

SPORT

It's Harriman at the double

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Mobbed: Michael Harriman scored twice for Wycombe on Saturday. Picture: ANITA ROSS MARSHALL

By Anthony Matthews

A MICHAEL Harriman double lifted unbeaten Wycombe Wanderers to within a point of the League Two summit as Gareth Ainsworth's side battled to a 2-1 win over Hartlepool United at Adams Park on Saturday.

The Blues midfielder opened the scoring midway through the first half with a first-time shot after the ball broke for him to net his first for the club before doubling his account

with a second-half winner after Hartlepool levelled before the break through Carl Magnay.

The visitors' frustrations boiled over as the game wore on and Magnay was sent off four minutes from the end after clashing with Ryan Sellers.

Hartlepool could easily have finished the game with nine as substitute Kudus Oyeunga was very fortunate to see yellow and not red for a late two-footed injury-time lunge.

It was another solid display by Wycombe, who yet again were forced into making four changes from the side that drew 0-0 at Crawley Town.

Ainsworth named his seventh different central defensive partnership in as many matches this season, with the fit-again Danny Rowe returning to partner Sido Jombati. On-loan Aston Villa defender Janoi Donacien came in at right-back, Luke O'Nien was selected in midfield and skipper Paul Hayes was fit to play alongside Garry Thompson up front.

Wanderers had the first chance inside the third minute when the ball was worked down the left to Garry Thompson, who struck a deep cross to the back post where Harriman sliced wide from close range.

The hosts continued to press, with Marcus Bean firing over from distance before the visitors forced Wanderers keeper Matt Ingram into action for the first time. Paul Hayes created a

fine opportunity for Harriman moments later, but he pulled his finish narrowly wide.

Blues then had a penalty shout turned down when O'Nien was pushed in the back, Thompson was again denied by Adam Bartlett and Hayes had an effort cleared off the line.

When the breakthrough finally arrived it was third time lucky for Harriman. Hartlepool failed to deal with Joe Jacobson's long ball into the area and the ball dropped for the midfielder to strike a sweet first-time half-volley inside Bartlett's near post.

But two minutes before the break Hartlepool were level when Magnay hit a shot that looped over Ingram for only the second league goal he has conceded this season.

And the hosts were fortunate not to go into the break behind when, in the last action of the half, Jombati sold Ingram short with a back header and Billy Paynter latched onto the ball and struck the post.

Wycombe retook the lead with a delightful second.

After Jason Banton had advanced down the left flank, the ball was worked to the opposite side to Harriman, who came inside before striking a left-footed curler into the far corner.

Hartlepool's hopes of a way back diminished when Magnay saw red for grabbing Sellers by the throat as Wanderers made it six league games unbeaten.



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Saving the best for last

HIGH Wycombe Cricket Club beat reigning champions Henley by six wickets to be crowned Home Counties Premier League champions in their last-day winner-takes-all showdown.

Henley had held the trophy for the last three seasons but their defence fell apart in the face of Wycombe's best bowling display of the season as the visitors wrestled the title away from them.

In a season that went right down to the wire it was fitting that the decider should have no normal ending. It didn't.

On an awful pitch after Henley's mid-season accident with some weedkiller, the hosts



Champions High Wycombe.

were skittled all out for just 80 after choosing to bat first.

They lurched from four for two to 30 for four with only three of their batsmen reaching double figures.

Dangerman and opener Michael Roberts was out for nought and the wickets kept tumbling with 16-year-old rising star Uzair Amjaid mopping up the tail, taking the last four wickets for 12 runs.

Wycombe's response began well enough. They had put 28 on the board by the time Gavin Baker became their first batsman to fall and that set off a collapse as they then fell to 30 for three before regaining their composure.

Nathan Hawkes carried his bat for 24 and with David Cranfield Thompson adding 23 before his dismissal, Wycombe got over the line with four men down in 22.4 overs.