

# SPORT

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## FOOTBALL: Wealdstone lose 4-1 at Chelmsford

# Stones humbled

By Ron Walker

BRACES from Shamir Mullings and Josh Rees inflicted Wealdstone's joint heaviest defeat of the season at Chelmsford on Saturday.

Gordon Bartlett's side's brush with inconsistency continued in Essex as the Stones were punished for a bad start when Eddie Osodi's missed interception allowed Mullings a clear run on goal, and he slotted home with confidence for an early opener.

They were two behind within seven minutes when a free-kick was only half cleared, and Mullings squared for Rees to finish.

The Stones already had a mountain to climb but began to take control of the match, and hot-shot striker Elliot Benyon swiftly hit the post.

But it took until the final minutes of the opening half to get themselves back into contention, when Jonny Wright picked up the ball on the half-way line, strode towards goal before striking a superb dipping effort over Ross Fitzsimons from at least 40 yards.

The two manager's team talks were instantly changed – but it was the hosts' which worked, as they regained their two-goal advantage

only seven minutes after the break.

Robbie Wilmott forced a save from Jonathan North with a strong effort from the edge of the box, but he could only parry into the path of Mullings, who managed to squeeze the ball beyond a despairing dive of the goalkeeper as he got back to his feet.

Wealdstone continued to push, again with an uphill task ahead of them, but were unable to carve out any clear-cut chances, and the game was put to bed with 10 minutes to play, when Rees turned in a Max Porter cross following some lax marking in the box.

After the game, Bartlett said: "We stood out on the pitch for a long time and there were a few home truths from my point of view. A team of that quality of player should not be beaten three times by four goals.

"It's not their ability on the ball, it's their attitude off it and that needs to be addressed."

On Saturday, the Stones travel to Dagenham and Redbridge in the fourth and final qualifying round of the FA Cup.



Jonny Wright's first-half stunner was one of few bright points for Wealdstone in their defeat. Picture: ALAN PALMER

## Is the next Vardy in Harrow?

### HARROW BOROUGH STRIKER IBRAHIM MEITE GETS PREMIER LEAGUE CHANCE

HARROW Borough striker Ibrahim Meite has been given the chance to impress Premier League champions Leicester City after impressing the club's scouts.

Nineteen-year-old Meite, who only joined the club in the summer, has been in fine form in his debut season and after spending three days in the East Midlands last week, the Foxes are considering whether to take another look at his ability.

His 10 goals in 15 games for the club have had scouts from a number of Football League clubs attending Earlsmead in recent weeks – but even manager Steve Baker, whose phone has not stopped ringing since Leicester's interest became public, has been taken aback by his early promise.

"I certainly didn't think it would happen like this when we signed him in pre-season," he said. "He's done very well so far us since then; I think he can only get better, he has pace to burn and scores goals which is not something you can teach.

"It's hard to say how far he can go, but he's got so much potential and with the right club looking after him, he can be anything he wants to be."

On the pitch, Boro were held to a 0-0 draw with Billericay on Saturday and beat Staines 4-3 on Tuesday night in the Alan Turvey Trophy ahead of their FA Cup tie with Margate this weekend.

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