

SPORT

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WEALDSTONE boss Bartlett speaks of contrasts 'Disappointing' week as Stones lose twice

WEALDSTONE boss Gordon Bartlett admits his side produced contrasting performances despite losing 1-0 twice in the National League South this week.

The Stones lost at struggling St Albans City on Saturday before a defeat at Maidstone United on Tuesday night.

But while Bartlett was very unhappy with their performance at Clarence Park he felt his side were much better in their midweek defeat.

Bartlett said: "Obviously it's been a disappointing week with two 1-0 away defeats but with very contrasting performances.

"On Saturday I felt we were dismal. I was very disappointed whereas on Tuesday we had a good attitude and played with a little bit more spirit and determination.

"I thought we were a little bit unfortunate and the shape of the side was good. We had a good work ethic all round."

The Stones boss felt his side missed a golden opportunity to claim three points against the Saints.

He said: "Saturday we were probably the better side but lacked that ability to go beyond and have a real

By Simon Mail

go at it which was a real disappointment.

"We have no excuses. The lads had to work harder on Saturday. But on Tuesday we played with honesty and the tempo and everything else was decent against a side that have won eight of their last nine league games and we ran them very close."

The only goal of the game went to St Albans after 25 minutes when defender Ben Martin powered a header past goalkeeper Jonathan North.

Wealdstone failed to come under much pressure from the hosts but their attack misfired as they failed to trouble the Saints.

The Stones improved for their midweek game at Maidstone despite the result staying the same.

United took the lead just before the half hour mark when Jay May beat the offside trap and slotted the ball past North.

Wealdstone had a chance to level the contest late on but Scott Davies' effort was blocked and Shaun Lucien's follow up flew over the bar.

He said: "I'm pleased with Tuesday but bitterly disappointed about Saturday. That's a game we should



Wealdstone suffered back to back away defeats in the league this week.
Picture: STEVE FOSTER/WEALDSTONE FC

have won and didn't grasp it."

It means the Stones have lost all four games in all competitions during this month. Bartlett's side are now just two places above the relegation zone despite a superb unbeaten run stretching across September and October.

Wealdstone have the chance to get back on track with back to back

home matches. The Stones host Bath City on Saturday before entertaining fourth placed Whitehawk on Monday night.

Wealdstone have brought Dr Sam Botchey onto the medical team. He will act as the official club doctor after previous experience with Adelaide and in New Zealand with the Rugby World Cup winners.

Frustrated Harrow in tight loss

**BOROUGH UNABLE TO FIND A WAY PAST
BILLERICAY'S HEROIC KEEPER LATE ON**

HARROW Borough were denied by Billericay Town goalkeeper Jack Giddens after falling to a 2-1 Ryman Premier Division defeat on Saturday.

The Reds pushed for an equaliser but were denied by a couple of stoppage time saves from Giddens which preserved the hosts' lead.

Tom Derry headed home for Billericay but his goal was chalked off for offside.

The hosts took the lead just after the half-hour mark when Conor Hubble curled a shot past Conor Hudnott. But it was a controversial opener after Shaun Preddie appeared to be elbowed in the build-up to the goal.

Boro made a slow start to the second half and were punished when they fell further behind after 52 minutes. Hudnott's clearance lacked power and Cliff Akurang was on hand to slide the ball into the net from a cross.

Lewis Driver was brought on for the Reds and this sparked them into life. Pressure from the visitors resulted in a goal when Kane Jones set up Fejiri Okenabirhie and he beat the goalkeeper.

This set up a tense climax and the hosts were indebted to Giddens after he pulled off two excellent saves to deny goalscorer Okenabirhie.

Boro host VCD Athletic on Saturday before entertaining Dulwich Hamlet on Tuesday.

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