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MAYNARD celebrates taking ‘incredible’ scalp



Wealdstone celebrate scoring their second goal during their win against Yeovil Town

Picture: Jon Tafel

Stones beat Yeovil to boost survival hopes

WEALDSTONE gave their National League survival hopes a major boost with a 2-1 home win against Yeovil.

Josh Umerah and Nikola Tavares gave Wealdstone a 2-0 half-time lead and although Yeovil responded through Dale Gorman's second-half effort, the home side held on.

Umerah was first to react after Ira Jackson's blocked shot had rebounded to him in the box and gave Wealdstone a 38th-minute lead with a close-range finish.

Tavares struck a second six minutes later, poking home from Jerome Okimo's flick-on after Yeovil had failed to clear a corner.

By Ryan Gray

The visitors got themselves back into it just after the hour-mark when Gorman converted from the penalty spot after he had been fouled by Medy Elito.

Wealdstone saw the game out for just their second win in nine league matches, while Yeovil have now notched only one victory in eight.

After the match Stones boss Stuart Maynard described the victory as a “scalp” given where Yeovil Town were in the not-too-distant past.

“It was a deserved victory,” he

told the club YouTube channel “We had a couple of good efforts early doors and I thought we probably deserved to get one of them. And then Charlie Wakefield gets a chance and to be fair George [Wickens] has made a good save with his feet, which was a good save, but it's routine and you expect him to save them for us.

“I thought when we conceded the penalty, we sank back a little bit too deep. But that happens naturally. It went a little bit touchy in the crowd and touchy for everyone but it looks unbelievable when eight to 10 years ago, these were a Championship side. So for our club to come and

get a scalp like this is incredible and the lads have put an unbelievable shift in.”

Stones made several squad changes in the week building up to the game, but Maynard feels that overall his team is stronger now than it was before.

“We needed to bring a few bodies in because we've got a really busy period now coming up,” he said. “We're kind of playing Tuesday, Saturday, Tuesday, Saturday, now and we're going to need the squad. We've not brought them in to replace players, we've brought them in to strengthen the squad and get competition for places, which you could see tonight.”

Two in two out for Wealdstone

STONES ANNOUNCE SOME ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES



Connor Stevens

Picture: Jon Tafel

WEALDSTONE added two new players to their squad earlier this week after two others departed the club.

Connor Stevens joined National League rivals Boreham Wood for an undisclosed fee, while Craig Fasanmade made the switch to National League South side Hemel Hempstead Town.

Speaking about Stevens' departure, Stones boss Stuart Maynard told the club website: “Connor only had a few months left on his contract and once he had expressed a desire to leave, it was about getting the best deal for the club and I think the chairman [Rory Fitzgerald] has achieved that with a decent fee for the player.

“We also feel in Jack Cook, Jerome Okimo, Nikola Tavares, Connor McAvo and Jaydn Mundle-Smith that we have plenty of cover at centre-half. They helped keep seven of the eight clean sheets this season whilst Connor was out injured. We of course wish Connor better luck with injury at his new club.

“I'd like to personally thank Connor for his big role in helping get us promoted to the National League in a season that will never be forgotten. He'll always be welcome back at The Vale.”

Meanwhile, midfielder Nathan Ferguson arrived on a free transfer following his release from National League rivals Southend United and 18-year-old midfielder Aaron Henry joined Wealdstone on a one-month youth loan from Charlton Athletic.