

# SPORT

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## FOOTBALL: Stones strike late to hold Dartford Wealdstone bounce back after rare league defeat

BOBBY Wilkinson had to deal with an unusual occurrence in his short spell as Wealdstone manager on Saturday, a losing dressing room, on the back of a 3-2 defeat at Oxford City.

For only the second time in the National League South since he took charge in August, the Stones found themselves without anything to show from their performance, as they returned to North London narrow losers.

Had they not given themselves a mountain to climb within the first 10 minutes, things could have been different; Christian Oxlade-Chamberlain and Zac McEachran both profited from some questionable defending to put the hosts two goals ahead.

Abobaker Eisa pulled a goal back before Reece Fleet restored the advantage, and Eisa's second in the final minute of the contest came too little, too late.

In mid-week away to table-toppers Dartford, it was almost a similar story until Danny Green's late penalty earned a 3-3 draw at Princes Park.

Again Eisa was on target, opening the scoring after only five minutes,

By Ron Walker

by which time Mustafa Tiriyaki had already seen a goalbound effort saved by Deren Ibrahim in between the home sticks.

But the Stones blew the hosts' door down at the second time of asking, when Green released Eisa, and his electric pace had the beating of the Dartford defence before he slotted past Ibrahim.

Immediately the league leaders responded, as Elliot Bradbrook's scuffed shot fell for Alfie Pavey to level up.

Green turned goalscorer from the next attack, finishing off Luke Williams' pass with a superb first touch and finish. There were just 13 minutes on the clock.

Dartford were rocked, but were handed a slice of fortune when Jonathan North's clearance under pressure struck Warren Mfula and rebounded back off the post - but fortunately for Wealdstone, away to safety.

The second half was always going to be tricky and Pavey struck again after North misjudged a long-range free-kick, before turning the game on its head through Andy Pugh,



Abobaker Eisa added to his impressive tally with three goals in two games across the week for Wealdstone. Picture: AQUEOUS SUN PHOTOGRAPHY

who held off Taofiq Olomowewe and fired Dartford in front.

The Stones' fighting spirit, which has helped them recover from a poor start to the season, was exemplified in the final minutes, when Eisa wriggled into the box before he was tripped.

Up stepped Green to complete a brace, beating Ibrahim despite the

goalkeeper's despairing dive the right way, and earning a deserved point in the final minute of normal time to lift his side up to 11th in the table.

**Wealdstone:** North, Oshodi, Sellers, Olomowewe, Day, Cox, Williams (Fitchett 85), Okimo, Tiriyaki, Green, Eisa. Subs not used: Goodger, Ngamvoulou, Brown, Whichelow.

## Two more defeats for Harrow

SEVEN LOSSES IN A ROW FOR STEVE BAKER'S BELEAGUERED HARROW

HARROW'S awful losing run now stretches to seven straight games thanks to a strike from Staines Town's Elliott Buchanan in the third minute of injury time on Tuesday night, which inflicted a 2-1 defeat on Steve Baker's men at Earlsmead.

A 4-3 defeat at home to Dorking Wanderers had preceded the mid-week heartbreak, where the Boro, to their credit, did come close to turning around a three-goal deficit through Kurtis Cumberbatch, Ryan Moss and Michael Bryan, before Chris Boulter fired in a rebound winner for the visitors.

Things looked better on Tuesday, at least, as Harrow kept Staines at arms' length before the break and took the lead 13 minutes after it when Shaun Preddie picked up a loose ball and fired beyond the goalkeeper with a fine finish into the far corner.

More than a month had passed since Harrow last scored first, and they were evidently unsure quite how to handle it.

But they did keep their advantage for 22 minutes, until Buchanan headed in Max Worsfold's perfect cross to level.

And that was where the tide turned. All of a sudden Staines were dominating and got their reward when in the last minute of added time, Tayo Davies-Coker's tackle rebounded to Buchanan, and the league's top scorer was never going to miss.

Billericay are next up for Harrow on Saturday.

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