

SPORT

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Chances in short supply as Stones pick up point

By Anthony Matthews

A LACK of quality in the final third was the determining factor for both sides as Wealdstone had to settle for a goalless draw at St Albans City on Saturday.

David Pratt fired Stones' best chance of the first half over at the end of the first half and Daniel Green was also off target after the break, with the point leaving Bobby Wilkinson's men 11th in the National League South table.

The Stones boss made four changes to the side that lost 3-0 to Eastbourne Borough the previous week. Jonathan North made his expected return between the posts, while Joe Payne, Jake Sheppard and Monakana also started ahead of Glenn Wilson, Bradley Hudson-Odoi and Fumnaya Shomotun.

The visitors started the better with a free-kick from Sheppard and a cross from Rhys Tyler testing goalkeeper Dean Snedker in the first 10 minutes. Pratt worked tirelessly with balls guided into the channels and a drive from Monakana was troublesome for Ben Herd.

Such was the visitors' effort, St Albans failed to create anything of note in the opening 30 min-

utes. And when Percy Kiangebeni finally mustered an attempt for the home side, it was greeted with ironic applause from their fans.

Stones' best chance of the opening period was to arrive shortly before the break when Sheppard saw his low shot blocked by the legs of Snedker. The rebound fell for Pratt on the edge of the box, but he was unable to adjust his feet and scooped his effort over the target.

St Albans improved markedly after the break, with David Moyo curling a shot over and Herd flashing a dangerous ball across the six-yard box.

The game became more open as the minutes counted down, with both sides looking to capitalise on loose balls. One such incident saw Green race down the right, but he decided not to release Monakana and instead fired over the target.

Kiangebeni was inches away at the other end and St Albans were to dominate the closing stages, almost snatching the win with four minutes remaining when substitute Khale Da-Costa sprinted to the by-line and flashed in a cross but neither Moyo or Sam Merson could turn home from eight yards.



Stones' eyes are fixed firmly on the ball as Sam Merson goes close with a header for St Albans.
Picture: LEIGH PAGE

Heavy loss and a large cup victory

A ROLLERCOASTER four days saw Harrow Borough recover from a 7-0 drubbing at league leaders Taunton Town after having three players sent off to thump North Greenford United 9-3 in the Middlesex Senior Charity Cup on Tuesday night.

Saturday's trip to the Southern League Premier Division South leaders had been looked forward to, but by half-time the contest was all over as Harrow left the field two goals down but, more significantly, reduced to eight men due to a mixture of indiscipline and very questionable refereeing.

Those remaining Borough players managed to limit their hosts to five more goals when they could easily have been on the receiving end of a double-figure defeat after Mitchal Gough, George Fenton and Anthony O'Connor had all seen red before the interval.

Tuesday's cup clash didn't start well for Borough either, as the Spartan South Midlands outfit took a second-minute lead.

Harrow were soon back on terms though, as Frank Keita equalised and the visitors were to take control before the interval through Ryan Haugh, Ryan Moss and Lewis Cole, before North Greenford scored a second to make it 4-2 at the break.

However, the tie was all over by the 53rd minute thanks to an eight-minute burst that saw O'Connor score twice and Cole net his second to make it 7-2.

North Greenford netted a third with 10 minutes remaining, but O'Connor was to complete his hat-trick with a penalty before Ahmed Elshihb made it nine.

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