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FOOTBALL



Wealdstone boss Garry Waddock insists his side "didn't hit their levels or the standards" in a disappointing 1-0 defeat to Gateshead

Image: Jon Taffel

Waddock slams Stones over limp performance

WEALDSTONE manager Gary Waddock says his side "didn't hit the levels or the standards" required to overcome Gateshead on Tuesday evening, after the Stones limped to a 1-0 defeat.

The Stones were undone by a long throw before Ashley Boatswain headed past Wealdstone goalkeeper Dante Baptiste to give the struggling hosts the lead.

Speaking to the club website after the defeat, Waddock said: "We didn't hit the level or standards that we've been able to hit over the last few games. It was one of those games where both keepers didn't have to make a save, and they scored from a set play right at the end of the first

By TOM NORTON

half.

"That was disappointing from our side, but overall, we didn't get to the levels of performance that we were looking for.

Waddock's side seemed to struggle with the physical element of dealing with a long throw before Boatswain nodded past Baptiste, and Waddock vented his frustrations with the lack of presence exhibited by his team.

"We always say about first contact, but he's got a decent long throw, and we've got to deal

with it. We didn't, and it ends up in the back of our net," said the Wealdstone boss.

"We have to be able to see games out towards the end of the first half. We've got to be able to do that, and towards the end of the second half, we've got to be more productive in the final third.

"They're a good team, and their form is very good, but going into this game, so was our form. I'll repeat myself again, we didn't perform to the levels that we expect tonight."

Having won their last three National League fixtures, Wealdstone have put significant distance between themselves and

relegation danger.

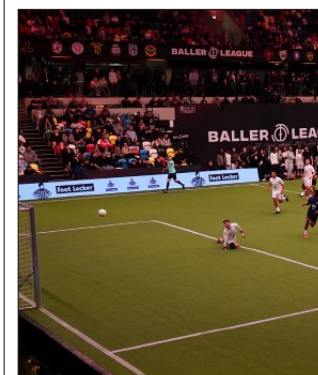
Up next, however, is a trip to promotion-chasing Forest Green Rovers, who are managed by former Premier League star Robbie Savage.

"It will be a challenge because they are a good side. It's another good side, but we have to give ourselves an opportunity to go there and perform and get a result. On the back of tonight, there needs to be a reaction for Saturday's game," added Waddock.

The Stones find themselves 11th in the National League ahead of the final 9 games of the season, with Waddock's side seemingly set for a solid mid-table finish.

Hassan 'not likely' to play again

FOOTBALL



Baller League action Image: PA

WEALDSTONE do not expect Sak Hassan to play for them again this season after he appeared in the Baller League without permission.

The midfielder played for YouTuber KSI's Prime FC in the indoor six-a-side tournament featuring former professionals, influencers and celebrities. A statement from the National League club on Tuesday said that manager Gary Waddock "does not expect 24-year-old Hassan to be part of the team's plans between now and the end of the campaign".

Dutch-born Somalia international Hassan, who previously played in the Isthmian League for Hashtag United, has appeared for only 21 minutes under Waddock and has been left out of the last two match-day squads.

Club chairman Rory Fitzgerald said: "Sak and his representatives are aware he's in breach of his playing contract by choosing to feature in the Baller League.

"For the sake of absolute clarity, Wealdstone FC retains his official player registration and any decisions relating to the remainder of this season remain in the gift of the club's board of directors.

"We've already come together with Gary and the coaching team to discuss both short-term and longer-term thoughts around player make-up and recruitment." Hassan has made 32 appearances overall this season for Wealdstone, who have an outside chance of making the play-offs, scoring three goals.