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FOOTBALL: Wealdstone boss hits out after loss



Wealdstone boss Stuart Maynard. Image: Gavin Ellis/TGS Photo

Poor decisions went against us - Maynard

A frustrated Stuart Maynard claimed poor decisions from the officials saw his Wealdstone side come away with nothing from a 2-0 loss at Ebbsfleet United on Saturday, writes Tom Norton.

Ousseyou Cisse's first-half strike and Dominic Polean's penalty just after the hour mark secured the three points for Dennis Kutrieb's side, ending a five-match unbeaten run for the Stones.

"I think their free-kick is one of those; we should have had a couple of fouls very similar to that free kick, which didn't get given," said Maynard, speaking of the decision that went against his side, leading to the Ebbsfleet opener.

"What you then have to accept is

the referee is going to referee the game like that. When they get that free-kick, you think 'You're changing it and just making decisions off the back of what you feel is a foul, rather than what you haven't in previous moments of the game'.

"But that's no excuse. The wall breaks and the ball goes straight through the wall, and if it doesn't do that, you've got to be brave. You've got to take one in the face for the team in moments like that."

Despite the defensive blunder for the first goal, Maynard leapt to the defence of his players for staying in the game for as long as they did but raised concern about their ability to convert chances.

"It's just frustrating because at

this level, you can say for 80 minutes that we had the ball, and we weren't just around the back; we were on the edge of their 18-yard box and in their final third," added Maynard.

"We just lacked quality. We said it before Tavs (Tarryn Allarakhia) went away [to African Cup of Nations]. We said it would be interesting to see how much we really do miss him.

"In the last couple of months, he's probably been our most exciting player and most creative player in the sense of making something happen out of nothing, so today we really missed him.

"It's only our quality that has let us down today. To come to Ebbsfleet

and have the ball for 80 minutes against a possession-based team - the lads have been brilliant, so I can't question anything about their application or effort."

Maynard's attention now shifts to his side's FA Trophy endeavours, with a trip to Chelmsford City on Saturday, before making the trip to Southend United on January 16 for another mid-table National League clash.

*Wealdstone's Tarryn Allarakhia made his international debut for Tanzania as they lost 2-0 to Egypt in a friendly, ahead of the African Cup of Nations in Ivory Coast.

They face Morocco in Group F on January 17, Zambia four days later and DR Congo on January 24.

Borough endure a bad week



Harrow Borough in action.

HARROW Borough endured a difficult week after back-to-back home defeats. They slumped 3-0 to Hanwell Town last weekend and followed that with another 4-0 defeat against Rayners Lane in the quarter-finals of the Middlesex Senior Cup on Tuesday.

Loanees Rony Mfinda and Lucas Sinclair returned to the side at the weekend, with Tyler Robinson, as Excellence Muhemba missed out due to suspension.

After a cagey start, Reece Mitchell's run and cross was blocked and cleared at the near post.

Hanwell should have taken the lead on 13 minutes when Jacob Bancroft raced clear on the right, but his low ball across the goalmouth was put wide by the unmarked Jenson Wright at the far post. They opened the scoring on 20 minutes, though, after a carbon-copy chance as Bancroft got free and found Wright again, to fire high into the net.

Bernie Tanner fired over and Dan Carr saw a shot blocked as Hanwell looked to increase their lead before half-time.

But it was 2-0 less than 30 seconds after the restart as a ball over the top of a static Harrow defence set Carr free before teeing up Wright to fire a low shot past Tyler Tobin.

Bancroft was denied by a great Tobin save on 55 minutes, while Harrow's best chance came just after the hour mark when substitute Jonny Allotey got to the byline and crossed for Mitchell, whose effort was closed down.

Carr clipped the outside of a post on 71 minutes, before William Hall almost sliced into his own net at the other end.

But Hanwell made sure of the points with 12 minutes left when Evans was given time and space to play in Carr for a comfortable finish.

*Elliott Buchanan's hat-trick led Rayners Lane to cup victory on Tuesday, with Kye Reid also on target.

Harrow, with only one goal in five matches, will hope for better when they host Dorchester Town on Saturday.