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FOOTBALL: Three vital points in survival fight



Wealdstone's Manny Duku and Mason Barrett battle for the ball at AFC Fylde. Image: Jon Taffel

Boss Noble hails superb Wealdstone win at Fylde

A delighted David Noble described his side's performance as "superb" as Wealdstone pulled away from the National League relegation dogfight with a memorable 2-1 win at Fylde on Saturday.

The Stones had taken an early lead through the impressive Dillon De Silva before Nick Haughton levelled just before the hour mark.

Manny Duku then put Noble's side back in front five minutes later to secure three priceless points and put further distance between themselves and the drop zone.

"Superb. We took the lead early. We weren't at our beautiful best with the ball, but we showed some heart and spirit," Noble told the club website.

"We were giving the ball away too

By Tom Norton

easily and inviting pressure. They put a lot of balls in our box, but the back four defended really well, and Dewy (Marcus Dewhurst) made an unbelievable save again. To get the right leg out like that was superb."

Despite some early concerns for the Stones' boss, he pointed to the outstanding performance of goalkeeper Dewhurst, who only signed for the club in November, as a reason why his side went in at the break in front.

"He's Schmeichel-esque! The right leg popped out and saved it!" joked Noble.

"We came in at half-time and they just started getting the better of us in the second half. They got their goal, and then Manny will talk us through it because it was against the run of play to put us back in the league."

On the evolution of the squad, Noble went on to talk about the physical presence his forwards pose to opposition defenders, suggesting there is more to come from the likes of matchwinner Duku and Sean Jordan Adarkwa, with the latter coming on to replace the former:

"Manny ran himself into the ground. That's all you can ask from your players - to give you everything they've got, and Manny certainly did that today," added Noble.

"Sean coming off the bench was

another threat. He could've had a goal for himself and he did brilliantly when he came on.

"We had three or four chances to stretch the lead and I wish one of them had gone in, as it makes it a lot easier for me on the sidelines as a manager.

"Unfortunately they didn't and it was tense right until the end, but we've seen the game out and it's another three points. It's a big one."

Noble's men face one of their sternest tests yet during a turbulent period of fixtures as they host third-placed Bromley on Wednesday, before welcoming Kidderminster to Grosvenor Vale on Saturday.

Stones then face the long trip to Al-trincham on Tuesday.

Borough's survival hopes hit

DEFEAT AT GOSPORT LEAVES HARROW EIGHT POINTS OFF SAFETY

HARROW Borough's survival hopes suffered a further dent after they lost 1-0 at Gosport Borough.

Boro lie eight points from safety in Southern League Premier South after falling to defeat against their third-placed hosts.

Harrow made one change to their starting line-up, with Harry Seabrook returning and Barsa Mirtahmasebi dropping to the bench.

But they seemed off the pace and rather lethargic throughout the first half especially.

Gosport squandered a great chance to take a seventh-minute lead when Gerson Da Costa Ramos' powerful shot was turned over by Tyler Tobin.

Two minutes later, Ramos was again free and bearing down on goal and this time it was Seabrook who came to the rescue, deflecting the ball away for a corner.

Harrow had their opportunities, with Excellence Muhemba and Reece Mitchell delivering dangerous balls which nobody could get on the end of.

Gosport went ahead in the 14th minute. After being found by a high ball, Bradley Tarbuck went past James Gurteen before firing past Tobin and into the net.

Tarbuck was allowed to run past a couple of Harrow players who were guilty of ball watching, when they should have been picking up his run.

Jake Cope and Dan Wooden both went close to extending the home side's lead before the break, while Tobin fumbled Kavanagh's 25-yard effort before smothering the rebound at Wooden's feet.

Harrow's best chance arrived in the 34th minute when Muhemba's flick set Harlem Hale free on the right-hand side of the area.

But the angle wasn't great and, as a consequence, goalkeeper Toby Steward palmed Hale's shot behind for a corner. The second half was a rather damp squib, with neither keeper forced into a meaningful save.

Mitchell's 25-yard strike flashed just wide while at the other end, Zak Sharp glanced a header wide from the edge of the six-yard box when it appeared easier to score.

Harrow threw everything forward in the final ten minutes and James Gurteen's 20-yard shot flew over in stoppage time, as the hosts held out.

Hungerford Town are the visitors to Earlsmead on Saturday. And there are plenty of offers for tickets this week, as it is Non-League Day.

Harrow Borough: Tobin, Mfinda (Ibrahim, 46), Gurteen, Tutton (Cameron, 83), Yorke, Seabrook, Hale, Talla (Nallo, 74), Deakin, Muhemba, Mitchell. Unused subs: Mirtahmasebi, Ada.