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WINNERS Second win rounds off a great week



Alex Reid takes a penalty for Stones against Aldershot

Image: TGS Photo Ltd

Taylor: 'Victory was only a matter of time'

MATT Taylor felt that it was only a matter of time before efforts in recent weeks were rewarded with a victory as the Stones cruised to a deserved 2-0 win away at Aldershot Town on Saturday afternoon.

The relentless Alex Reid opened the scoring from the spot just before half-time after being brought down inside the box by Shots defender Christian Maghoma, and Max Kretzschmar's late finish was enough to secure the points for Taylor's side.

"It was an excellent performance today from our players," a delighted Taylor told the press post-match.

"They've outworked the opposition and did the basics exceptionally well today. They got their just rewards. Regardless of any refereeing, we were the

By Tom Norton

better team today.

"We were the better team because I felt that our players are starting to understand the importance of hard work, and we do that and we do it well; we look like a really good team. I'm proud as anything of them.

"We've had a bit of a stop-start season this year. Obviously, we've picked up injuries to key players, but you see now that even though we've still got injuries to players, the belief now is improving. I just felt to a man today that each one of them was brilliant. I'm really pleased.

"The supporters can see how hard this group of players are working for

each other, and we were well worthy of the three points today."

A pair of late Aldershot red cards left the Stones with an opportunity to extend their one goal advantage, and Kretzschmar duly obliged after pouncing on a loose ball in the Aldershot box to make it 2-0 to the away side.

"We've got good options. With the three that started today, I'm pleased that Max got his goal," the Wealdstone boss continued.

"Sam (Ashford) had to work tirelessly out of possession for the team. He did that really well. Sean (Adarkwa) made a big difference when he came on. His physical presence, his understanding of how to press and when to press, the real intensity that he brings. I think we saw when he came on the pitch today that

the players saw that Sean's back.

"It was really positive for us because we've had some bad luck with injuries that we've picked up. However, today we've come to a big team in our league and kept a clean sheet. Dion came in—he's been playing games at St Albans—and did really well, and to see the game out, we've made some substitutions.

"Like last Saturday, the subs we made made us stronger today. The energy they brought to the pitch, we've just got to keep going."

After another positive result in the National League, the Stones overcame a Southampton U-21s side 3-1 in the National League Cup on Tuesday evening to round off Taylor's most positive week in charge since being appointed manager last summer.

Hopeful of result against S Africa



SARACENS' Jamie George believes England will be motivated to get a result against reigning Rugby World Cup champions South Africa this Saturday (November 16) following their back-to-back Twickenham defeats. After New Zealand edged it 24-22 two weekends ago Australia were the latest team to grab a late Twickenham victory against the Red Rose. Max Jorgensen's try four minutes into stoppage time that was converted by Ben Donaldson took the score to 42-37 and was enough for the Wallabies to rule the roost at RFU headquarters along with claiming the Ella-Mobbs Trophy (previously known as the Cook Trophy).

Saracens' Maro Itoje was amongst England's five try tally count along with Chandler Cunningham-South and Ollie Sleightholme who both scored two a piece while Marcus Smith kicked 12 points however that was not enough as the host remain winless in their 2024 Autumn Nations campaign.

"The bounce back message is how are we able to back up the good things with another good thing and another good thing," said England captain George who fellow Saracens colleagues Nick Isiekwe and Ben Earl also played in the Australia defeat.

"That's what Test match rugby is about. We've got a fantastic opposition coming to the Allianz Stadium in South Africa, back to back world champions, I don't see it as a better opportunity." "We are going to get ourselves right and make sure we're right physically," George continued. "We're going to have a training week and a brilliant plan going into the game and we're going to believe in what we are doing. If it is close in that game we are going to continue to play with endeavour, play big and play to win the game."