

SPORT

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WEALDSTONE: FA Cup adventure ended by U's Bartlett: The club has done itself proud

GORDON Bartlett says Wealdstone did themselves proud as a club in Saturday's FA Cup first-round exit against Colchester United but their attention immediately reverts to the National League South.

The Stones were knocked out by ruthless U's – who play their football three divisions higher in League One – despite leading 2-1 a minute before half time.

But Macauley Bonne scored the second of four goals in the 44th minute to send the sides in tied at 2-2 at half time after Jefferson Louis and Bradley Hudson-Odoi had put the hosts ahead.

Bonne added another with just three minutes of the second half gone before grabbing a fourth after the hour. George Moncur and former Wealdstone loanee Marvin Sorrell killed the tie off late on.

"My chief emotion is that it's an extreme anti-climax," said Bartlett. "You build yourself up and the one thing you don't want to do it lose heavily.

"We were there a minute before half time, 2-1 up, and then early in the second half we were 3-2 down and that's where the game changed. "The fight, commitment and all

By Tom Bodell

those things came through but we always looked vulnerable defensively.

"They've been scoring a lot of goals and it's evident why. It was great whilst it lasted.

"The club has done itself proud with the way it came across in the media. We've now got a job to do in securing enough points in the league. We need to get enough points to be enjoying the end of the season."

Bartlett had no complaints at the result but felt his side were not aided by the heavy rain on the day of the match which left the Grosvenor Vale pitch soaking underfoot.

He said: "The pitch was very heavy and that made everything harder for us. The goal a minute into the second half was disappointing because we had the ball, lost it and it was very easy for them from there.

"It all happened so quickly and we had to gamble from there and chase the game a bit. If that hadn't happened, then who knows?"

"We've enjoyed the experience and now we're hungry for more."

Tuesday saw the Stones return to



Bradley Hudson-Odoi (centre) celebrates putting Wealdstone ahead against Colchester United. Picture: STEVE FOSTER/WEALDSTONE FC

cup action with a Middlesex Senior Cup second-round tie at rivals Harrow Borough.

But it was Isthmian Premier Division side Boro who prevailed 3-2 with an injury-time winner.

"It was a little bit after the Lord Mayor's show," admitted Bartlett. "We made a lot of changes but our first-half performance was ex-

tremely poor and lacked any passion or desire.

"But we dominated the second half and we should have won it. After we equalised we had at least two chances to win it before them but on one occasion we didn't even get the shot away."

The Stones go to St Albans City on Saturday.

Late cup drama for Borough

HARROW ADVANCE IN THE MIDDLESEX SENIOR CUP AT STONES' EXPENSE

HARROW Borough boss Steve Baker admitted he could see rivals Wealdstone winning Tuesday's Middlesex Senior Cup tie after they equalised late on, only for the Reds to prevail in injury time.

The National League South Stones had been poor and deservedly trailed the holders to goals from Spencer McCall and Marc Charles-Smith at half-time.

However, the introduction of Scott Davies turned the game on its head and he provided the assist for Matt Ball to level in the 89th minute after Jonny Wright had halved the deficit.

But there was still time for late drama as Fejiri Okenabirhie slid home a last-gasp winner.

"I could see them winning if it went to extra time," said Baker. "You almost expect it as the higher level team with better players.

"But I was really pleased with our reaction to their equaliser. We went in search of a winner before extra-time."

Harrow now advance to the quarter-finals and Baker added: "The team talk was based on two things.

"One was that we won it last year and we want to defend it. The other was the rivalry with Wealdstone – there is no love lost there."

Harrow trounced Lewes 4-1 on Saturday in the Isthmian Premier Division.

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If a task is performed in the consciousness that God is my companion then the impossible becomes possible.

a) Month 1
Month 3
Month 6
after 12 months

HARROW
TIMES

The Harrow Times is published by Newsquest (London) Ltd, Observer House, Caxton Court, Caxton Way, Watford, Herts WD18 8RJ part of the Newsquest Media Group Ltd, Loudwater Mill, Station Road, High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire HP10 9TY, a Gannett Company. Printed by Newsquest Oxfordshire, Osney Mead, Oxford OX2 0EJ. Newspaper Support Recycling - The recycled paper content of UK newspapers in 2014 was 80.6%.