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Midfielder looks forward



Looking and learning: Max Kretschmar during pre-season.

Picture: ANITA ROSS MARSHALL

By Dave Peters

spark and his movement and touch are very good. He is still learning that position."

Kretschmar has previously supplied six goals from midfield and he should have marked his first game as a striker with a goal as well when he fastened on to Aaron Amadi-Holloway's through ball but fired the wrong side of the post.

Ainsworth said immediately after the game: "I thought he did ok tonight. He was a threat, he got in behind them a lot. He's got a couple of positions in the bag but I see him more as an attacking player."

And the home-grown talent is happy with his new role.

He said: "Growing up I have always been an attacking midfielder but the gaffer sees me as a forward now and I really enjoy that role."

"But I've got a lot to learn about this position and I've got to learn quickly because I want to score goals."

"I've scored a few from midfield. I got six in my breakthrough season but I want to improve on that."

"I just need the opportunities and I need to get my head down to get that first team spot."

And Kretschmar says he could not have better people to learn from as he bids to carve out a career as a goal-grabber.

He said: "With Paul Hayes and Garry Thompson they've got 100-plus goals which is brilliant for me to learn off."

"I was asking Paul for advice before the game and Garry came up to help me as well and those wise heads' tips really helped me. I practice my finishing a lot."

The 21-year-old has had a stop-start career since breaking into the Blues side.

Last season illness halted his progress as he battled an enlarged spleen.

He said: "I felt ok to play but the doctors said I couldn't risk it. It was very frustrating being out for three or four months."

"This season I wanted to really hit the ground running but got a little ankle injury the day before the first game of the season but now I feel like I am getting back to where I want to be."

"But I've got to play myself into the team first. We've got a good group of strikers here with different shapes and sizes and I've got to nail down that first team spot now."

And he said of his first competitive experience as a frontman: "I felt I should have scored a couple. Aaron did brilliantly for me, he had gone on a brilliant run and slipped me in at just the right moment and I snatched at it a bit. I knew what I wanted to do but didn't connect with it as I wanted but hopefully with more games I will take the next chances that come along."

Blues return to League 2 action on Saturday with a trip to Stevenage.

CHAIRBOYS chief Gareth Ainsworth reckons Max Kretschmar can be the man to take Wycombe forward.

He now sees the former midfielder as a striker and played him in that role as Wanderers went out of the JPT Trophy last week with a 2-0 defeat at Bristol Rovers.

The boss said: "I think Max is a forward player more than a midfielder player. He's a bright

Cup dreams kept alive

CHESHAM United kept their dreams of reaching the FA Cup first round proper alive with a 2-0 win over North Leigh at the Meadow on Saturday.

In a closely-contested game, Dave Pearce broke the deadlock from the penalty spot with 17 minutes remaining before completing the victory with a powerful effort three minutes later.

The reward for Andy Leese's side is a fourth qualifying round tie at home to Enfield Town, who beat Hitchin Town 2-1 in a replay on Monday night.

Elsewhere Chalfont St Peter fell from the top of the



Chesham boss Andy Leese

Evo-Stick Southern Central Division One after a 6-2 trouncing at the hands of North Greenford United.

Tony Mendy gave Chalfont the lead after seven minutes

but that was as good as it got as George Moore, Sayon Kaita and Suleiman Djalo all scored before half time for Greenford.

Mendy netted again early in the second half but it wasn't to be as Moore struck again and Charlie Mitchell and Aaron McLeish completed the scoring for the hosts.

Beaconsfield will be equally despondent after a 2-0 loss against Royston Town took Town to the top of the Southern Central Division.

Marlow picked up their first away win of the season in their South-West Division One clash against Wimborne Town securing a 3-2 result.



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