

SPORT

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ETEFE header makes it eight on the bounce



Michee Etefe's header extended Wealdstone's lead at the top of the National League South to seven points.

Picture: Adam Williams

Mixed cup results for Borough

FA CUP JOY FOLLOWED BY MIDWEEK DEFEAT



Harrow Borough won one cup game and lost another.

Harrow Borough were knocked out of the CSS League Challenge Cup at the preliminary round stage following a 3-2 loss away at Beaconsfield Town. Lewis Cole scored either side of half-time for Borough, putting them ahead and then levelling the game at 2-2, but a goal for the hosts 10 minutes from time ended their cup exploits at the first opportunity.

Harrow settled into the game quicker and took the lead after only 15 minutes when Cole tricked his way past a defender and fired into the far corner beyond Myles Bowman. Beaconsfield drew level on the half-hour mark though, as Loui Fazakerley played a neat one-two before clipping the ball over Hafeed Al-Droubi.

The home side took the lead later in the second half when Jordan Ajanlekoko made amends for a miss moments before by running clear of the defence and slotting home. Borough showed their grit towards the end to level once more through Cole who struck low past the keeper, but Beaconsfield edged ahead just four minutes later with what proved to be the winner - Tre Mitford drawing Al-Droubi out before flicking the ball over him and in.

There was, however, cup success for Borough on Saturday as they beat Binfield 5-0 in the FA Cup first qualifying round.

Michael Bryan's penalty opened the scoring and was added to by a George Moore before the break, and two goals for Anthony O'Connor in the second half came either side of another Moore strike to seal their passage.

Steve Baker's side will now face Isthmian League Premier Division side Carshalton Athletic in the second qualifying round later this month.

Late goal extends run

WEALDSTONE'S remarkable start to the National League South campaign continued on Saturday with a late 1-0 win over Oxford City.

Michee Etefe notched the only goal with seven minutes to go to extend the Stones' lead at the top to seven points over Havant & Waterlooville with a record of nine wins and one loss from the opening 10 matches.

Both sides demonstrated good attacking intent in a fast-paced opening period, although it was the hosts who came the closest to opening the scoring early on when Jacob Mendy fired towards goal, only to be denied by Harry Isted's save.

Oxford's response was to go even closer on 21 minutes when Josh Ashby's free-kick looked to be heading for the top corner, but Aston Oxborough managed to get a hand to it to tip over the bar.

Despite the let-off, Wealdstone were still looking the more likely to break the deadlock, although Oxford were compact in their defence and kept out the lively duo of Billy Clifford and Danny Green

By Nat Goodlad

until the half-time break.

A speedy start to the second period almost saw the Stones draw first blood when Green chested the ball down for Mendy to fire narrowly over.

With the game still goalless going into the latter stages, Wealdstone were resorting to long-range efforts in an attempt to edge ahead. It almost paid off, but substitute Phil Roberts saw his shot from just about the halfway line fall agonisingly wide of the post.

The mounting pressure from the Stones finally told late on though, and it turned out to be a simple goal as Etefe rose above the Oxford defence to head Green's corner past Isted, sending the home fans wild as they celebrated an eighth straight victory.

They will look to protect that record away from home this weekend when the side travel to mid-table Welling United.

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