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FOOTBALL: Hamblin heads in winner at Concord Stones hit back after weekend's humbling

WEALDSTONE showed their resilience to bounce back from Saturday's humiliation at Ebbsfleet, as Tom Hamblin's second-half goal gave them a 1-0 National League South victory at Concord Rangers.

The Stones had been humbled by Ebbsfleet 4-1 on Saturday, where they found themselves three down before half-time, but some stoic rearguard action ensured they emerged winners from their second away game inside three days.

Concord had only won once in the league prior to their Tuesday night encounter – but it had come in their previous game, and with the bit between their teeth they found their hosts in good form in the opening stages.

Dumebi Dumaka looked lively and was inches from giving the hosts an early lead before goalkeeper Jonathan North turned his strike away well.

Elliot Benyon, looking to keep up his superb start to his Stones career, responded by coming close before Ricky Wellard did likewise, but they both saw their efforts kept out by resolute home defending.

North again had to be alive to keep out Sam Collins' drive just

By Ron Walker

before the break, and it continued after half-time; Joao Carlos the next to shoot, and place his effort narrowly wide of the post.

But against the run of play, Wealdstone would then take the lead.

Hamblin was the man to rise highest from a corner ten minutes after the break, and keep up their scoring record which has seen them fail to net in only one match this campaign.

Concord did not give up their charge despite falling a goal behind and had a number of chances to level.

But the hosts found themselves in danger of being caught out on the break and Marvin Ekpiteta had to clear off the line to stop them falling two behind.

Dumaka headed against the bar with the goal gaping, but his effort cannoned away to safety to give the Stones a fifth win from their opening 11 games.

They will now look forward to Saturday's home FA Cup tie with Histon, of Evo-Stik Division One, at Grosvenor Vale.



The Stones responded strongly to their setback against Ebbsfleet by beating Concord Rangers.
Picture: ALAN PALMER

Boro well beaten by Needham

VISITING KEEPER ON FIRE AS HARROW
SUFFER FIRST HOME LOSS OF SEASON

HARROW BOROUGH were humbled 3-0 by Needham Market on Saturday as they were beaten at Earlsmead for the first time this season.

They fell behind just after the half-hour mark when Jack Curtis fired low beyond Keval Patel against the run of play.

Within six minutes it was two as Michael Brothers fired a dipping shot beyond the stranded goalkeeper, and worse was to come before the break.

Another Brothers strike, this time a 25-yard free-kick, curled past the wall and beyond Patel to give Needham an unassailable lead.

On a wet day in north London Marc Charles-Smith had the first effort for the hosts, before in-form Ibrahim Meite saw his shot saved.

Having had the better of the early play, Curtis' 32nd-minute strike seemed to dent Harrow's confidence, and they were two behind within a matter of minutes.

Visiting keeper Danny Gay pulled off the save of the match to turn away another Meite effort, which would prove vital when Brothers added a third.

Borough were 8-7 losers on penalties to Wingate & Finchley in the Alan Turvey Trophy on Tuesday after a memorable 4-4 draw over 120 minutes.

They will now look towards their FA Cup second qualifying round tie at Uxbridge this weekend.

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HARROW
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