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Tuesday December 15th, 7.45pm, FL2

NOTTS COUNTY



Saturday December 19th, 3pm, FL2

OXFORD UNITED



Monday December 28th, 3pm, FL2

CRAWLEY TOWN



Saturday January 2nd, 3pm, FL2

MORECAMBE



Saturday January 9th, 12.45pm, FAC R3

ASTON VILLA

#Chairboys



Tickets from £13 (adults) and £5 (juniors), and under 7s go free in the Family Stand (league games only).



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FL2 = Football League 2

COC = Capital One Cup

JPT = Johnstone's Paint Trophy

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SPORT

Bucks Free Press
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GRAHAMWanderers
to host
Royals
WomenTOP-FLIGHT WOMEN'S FOOTBALL TO BE
PLAYED AT WANDERERS' HOME

ADAMS Park will play host to Reading Women's home fixtures for the next two years following their promotion to the FA WSL One Division.

The Royals earned promotion on the final day of last season and will now be competing with the country's leading women's football teams including Arsenal, Manchester City and Chelsea.

The season will begin in March with Reading's standard home kick off time being 2pm on Sundays.

Reading FC Women general manager Jon Horton said: "We are absolutely delighted to finalise the agreement with Wycombe Wanderers - Adams Park is a superb facility with a fantastic pitch.

"The staff and management at Wycombe Wanderers are very supportive of the introduction of women's football.

"We are looking forward to working with the club and their Trust to drive awareness and support for both clubs".

The club already enjoys a relationship with Reading and Adams Park has previously played host to a number of the Royals' Under-21 games.

Easing of
financesFA CUP TIE WITH VILLA WILL TAKE THE
PRESSURE OFF FINANCIALLY FOR CLUB

from back Page

to play the game in front of a full house.

"A cup game like this will help massively with the finances of the club. It is the same for most League Two sides and for any small club."

As well as the monetary advantages of a big home crowd, Ainsworth fondly recalls previous nights when the stadium was full.

An enthused Ainsworth said: "We had a big crowd for the play-off against Plymouth last year and it was fantastic. Moments like that really stay with you and are what football is about.

"The cup game will be a memorable occasion and if we can reach a full house at Adams Park that would be great."

Premier League opposition will pose a new challenge for many of Ainsworth's players and it is the first time he has been involved at this stage of the competition as a manager.

This is the first time since 2011 the Blues have reached the third round of the cup when they were beaten 1-0 at home by Hereford United.

Striker has potential
to play at higher levelSKIPPER BELIEVES AMADI-HOLLOWAY
COULD HAVE 'TWICE CAREER' HE HAS

THEY say time is relative. For Aaron Amadi-Holloway the clock to fulfil a much-praised potential has begun to tick with greater urgency in recent times.

At 22 that clock is still very much on his side and the sense around Adams Park is that the perennial substitute is destined to go onto greater things than League Two football.

He currently finds himself behind veteran strikers Paul Hayes, 32, and Garry Thompson, 35, in the pecking order and the onus has been put on him to force his way into the Blues starting line-up.

Indeed Wycombe captain Hayes has spoken glowingly of the qualities that the Welshman possesses and has tipped him to reach the very top of the game.

"Aaron has all the attributes to play in the Premier League. He is a big strong lad and the quickest player at the club along with Aaron Pierre," Hayes explained.

"He also has a lovely touch and can score goals so as a package he has it all and can be a massive player for us.

"Hopefully the penny will drop sooner rather than later because he is 22-years-old now so needs to start showing his quality, but he has a good chance of going up the leagues."

Amadi-Holloway was given a chance to show that quality during Saturday's 2-1 win at Millwall in round two of the FA Cup, where he partnered the skipper up front.

He showed signs of the strength and talent that Hayes is so adamant he has with some strong running and smart link-up play.

As is so often the way with strikers though, his chance to grab the

limelight came in a fleeting moment as he prodded wide from close range at the end of the first half with just the keeper to beat.

It was a gilt-edged chance and the forward showed the sort of rawness expected of a young striker, but his manager was pleased with the effort and echoed his captain's views.

"It is great for him to be in the position to miss the chance and he has probably created it with his movement a few seconds earlier," Gareth Ainsworth explained.

"I believe he can go on and play at a higher level. He is not ready yet but with plenty of time and games he has got that chance.

"I would really like to keep him at the club and I view his development as a big project for myself."

The 'project' that Ainsworth speaks of may centre on restoring a confidence that was knocked by a number of injuries and a lack of game time before joining Wycombe in the summer of 2014.

