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FOOTBALL: Wealdstone beaten at Dagenham

"Positivity needed" after Stones cup exit

WEALDSTONE manager Gordon Bartlett believes the club needs to restore positivity after exiting the FA Cup at Dagenham and Redbridge on Saturday.

The Stones have now lost three of their last four games in all competitions but still sit 11th in the National League South table, with 19 points from their 13 games so far.

Bartlett's side had at least as much of the play as their hosts in the first half at Victoria Road, despite losing first-choice centre backs Wes Parker and Tom Hamblin in the week leading up to the game.

They would then lose goalkeeper Jonathan North to concussion half an hour in, and the first-choice stopper was replaced by Paschalis Xanthos.

In the period between his injury and substitution, the Stones, perhaps distracted by their teammate's condition, fell behind.

Oliver Hawkins won the ball before sending Fejiri Okenabirhie through, and he slotted the ball beyond North and in at the far post.

Matt Whichelow levelled up at the perfect moment, when his injury-time strike deflected beyond

By Ron Walker

Mark Cousins.

After the break, Dagenham retook the lead minutes into the half when Oliver Hawkins headed beyond Xanthos when the substitute was slow off his line.

Wealdstone hit the post on the hour mark following pandemonium in the Daggers' box, but they fell further behind when Jordan Maguire-Drew dinked the ball over Xanthos with 15 minutes to go.

A diving header from Johnny Wright threatened to reduce the deficit, but Dagenham held on to reach the first round.

After the game, Bartlett said: "We've been thinking things have been conspiring against us, but we've got to get over it.

"We were the better team in the first-half but to concede five minutes after half-time was frustrating. We're still thinking about what might have been.

"The whole club, three weeks ago, was talking about getting in the play-offs; we have had a couple of defeats but we have got to be upbeat. It's a good group, who can achieve."



Matt Whichelow is congratulated after levelling up for Wealdstone.

Photo: ALAN PALMER

Boro cup dream goes on

HARROW 3-1 WINNERS AT MARGATE TO CLINCH PLACE IN FA CUP FIRST ROUND

HARROW Borough's FA Cup dream continues after they pulled off a shock 3-1 win at National League South Margate on Tuesday night.

It seemed Boro's chance had gone when they were held to a 2-2 draw by the side a league above them at Earlsmead on Saturday, but they took the lead six minutes before half-time in Kent in the midweek replay.

Francis Babalola, who had already headed over from a corner, put them in front for a deserved advantage at the break, although Elliott Buchanan levelled up for the hosts just before the hour mark.

Ibrahim Meite, who has been courted by Leicester City in recent weeks, caused the same havoc he has been providing in the Isthmian League in the build-up as Harrow retook the lead, eventually finding Lewis Driver who headed home.

Meite was not done, and got on the scoresheet himself with nine minutes remaining to seal victory.

The Boro will now take the relatively short trip up the M1 to Northampton Town's Sixfields Stadium on the weekend of November 5-6, as they look to reach the second round for the first time in their history.

Their replay win added another £12,500 in prize money to the already significant £15,000 they have banked from the competition so far this







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