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SPORT

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FOOTBALL: Burgess Hill cause last-gasp upset

Late Burgess winner puts Wealdstone out of FA Cup

THE magic of the cup deserted Wealdstone and left manager Bobby Wilkinson enduring a sleepless night after a last-minute winner from defender Cheik Toure put Burgess Hill Town into the fourth round of qualifying for the FA Cup on Saturday.

The Stones were tought a harsh lesson in finishing by Town, who scored the only goal of the game despite barely registering a clear chance before they struck in injury time.

But this was a game Wealdstone should have won. Sub Dan Fitchett's indecisiveness allowed goalkeeper James Shaw time to block his goalbound effort, while Abobaker Eisa and Luke Williams, twice, had lesser opportunities but also failed to trouble the hosts.

The hosts had started the brighter and Matt Day struck his own post 12 minutes in, but from then on Wealdstone's recent form was clear for all to see as they took control

to see as they took control.

Eisa won a corner with a decent strike but only after half-time did they really threaten, when Williams struck just over the bar and then forced Shaw into a good save.

orced Snaw into a good save. Fitchett could have won the game

By Ron Walker

with 15 minutes to go but another good save from Shaw kept him out, before defender Tiote, unmarked, fired past Jonathan North from the edge of the area for what would prove a sucker-punch winner to send Burgess Hill through.

Wilkinson is experienced enough to know domination counts for nothing in football - especially in the FA Cup - and could have little argument when Toure, in a rare break from the backline, showed the composure of a forward to blast beyond Jonathan North from the edge of the box.

"We know we didn't take our chances but must now back the players," Wilkinson told the club website.

"I didn't sleep at all last night. I need to let the fans know that I take full responsibility for everything. "There are things I cannot say

about how I feel right now and it does not concern the players.

"The supporters have to believe in what we are trying to achieve.

Blame me not the players.
"We will be training hard this week on Monday and Thursday as



Bobby Wilkinson after Wealdstone's late defeat at Burgess Hill Town in the FA Cup. Picture: ION TAFFEL

we prepare for Whitehawk next Sat-

This weekend will also serve as non-league day with the international break putting all football above League 1 on hold.

In addition to offering 30 per cent discount for any season ticket holder at a professional football club - including nearby QPR, Fulham, Chelsea and Watford, the club will be contributing a donation for every person on the turnstile to Prostate Cancer UK.

The charity will also have a bucket collection before and after the game at Grosvenor Vale.

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Wealdstone: North, Cox, Okimo,
Brown, Day, Wellard, Ngamvolou,
Williams, Benyon, Green, Eisa.

Overdue win lifts Harrow to seventh

BORO SURPRISE WINGATE TO MOVE WITHIN POINT OF PLAY-OFF PLACES

HARROW pulled off a shock first win in seven to down in-form Wingate and Finchley 3-0 at Earlsmead on Tuesday night.

Having narrowly missed out on victory against Lowestoft Town on Saturday, and held to a 1-1 draw by Rory McAuley's 95th-minute free-kick, they went into their latest midweek encounter with a sense of injustice following their recent bad run of form.

Steve Baker's men had topped the division after four games thanks to a perfect record, but had not won since then

They could have led Wingate inside 10 seconds, with Reis Stanislaus forcing a save straight from kick-off, but needed only 12 minutes to find the back of the net when Charles Banya added to his goal from Saturday to open the scoring.

Just before the interval it was two when Adam Richards inadvertently scored from a corner which Rueben Rabstein had flapped into his path.

And a good day was made better by Taurean Roberts, with his first Harrow goal, after half-time.

Again Banya was at the heart of the play, cutting in off the right before his square pass begged to be tucked home

square pass begged to be tucked home. It could have been more in the later stages, but it was not meant to be, but Harrow can at least look forward to Saturday's home game with Kingstonian with renewed optimism, before Billericay visit Earlsmead on Tuesday night.







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