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Alex Dyer battles for the ball during Wealdstone's 1-1 draw with Oldham Athletic at Grosvenor Vale. Image: Jon Taffel

## Wealdstone bitterly disappointed - Dyer

WEALDSTONE'S Alex Dyer admitted they were bitterly disappointed to lose at Gateshead in midweek.

Having claimed a point from a 1-1 draw with Oldham Athletic on Saturday, Stones saw Jed Ward deny the hosts with some fine saves in the North East.

And the visitors took a 72nd-minute lead when Tarryn Allarakhia netted, only for Connor McBride to level just four minutes later and then clinch a 2-1 win with a 25-yard effort.

"We're bitterly disappointed with the result," Dyer told the club social media.

"They're probably one of the best teams in the league I would say, who we've played so far.

"Playing at their ground is tough, they keep the ball well, they move it well, they really test you in all areas and I thought we really stood up to the test.

"Jed had moments where he kept us in the game, which is what he's good at and what helped us a lot.

"We were dangerous when we had

spells, we got counters and scored a goal at a good time but just small moments and margins and they were clinical when they needed to be. The boys, to a man, put everything into it."

Ward denied Greg Olley, Marcus Dinanga and McBride with a string of first-half saves, while Dyer saw a low shot kept out by Archie Mair after the restart.

Micah Obiero glanced an Allarakhia cross wide, before bursting forward to tee up the substitute for the opener.

But McBride's late brace sent Stones on their long journey back to London empty-handed.

"We are who we are, we're part-time and we're fighting that battle every week, but we never use that as an excuse to our performances and results," added Dyer.

"That's a credit to ourselves and the professionalism of the group. It's hard when you travel as far as we do and to have football and work to balance is

tough, but we put everything in and sometimes in football the margins don't go your way.

"The bottom line is they're a good side and they were clinical when they needed to be.

"It's gutting when you score the first goal, fairly late on, it's horrible not to come out with anything.

"When you factor in, Tuesday night, it's a tough game, the crowd get behind them, to come away with a point would've been great.

"We can manage games better, sometimes you've got to hold your hands up. They had quite a few chances, Jed has made some good saves for us, but when it mattered they put the ball in the back of the net."

Stones are back on the road on Saturday as they travel to Kidderminster and Dyer believes they will start to get their due rewards.

"Between the boxes, we're one of the top sides in the league in my opinion,"

he said.

"Results are based on what you do in both boxes. What matters are those moments where you can get that last-minute block or hit the corner rather than missing the target.

"Saturday we had a lot of shots but only a couple on target. That's where the differences are made and if we want to take ourselves to the next level they're the things we need to focus on.

"We're in a good place, we're confident, the staff give us a good gameplan for every game, we have full faith in everyone.

"We made four or five changes to the team to freshen up and everyone came in and did the job they were scheduled to do.

"We've got full faith in our squad and the management team and club and know that over a long period of time, when your performances are as well-rounded as ours are, the results will start to swing in our favour."

## Harrow face FA Trophy date after Darts defeat

HARROW Borough host Margate in the FA Trophy third qualifying round on Saturday.

Jordan Berry's men were knocked out of the London Senior Cup by National League South side Dartford last weekend, after a 1-0 defeat at Princes Park.

Both teams used the fixture to rest first-team regulars, as Tyler Tobin took the captain's armband in the absence of Reece Yorke and Harrow gave a debut to Tarik Gidaree from the under-23s.

Harry Seabrook could not keep a free header down from a corner in the 18th minute, but Ross Oulton was cautioned in the 20th minute for a foul on the edge of the Harrow box.

Dartford began to dominate and on 26 minutes, Boulton saw a deflected shot punched clear by Tobin.

The hosts nearly took the lead on the half-hour mark when Barzey intercepted Prince Kandolo's back pass, but Seabrook deflected his shot behind and Jaden Sharman headed off the line from the resultant corner.

The only goal came on 40 minutes when Altintop cut in from the right and crossed into the six-yard box where Prince Kandolo, with an attacker close by, turned the ball into his own net. Harrow started the second half strongly and missed a golden chance to level on 51 minutes when a quick counter led to a 3-on-1.

Troy Walters had the ball on the left, with Lonit Talla unmarked in the centre of the pitch, and carried the ball into the penalty area before cutting it back for Gidaree, whose shot from a tight angle was easily smothered by Wray in the home goal.

Talla, Excellence Muhemba and Gidaree caused a lot of problems on the Harrow right, while Stefan Powell created a shooting chance inside the area in the 64th minute but fired over.

Both sides made five substitutions and play became quite scrappy, before Barzey turned and sliced inches wide on 70 minutes.

Gidaree went on a powerful run past several defenders soon after but his pass for Reece Cameron was intercepted at full stretch by a defender.

Tobin did well to come out and save at the feet of Barzey, before Muhemba shot wide from the right side of the six-yard box, but for all their pressure and getting into numerous goal scoring positions, the only real save Wray had to make came on 85 minutes when he spared the blushes of Altintop.

Muhemba was on the end of a ferocious tackle from Miller-Rodney late on and Borough pushed everyone into the box for a free-kick in stoppage time, but it was cleared with ease before Barzey curled wide with the last kick of the game.