

SPORT

No changes to main plan

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Gareth Ainsworth is realistic about Wycombe's expectations this season.

aim of building a sustainable League One team.

The first year of the plan took everyone by surprise. Reaching the play-off final was a massive overachievement but the monetary windfall and prestige of an appearance at the national stadium haven't acted as the catalyst for the pair to abandon their plan.

In his Wembley press conference after defeat to Southend United, Ainsworth spoke of how the aims in year two of the plan would stay the same regardless of how close the club had come to reaching League One three years ahead of schedule.

Seven days before the start of the upcoming League Two season, and after a 1-1 draw against Aldershot, the 42-year-old reaffirmed the team's targets for the new campaign.

"The players know that year two is a new one. Year one was survival and year two is mid-table," he said.

"You look at mid-table last year and 61 points was 12th place, so I think getting there will be a successful season for Wycombe Wanderers and anything after that will be a bonus. "People have got to realise that it's still a battle.

"Although we did change the books round and things looked rosy after the play-off final, we still owe a lot of money and we're still in debt as a club.

"We want to build a strong

foundation to move forward on and it's not going to happen in 12 months..

"The difference now is that we've got stuff in place to make sure that we can start building and thinking about the next level. Getting there will be a totally different matter."

A club record points haul last season, a flirtation with automatic promotion and a trip to Wembley, naturally, will have raised expectations of what the club is capable of doing this term.

Managing those hopes and lofty ambitions will be half the battle, according to the Wanderers boss.

Ainsworth said: "The characters we've recruited are very intelligent boys and they know that if you've got to a play-off final one year it doesn't mean that you're going to get automatically promoted the next year.

"I'm hoping that the fans also share that sentiment.

"I know this game is a tough game and there's many teams that have had a great season one year and then teams have raised their game against them and there's all these different factors that come into things.

"One step at a time and we'll see where we go," Ainsworth continued. "Slowly, slowly – that's how it's always been at Wycombe Wanderers and I'll be the first to tell you when that approach changes."

By Greg Styles

A MID-TABLE finish in League Two for Wycombe Wanderers this season would represent success for the club, according to manager Gareth Ainsworth ahead of Saturday's big kick-off at home to York City.

When Andrew Howard became chairman 12 months ago he and the Blues boss agreed on a five-year plan to get the club back on a stable financial footing, with the ultimate

Holloway is a super sub

AARON Amadi-Holloway played the role of super sub as he climbed off the bench to earn a 1-1 draw for Wanderers against Aldershot at the EBB Stadium last Saturday.

The striker found the net with ten minutes left when he turned home Jason Banton's right-wing cross as Wanderers closed out their pre-season schedule with a draw.

Earlier, the non-league side had taken the lead after half-time when captain Sam Hutton smashed the ball past Matt Ingram.

A competitive game was just what Wycombe needed and Aldershot made sure of that as they warmed up for their



League Two opener against York on Saturday.

A worrying sight for Wanderers fans was the omission of captain and talisman Paul Hayes from the squad.

The striker played 45 minutes against Basingstoke Town on Tuesday before being replaced and he was not risked in Hampshire with the game against York looming.

In his absence Garry Thompson was given a lone striker role with support from Banton and Sam Wood, with the former Plymouth winger proving too hot to handle for the Shots' defence.

It was Banton who provided the cross which Holloway met with a diving header to ensure Wanderers returned with a share of the spoils.

Meanwhile triallist Stephen McGinn, 26, has now been signed up.

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