

SPORT

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FOOTBALL: Stones beat second-placed Braintree Wealdstone closing in on promotion spots with win

By Ron Walker

WEALDSTONE moved within four points of second-placed visitors Braintree Town with a 3-1 win.

Taoñiq Olomowewe, Dan Fitchett and Danny Green put them into a comfortable lead before Joe Ellul's second-half strike restored an air of competition to the encounter.

The Stones were ahead inside eight minutes through Olomowewe's opener, and after Fitchett added a second it appeared Green had wrapped up victory 36 seconds following the restart.

Jonathan North was in fine form to keep the visitors at bay but with 25 minutes to go was finally beaten from a corner.

Three changes, all enforced, were made to the side which won at Chelmsford last week, with Luke Williams, Glenn Wilson and Fitchett all starting.

The opener came in calamitous fashion, with a Wealdstone corner cleared to Ryan Sellers and his shot cannoning off Olomowewe to wrong-foot Nathan McDonald.

Braintree could have levelled but North pulled off a superb save to

divert Karl Oliyide's header over the bar in response.

That save proved a defining moment as Wealdstone doubled their advantage within a minute.

A long ball caught out the visiting defence and Fitchett snuck in to stroke in a second.

Fitchett had another sight of goal before the break but once his shot was saved, Sellers somehow turned the rebound wide with the goal gaping and a chance to seal the win so presentable.

The dangerous two-goal cushion remained at the break, but Wealdstone added a third just after half-time. Green fired in the rebound from Sellers' cross with a composed finish, and that seemed that.

North made another excellent save from Ricky Gabriel but was finally beaten after the hour mark, when Ellul rose highest from a corner, but it would prove the final chance of the game as Wealdstone shut out their visitors with ease.

WEALDSTONE: North, Olomowewe, Brown, Wilson, Day, Williams (Wellard 88), Sellers (Hippolyte-Patrick 80), Okimo, Fitchett (Goodger 80), Green, Eisa.

NOT USED: Benyon, Whichelow.

Harrow finally pick up victory

BOROUGH BEAT MET POLICE 3-0 WITH GOALKEEPER MINTER IN TOP FORM

HARROW finally put their poor form behind them to pick up a first win in 10 with a 3-0 win over Met Police.

The Boro opened up a two-goal cushion before the break, but were indebted to Melvin Minter's heroics in goal.

Charles Banyan squeezed in an opener following a good run, and Luke Williams then punched a Kurtis Cumberbatch corner into his own net.

Minter had to be in top form to keep the Police at bay and to put a cherry on a particularly sweet cake, Ryan Moss made it three in the sixth minute of stoppage time.

Harrow were, in fact, on the back foot from the off but took a fifth-minute lead when Banyan ran at the visiting defence, beat two men and fired in at the near post and beyond former Harrow goalkeeper Williams.

In response Minter made the first of many saves with a brave dive at Bayley Mummy's feet, before turning the follow-up round the post too.

It was soon two thanks to a slice of good fortune, when Cumberbatch's second delivery in succession was diverted goalwards by Williams.

Minter made another string of fine saves before the interval, and Shaun Preddie tracked back to make a vital block on the line when the custodian had been beaten.

Police searched for a comeback goal after half-time but it never arrived, and Harrow sealed a welcome victory.



Dan Fitchett celebrates his goal with the adoring crowd as Wealdstone moved two points from second place. Picture: AQUEOUS SUN PHOTOGRAPHY

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