

SPORT

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FOOTBALL: Stones through thanks to own goal

Wealdstone edge past Wingate in FA Trophy

By Ron Walker

WEALDSTONE will host phoenix Evo-Stik South side Hereford in the second round of the FA Trophy after overcoming local rivals Wingate and Finchley 1-0 in a closely-fought tie at Grosvenor Vale.

A much-changed side from the one beaten at Concord Rangers the week previously came close to leading inside 10 seconds, but Ryan Sellers' heavy touch let him down after rounding goalkeeper Shane Gore.

Jonathan North was the busier keeper before the break but five minutes after it Abobaker Eisa added to his growing collection of goal action with a cross that was turned into his own net by former Stone Sean Cronin.

Marc Charles-Smith should have secured a replay in added time but shot wide with the goal at his mercy.

Five changes followed the previous weekend's defeat, most of them enforced on Bobby Wilkinson, including a first start for Harry Goodger.

Eisa played in Sellers to round

the visiting goalkeeper, but a heavy touch took the ball out of play.

After that, Reece Beckles-Richard and Luke Ifil produced the chances of the first half for the Blues, but found North's goal impenetrable.

Sellers had another chance against his old club when his long-ranger clattered off Ahmet Rifat, but Gore had time to recover and tip over.

But he had no chance when another deflection beat him at his near post, as Eisa's cross struck Cronin and ended up in the back of the net.

After that, the game failed to liven up as a spectacle until injury time, when Cronin laid the ball off for Charles-Smith, but he somehow shot wide when perfectly placed.

And there was still time for Danny Green to nearly grab a second, only to see Gore palm his shot round the post.

On Saturday, the Stones host St Albans before travelling to Hampton on Boxing Day.

Wealdstone: North, Oshodi, Brown, Wilson, Day, Wellard (Ngamvoulou 62), Sellers, Cox, Goodger (Benyon 71), Green, Eisa. Subs not used: Olomowewe, Hippolyte-Patrick, Fitchett.



Abobaker Eisa lines up a shot in Wealdstone's 1-0 win over Wingate and Finchley at Grosvenor Vale on Saturday. Picture: AQUEOUS SUN PHOTOGRAPHY

Harrow thumped on home soil

BOROUGH INCONSISTENCY GOES ON AS THEY FALL TO HEAVY LEISTON LOSS

HARROW were crushed 5-0 at home by Leiston as their wild inconsistency continued in front of their own fans.

Steve Baker made one change from the side which beat Folkestone a week before, but it did not have the desired effect. Shaun Preddie moved back to centre-half but his presence in midfield was missed from the off.

The hosts held on despite concerted pressure in the opening 22 minutes, but then their resistance was finally breached from a corner by Tom Bullard.

Ryan Moss produced Harrow's first real chance just before the break but they fell two behind with the first half still not finished in comical fashion.

Melvin Minter was caught in possession and Christy Finch had the simple task of rolling the ball into an unguarded net.

The goalkeeper's head had gone, and it led to Leiston grabbing a third when his poor pass was picked up by Seb Dunbar, who crossed for Jack Ainsley to finish.

The visitors did not let up after the interval, when they got a fourth within nine minutes thanks to another from Ainsley.

Sahr Kabba fired wide before Minter redeemed himself with a great double save.

But it was five when substitute Jerome Trotter turned home a loose ball.

The Boro bounced back with a 1-0 London Senior Cup win over Haringey in midweek, travel to Tonbridge on Saturday and host Hendon on Boxing Day.

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