

SPORT

Read the latest sports news at
harrowtimes.co.uk/sport

FOOTBALL: Double defeat on Bank Holiday



Sean Adarka is closely marked by Dagenham & Redbridge rival Nik Tavares. Image: Jon Taffel

Wealdstone will stick together says Maynard

WEALDSTONE boss Stuart Maynard says they cannot dwell on their double disappointment over the Bank Holiday weekend.

Stones suffered their first loss of the National League season at Aldershot on Saturday and followed it with a 2-0 home reverse against Dagenham & Redbridge on Monday.

But Maynard says they will stick together as they prepare to make the long trip to Hartlepool United this weekend. "I don't think you can dwell on the results. I talk about this league being relentless and it is," he told the club website.

"You look at our start to the season, we probably should've had maximum points up until Aldershot and now we've lost two on the bounce.

By Lee Power
lee.power@newsquest.co.uk
Twitter @Recorder_Power

"You can't get too high when you're winning and playing the way we've been playing, and you can't get too low now.

"We've got to stick together as a group and we will do."

Stones fell behind to a Ryan Glover goal at Aldershot, then saw Josh Stokes net twice before Sean Adarka's reply.

A deflected Ryan Hill shot put Dagenham & Redbridge ahead early in the second half at Grosvenor Vale, before Omar Mussa's shot beat Jed Ward late on to earn the visitors their second win of the weekend, having beaten leaders Barnet two days earlier.

"I feel sorry for Jed [Ward]. He's made an unbelievable save in the first half, that's kept it at 0-0," added Maynard.

"And because we don't take our chances, he makes a mistake and it kind of kills the game. But he's actually not had a bad game. But he'll bounce back, he's got a great character and he's a top goalie.

"As much as we controlled the game with the ball, we always felt they had that threat on the break.

"They're a good team. They're probably in a false league position for the way they've started this season but that is this league."

Defeat left Stones in 12th place, with eight points from six matches, and they visit fourth-placed Hartlepool who saw a four-match winning run ended by a 3-2

loss at Chesterfield on Monday.

And Maynard says his men have to dust themselves down and bounce back, adding: "You can't expect every week to keep opening teams up and creating five, six, seven clear chances.

"Today was probably the first time we've got into really good areas and had good moments, but there's not been enough on it.

"[Nathan] Ferguson got to the byline and stood it up and no-one is coming in at the back post. We had moments like that in the first half and I thought we were in total control.

"There's no way we should lose that game of football, at worst we should be coming away with a point, but it catches up with you, when you don't take your chances. But we go again."

Harrow can draw on a derby point

HARROW had to settle for a point from their Southern League Premier South derby at Hendon on Bank Holiday Monday after a 2-2 draw.

Jordan Berry made one change from Saturday's 4-2 home loss to Poole, with Elliott Poley in for Prince Kandolo as a third centre-back partner for Reece Yorke in six games.

Hendon included two of last season's Harrow squad in their team, Sam Adenola and Billy Leonard, and saw Matt Kerbey save with his legs to deny Excellence Muhemba on seven minutes. Harrow saw Barsa Mirtahmasebi limp off on 21 minutes and Tristan Vernal came on at centre-back, with Poley moving to right-back.

But Borough took the lead on 28 minutes when Lonit Talla found Muhemba on the edge of the box with an exquisite pass and he played it to his left to Harlem Hale, who saw his first shot parried by Kerbey but tapped in the rebound from five yards.

Having held a lead for three minutes at Poole, Harrow were pegged back four minutes later by their neighbours when a cross from the left saw Vernal, under pressure from Joe White, head into his own net from six yards.

Harrow regained the lead four minutes later, though, as Tyler Tobin's long free-kick from his own six-yard box was flicked on by Muhemba and Talla ran in behind the Hendon defence to finish right-footed past Kerbey.

Hendon pressed for another equaliser and were nearly rewarded in first half stoppage time when Leonard hit the outside of the post with a volley from the edge of the box.

And they had a chance to draw level just before the hour when skipper White ran onto a through ball inside the Harrow box, tempting Yorke to make a tackle, and went down over an outstretched leg. The linesman put his flag across his chest for a penalty, but the referee awarded a free-kick outside the box which came to nothing.

Harrow brought on Richie Mbele and Antonio Dembele for Reece Mitchell and Hale, with Muhemba's move to the left seeming to take away from the attacking threat.

The visitors were soaking up a fair bit of pressure but finally cracked in the 72nd minute when a cross from the Hendon left eventually saw the ball reach White on the edge of the area and his shot through a crowd, deflected off the foot of Poley, wrongfooting Tobin to find the net.

Yorke won countless headers and made a couple of last-ditch blocks during some desperate defending by Harrow, while Muhemba had a late half chance from Talla's pass as it ended all square.

Harrow host Bracknell Town in the FA Cup first qualifying round on Saturday.