



CHESHAM: Leese left fuming after Hungerford draw

Wadkins at England 6-a-side tournament

GENERALS STRIKER STILL ABSENT FOR BIG PAULTON FA CUP CLASH

BRAD Wadkins had a novel excuse for missing Chesham United's 2-2 draw with Hungerford on Tuesday – he was playing for England.

The striker was representing his country in a 3-2 win over Portugal in the EuroMINI six-a-side tournament in Croatia.

He is part of England's 13-man squad for the tournament which finishes on Sunday, meaning he will miss Chesham's FA Cup Second Round Qualifying match at Paulton Rovers.

He might also be glad that he was thousands of miles away on Tuesday when Chesham boss Andy Leese tore a strip off his players for surrendering the lead against nine-man Hungerford at The Meadow in the fashion that they did to draw 2-2.

Leese said: "To say it was against nine men is wrong. We have drawn against seven men not nine. One of their players was so badly injured and they had a stand-in goalkeeper as well, that's how bad it was."

"I was astounded by what I witnessed and it has cost us a win and three points are very hard to come by at this level."

"We were so naïve. We lost our sense of discipline, the players did not do what we were telling them to do and it is just not acceptable."

He was furious that having recovered from going behind after a sloppy start, United had the game won with goals from Bruce Wilson and Nick Beasant, and then went chasing more glory when all they had to do was see it out. It should have been game over, job done.



Away on international duty: Brad Wadkins in action for Chesham.

Picture: TREVOR HYDE

But United made the wrong options. Ryan Blake led the charge downfield. It was four players versus two in Chesham's favour but Blake shot straight at the visitors' stand-in keeper who then punted the ball straight downfield for Hungerford to equalise on 86 minutes.

Leese said: "We should have turned it into six versus three at the back, that's the drills we do in training and that's what we told them to do, but they just didn't do it. They ignored our instructions."

"I'm the manager so it's my responsibility but they have to take

some responsibility as well."

The manager now has to pick himself and the team up for tomorrow's big FA Cup match at Paulton as Leese chases his dream of taking The Generals into the first round proper alongside the Football League boys for the first time in his managerial reign.

Barry Hayles and Ashley Smith could be back for the long trip west, but Wadkins will still be away representing England in the Balkans.

Leese said: "It's an honour for him but it is not helping me."

"I knew in the summer that he had

been selected and that sounds fine in August but the reality in September is that we will have missed him for three games."

United needed a replay to knock out Aylesbury in the previous round in a competition that Leese is really targeting.

He said: "The players know just how important this game is. We haven't had a decent run in this competition for a long while and it would be good to put that right."

United beat Paulton 2-1 in the league earlier in the season when the teams met at The Meadow.

Ainsworth: 'They were big decisions – I just had to say, go for it'



Andrew Howard.

from back Page

which I am not sure I would have made a year earlier but it proved to be the right one. These were big decisions. I just had to say 'go for it' because it couldn't have got any worse than last year."

He said: "I've been lucky that I have had time to learn it. Andrew Howard coming in as chairman has been crucial."

"He worked on me as hard as he did on any other part of this club. He worked on me as a person. I am very lucky to have met him and he's played a big part in me becoming a better manager."

"He's not a football person. I can take things and grasp things within football but I probably didn't know how to get that out from me to be this manager type of person, Andrew saw that early and I'm grateful he did."

Transfers rumour mill says Ingram a target for Villains

WANDERERS keeper Matt Ingram is reportedly on Aston Villa's radar ahead of January's transfer window.

Reports in the Midlands suggest the former John Hampden schoolboy is among a cluster of keepers being watched by the Premier League club's goalkeeping coach Tony Coton.

Wanderers have an excellent relationship with the Villains.

They played a behind-closed-doors pre-season friendly against them in the summer and had taken young Villa defender Janoi Donacien.

Ingram, who is under contract until 2017, has made more than 100 appearances for Wycombe since rising through their ranks and was even invited to train with England.

Defender Donacien off to Newport on loan

JANOI Donacien is joining Newport County on loan after the young Aston Villa defender's one-month loan deal at Adams Park expired.

The centre half arrived from the Premier League club in August to cover a defensive crisis and made his debut in the 1-1 draw against Dagenham at Adams Park as well as featuring as a right-back in the 2-1 win over Hartlepool United.

Wycombe have invited freshers at Bucks New University to Tuesday's game against Cambridge United with an offer of £5 for a ticket and a drink.

