

# SPORT

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## Encouraging start to the season for Wealdstone

BOBBY Wilkinson's Wealdstone have enjoyed an unbeaten start to the National League South season, with Saturday's 4-1 win over Weston-super-Mare being backed up by a 1-1 draw with Hungerford Town in mid-week.

The Stones certainly weren't hanging about against Weston at the Vale, as they got off to a flying start when Stevenage loanee Joe White opened the scoring inside two minutes.

After White saw an effort hit the upright moments later, David Pratt would double the Stones' advantage in the sixth minute when he sent a low effort past the despairing dive of Luke Purnell.

The visitors pulled one back against the run of play 20 minutes later when some untypically lax defending allowed Eli Phipps to race through and poke past Jonathan North.

But that didn't stop Wealdstone's momentum and having struck the post from 30 yards, Bradley Hudson-Odoi would get his name on the scoresheet in his first match since returning to the Ruislip club when he burst forward and sent a low effort into the bottom corner.

Wilkinson's men had further chances to seal the victory before the break and they would start the second half in similar fashion, with

By Bradley Hayden

Purnell pulling off a superb save to deny Pratt.

But Pratt wouldn't be denied, as he notched his second of the game with five minutes remaining when he raced through and arrowed a low effort into the bottom corner to seal the win.

Pratt would get on the scoresheet again on Tuesday, as Wealdstone were held by Wilkinson's former team Hungerford thanks to a late penalty from Harvey Bradbury.

Danny Green brought the best out of Hungerford's Jokull Andresson early on, when the goalkeeper did superbly well to acrobatically tip over the midfielder's 30-yard-strike.

Pratt then notched his third goal of the season on the half-hour mark, as after his initial effort was well saved by Andresson, the Wealdstone striker reacted quickest to poke home at the second time of asking to hand Wilkinson's side the lead.

Hudson-Odoi then forced another good save from the Hungerford goalkeeper and the Stones would start the second half in similar fashion, with Green orchestrating chances for Connor Stevens, Wadah Ahmidi as well as Pratt within five minutes of the restart.



A Weston-Super-Mare player is sandwiched during Saturday's impressive win. Picture: GEOFF SMITH/TOP-PICTURE PHOTOGRAPHY

Wealdstone almost grabbed a second, but Hudson-Odoi's deflected free-kick was cleared off the line and the Stones' failure to increase their advantage proved to be costly, as Bradbury got Hungerford back on level terms from the spot after Conor Lynch was brought down by Godfrey Poku.

Hungerford almost nicked it right

at the death against the run of play when James Rusby's cross was headed toward his own goal by Stevens, but Wealdstone had North to thank after he pulled off a fine save to tip the ball around the post.

The Stones will be looking to build on their promising start to the season when they take on Billericay Town on Saturday.

## St Marys close gap on the top two

PROMOTION HOPES BOOSTED BUT HARROW TOWN SLUMP TO HEAVY LOSS

HARROW St Mary's closed the gap on the top two by just eight points after securing an impressive six-wicket victory against second-placed Enfield at Millhillians Sports Ground.

Capitalising, too, on a defeat for leaders Stanmore against Hornsey, third-placed Harrow are now just 12 points off top spot with the battle for the title a four-horse race heading into the final month of the season.

Enfield batted first but found the going tough as a rampant St Mary's attack reduced them to 17-3 with Kaleb Antony Auld (4-39) leading the way early on.

The visitors rebuilt things temporarily thanks to a half-century from Rehan Hassan (54 not out) and 30 from tail-ender Dan Amedee, but 3-30 from Syed Khawar Ali Kazmi helped skittle Enfield out for just 125.

In reply, it was Jaimit Patel who led the way with 63 to lead them to a crucial victory after 30 overs.

Harrow Town endured another tough weekend in Middlesex League Division Three as they slipped to a third successive defeat by 203 runs against basement dwellers South Hampstead.

Seventh-placed Town lost the toss and found the going tough as James Williams (103 not out) scored an unbeaten century to lead South Hampstead to 269-5; Sami Haider taking 3-65.

Harrow never threatened victory in reply as they collapsed to just 66 all out as Jamal Ahmed claimed 5-22.

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