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FOOTBALL: Boss concerned by emerging 'pattern'



Alex Reid heads home for Wealdstone at Ebbsfleet

Image: Jon Taffel

Angry Taylor hits out as Wealdstone let slip

MATT Taylor questioned the mentality of his players after Wealdstone threw a two-goal lead away at Ebbsfleet United to draw 2-2 late on at the Kuflink Stadium on Saturday.

The Stones put themselves in a commanding position midway through the second half thanks to goals from Sam Ashford and recent addition Alex Reid but collapsed with minutes to go as the home side snatched a draw at the death with two late strikes.

"Unfortunately, it's not a good performance because we throw away a two-goal lead, which is ridiculous," Taylor told the club's media.

"We soaked up any pressure they had. They didn't really have any pressure, but you ask the players on the pitch to take their roles and responsibilities, and

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when you look at the manner in which we concede the first goal, it's inexcusable in terms of the error.

"What we can't do is give teams momentum. Up to that point, I think it was 86 or 87 minutes, there's no threat on our goal whatsoever. In making the error we did, it gives the opportunity for the opposition to gain momentum and think they've got a chance when, well and truly, we should be out of sight.

"There's a pattern emerging I don't like. That is quite clear to see. We're in winning positions in games, and whether or not the players are mentally strong enough to see out games, I don't know.

"It'll be a conversation we have during the week. You can't play as well as we did for 86, 87 minutes and draw a game 2-2 away from home. That should be a 2-0 win to us."

Former Arsenal Academy graduate Craig Eastmond and centre-back Mason Barrett were both forced off after 30 minutes due to injury, and Taylor felt his side lost control of the game despite it still being goalless at that point.

"Both are freak injuries. I'm slightly more concerned about Mason, because his knee actually gave way underneath him," said Taylor.

"We'll get them scanned, but it now looks as if we might be without Mason, and we might be without Craig. We've had this season without Craig. He's started today, and we were looking to get

him some valuable minutes and try to push him to 90 (minutes played) after 75 on Wednesday.

"For some reason, that hasn't happened. It just leaves a really sour taste in your mouth when two goals - even one goal should be enough - when there's only seven or eight minutes left to defend. That should be enough to get guys the vital three points.

"The players need to understand, and I'm sure they do, if you add up the points from the goals we've conceded and you add those on if we would've been more ruthless at defending our goal, we'd probably be halfway up the league."

The Stones will look for an immediate reaction when they visit League Two outfit Grimsby Town in the first round of the FA Cup on Saturday.

Harrow hit heights with latest win



Dan Williams celebrates his winner
Image: Bruce Viveash

HARROW moved up to second in Isthmian South Central with a 2-1 victory over Moneyfields at Earlsmead. Kai Hamilton-Olise caused headaches from the start as Borough got into several good positions but were unable to create any clear chances.

A corner was cleared to the halfway line in the 20th minute and Mack Miskin fed Harry McCorkell on his left to cross for Demell Wynter to head home.

Stephan Langley's well timed sliding tackle just outside his own area in the 28th minute started a Harrow counter and Leo Sery's cross from the right was smothered by the visiting keeper. Franklyn forced McCorkell into a good save in the 42nd minute, but the hosts finished the half stronger and flew out of the blocks in the second period.

Several crosses into the box were just beyond red-shirted attackers but Harrow continued to look more likely to score. Jordan Hamilton-Olise's low cross from the right looked to give Sery a tap in at the far post but the ball gathered pace on the lush turf and he had to stretch, putting the ball wide.

Sery had another shot deflected behind a minute later, with Miskin's resulting corner punched over by the keeper. In the 71st minute a Moneyfields corner from the right was half cleared to the edge of the Harrow area and when an attacker went down, appeals for a penalty were granted.

Harrow's players protested before Callum Laycock hit his penalty firmly to McCorkell's right.

The hosts brought on fresh legs in Jethro Odumosu, Dan Williams and Luke Ifil and, in the third of six minutes injury time, saw Dan Williams put through make it 2-0. Laycock hit back in the 99th minute but it was little consolation for the visitors. After a midweek trip to Hayes & Yeading in the Velocity Cup, Harrow head to Kingstonian in the league on Saturday, then host Hampton & Richmond in the county cup on Tuesday.