Saints sink Ducks thanks to a hat-trick from Mendy

CHALFONT St Peter sit top of the Southern Central Division after a 4-0 win over Aylesbury United – their biggest win in two years – thanks to a hat-trick from Tony Mendy.

He got his first in the opening minute and completed his treble 68 minutes later with Aaron Lansiquot netting the other.

Holmer Green beat Aston Clinton 4-3 in the League Challenge Trophy.

Two goals in five minutes just before half time set them on their way with Dean Powles and Andy Shed netting. Shed added a third and it should have been done and dusted then, but the hosts clawed two back in quick succession before Curtis Stone netted the Greens' fourth.

However, there was still time for Aston Clinton to score again.



Hat-trick hitting Tony Mendy.

Risborough Rangers beat Hillingdon Borough 3-0 in Spartan South Midland League Division One.

Becky edge thriller with a late winner

AN Aaron Minhas goal five minutes from time saw Beaconsfield SYCOB edge a seven-goal thriller to book their place in the next round of the Berks and Bucks Cup at Marlow.

He scored an 85th-minute winner to earn the Rams a 4-3 win over their hosts in an end-to-end game.

Becky opened the scoring through Omari Patrick. But the lead was short-lived with Jason Downes restoring parity just four minutes later.

Jamal Branker then put Marlow in front before Patrick added his second to tie things up again before the interval. He missed a hat-trick chance shortly after the break but Becky got their noses in front again as Minhas fired in.

But the topsy-turvy nature of the game continued when Chris Ovens equalised for the Blues on 74 minutes and extra-time seemed to be on the cards until Patrick's shot hit the Marlow bar and Minhas stuck the loose ball in the net.

For Becky it was the second time in a week they had hit four goals after sticking the same number past Northwood in the league on Saturday in a 4-1 win to go fourth in Southern League Division One Central.

Then Patrick and Minhas were both on target again, with the former notching twice and Ryan Deattista completing the scoring.

Tomorrow Syco visit league leaders Chalfont St Peter.

SPORT



Bucks Free Press
Sport is sponsored by

WANDERERS: Parallels between Ainsworth and Sean Dyche McGinn speaks highly of his boss

By Dave Peters

STEPHEN McGinn hailed boss Gareth Ainsworth and his coaching staff for masterminding a tactical switch which earned the Blues a 1-1 draw at league leaders Leyton Orient.

The boss ditched his wingers and went for a compact midfield, bringing Matt Bloomfield in for his first minutes of the campaign, alongside McGinn, Marcus Bean and Luke O'Nien.

And the wingless wonders worked a treat. They had the O's completely rattled, became the first side to score at Brisbane Road this season and looked odds-on for all three points until an uncharacteristic defensive mistake by Sido Jombati gifted Orient an equaliser just when it looked as though the East Londoners had run out of ideas.

Even then, Wanderers might have won it at the death with a fierce drive from McGinn which a defender came from nowhere to block.

McGinn said: "As soon as the shot left my foot I thought I have won this so I'm a bit disappointed with that but it was a great block."

But a point – and the manner in which they played to achieve it – was something to celebrate for Blues and McGinn was quick to doff his cap to Ainsworth for the tactical changes.

He said: "Changing the midfield definitely worked because it forced them to change their style of play and that shows how dominant we were in the first half. We had worked all week on it and come match day we all knew exactly what our roles were and what we had to do. The management team really simplify it for us and it wasn't a surprise to us that it worked because we had worked so hard on it."

"We had spent all week on it and it had gone really well in training. As soon as we did it, it clicked and it showed out there."

"We've got a small squad but the fact that we can switch like that gives us plenty of options. We've got a squad of intelligent players



'I've loved it here': Stephen McGinn was part of an effective performance by Wanderers' midfield quartet and almost clinched maximum points at Brisbane Road on Saturday.
Picture: ANITA ROSS MARSHALL

that can do different jobs for the team. The manager lets you know what's expected and if you don't do it you're not in the team."

McGinn is one of the new boys in the team having signed in the summer and he's convinced he's in the right place even though he has been in and out of the side.

He said: "I've loved it here. It's a really good team and a successful team. We don't lose often and we don't look like losing often and that's so important to me."

"There's a mentality that comes

from the manager and he demands it of you and if it looks like you are coming off it a bit, you go out of the team. There's no big secrets to what we do, we work really hard and demand the best of each other and it seems to work."