Of his 28 career starts, 25 have come for the Adams Park side and he is benefitting from Ainsworth's continued trust in younger players.

Hayes, who visibly takes great pride in helping youngsters develop their game, is aware of the sensitive nature of a player who often needs to be made aware of the talent at his disposal.

"I can't speak highly enough of him, and I sit down and tell him he could have twice the career I have had sometimes. He possibly needs reminding of that every now and again," he said.

"He had a tough start to his career and is a laid back, soft guy and if people keep pelting him he is going to go into his shell.

"He has come to Wycombe and it is a fantastic opportunity because he has the best coaching staff who will give him the playing time and love he needs to develop."



Paul Hayes believes Aaron Amadi-Holloway 'has all the attributes to play in the Premier League'.
Picture: ANITA ROSS MARSHALL

Ainsworth praises 'talisman' Hayes

CHAIRBOYS manager Gareth Ainsworth has talked up the importance of club captain Paul Hayes after he ended his goal drought against Millwall on Saturday.

Hayes' volleyed effort ended a six-game run without finding the net in what has been an injury-hit season featuring just two goals in 15 appearances.

Ainsworth feels having the forward back among the goals is important considering his 15 strikes in all competitions spearheaded the Blues' play-off push last season.

He said: "Your centre forwards need to score and we haven't had a prolific scorer yet this season. It is nice to have that talisman, and Hayese was that for us last year

and reached double figures.

"On his day he is better than League Two standard so it is great to see him back scoring and I am hoping his injury problems are behind him now."

While the skipper was not particularly concerned by his increasing run of games without a goal, Hayes was pleased to get back on the scoresheet.

He puts his lack of goals since his return from a long-term Achilles injury in October down to an inability to train properly and improve his match fitness.

"The hardest thing for me is having to adapt my training to help with my recovery so I can't train every day," he said.

"When I came back I was struggling for sharpness because all I could do was play games and my lungs were struggling to keep up with my legs.

"I was surprised by how much room I had for the goal and just put my laces through it. With not scoring in the last few games I needed a goal so I am obviously pleased."

With more than 400 career appearances to his name, Hayes' role encompasses far more than just that of a goal scorer in a squad brimming with young talent.

As is often commonplace for club captains, Hayes is burdened with the responsibility of leading the squad on the pitch, a task he takes on with relish.

Many of these players have limited experience of League Two football and Ainsworth believes Hayes shares many of the qualities that he sees in himself.

He said: "He has a group of young boys with him and leads them fantastically well. He is an extension of me on the pitch so is a big player for me."

Hayes was clearly taken aback upon learning of the comments made by his manager but was pleased to receive any comparison with Ainsworth.

He said: "If he is saying that anything about myself resembles what he was as a player that is one of the biggest compliments I have had in my career."

Pierre: Assist makes up for missing defeat

BLUES: Defender admits he needs to be 'cuter'

By Harry Gray

AARON Pierre says his match-winning assist against Millwall was the perfect antidote to missing the 3-0 defeat against Bristol Rovers through suspension last week.

The centre-back showed great skill as he kept the ball airborne for two touches before producing a perfect Cruyff turn and crossing for Michael Harriman to score the late winner on Saturday.

It was a fine way to end a difficult week for the 22-year-old in which he admitted to feeling powerless while sitting out of Wycombe's humbling loss at the hands of Bristol Rovers.

"It is horrible for me being on the sidelines and not being able to contribute or help the team. It happened to me a couple of times last year and I just need to learn to be a bit cuter," he explained.

"It is hard for me because I do like the physical side of things and in this day and age football is a little bit prettier compared to the way it used to be.

"It was good to get the assist and I saw Harriman in a great position and knew I couldn't be selfish and shoot, so I crossed for him and he finished it well."

The late winner was just reward for Wycombe's dominant display in a match that saw them create the better chances but be pegged back to 1-1 by a



Aaron Pierre enjoys the opportunity to get forward.

Picture: ANITA ROSS MARSHALL

long-range strike.

The ingenuity of Pierre in the box came as a surprise to his teammates despite Paul Hayes admitting after the game that the defender fancies himself as a forward.

The auxiliary striker role is one that Pierre revels in and he backs his ability in the final third where he feels emboldened to play with more freedom.

"Sometimes I like to think of myself as a bit of

a striker, I'm not going to lie. When you go up front and you battle, everything seems more fun," Pierre said.

"I enjoy being a centre-back and being a bit of a brute, but when you play up front there is nothing to lose, you can try a little trick and if it comes off it is brilliant because you are a defender."

Closer to home Pierre has been an almost ever-present in the Wycombe de-

fence recently, partnering both Jason McCarthy and Anthony Stewart in the heart of the back four.

