

George Wickens Report

FIXTURE: Dagenham & Redbridge vs Wealdstone

COMPETITION: 2021-22 English National League

SCORE: 2-2

DATE: 4 September 2021

PLAYER: George Wickens (1)

CLUB: Wealdstone

AGE: 24

HEIGHT: 6'3

NATIONALITY: England

POSITION(S) & FORMATION PLAYED IN: GK in 4-1-4-1

CONTRACT EXP: 30 June 2028

LEADING FOOT: Right

LINE UPS



TECHNICAL – 7.5/10

Shot Stopping

- Consistently strong throughout the match.
- Made multiple high-quality saves from:
 - Long-range efforts ('27, '61)
 - Low-driven shots inside the box ('32, '43, '49)
- Reacts quickly to shots, especially when going to ground.
- Shows preference for claiming or parrying rather than punching, which generally benefited defensive stability.

Handling and Aerial Ability

- Very confident when dealing with crosses.
- Regularly claimed balls cleanly under pressure, even when contested by multiple attackers ('65).
- Only punched twice during the match ('73, '87), both times with good timing and direction.
- Clearly not a "line goalkeeper" - proactive and assertive in his box.

Distribution

- Mixed performance.
- Early in the match showcased:
 - Very good vision and passing range (excellent ball in behind at '5).
- As the game progressed:
 - Distribution became repetitive, with frequent long deliveries toward the right-centre channel.
 - Several overhit or inaccurate kicks ('15, '18, '80).
- Pattern suggests a coaching instruction rather than poor decision-making, as consistency in target zones was noticeable.

TACTICAL – 7.5/10

Decision-Making

- Generally strong judgement:
 - When to claim vs punch.
 - When to hold possession vs release quickly.
- Very good timing when coming of his line.

Anticipation and Positioning

- Reads danger well and positions himself effectively.
- Often well-set before shots, which contributed heavily to successful saves.
- Anticipation in aerial situations is a standout trait.

Organisation

- Vocal leadership could not be fully assessed
- Did use hand gestures to organise the defence, particularly during set pieces.

MENTAL – 7.5/10

- Resilience: Did not allow goals conceded to affect performance.
- Concentration: Maintained focus despite sustained pressure.
- Bravery: Willing to attack loose balls and challenge attackers physically.
- Composure: Calm under pressure, especially when receiving back-passes.

PHYSICAL – 8/10

- Tall goalkeeper with good reach.
- Explosive reactions when diving and coming off the line.
- Quick to ground for a keeper of his size.
- Handles physical contact well and recovers quickly after knocks.
- Limited opportunity to assess ball-playing under pressure with feet.

CONCLUSION COMMENTS

Strengths:

- Shot-stopping (especially low and reaction saves)
- Cross claiming and aerial dominance.
- Bravery and willingness to leave his line.
- Positioning under pressure.
- Mental resilience and concentration.

Areas For Improvement:

- Refining long-range distribution accuracy.
- Developing more variation in build-up (midfield options, clipped passes).
- Continued work on playing out under pressure.
- Communication and vocal leadership (if not already present).

PERFORMANCE GRADE: 7.5

SUITABILITY:

- Best suited to teams that:
 - Defend deep to mid-block.
 - Use direct transitions.
 - Rely on GK command in the box.

CURRENT LEVEL: National League standard goalkeeper. Comfortable starter at this level.

LEAGUE POTENTIAL: Strong potential for Championship. With improved distribution and continued experience, could adapt to possession-oriented systems.