And he sees parallels between Gareth Ainsworth and Sean Dyche, who took Burnley into the Premiership.

He said: "I worked with Sean Dyche before and training then was really hard but the two managers are very similar in what they ask from

you and how simple they make the game for you."

"I don't think either manager would like to be compared to each other because they are both really good young managers but in terms of the demands they put on you and how hard you need to work in training they are similar."

And he says there was definitely no blame directed at Jombati, who got punished for trying to play his way out of trouble at the back.

He said: "The manager doesn't point any fingers or single anyone

out. We will maybe go over it on Monday or Tuesday but Sido tries to play football all the time and when you do that you are brave and take chances and you are going you make mistakes now and then. If you got Sido to kick the ball in the stands every time there was an issue then you would be taking a lot away from him as a player."

"There will be times this season when I make a mistake and I wouldn't want Sido jumping down my throat and I have got too much respect for him to do it to him."



Joel Grant is 'really excited' about potentially facing Wanderers tomorrow.

Ainsworth is tipped for top

FORMER Wanderer Joel Grant has tipped Gareth Ainsworth to manage in the Premier League one day.

The winger, who is now with tomorrow's opponents Exeter City, reckons the Wycombe boss has the attributes to climb the management ladder.

He said: "He can go all the way to the top level. I can see him making the Premier League, why not? He had a top career as a player and he's got a lot to offer as a manager."

Grant says some of his happiest times in football were the two years he spent at Adams Park living with his best friend Marvin McCoy and playing under first Gary Waddock and then Ainsworth.

He said of Ainsworth: "His man

management is very good, he tries to keep everyone happy and involved, he makes everyone feel part of the group but he is also a good coach. He looks at each individual and in my case he allowed me to express myself while adding to my game by improving my weaknesses."

Although Grant was already on Jamaica's radar as an U20 and U23 player, he believes it was his performances under Ainsworth that propelled him towards the full caps he won for The Reggae Boyz after he moved to Championship side Yeovil.

Grant said: "Leaving Wycombe to go to Yeovil was very tough and the decision was only taken because I wanted to play

at a higher level. If I could have got promoted with Wycombe that would have been ideal because I enjoyed it so much there."

He is now at Exeter after the team's supporters clubbed together to pay his wages.

He said: "Hopefully I will be fit, ready and selected to play against Wycombe because I loved it there and had some really good times. It's going to be one of our toughest games of the season. Wycombe are doing really well."

About having his wages paid for by City's fans Grant says: "I'm very grateful to them that they have put themselves out for me and hopefully with my performances I won't let them down."



BLUES: Boss disappointed not to have toppled league leaders Ainsworth was 'gutted' with draw

By Dave Peters

BLUES boss Gareth Ainsworth said he would have taken a 1-1 draw at leaders Leyton Orient before kick off but was "gutted" to have to share the points at the end.

The team, which he moulded into a 4-1-3-2 shape to stifle Orient's midfield, looked on course for victory courtesy of a scrambled goal which both Gozie Ogwu and Matt Bloomfield laid claim to before Sido Jombati's defensive calamity saw Jay Simpson's 67th-minute equaliser.

Ainsworth said: "I'm gutted not to get three points. It was a sloppy goal to get away and there were a couple of incidents I thought could've changed the game."

Blues thought they should have had a penalty when Bloomfield was introduced face first to the grass deep into the second half and O's Sean Clohessy somehow escaped a second yellow card for a desperately poor tackle on Joe Jacobson.

Ainsworth said: "I'm not going to ask for anyone to be sent off but I'll look closely at that and Matt's not the type to go down without contact."

But despite the key talking points going against him, Ainsworth said: "I would've taken a point beforehand. It shows how far we've come because we're a much smaller club. It was a big giant against us and we've stood up to them and then some. I'm proud of my players. I had lads cramping up because of the effort they put in."

While Ainsworth praised his team, he should take some credit himself for the way he set them out without wingers to compact the midfield which Orient's Dean Cox usually dominates.

He explained: "We set up to stifle their game. We changed our tactics, played without wingers and it worked a treat. I didn't think they had too much of an answer."

He also praised the men who were still battling over the ownership of the goal until the goals committee ruled in Ogwu's favour yesterday.



Temperers threaten to boil over during the second half at Brisbane Road.

