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FOOTBALL: Dagenham & Red 0 Wealdstone 2



Sean Adarkwa scored the opening goal for Wealdstone in a 2-0 win at Dagenham & Redbridge. Picture: TGS PHOTO

‘That’s for the fans’ as Stones win away at last

WEALDSTONE first team coach Craig Saunders was positive about a good team performance as they won away at Dagenham & Redbridge.

The 2-0 success was the first points the Stones have picked up on their travels in the National League since August, and their first success, as goals from Sean Adarkwa and Tarryn Al-larakhia secured victory in the absence of boss Stuart Maynard.

Speaking to the club’s media channels, he said: “They came out as we expected when you listen to their manager’s pre-game interview. We knew they were going to high press us and try to stop us playing.

“In fairness to them, they did. We looked rusty in the first half, but we grew into it and started to gain control

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and our little patterns of play started to work.

“We didn’t create a great deal but, equally, neither did they for 90 minutes.

“That one is for the fans. They travel up and down the country and we’ve played better than that away and not got points.

“But they keep travelling in their numbers and we appreciate it.”

On how he approached the half-time team talk, Saunders shed light on how he managed to get the players to respond after a tough opening 45 minutes.

“It’s easy to set up to try and stop teams playing,” he said, “but it’s harder

to work out how to break teams down. So they’ve come here and tried to stop us from playing.

“You have to tweak things throughout. You see things in the game and even when you research, things don’t always work quite as you want.

“You have to tweak a lot of things in the game and eventually we got it right. We got control in the game and from that point I felt that we were quite comfortable.”

Despite the early struggles, the Stones’ coach was keen to specify the importance of the timing of the opener, which helped click the away side into gear.

“The goal came at a good time and after that they’ve not created anything,” he admitted. “I think we could have had

a couple more on the break.

“It’s a brilliant three points and the fact that we can reward the fans who spend their hard earned money is a huge positive, so we appreciate that.”

The win will give the Stones a world of confidence going in to their next match when they host Hartlepool United, who sit just two points behind having played a game more.

Another victory would take Maynard’s side into 12th and just one point behind 11th-placed Eastleigh as they look to extend their recent good form.

Tuesday’s FA Trophy game with Billericay Town at Grosvenor Vale was postponed due to a waterlogged pitch and played at Wednesday at New Lodge, after Times Sport had gone to press.

Harrow back in the groove

HARROW BOROUGH FC

A first game in three weeks brought a first win in seven for Harrow Borough - and three much needed points in their battle against relegation from Southern League Premier Division South.

They won 4-2 at home to Basingstoke Town and although it failed to alter their position, three from bottom of the table, they are now just two points from safety. The start though was not welcome though.

Three minutes had elapsed when Nathan Smart’s cross found former Boro forward Liam Ferdinand completely unmarked. His header was planted firmly past Tyler Tobin.

A second could have followed six minutes later but Reece Yorke produced a fantastic block to deny Bradley Wilson. But that provided a wake-up call and from then on, it was Harrow who were in dominant mood.

Chances fell to Lonit Talla, Reece Mitchell and Lucas Sinclair although none of them were able to get a shot on target.

That changed on 22 minutes when Mitchell received the ball on the right-hand edge of the area.

A drop of the shoulder gave him space and he curled an exquisite shot into the far corner.

They were in front seven minutes later.

A throw in on the Harrow right was allowed to bounce over Marcus Johnson-Schuster’s head and find Mitchell.

He advanced into the area before finding Lucas Sinclair close to the penalty spot. A touch and a shot later it was in.

Basingstoke’s keeper, Paul Strudley denied Harrow a third with a good save with his legs but injured himself in the process.

He did not return after half-time, replaced by Mark Scott.

He was not tested in the early stages as Basingstoke started the brighter, Tobin forced into action on a couple of occasions before Borough finally settled again.

And they extended their lead in the 58th minute, Mitchell again finding Sinclair with space inside the box.

Scott made the save initially, pushing it onto the inside of the post, but Sinclair was quickest to rebound.

The chances that followed were all from the home side, Excellence Muhemba dragging one such effort wide. But the game was put beyond Basingstoke in the 84th minute.

Muhemba picked the ball up on the right in front of the Harrow dugout.

He got clear of his marker but while the shot was saved by the legs of Scott, Sinclair pushed the rebound to Talla who made no mistake.

Basingstoke did get a second with the final kick of the game through Ferdinand but this was a deserved win for Borough.