

SPORT

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WEALDSTONE let a three-goal lead slip to draw 'One or two thought the game was won'

WEALDSTONE blew a 3-0 lead to draw 4-4 with Truro City on Saturday and Gordon Bartlett believes one or two of his players felt the game was won at half time.

Matt Ball, Matty Harriott and Jefferson Louis all scored in the first half to send the Stones in 3-0 ahead at the break.

But the game was far from over, even after Aaron Pugh put through his own net three minutes into the second period.

Isaac Vassell kick-started the comeback just before the hour but Wealdstone were still leading 4-1 with nine minutes of the National League South clash remaining.

Goals from Ryan Brett either side of a Jake Ash free-kick dragged the Tigers level and left Wealdstone floored.

"At half time we were 3-0 up against a decent side," said Bartlett. "With strong wind behind us I said it wasn't over. They had opportunities in the first half and they did have more of them.

"The conditions were farcical. Our game management left a lot to be desired. We gave the first goal away and the next two were from free-kicks. All four we contributed

By Tom Bodell

to. Our shape and desire to keep our shape was a contributing factor and I think one or two of the players thought the game was won at half time.

"We've got to learn from these lessons. It's happened two or three times where we've given away winning positions.

"A couple of times we have been unlucky but the other times we've made a contribution."

The draw, which Bartlett admitted he would have taken beforehand, leaves the Stones 15th in the table – eight points clear of the relegation places.

Wealdstone have lost two of their last ten National League South fixtures but have only won three.

A lack of consistency is a recurring theme for the Stones.

It is for that reason Wealdstone find themselves in the lower reaches of the table.

"These players have the ability to be in the top half but we're in the bottom half for a reason," explained Bartlett. "They've let themselves down too many times this season."

Jonathan North, Tom Hamblin,



Gordon Bartlett was left to rue Wealdstone's 4-4 draw with Truro City on Saturday.
Picture: STEVE FOSTER/WEALDSTONE FC

Jack Smith, Carl Martin and Johnny Wright are currently unavailable but Bartlett hopes to have three back within the month.

"We're without many of our normal squad so three signings sat on the bench for their debut on Saturday," he said.

"Johnny Wright should be back this weekend, Jonathan North next

month and Tom Hamblin at the end of this month," revealed Bartlett.

"In February we should be getting back to reasonable strength.

"The downside is we've got about half-a-dozen games between now and then."

Wealdstone visit out-of-sorts Maidenhead United on Saturday. The Magpies are 13th.

Harrow undone by start

By Mathieu Wood

HARROW Borough never recovered from shipping three goals in the first 10 minutes at Metropolitan Police on Tuesday evening and eventually lost 3-2.

The defeat, the Reds' third on the spin, leaves Steve Baker's side 17th in the Isthmian Premier Division – 11 points above the relegation zone.

Boro fell behind when Tom Hickey picked up an attempted clearance for the home side and arrowed into the corner of the net past.

Joe Turner made it 2-0 in the fourth minute as once again a Harrow clearance failed to relieve the danger.

In the ninth minute the home side came forward again and Andre Da Costa rammed home a third. It took until injury time but the Reds grabbed two consolation goals.

George McCluskey's throw from the left was gathered by Harry Newman, who sent substitute Fejiri Okenabirhie in on goal.

He was tackled but the ball fell to Spencer McCall who curled a shot past Pain for what appeared to be a consolation.

Harrow quickly won the ball from the Met kick off and attacked again.

Joshua Webb curled in a lovely cross from the right and McCall stole in at the far post to hook the ball into the roof of the net.

Harrow travel to Grays Athletic on Saturday.

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