Picture: SIMON O'CONNOR

He said: "Gozie was outstanding, he led the line really well and Matt, who hadn't played a minute for me this season, was excellent."

His team looked comfortable until Aaron Pierre failed to clear and then Jombati compounded the error by overplaying.

Ainsworth said: "It was a mix-up. We've got a right back at centre back and it's tough. We're asking Sido to do things he's not used to but he's one hell of a defender and in my team every week. There's no fault, no blame, these things happen."

It was hard to stomach though. A draw at the leaders is normally something to cherish but Blues knew it should have been better. They were in control until that error brought an equaliser which hadn't looked likely.

Orient had not lost at home or even conceded a goal there so it was always going to be tough.

Orient knew if they didn't concede they would set a record for home clean sheets going back to 1935.

But Wycombe were more purposeful. O's keeper Alex Cisak needed

bailing out by Mathieu Baudry to prevent an own goal and they gifted Blues another chance when Lloyd James' backpass was seized upon by Garry Thompson, only for the keeper to block that and the follow up.

Wycombe kept at it though, and seconds after surviving a scare when keeper Matt Ingram pawed Cox's low cross away, Ogwu's header was blocked by his marker. The ball squirted out between them and Ogwu swung a desperate leg at it but it was Bloomfield who got the crucial touch to force a scrappy but

deserved 42nd-minute opener.

Half time saw Orient introduce another striker in Ollie Palmer but it made no difference. Wycombe were well on top and pushing for a second.

Orient only looked like leaders after equalising and Ingram denied Blair Turgott and Simpson.

As the home side pushed, Wanderers were grateful to an Orient pitch invader. That gave Blues breathing space and they regrouped and went again. Bloomfield's penalty claim was turned down while Stephen McGinn's late effort was blocked.

'Mr Nice Guy' seeks games

MATT Bloomfield hopes he's done enough to retain his shirt at Exeter.

The forgotten midfielder finally got his first minutes of action this season when he was given the armband in place of injured skipper Paul Hayes for Saturday's game at Leyton Orient. And he marked his return by scoring in a stand-out performance in the 1-1 draw, although the goal was taken off him yesterday by the dubious goals panel.

He said: "I really enjoyed being back playing. To have not played a minute this season has been very frustrating. To get my opportunity was great and hopefully I'll get another this weekend. I have missed football terribly. It was a big

boost to be captain and hopefully I backed that up with my performance.

"I will be very disappointed if I'm not involved this week. I feel I did enough to get another opportunity but it's the manager's decision and I respect that."

Asked whether he feels his reputation as the club's Mr Nice Guy sometimes goes against him, making it easier for the management to leave him out rather than a high maintenance player, he said: "It's possible it does but I am who I am. I will always have the team at the forefront of my mind. Whether that's worked for or against me over the years is for other people to decide.

"It's not easy when you're not in the

team because I love playing football as much as I enjoy earning a living from it but the team comes first.

"It's difficult for me to deal with but it is not difficult for me to come in and work my hardest because I know if I do that eventually my chance will come like it did on Saturday."

He says it is Mrs Bloomfield who sees his dark moods when he's not playing. He added: "I try and leave work at the door. Sometimes I take it home. Luckily I've got a beautiful daughter who lifts me up every time I get home.

"It's a long season and I'm sure I'll get games but I live for the day and want to play now."



Matt Bloomfield will be 'very disappointed' if he's not involved for the Blues at Exeter tomorrow.

SPORT

Getting credit

Manager Ainsworth receives praise from Wanderers players old and new



TRIATHLON: Garry keeps calm to star in Chicago champs

Teen's delight at fifth place in championships



Seb Garry

"WHEN the horn went I started swimming but I wasn't going anywhere, or rather I was, I was going backwards. Someone had grabbed my leg and used me to catapult themselves forward. I started to panic."

That was sixth former Seb Garry's introduction to his first World Triathlon Sprint Age Group Championships in Chicago.

Imagine the panic. Garry's parents had helped fund his trip out to the American city and he was stuck in reverse while all around him his

rivals, some four years his senior, were leaving him well behind.

He said: "I put the panic behind me quickly." He was in 50th position when he exited the water. Garry then produced 'the ride of my life' to jump off the bike in 13th place 20 kilometres later before overtaking yet more people on the 5km run to finish fifth.

The Sir William Borlase's student and High Wycombe Cycling Club member said: "I still haven't processed it all yet in my head. It's the best success I've had in my short life

and hopefully in a few years' time I will have even more. To finish fifth was just amazing.

