

SPORT

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FOOTBALL: Further progress on two fronts

Double celebration for Stones with cup wins

By Ron Walker

WEALDSTONE were up for the cup this week as they dispatched Hereford United and Hampton and Richmond Borough within three days of one another to progress in two competitions.

The Stones set up an FA Trophy third-round tie at home to Warrington Town by ending Hereford's 52-match unbeaten away streak at the weekend, needing only Ricky Wellard's 26th-minute header to progress 1-0.

In midweek the same scoreline settled their Middlesex Senior Cup quarter-final with Hampton, where Eddie Oshodi's fine goal allowed the hosts to exact some revenge for defeat in last year's final.

They will face Staines Town at Grosvenor Vale in the final four, but will be more excited about having a strong chance to move within two games of a Wembley final in the Trophy.

Their narrow win over the Bulls was helped by a red card for Dara O'Shea with only 14 minutes gone, earned for a clip on Matty Whichelow who would otherwise have

been one-on-one with the visiting goalkeeper.

The Stones have struggled to break down 10-man sides this season but they took full advantage this time, and within 12 minutes Wellard had nodded in Danny Green's cross to give them the lead.

Whichelow, Abobaker Eisa, Dan Fitchett and Mustafi Tiryaki missed chances to extend their advantage, but Jonathan North was left untroubled in the home goal as Wealdstone's progression was assured.

On Tuesday night, the Stones beat National League South rivals Hampton and Richmond Borough at Grosvenor Vale, as Oshodi looked more like Marc Overmars as he controlled Danny Green's free-kick on the turn before firing in off the post for the only goal of the game.

Sam Cox and Ashleigh Artwell, making his debut, forced saves out of Luke Sheldrick before the break but Josh Casey almost levelled up with the visitors' best chance.

But the Stones again showed their maturity to hold on, and are back in league action at Bognor Regis Town on Saturday.



Ricky Wellard rises to score the only goal of the game in Wealdstone's 1-0 win over Hereford United on Saturday. Picture: AQUEOUS SUN PHOTOGRAPHY

Harrow win late to rise from drop

BOROUGH BEAT BURGESS HILL TO MOVE FURTHER FROM DROP ZONE

BACK-TO-BACK wins have got Harrow Borough looking up the table for the first time in a long while, but on Saturday they couldn't take their eyes from the pitch during a 3-2 thriller at Burgess Hill.

George Moore proved the man of the hour to rescue a victory which had almost slipped from their grasp, despite opening up a two-goal lead inside six minutes.

Perhaps that good start was just a little too impressive, and as Burgess began to push back they crumbled before Moore's late goal.

Michael Bryan put the visitors ahead with only three minutes on the clock, by turning in Sahr Kabba's pass just inside the box.

And Ryan Moss doubled the advantage before Burgess had regained their bearings with a fine solo effort, cutting inside from wide on the right and beating the goalkeeper at the second attempt.

With half-an-hour gone the hosts hit back. Connor Tighe picked up a loose ball and smashed it low beyond Melvin Minter from the edge of the box.

They equalised just after the hour, following a long spell of pressure, when an unmarked Stephane Ngamvoulou headed in a free-kick.

But with eight minutes to go, Harrow averted any heartbreak as Moore curled in a brilliant winner at the near post from outside the box.

Harrow are now eight points clear of the bottom four, and visit Billericay on Saturday.

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