

SPORT

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FOOTBALL: Referee criticised over decisions



Wealdstone's Sam Bowen is shown his second yellow card. Image: Jon Taffel

Stones hard done by moans boss Maynard

WEALDSTONE boss Stuart Maynard was disappointed with the performance of the referee in his side's 1-0 defeat to Solihull Moors at the Armco Arena.

Despite getting into dangerous positions and often causing havoc in the home side's box, Stones could not break down a resolute defence and were reduced to 10 men when Sam Bowen was dismissed for a second bookable offence just after the hour mark.

When asked about the differences between the two sides on the day, Maynard didn't hold back in his assessment.

"The referee. He had a big effect on the game and it's horrible to sit here and talk about them. I

By Tom Norton

probably shouldn't," he told the club website.

"The referee was awful today. Not just for us but for both teams, so it's not like it's just one way, but I thought he was bad both ways.

"The key decision in the middle of the pitch, Tahvon Campbell gets thrown to the ground. It's a clear foul, they break and it's 1-0."

Maynard also expressed his frustration with the referee's decision to send Bowen off, feeling as if his side were being unfairly treated by the officials on the day.

"They sent Sam Bowen off for exactly the same foul for a second

bookable offence. It's the same foul," said Maynard, referencing a foul that wasn't given for his side before going behind.

"I don't get how he cannot see that as a foul, but then see our (Bowen's) one as a foul. He didn't referee the game the same way all the way through.

"It's terrible and it's frustrating because we've come away to a team who are flying high at the top of this league."

Despite the frustrating loss, Maynard remained optimistic for the future and what his side may be able to achieve this season.

"If we don't go behind then, I think we're the team that's pushing forwards. The team control-

ling the ball and trying to create overloads in the final third," said a bullish Maynard.

"We lacked a little bit of quality in the final third when we got it beyond the lines, but you've got to understand that they're a very good defensive unit. They defend the gaps really well and you have to really grind them down."

As the Stones continue to struggle in the National League, sitting in 16th place with 20 points from 18 matches, they host an inconsistent Rochdale side on Saturday (3pm).

They travel to sixth-placed Halifax Town just a week later, with Maynard hoping for an upturn in fortune for his side.

Harrow sprinter up for award

QUARTEY NOMINATED AS YOUNG CHAMPION OF THE YEAR



Erykah-Monae Quartey shows off some of her medals.

LOCAL record-breaking sprinter Erykah-Monae Quartey has been nominated for a prestigious award.

Erykah-Monae is up for the Young Champion of the Year award at Everyone Active's Sporting Champions Awards, to be held at Porchester Hall in Bayswater, London on November 7. The event will be hosted by Great Britain's double world 110m hurdles champion and former world record holder Colin Jackson.

Everyone Active runs more than 220 leisure and cultural centres across the country, including Harrow Leisure Centre, Hatch End Swimming Pool and Bannister Outdoor Sports Centre, in partnership with Harrow Council. The Sporting Champions scheme is a sports talent development programme which supports 1,400 athletes.

Now in its seventh year, the initiative has helped thousands of athletes to achieve their sporting potential by providing free access to Everyone Active's leisure facilities nationwide.

In 2022, Erykah-Monae became the European all time age best record holder in 100m and 150m, as well as the Middlesex champion in 2023 for 110m, 200m and shot put.

John Sewell, Everyone Active's contract manager, said: "We are really looking forward to celebrating the fantastic achievements of all the Sporting Champions athletes at Porchester Hall, including Erykah-Monae."

"As a leisure provider working in partnership with Harrow Council, we feel it is important to cater for all sections of the community, and we hope to continue making a real difference to our athletes' success."

Visit easportingchampions.com or follow @easportingchamps on Instagram. For further information on Everyone Active, visit everyoneactive.com.