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FOOTBALL: FC Halifax Town 1 Wealdstone 0



Tahvon Campbell on the attack for Wealdstone in their 1-0 National League defeat at FC Halifax Town. Pictures: JON TAFFEL

Draw would have been fairer says Stones boss

WEALDSTONE boss Stuart Maynard was feeling positive about his side's performance despite losing 1-0 at Halifax Town to slip further down the National League table.

Millenic Alli's 66th-minute finish proved the difference between the two sides as Halifax took all three points, condemning the away side to their ninth league defeat of the season and leaving them 16th in the table.

"I thought we started the game well. We controlled the game with the ball," said the Stones boss, bullishly.

"On reflection of the whole game, a draw would have been a fair result. We had pretty much most of the ball like we do, because that's how we play. They tried to pass it at time as well, but they're more of a counter-attacking

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team with the two front lads.

"They've got pace on the break and down the sides and I though we restricted them to chances which was very good. It's just a little bit frustrating that their goal in the second half - I feel it's a penalty up the other end, but when you watch it back on the highlight show you've got to look at it carefully as it's not one of those that's a blatant penalty."

Despite another defeat on the road, Maynard looked to praise the efforts and determination of his players throughout what was a tough test away from home.

Speaking to the club's media channel,

he said: "The lads have given everything again and the fans have given us everything in the stands, and we come away from an away performance that the officials have had a massive part to play in it which is frustrating.

"We'll go again. We'll all stick together. The fans clapped the lads off at the end which is a massive positive and they've stuck with them, but they can see it in the performance - the lads have given absolutely everything today. We deserved the point on the road and that's the biggest thing."

Speaking of the threat Halifax posed after going ahead, the Stones boss was up front about how his players managed their opponents on the day.

He said: "When they went 1-0 up we had to change our structure. We had to

change things a little bit and commit more men forward and higher up the pitch to try and create overloads before we get through the first phase."

"It's always going to happen when the ball turns over. They're always going to counter and at times we had to leave it two versus two to try and get an equaliser."

Maynard and his players will now look to their next challenge when they face second-placed Barnet on Saturday afternoon at the Vale, as Dean Brennan's side look to bounce back from two consecutive defeats in the National League and rediscover their scintillating early season form.

Stones were handed a home tie against Billericay Town in the FA Trophy third round.

Borough fans struggle for positives

HARROW BOROUGH FC

HARROW Borough supporters were left scratching their heads after their team fell to a 2-1 loss at home to Merthyr Town - their 10th of the Southern League Division One South season.

Six of them have come at home and the result drops them into the bottom four and relegation zone in the division after 18 games.

There was a change in formation and personnel from the midweek defeat at Beaconsfield, the home side going with three centre-backs and Jaden Sharman and Barsa Mirtahmasebi deployed as wing-backs.

Victor Osobu and Nagheeb Ibrahim both had shots on goal in the opening to minutes as Harrow did at least start on the front foot.

But it wasn't long before Merthyr took control of the game, rarely letting go. Ricardo Rees had a couple of half chances but it wasn't until stoppage time that the visitors went in front. Callum Ryan-Phillips was allowed to cut the ball back from the byline on the Harrow right with Lewis Powell more alert to it than any defender, lashing his shot into the roof of the net from a tight angle.

Harrow did have a chance early in the second half when Mirtahmasebi found himself 30 yards from goal on the right-hand side but with plenty of open space in front of him.

He took it to the edge of the box before shooting and his effort would have found the corner but lacked enough power to beat Jaimie Cogman. Merthyr went right back up the other end though and nearly doubled their lead, Powell getting a clear run on the Harrow goal.

His attempted pass to Rees was mishit though, giving Ibrahim the chance to clear.

However, he dallied and it needed a superb reflex stop from Tyler Tobin get him out of jail.

Tobin pulled off another top drawer save to deny Powell but he was powerless to prevent Rees from finding space on the edge of the box and then shooting low to the keeper's left.

Harrow were resorting to long balls forward with limited success but they did get a breakthrough as the board went up to show five additional minutes.

A free-kick on the right edge of the area was struck by Osobu round the wall past a stationary Cogman. It turned out to be merely a consolation.