

SPORT

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WEALDSTONE extend winless league run to five Stones lacking 'creativity' and drop four more points

By Ron Walker

WEALDSTONE dropped further into mid-table with two home draws that all but ended the club's slim hopes of a play-off push.

New signing Josh Walker, a 19-year-old striker on loan from Fulham, got their week off to the perfect start with a fourth-minute opener in Saturday's 1-1 draw with Oxford City.

But after passing up a number of chances, the Stones were made to pay by their clinical visitors seven minutes after the break.

Walker's debut goal saw him turn in Eddie Oshodi's deflected shot before Kaiman Anderson levelled up once Jonathan North had saved from former Stones striker Jefferson Louis.

Wealdstone created further chances and Jonny Wright was twice denied - latterly by only the width of the post - as Gordon Bartlett's men went a fourth league game without victory.

Four became five on Monday night in what was an uninspiring goalless encounter from the off at Grosvenor Vale, against a

Whitehawk side Wealdstone really should have little trouble beating, given their perilous position inside the relegation zone.

Ricky Wellard's first-half volley flashed wide in what was the best chance either side created over the 90 minutes, and highlighted all too well the Stones' lack of belief.

Bartlett said after the game: "We didn't play particularly well and it looked like two sides without much confidence.

"A few weeks ago we had the quality, but not the desire. We had a real role reversal on Monday.

"We have changed some of the personnel and the formation in an effort to turn the tide, and we've stopped leaking goals. But we have no creativity."

With 15 games remaining in the National League South season, 19 points stand between the Stones and the prospect of extending their season, something Bartlett admitted was "mathematically possible, but highly unlikely".

They can, at least, reduce that gap at Margate on Saturday, with the rock-bottom hosts staring relegation firmly in the face following 14 straight league defeats.



Wealdstone looked a more solid defensive unit, but at the expense of their attacking threat against Whitehawk on Monday night. Picture: ALAN PALMER

Billericay see off late Boro charge

HARROW BEATEN 2-1 BY IN-FORM TOWN AND REMAIN FIFTH BOTTOM

HARROW were undone by a slick performance by in-form Billericay Town as they were downed 2-1 on Saturday. Falling behind early to Billy Bricknell's fourth-minute strike, Harrow should have equalised from the spot when George Nicholas was fouled, but Sahr Kabba's penalty was saved by Jack Giddens.

Bricknell nearly added a second before Kabba was again denied by Giddens, this time when the home goalkeeper spread himself wide when the Borough striker had been played in.

The Town striker did complete his brace shortly before half-time when heading home from a free-kick, and his side went in two goals to the good at the break.

Again Harrow emerged from the dressing rooms with their minds elsewhere and should have fallen further behind within seconds of the restart, only for Adam Cunnington to fire wide.

Marc Charles-Smith came close for Harrow after slotting the ball beyond Giddens, but his shot lacked pace and was cleared off the line by Rob Swaine.

A foul from Josh Elul on Kabba inside the Billericay box gave Harrow a chance to halve the arrears with 10 minutes to go, and new penalty taker Josh Webb made no mistake.

But the hosts saw out the game comfortably, and might even have added to their lead late on.

Harrow sit a point outside the relegation spots ahead of Saturday's game with fifth-placed Leiston.

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