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FOOTBALL

Ex-Blue says clubs will be circling Ingram once again

by **GREG STYLES**

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KEITH SCOTT fears Wanderers will face a battle to hang onto number one goalkeeper Matt Ingram this summer.

The homegrown stopper's stock continued to rise with a string of outstanding displays throughout the 2014/15 season before it came to a premature end following a clash with Sam Wood on the final day, causing him to miss out on Blues' play-off campaign.

Ingram, who had made 111 consecutive starts for the club before getting injured, committed his future to Wycombe when he signed a three-year deal in August last year, tying himself to the club until 2017.

The 21-year-old had attracted the attention of a number of Championship sides last summer and 15 clean sheets en route to helping Blues to fourth place in League Two won't have gone unnoticed, according to ex-Wanderer Scott.

He said: "It's great credit to Ingram that there's been a lot of speculation around him for over a year now.

"I hope he'll be at Wycombe next year, but it all depends because, from Wycombe's point of view, they are a selling club and if the right offer comes in it may be difficult to turn down.

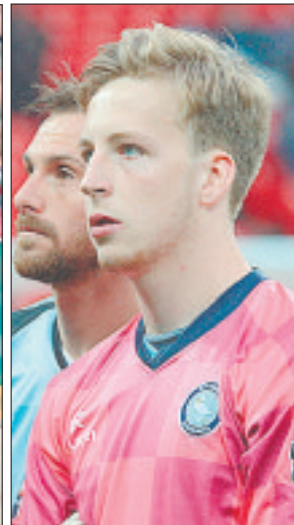
"What would be an ideal scenario would be for a club to come in and offer a lot of money but offer to loan him back for a season.

"I think that before he makes any move he's got to make the move knowing that he's going to go in as the number one goalkeeper."

Ingram has been labelled as one of the best goalkeepers outside of



Matt Ingram (main) was injured on the last day of the season against Northampton and watched on from the sidelines as Alex Lynch (right) played in the play-off semi-final and final.



the Championship by manager Gareth Ainsworth, who believes the Wycombe academy product will go onto play at a higher level in the future.

The High Wycombe born 'keeper was a spectator as his deputy Alex Lynch stepped in for the play-off semi-final and final in his absence.

When fit, Ingram is Blues' first choice and Scott believes a move to a team higher up the Football League wouldn't be beneficial unless he is given assurances about playing time.

"What he doesn't want to do is make a move to another club and sit on the bench for one, two, three years and not play a lot of football," he said.

"Whether he'll be there or not is probably a question of money, which club it is and whether he's going to go in as a number one or a number two."

If Ingram moves on this summer Ainsworth would be left with 20-year-old Lynch and goalkeeping coach Barry Richardson as his only options to fill the void after young stopper Charlie Horlock was released.

Lynch, who joined the club from Peterborough last summer, made his professional debut as a substitute against Northampton before starting both legs against Plymouth and the play-off final at Wembley.

The rookie 'keeper showed potential in his four outings after

a nervy start, and did enough for Scott to suggest he could be the answer should Ingram depart.

He said: "In regards to Lynch, he didn't do anything wrong in the play-off games. I felt that Plymouth didn't really test him enough but what he had to do he coped with exceptionally well when called upon.

"If anything, he grew into the position. In the first leg I thought that he struggled coming for crosses because of his height but a lot of that will have been down to nerves as well.

"During the course of the game he grew into it. In the second leg he made a number of very good saves and in the final he did everything that was asked of him."

Wandering to Amsterdam



Keith Scott is cycling to Amsterdam in aid of Prostate Cancer UK.

KEITH SCOTT began his 146 mile charity bike ride to Amsterdam early on Friday morning.

The former Wanderers player is the club's representative as participants from around the Football League bid to raise money for Prostate Cancer UK.

Scott began his mammoth journey in London with the end destination Ajax's Amsterdam Arena, which they will arrive at on Saturday.

The ex-Blue has raised over £1,000 for the charity so far, but donations can still be made via his Just Giving page: www.justgiving.com/Keith-scott9667/

Save the date

CHAIRBOYS fans will be able to start planning their away days for the 2015/16 season when the League Two fixtures are released on Wednesday.

Wanderers are among the 24 clubs in the fourth tier of English football who will discover their opposition for the season opener, which takes place on August 8.

Blues will also find out who they will face in the first round of the Capital One Cup – a competition which has seen them knocked out in the first round in each of the last three seasons – when the draw is made on Tuesday.

Gareth Ainsworth's team are among the unseeded sides for the draw and could be pitched against their manager's old team QPR, or Championship clubs MK Dons and Reading among others.

Helping hand

WANDERERS are asking for fans' help as they continue their preparations for the upcoming season.

While the football may have stopped the work at Adams Park hasn't, and Wycombe Wanderers PALS – a volunteer group set-up to help the club – are looking for people to help with maintenance around the stadium.

Volunteers are required to help with the tasks of repainting line markings and weeding the external walls and plant beds in the car park.

Two working parties are scheduled to be held on June 21 and July 5, with those who come along asked to attend between 10am and 4pm.

Lunch will be provided for any volunteers.

If you're interested in lending a hand contact John Derben on 01494 441145.

Bucks student makes World Cup bow

FRAN KIRBY might be studying for a degree at Bucks New University but that hasn't stopped her from representing her country at the Women's World Cup in Canada.

The 21-year-old, who has just completed her first year studying Coaching Science, is a rising star of the women's game and became the first player from the second tier to be included in an England World Cup squad when Mark Sampson selected her for his travelling party in May.

The call-up came following the striker's tremendous form for Reading in the second division of the Women's Super League, which saw her score 11 times in her five outings this season.

Her blistering start to the campaign followed on from an exceptional 2014 season when she found

the net 24 times in 18 league matches.

Kirby's rise to prominence was complete on Tuesday when she appeared as a second half substitute against France but was unable to help pull her country level as they went down to a sole strike from Eugenie Le Sommer.

Paul Morgan, Head of Sport at Bucks New University, said: "We are delighted to see Fran's ongoing success with the England team.

"The university community will be following Fran and the team closely and hopefully she makes a good

Fran Kirby studies at Bucks New University.

impression and scores a goal or two."

After making her World Cup bow at the Moncton Stadium in New Brunswick, Kirby took to Twitter to reveal her feelings about the moment she replaced Alex Scott after 68 minutes.

She tweeted: "Stuck to the game plan today, disappointing to not get a result but we don't stop there! Delighted to have made my World Cup debut."

Her appearance against Les Bleus was Kirby's ninth cap for her country, and it came less than a year after she made her debut against Sweden in August.

