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## WEALDSTONE earn draw with Boston



Waddock felt that Wealdstone “deserved” a point from the 1-1 stalemate with Boston United on Tuesday. Image: Jon Taffel

# Stones boss Waddock says point ‘deserved’

WEALDSTONE manager Gary Waddock felt that his side deserved their point in the 1-1 draw with Boston United after Olufela Olomola’s late equaliser.

Olomola’s strike in the fourth minute of injury time snatched a point for the Stones to cancel out Boston forward Jacob Hazel’s second-half penalty.

Neither side felt empowered to go for the jugular with little to play for in the final weeks of the National League season, but Wealdstone boss Waddock was impressed with the dominance his side showed on the ball.

“I thought we had a lot of possession tonight. We dominated the game for large spells. I think we deserved to get the equaliser because I think it would have been unfair if we hadn’t have done,” Waddock told the club website.

Tom Norton

Waddock made several changes to his starting line-up after a recent slump in form, and the Stones boss felt that those coming in made a positive impression.

“I was really pleased with the lads who have come into the team tonight. They needed to get the minutes into their legs, and they performed really well. It’s a busy time of the season, and I want everybody available for these remaining fixtures,” said the Wealdstone boss.

“I want everybody up to speed, and the only way that some of those guys are going to get there is by playing. We had an opportunity tonight to play a few

and get those minutes into their legs. As I said there earlier, I was really pleased (with those who started the game), and we deserved the result in the end.”

On a less positive note, Dominic Hutchinson was forced to withdraw from the starting eleven after pulling up in the warm-up.

Speaking on how long the winger might be out of action for, Waddock said: “It’s too soon to say, but it’s a blow to us because before the kick-off we got somebody injured. It was disappointing, but Poks (Michael Adu-Poku) came in to the side and did well. He was a threat going forward, so we’re able to deal with it, but it’s obviously a concern.”

“We’ll have to wait and see until it settles down,” he added.

Wealdstone have just two National League fixtures remaining of their campaign before the trip to Wembley to face Southend United in the FA Trophy final on May 17.

And Waddock was seemingly impressed by what he saw from those coming in from the cold ahead of the final period of the Stones’ season.

“There was a lot that impressed me tonight. I thought Sean (Adarkwa) was outstanding up front; Fels (Olufela) got his goal. Ashley (Nathaniel-George) has got 90 minutes into his legs. I could go through the whole team, because I thought, as a group, they played well as a team,” he said.

“I’ve mentioned those players there, but I could mention all of them. I was really pleased with the team tonight.”

## Waite hits six fours for Worcs

CRICKET

MATTHEW Waite contributed with bat and ball as Worcestershire (191 & 253) wrapped up a convincing 57-run win over Middlesex (183 & 204) with a day to spare at Lord’s.

The all-rounder hit six fours in a crucial 34 to allow the visitors to set an imposing target of 262 on a pitch showing increasingly variable bounce.

Waite would later claim the wickets of Sam Robson and Ryan Higgins to return 2-29 in a collective effort by the Worcester seamers as Middlesex were bowled out for 204, Joe Cracknell running out of partners on 43, while Max Holden made 40.

The match saw the latest instance of concussion protocols being followed, Worcestershire bringing in seamer Ben Gibbon after Adam Finch was forced to withdraw due to the blow on the head from a ball from Ryan Higgins in the death throes of day two.

Worcestershire resumed on 200-7 having lost six wickets for 19 on the second evening, but Middlesex were strangely cautious, seemingly content to await a new ball 14 overs away.

Against such tactics, Waite, on a pair, played fluently, driving one gloriously straight down the ground and utilizing the scoop to the vacant long leg region. Gareth Roderick was more circumspect, but the pair added 49 priceless runs by the time the ripe cherry arrived.

Thereafter the end came quickly. Roderick was bowled by Roland-Jones (three for 40) from one that kept low, an ominous sign of things to come, and Waite’s enterprising effort was ended by Robson’s sharp catch at slip, before Tom Taylor holed out in the deep.

Robson and Josh De Caires negotiated a tricky 35 minutes before lunch with the latter striking four classy boundaries. However, the opener would fall in the first over following the resumption trapped in front. Robson resisted for a while before being undone by one from Waite that kept low.

It could have been worse as Gibbon, had vociferous appeals against both Holden and Leus du Plooy turned down, the latter shout looking especially adjacent. Neither player benefitted hugely from their reprieves, du Plooy foxed by Taylor’s first ball of a new spell which appeared to stop in the pitch and had him caught and bowled.

Taylor (3-50) also accounted for Ben Geddes in an excellent stint, the batter playing across a ball which dattered into his off stump.

And Taylor wasn’t the only Pears’ bowler to strike with the first ball of a spell as Hannon-Dalby, brought back from the Pavilion End, ended Holden’s spirited resistance by finding the edge, Roderick taking a fine low catch.