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Stones boss Waddock 'embarrassed' after humbling by Harriers

FOOTBALL

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Sports correspondent

GARY Waddock tore into his "embarrassing" Wealdstone players after his side collapsed to a 4-1 home defeat against ten-man Kidderminster Harriers.

The Stones stood with a numerical advantage after the visitors were reduced to ten men but capitulated in the second half to leave Waddock under serious pressure after a dreadful start to the club's National League campaign.

"I'm bitterly disappointed. Against a team with ten men, they go on and score four goals against us, and we're at home," a dejected Waddock told the club website post-match. "Words can't explain how I feel if I'm being honest. That's where we are; we're on the back of a good performance against Carlisle and a good performance and result against Sutton, and then today's performance is nowhere near the standard that we're looking for. I'm bitterly disappointed."

The visitors took the lead inside 3 minutes played as Lewis Walker lashed in at the near post before Angus MacDonald was shown a straight red card for a high challenge.

The Stones then restored parity when Connor McAvoy headed home an equaliser just a minute later, but two second-half strikes, including a Callum Dolan penalty and Walker's second of the afternoon, sealed a miserable afternoon for the Stones on home soil.

Speaking to the club website post-match, the Wealdstone boss said: "I must give great credit to Kidderminster. They were outstanding on the day, and they wanted it more than us. Their fight, determination, and energy were miles better than ours, and that's down to me. I prepared the team to go out there and do it, and we didn't show up today. I'm responsible for that – it's my role."

"But the players, once they go over that white line, have to produce, and today they didn't."



Gary Waddock. Image: Jon Taffel

The defeat leaves Wealdstone on five points, having played six National League games thus far. Waddock, speaking to the club's media post-match, continued to lambast his players.

"To concede four goals in the way we did, it's a bit embarrassing, really, if I'm being honest. I'm not taking anything away from them (Kidderminster), as they were outstanding. We were the opposite end of outstanding," he said.

The match was halted for 27 minutes midway through the first half due to a pair of medical emergencies in the crowd, with both individuals reported to be

in a stable condition and taken to hospital by paramedics.

"Hopefully the two gentlemen are ok. It's always sad to see that at a football match. You come to a game, and that happens, but two on the same day – I don't think it's ever happened before," said Waddock.

"My wishes go out to them and their families, and I wish them a speedy recovery."

The Stones boss was pushed on whether he thought the incident may have impacted the players' performance, to which he replied: "No, because it didn't have an effect on Kidderminster. They produced, and we didn't."

Dubois 'to bring the storm' in Wardley title rematch

BOXING

FORMER Ladbroke Grove-based Dale Youth amateur Daniel Dubois is confident he can inflict a second defeat on fellow British rival Fabio Wardley on October 17 at The 02, North Greenwich.

In May at Manchester's Co-op Live, the 29-year-old became the new holder of the WBO world heavyweight title after defeating former champion Wardley, 31, from Ipswich in 11 rounds.

In a recent head-to-head interview with Sky Sports, Dubois, who has won 23 of his 26 professional outings and is promoted by Islington-born Frank Warren, reflected on that successful night that saw him become a two-time world champion in boxing's glamorous weight division.

"It was great night and a great victory," Dubois told Sky Sports.

"I'm going to do it again so I can't wait, I'm bringing in the storm! That victory was right up there with the Anthony Joshua one."

Dubois knew Wardley - 20-1-1 and also promoted by Frank Warren's Queensberry Promotions -



Daniel Dubois. Image: Queensberry Promotions

wanted a rematch.

"He's got nowhere to go really," Dubois continues.

"It's the world title so I was prepared for that. In the first fight I prepared to face a crowd pleasing fighter and have a toe-to-toe scrap."

"I really loved it and I can't wait to do it for the second time on October 17."

For tickets: Queensberry.co.uk

Rampant Sarries inflict a huge defeat on sorry Saints

RUGBY

SARACENS kicked off their competitive season in style with a bonus point win over Northampton Saints in the PREM Rugby Cup. The Original Club of North London returned to StoneX Stadium with aplomb, running in 14 tries as they claimed an emphatic victory.

As the first competitive hit-out of the season, the game started scrappily, both sides feeling their way into the contest and looking to use early attacking kicks.

Multiple penalties pushed Saints back into their own 22, with Eoghan Clarke making a strong carry to get within inches of the line. Instead, it was his front row counterpart who powered over, with Phil Brantingham getting the final shove to cross the whitewash on his first game back from injury.

Another try quickly followed, this time through a slick play in the backline. Olly Hartley played a brilliant ball over the Saints defence to Tobias Elliott, who raced into the 22 before feeding the ball back inside to Angus Hall, who finished in style.

Northampton hit back through some strong carries, with James Bennett providing the final touches to get the visitors off the mark.

Sarries then turned it on. After a great line break from Max Malins into the Northampton half, Hugh Tizard carried on the pressure, pinning Saints back. Olly Hartley then served up another delightful pass, this time to Rotimi Segun, who strolled over for the Original Club of North London's third effort inside 30 minutes.

But Saints ended the half in the better fashion. A try from teenager James Pater was followed by a fortuitous score from Will Catley, who saw the ball bounce kindly into his

path. Those two moments meant Saints took the lead heading into the break.

After a few changes at half-time, Sarries sprung back into action. A try in the opening minute of the half from Alex O'Driscoll, who powered over from short range, set the tone for a rampaging next 10 minutes.

Rotimi Segun was then over for a brace, crashing the ball over the line off the top of a well-worked lineout move. A slick score followed as Segun once again started the move with a lovely break out wide, allowing Tom James to finish in the corner against his former club.

Sione Va'enuku then ran a perfect support line to dot down with his first competitive touch of the ball in Sarries colours.

Max Malins scored due to his fast feet, and Jack Bracken then opened his account for the season with a runaway try from inside his own half. Tobias Elliott added another on the opposite flank, racing into the corner, before Jack Bracken finished off another slick move from the backline.

Saints scored a consolation effort on the hour, before Jack Bracken completed his hat-trick with another speedy race into the corner.

James Bennett scored another consolation try for Northampton, before Nathan Michelow reverted proceedings superbly well with another flashy score.

The icing on the cake came after Saints illegally stopped a certain score out wide in the dying minutes, the hosts awarded a penalty try.