brilliant (since his arrival), alongside the players as well. Everybody has contributed to how we've gone about it, so everybody deserves a pat on the back.

"But it's only the start. We've got to maintain it, as we've got the momentum, and we've got to keep with it now."

Since Waddock replaced previous boss Sam Cox at the helm last month, the former has delivered exciting attacking football which has resulted in two wins from his first three matches in charge.

"I watched the Kidderminster

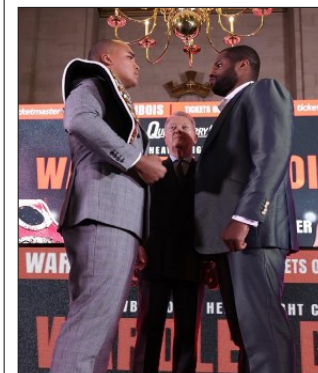
game (FA Trophy, won on penalties), and we went backwards a lot in terms of keeping possession, but you can keep possession by going forwards as well. The goal is at the opposite end of the pitch, and that's where you get your joy," said Waddock.

"I made a point of that and that we needed to play quicker in possession of the ball, but we needed to play forward as well. Credit to the players – they've taken that on board. We've created a lot of chances because of that, and we have to maintain that."

The form of Adarkwa and Obiero has improved significantly since Waddock's arrival; both of them have four goals between them in their last two matches.

Dubois: this fight is my biggest yet

BOXING



Fabio Wardley (left) attempts to stare down Daniel Dubois

DANIEL Dubois insists his bout with WBO world heavyweight champion Fabio Wardley on May 9 at Manchester's Co-Op Arena will be the biggest of his career so far. The 28-year-old, who is a former amateur at Ladbroke Grove-based Dale Youth Boxing Club, is keen to win a third version of the world heavyweight title having previously held the WBA (regular) and IBF mantles.

Dubois, who has won 22 of his 25 outings, destroyed former Finchley Amateur Boxing Club rep and former unified world champion Anthony Joshua in five rounds at Wembley Stadium back in September 2024. However in his return to England Football headquarters last July he lost for the second time to Ukraine's current undisputed world champion Oleksandr Usyk. Ipswich-based 21-fight unbeaten Wardley, 31, was upgraded from interim to full WBO world champion status following his eleventh round stoppage over New Zealand's Joseph Parker last October at The O2, North Greenwich.

Dubois, whose younger sister and former amateur at Dale Youth and Bethnal Green based-Repton Caroline – who incidentally will meet Terri Harper in a WBO and WBC women's world unification bout on April 5 at London Olympia, West Kensington, told BBC Sport: "This is the biggest fight in the world for me," he said. "I feel like this one is even more bigger than the Anthony Joshua fight. Now it's my history, it's going to be the one that I'll be known for. This is the moment."