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## FOOTBALL: Wealdstone produce shock victory



Dillon Da Silva celebrates his winner for Wealdstone in front of excited fans.

Image: Jon Taffel

# Cox hails amazing win over champions

INTERIM Wealdstone boss Sam Cox spoke of an amazing feeling as his side boosted their survival hopes with a 1-0 win over National League champions Chesterfield at Grosvenor Vale on Saturday.

The unexpected success left Stones three points above the drop with two games left to play, and stand-in manager Cox was delighted with his side's endeavours.

"It feels amazing. I just said to the boys in the dressing room just now, all I've asked since being given this role and responsibility is for them to give me their everything," said Cox.

"To leave your heart and soul on the pitch. There was a lot of information to take in before the game between myself and Liam Badcock. Putting

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together a strategy and how we'd get through this game, the 90 just to get through it.

"We felt even with our schedule, we've had three games in the league, and we'd get a win today.

"That may have been a bold suggestion that we might be out of our minds, but we truly believed it, and I think that's the attitude of what we've gone for, so it's an unbelievable performance. Just fantastic."

Despite much rotation from last Thursday's 4-2 win over Dorking Wanderers, performance levels didn't drop, and the Stones boss pointed to this.

"I'm delighted, but I didn't have any doubt, and again, I said to them in the dressing room - personnel, it doesn't matter," he added.

"We just need to keep the momentum going now. I have full trust in whoever comes in and whoever's asked to do a job. I know these boys are fighting for this club, and I've seen it this past week that they care.

"I think even in the Southend game, we didn't get the result, but I think the fans could see these boys are fighting, so I've got full belief in those boys that came in."

Cox praised the efforts of the players who deputised for such a crucial fixture, suggesting the harmony in the squad has been a crucial factor in turning the season around.

"Dillon Da Silva has been fantastic. Jack Young's impact. He was frustrated not to start, but he's come on and impacted the game, and ultimately, it's his pressing that led to Dillon scoring the goal," said Cox.

"Manny Duku's come in, he hasn't played in such a long time and has come in and put an absolute shift in.

"In and out of possession, these boys are fantastic, so I can't ask any more, each to a man. I'm so proud of each and every one of them."

Stones were brought back to earth as Chris Maguire's 88th-minute goal earned Eastleigh a 1-0 win at Grosvenor Vale on Tuesday.

It left them two points above the drop zone ahead of their final-day trip to Oldham Athletic on Saturday.

## Salisbury silenced by Harrow

THIRD SUCCESSIVE WIN KEEPS FAINT SURVIVAL HOPES ALIVE FOR NOW

HARROW Borough kept their faint Southern League Premier South survival hopes alive with a 2-0 win at third-placed Salisbury last weekend.

It meant a third straight victory for Borough, a feat last achieved in October 2021.

Noah Coppin dragged a shot wide for the hosts early on, while at the other end, Lonit Talla's deflected shot was easily saved by Salisbury goalkeeper Ryan Gosney.

Harrow silenced the home supporters by taking the lead in the 35th minute.

After a set-piece on the left was only half cleared, Toby Nnadozie unleashed an opportunist strike from just inside the area that nestled into the corner of the net.

If the home crowd were stunned by that goal, they were gobsmacked four minutes later.

James Gurteen's long throw from the left was met by Harry Seabrook, whose back header flew past the stationary Gosney and into the net.

Harrow nearly added a third on the stroke of half-time when Gurteen arrived at the back post to meet Jack Tutton's dipping free-kick from the right, but the ball was slightly behind him.

Nevertheless, Harrow went into the break in full command and thrived in the first 15 minutes of the second half, defending resolutely and counter attacking in numbers.

Talla combined well with Excellence Muhemba and his cutback from the right was desperately cleared away from deep inside the Salisbury area.

Harrow were awarded a penalty just before the hour when Reece Mitchell was fouled inside the area, but Mitchell's spot-kick was saved by Gosney.

The visitors stopped Salisbury from creating any real chances, although they had the ball in the net in the 75th minute when Dan Fitchett was penalised for barging a Harrow defender on the edge of the six-yard box.

Mitchell's weak effort was parried away by Gosney and Sido Jombati's header wide was as close as Salisbury came to pulling a late goal back.

Indeed, Harrow could have scored twice in added time.

Harlem Hale's touch let him down after he had run uncontested from the halfway line allowing Gosney to block with his legs while Mitchell's goalbound shot was blocked, as Harrow claimed victory.

They play host to fellow strugglers Tiverton Town on Saturday.

Harrow Borough: Tobin, Mirtahmasebi, Gurteen, Tutton, Yorke, Seabrook, Ibrahim, Nnadozie, Muhemba (Hale 73), Talla (Deakin 90), Mitchell. Unused subs: Lukombo, Mfinda, Lawal.