"I thought mid-pack, something like 50th out of 90, would be alright. When I found out where I had finished I was ecstatic."

Because it was a laps event Garry didn't realise quite where he had come until sometime afterwards.

He said: "It was such a hot day. It was the hardest race of my life what with the heat and the overwhelming emotion of it all.

"I sat in a paddling pool full of ice

for about ten minutes after the race until I felt good enough to walk. I hobbled over to where my dad and coach were and they told me I had come fifth."

The 16-year-old's performance in the U20 race means he has now pre-qualified for next year's World Championships in Mexico as he chases his ultimate dream of a place in the Tokyo Olympics in five years. But Garry is not resting on his laurels.

This weekend he is heading to Hever Castle for a 'fun' triathlon event.

WANDERERS: Boss reflects on a pivotal day

Ainsworth aiming for anniversary away win

GARETH Ainsworth celebrated his third anniversary as Wanderers manager yesterday and tomorrow he will look to mark that milestone by extending the club's proud unbeaten away record at a side he owes one.

Exeter were the first team to beat Wycombe on their travels last season, putting a rare dent into the record of a manager who has gone from strength to strength since his first full season in charge when Wanderers needed a final day of the season win at Torquay to stay in the Football League.

That Houdini escape in South Devon was the transformation of Ainsworth as a manager and from the brink of adversity he has transformed the club's fortunes and become one of the game's most highly rated up-and-coming managers.

He said: "Looking back at surviving on the last day of the season there are many managers who would have got the sack because the club was in a bad situation, the worst it's ever been in.

"I'm not going to dress it up and say what a great achievement staying up was. That final day was a great achievement but the season was a huge learning curve and it really spurred me on to learn more and to change my attitude a lot on management and change the way I did things.

"When I took the reins I didn't put my stamp on the club enough.

By Dave Peters

I didn't take those responsibilities as quickly as I should have. It was absolute inexperience. I was wet behind the ears. It doesn't matter what coaching courses you go on, doing the job is totally different."

Ainsworth described that Torquay survival day as a 'kick up the backside'. He turned reflection into reaction and hasn't looked back since. That defeat at Exeter last term was one of only two away defeats all season as he transformed Wycombe from relegation favourites to play-off finalists in a season in which he was crowned League Two Manager of the Year.

Ainsworth said: "That Torquay experience is one of the most important days of my managerial career and I will still be saying that in 10 years. There's nothing I can say that will do justice to describe how I felt and how much I learned from it.

"I knew I couldn't do what I had done that year. It hadn't worked, so I made some vital decisions. I had to do what I thought was right and just go for it. And it worked."

He changed from Gaz to Gaffer and put his imprint on the squad and the entire club, making brave choices like sacrificing a player for a sports scientist along the way.

He said: "That was a decision



A Torquay turning point: Gareth Ainsworth is now into his fourth year as Wanderers manager. Picture: ANITA ROSS MARSHALL

Turn to Page 157

Midfielder asked for his advice

BLOOMFIELD REVEALS HIS PART IN CANARIES' ANFIELD EQUALISER

MIDFIELDER Matt Bloomfield had one goal taken off him this week but could still lay partial claim to another.

His scrambled goal in last Saturday's 1-1 draw at Leyton Orient was yesterday given to Gozie Ogwu by the dubious goals panel but he did play a part in Norwich City's equaliser in their 1-1 draw against Liverpool at Anfield on Sunday.

His former Wycombe teammate Russell Martin was unsure about whether it was right to play for the Canaries in the game after his wife had just given birth to their third child earlier that morning and he phoned 'Blooms' for advice.

Bloomfield said: "I spoke to him on Sunday morning when he was in a taxi. He rang me to ask my advice and to ask if I thought he was doing the right thing by going back up to Liverpool to play.

"I told him he was doing the right thing. I said if you feel well enough go and play. He didn't want to let anyone down. I said 'you're bound to score' and he did. It was bound to happen, it was a great story and good on him.

"He's probably going to ring me every week now."

Martin had initially been on Merseyside with the Canaries team but returned south after getting a call on the eve of the game saying his wife had gone into labour.

He was up all night with her and she gave birth to their son at 9.25am on Sunday before he caught a flight with the Norwich directors back to Liverpool.

He led the team out as captain and topped his marvellous weekend with the Canaries' goal.