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## FOOTBALL: Home double after FA Cup exit



Max Kretschmar celebrates scoring for Wealdstone at Bromley. Image: Jon Taffel

# Wealdstone must stick together says Maynard

WEALDSTONE boss Stuart Maynard says they have to stick together and go again after exiting the FA Cup at the weekend, writes Lee Power.

Stones lost 3-2 at National League rivals Bromley after a fourth qualifying round tie of two halves on Saturday.

And they return to league action with back-to-back home games against Boreham Wood on Saturday and Oxford City on Tuesday.

"The fans were excellent. We didn't exactly give them anything to cheer about," Maynard told the club website. "When they go 3-0 up it's very hard to get behind the team and back them."

"But in the second half, when we got one back and then two back, I thought the fans were excellent and I appreciate them clapping the lads off.

"We've got to stick together now, we're in a tough little period, we've been in them season in, season out since we've been in this league, there's tough periods every year for a club like us, when you're in this high level. "We've just got to stick together and go again next weekend."

Stones were 2-0 down inside 20 minutes as Alex Kirk and Michael Cheek struck for the hosts.

And Ben Krauhaus added a third just past the half-hour mark to leave them with a mountain to climb.

"We knew their threats from the set-piece, but the frustration is that we should score," added Maynard.

"Micah [Obiero] should score probably a minute before and they go up the other end and score and it's a suck-

er punch.

"When you're low in confidence and the lads are after the last few results that's what happens. But you've got to stay in the game and it's frustrating.

"A lot of it is experience. When you go 1-0 down, it's that experience on the pitch to make sure you see that half out, you don't concede another goal.

"To a degree it doesn't matter how you play within that first half, you've just got to make sure you see it out.

"We didn't do that and when you're 3-0 down at half-time it's a tough ask to try and get back in the game."

Max Kretschmar hit back nine minutes into the second half, but Nathan Ferguson's injury-time effort was little consolation.

"All we could ask of them when they come out for the second half" was to make sure you win the second half," said Maynard.

"If we'd got that goal a little bit earlier it's game on. That's what can happen in the cup.

"It's a frustrating day for everyone at the club because once again we're out of the cup.

"It's a competition, us as a management team, wanted to do well and go as far as we could in.

"We can't ask any more of the lads. They've give their all, that's all we can ask of them.

"But we've got to go again, two home games, we've got to look at the positives, we've got a young group and we've got to back them."

## Harrow held to draws by lowly rivals

### BOTTOM TWO BOTH HIT BACK FOR SHARE OF THE SPOILS

HARROW Borough had to settle for a share of the Southern League Premier South spoils after a 2-2 draw with basement boys Swindon Supermarine on Saturday.

The visitors arrived at Earlsmead with only two points from 11 games, having just missed out on the play-offs last season and seen Harry Williams move to Gloucester City after netting 70 goals in 104 games.

Fit-again Reece Mitchell returned for Borough, with Ronny Mfinda coming into midfield after the FA Trophy win over the Margate.

And the hosts took an early lead when Mitchell was fouled in the box on seven minutes and picked himself up to convert the penalty.

Supermarine were back on terms just two minutes later, though, as captain Jake Andrews curled a free-kick past Tyler Tobin and Harrow had to replace Ross Oulton with Stefan Powell before the midway mark of the first half.

Mfinda fired over from the edge of the box, while Excellence Muhemda saw a low cross evade teammates in front of goal before Reece Yorke's header was ruled out and Lonit Talla saw a goalbound effort deflected over.

But Borough were awarded a second penalty straight from the restart when Mitchell was felled once again.

And after seeing his spot-kick saved this time, Mitchell reacted quickest to convert the rebound.

Harrow could not add a decisive third goal, however, and were pegged back for a second time on 72 minutes when appeals for offside were waved away as the visitors broke on the left and Ed Williams converted the cross.

The heavens then opened and heavy rain made conditions for both sides in the closing stages, with Supermarine going closest to a winner in stoppage time.

Harrow headed to next-to-bottom Didcot Town on Tuesday and new signing Theo Ofori came straight into the starting line-up.

Muhemba put them in front on 18 minutes, but their joy was shortlived as J Wright levelled from the penalty spot just four minutes later.

It was a similar story in the second half as Borough regained the lead on 78 minutes through Nagheeb Ibrahim. But parity was restored just three minutes later this time, with Wright converting from the spot for the second time on the night.

A second successive 2-2 draw lifted Jordan Berry's men up to 19th place and they are back on the road to visit Winchester City on Saturday.

They host FA Cup giantkillers Bracknell Town - who knocked out Dagenham & Redbridge at the weekend - next Tuesday.