

# SPORT

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**LEADERS'** quality prevails as they battle back to win



Stones celebrate Aaron Henry putting them 2-0 to the good

Picture: Jon Taffel

## Stones' effort praised after County defeat

A PROUD Stuart Maynard admitted Wealdstone "were dead on our feet" after an hour as Stockport County showed the qualities that have taken them to the top of the National League by coming from 2-0 down to win 4-2 on Saturday.

Jack Cook and Aaron Henry had handed the visitors what appeared a commanding 2-0 lead at the break, only for their hosts to come storming back after the break.

Paddy Madden sparked the comeback with a penalty and then teed up Ryan Johnson to level the clash.

Ashley Palmer buried Antoni Sarcevic's corner to hand

By Anthony Matthews

the home side the lead, before Sarcevic himself tapped home to complete a fine turnaround and give County their eighth successive league win.

Stones boss Maynard told the club's YouTube channel: "The lads stuck to the game plan and we got our reward from it in the first half.

"We said to them for the first 15 minutes you've got to really dig deep, they'll come out of the traps, they're athletic, they want to run all over you, they want to get it down the sides

and cross the ball and the lads put their bodies on the line in that defensive box.

"We knew we'd get moments on the break, you go 2-0 up, go in at half-time but you know that the job's not done. We knew that we'd need a similar level of intensity in the second half.

"I want to see the penalty back because it looks like it hits his head and then hits his hand and it's very harsh, but it changes the game. It's eight minutes into the second half, you concede that goal and then the atmosphere here...it's hard to contain them, really hard."

Maynard believes Stockport will win the league and can con-

tinue their success in League Two and are at a level his charges should aspire to reach.

He said: "In the 88th minute Paddy Madden is sliding on the halfway line when they're 4-2 up. Their intensity and their desire to win a game of football is incredible, but I'm hugely proud of our lads for the effort they put in.

"We were dead on our feet once we got to the 60th minute and I said to the lads after in the huddle that's where you as a young group have got to aim if you want to have a career in the game and play higher. That's the levels you've got to aim to get to."

## Cherries trial for keeper

**BOURNEMOUTH GIVE DRAZIC A GREAT OPPORTUNITY**



Lovre Drazic

Picture: Harrow Borough

A YOUNG Harrow Borough goalkeeper may be set to follow in the footsteps of predecessors Nick Pope and James Shea after being offered a trial with Bournemouth.

Lovre Drazic has been in fine form for the club's Under-23s this season and also performed well when standing in for Josh Strizovic earlier in the campaign.

He caught the Cherries' eye when playing for Under-23s manager Godfrey Torto's AG Academy last month and the Premier League promotion hopefuls have now given Drazic an opportunity to show what he can do.

Borough suffered a seventh successive away league defeat on Saturday when they were beaten 2-1 at Tiverton Town. Both sides struggled on a bobbly surface that was not conducive to passing football and the level of entertainment suffered as a result.

The home side went in front in the 27th minute when Jordan Lam slid in to convert Theo Simpson's low cross from the left.

That advantage was doubled 16 minutes after the restart when the Harrow defence went missing, allowing Dan Hayfield to run onto a pass, round Strizovic and score with ease.

Borough spurned an excellent opportunity to halve the deficit with 15 minutes remaining when George Moore was brought down in the box, but James Ewington's penalty was superbly saved by Lewis Williams.

However, Ewington was quickly presented with another opportunity to score from the spot after a Moore shot hit Joe Belsten on the arm, and this time the Harrow forward made no mistake. This gave Borough more than ten minutes of normal time to find an equaliser, but it was their opponents who offered the main attacking threat for the remainder of the contest.