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FOOTBALL: Late winner on first day of season



Wealdstone celebrate Jaydn Mundle-Smith's late winner against York City. Image: Jon Taffel

Exciting times says Stones boss Maynard

WEALDSTONE boss Stuart Maynard admitted it was 'exciting times' to win their first game of the 2023-24 National League season.

Stones came from behind to beat 10-man York City in front of a crowd of 1,805 at Grosvenor Vale last weekend, thanks to a late winner from Jaydn Mundle-Smith.

And Maynard's men will look to build on that success when they head to Eastleigh for their next test on Saturday (3pm).

"When you're looking at the start of the season, to build any momentum it takes time," Maynard told the club website.

"Last season we weren't at our most fluent best, I thought we ac-

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tually played well in possession today but it takes a bit of time.

"It's exciting times to come away with a win in the first game, to put points on the board and that's the main thing for us."

Stones had the first chance of the game when Tahvon Campbell saw his effort blocked on 10 minutes.

But York's Daniel Pybus had two good chances around the half-hour mark, firing the first into the hands of Jed Ward and seeing another deflected just wide.

The Minstermen broke the dead-

lock on 39 minutes when Lennell John-Lewis saw a scuffed attempt fall kindly for Dipo Akinyemi to find the corner of the net.

But Stones were back on terms on the hour when they awarded a penalty for handball and substitute Max Kretzschmar fired into the top corner.

Maynard sent Corie Andrews on for Campbell in the final quarter of an hour and he was brought down by Callum Howe, who was sent off.

Stones made it count on 87 minutes as Kretzschmar played a reverse pass to Mundle-Smith on the left and he smashed his shot into the top corner.

"I thought it was a really entertaining game, a real good football-

ing game," added Maynard.

"They tried to play as well, we tried to play.

"I thought in the first half we both got in similar areas and Dipo, the lad they've brought in, was just on the spot and tucked it away.

"It's a really good start to the season."

Eastleigh took the lead at Solihull Moors through Enzio Boldewijn on Saturday but had to settle for a point after conceding an injury-time goal to Kyle Morrison, after the hosts had seen Nico Gordon sent off in the last minute of normal time.

Wealdstone head to Bromley, beaten 2-0 at Halifax in their opener, on Tuesday (August 15, 7.45pm).

Heartbreak for Harrow boss Berry

OPENING LEAGUE GAME ENDS IN DEFEAT AFTER INJURY-TIME DOUBLE

IT was late, late heartbreak for new Harrow boss Jordan Berry as two goals deep into stoppage time saw Totton return to Hampshire with all the points after a 2-1 opening day victory at the Rogers Family Stadium, writes Brian Walter.

Harrow – with nine debutants in their starting line-up – settled faster and edged a first half where clear-cut chances were at a premium.

And the home side took the lead in the final minute of the first half when the lively Reece Mitchell thundered a left-footed shot into the net from eight yards, after good work from Lonit Talla.

The second half was evenly fought, until Harrow substitute Ross Oulton was shown a straight red card, adjudged to have caught Charlie Kennedy with his elbow in the 71st minute – only eight minutes after coming on.

The remainder of the match was played with every Harrow player behind the ball and Totton thought they had equalised in the 87th minute, only for Rendall's header to be ruled offside.

Totton's pressure finally paid off in the 97th minute, though, when Charlie Kennedy finished from close range at the far post and a draw would have perhaps been the fairest result on the day.

However, there was still time for Totton to snatch a winner in the 99th minute, when Matty Burrows fired a low shot through a crowd of exhausted Harrow players, that deflected past Tobin and into the net.

"Very gutting to be on the end of it, especially where I thought the game was finished," said Berry.

"A point wouldn't have been the worst thing in the world.

"To lose it at the late stages like we did is the most frustrating and gutting thing.

"But really positive, not in the result, but in terms of the atmosphere and feel-good factor around the place.

"I really enjoyed it. You could hear the noise behind the dugout.

"We spoke about trying to get a bit of momentum."

Harrow head to Dorchester Town on Saturday, before hosting Walton & Hersham on Tuesday.

Harrow: Tobin, Mirtahmasebi, Misikin, Powell, Yorke, Vernal, Muhemba, Ibrahim (Oulton 63), Cameron (Polley 75), Talla (Mbele 75), Mitchell. Unused subs: Nyarko, Walters.