

SPORT

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LATE goal knocks Wealdstone out of FA Trophy



The Stones suffered a shock home defeat in the FA Trophy on Saturday.

Picture: MontImage Media

Struggles at home continue

HARROW SUFFER ANOTHER LOSS IN OWN BACK YARD



Borough suffered another defeat at Earlsmead.

HARROW Borough fell to a fifth home defeat in six after a 1-0 loss against Wimborne Town on Saturday. Magpies' substitute Aidan Shephard's well-taken 69th minute strike condemned Harrow to a familiar feeling at the Earlsmead Stadium. On a wet afternoon in north-west London, it was the visitors who dominated the opening exchanges, with Curtis Young and Sam Bayston both having efforts on goal saved by Hafeed Al-Droubi.

Harrow's first chance fell to Lewis Cole, whose 20-yard drive was held by on-loan Bournemouth keeper Cameron Plain.

Luke Burbidge almost broke the deadlock for Wimborne but he shot wide after being pressured by multiple Harrow defenders as the sides went in level at the break.

Al-Droubi was forced into another save after the restart from Bayston before Jordan Ireland blasted over from the edge of the box for the hosts in a tight encounter.

Both dugouts opted to make changes in the 66th minute as Harrow changed to a back four when introducing Joakim Ehui to the fray, however it was the visitors' substitute who made the greater impact.

Just three minutes after coming on, Shephard made himself some space 20 yards from goal and fired a low shot into the bottom left-hand corner past the helpless Al Droubi.

Harrow pushed for an equaliser late-on, coming closest through Cole's shot from a tight angle, which flashed across goal and was inches away from the foot of substitute Ehui.

Defeat leaves Borough in 12th place, although their position is somewhat false due to sides below them playing less games.

Stones suffer shock exit

WEALDSTONE crashed out of the FA Trophy third qualifying round with a shock 3-2 home defeat against Southern Premier Central side Royston Town on Saturday.

Brandon Adams and Josh Castiglione gave the visitors a surprise 2-0 lead at the break.

Stones boss Dean Brennan wrung the changes in the second half and they got themselves on level terms with goals from Ross Lafayette and Jerome Okimo.

However, six minutes from time Adams struck his second and Royston's third to send the underdogs through to the first round.

Royston went ahead in the 11th minute when Luke Warner-Eley whipped in a teasing cross to an unmarked Adams who nodded into the far corner.

The visitors maintained their attacking intent and added a second on the half-hour mark through Castiglione's powerful drive into the roof of the net following Matt Bateman's flick on.

Brennan brought on forwards Jacob

Mendy and Dejon Noel-Williams at half-time and new signing Jack Jebb shortly after in the hopes of turning the tide in Wealdstone's favour.

The hosts were eventually given a route back into the game on the hour when Lewis took on his man and crossed for Lafayette, who volleyed in from close range.

Royston almost restored their two-goal advantage minutes later when Bateman headed onto Castiglione, who rounded Stones keeper Jonathan North and squared the ball back to Bateman for an open goal, but midfielder Michael Phillips did superbly to make a last-ditch challenge.

Wealdstone continued to pile on the pressure and were level 11 minutes from time as Billy Clifford's corner was punched straight to Okimo, who smashed the ball home.

With the Stones pushing for the winner, they were hit by a sucker punch when Claudio Ofosu crossed to Adams and he kept his composure to grab the winner.

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