He has coped admirably with the different line-ups – a task that is not easy for one so young playing in one of the game's hardest positions to master – and is clear about what is required to form strong defensive unity quickly.

He said: "The first thing you need to do is make sure you have an understanding

with each other and it is easy getting that in training but in a match it is very different.

"I didn't know how Jason would play when he came in and we had to make sure we dropped together and went up together and I had to trust him.

"I played beside Anthony previously so I had that understanding already. They are both great players though so I can trust them and they trust me as well."

Win wasn't a fluke, says Ainsworth



Gareth Ainsworth

GARETH Ainsworth believed Wanderers showed great character as a late winner against Millwall saw them reach the third round of the FA Cup on Saturday.

Michael Harriman's stoppage-time strike led the Blues to a deserved win at the Den after Paul Hayes' opener had been cancelled out by Ben Thompson's effort from distance.

The win came on the back of a 3-0 defeat at Bristol Rovers where Wycombe collapsed defensively and Ainsworth said Saturday's display showed their resolve had returned.

He said: "It is a credit to the players, and I agree that they could have collapsed and had a bit of 'here we go again' syndrome.

"But it wasn't like that. I wouldn't be sitting here as a Wycombe Wanderers manager if they were like that. I thought the goal at the end was fantastic and showed typical Wycombe grind.

"This wasn't a fluke win, and if you were in the ground and honest today I think you would have to say that we deserved the win."

Wycombe's opener came at the start of the second half after they had been in the ascendancy for most of the game and had a number of attempts on the Millwall goal.

Hayes volleyed home from inside the box after Matt Bloomfield had picked him out with a perfectly-weighted ball over the top.

It was a well-taken finish, but the striker was awarded far too much room in the Millwall area.

The lead lasted less than ten minutes though, as a poor defensive header fell to Thompson and he fired into the bottom corner from 25 yards.

But Ainsworth's men remained resolute and with time running out Aaron Pierre produced an excellent turn in the box to set up Harriman for a tap in.

The win also meant avoiding what could have been an awkward replay that would have meant moving the already rescheduled game with Notts County on Tuesday.

The Chairboys will now face Aston Villa in the third round on the weekend of Saturday, January 9.

Wycombe Wanderers: Ingram; McCarthy, Stewart, Pierre, Jombati, Harriman, O'Nien, Bloomfield, Wood, Hayes, Amadi-Holloway (Thompson 75). Subs not used: Lynch; McGinn, Sellers, Kretzschmar, Rowe, Ugwu
Millwall: Archer; Edwards, Nelson, Webster, J. Martin, Upson (Onyed-inma 69 (Pavey 95)), Thompson, Williams, O'Brien (L. Martin 83), Morrison, Gregory. Subs not used: Forde; Cummings, Abdou, Wood

Bloomfield motivated by huge FA Cup tie

WANDERERS midfielder Matt Bloomfield says the FA Cup third round tie against Aston Villa in January is the perfect motivation for him to maintain his place in the starting XI.

Bloomfield has been enjoying an extended run in the side since Marcus Bean picked up an ankle injury last month.

With Bean expected back between Christmas and the start of the New Year,

Bloomfield views the next few weeks as the ideal time to make his case to start the glamour tie.

"It is a shame that it has taken a knock to Marcus Bean for me to get back in the side but I have loved playing in the middle again," he explained.

"I will work hard to make sure I am in the team for the Villa game, which means playing well in both matches and in training."

Bloomfield produced an impressive display against Millwall on Saturday where he was responsible for an assist in the 2-1 FA Cup second round victory at the Den.

It was an example of the sort of play he feels will give him the best possible chance of maintaining his place in midfield.

Bloomfield is not alone in his desire to start the cup tie, and with seven games

in the league between now and then he feels Wycombe's league form will be boosted as players stake their claim for a place.

"All the lads want to play in the cup, everyone is champing at the bit. I am no different to anyone else in that respect," he said.

"I think it will have a really positive impact for the games in between now and the Villa game as well.

"We have a lot of impor-

tant games over the next few weeks.

"People will want to impress and get in the team for the FA Cup game and that can only help to bring the best out of us."

Bloomfield is likely to continue his run this weekend, and has stressed that his short-term focus is on impressing sufficiently to retain his place for the Notts County game on Tuesday.

SPORT

BIG FUTURE?

Blues skipper believes Amadi-Holloway can make it to the Premier League



BLUES: Boss seeking continuation of fine attacking form Ainsworth: We can beat anyone on our game



Michael Harriman.

GARETH Ainsworth expects his Wanderers side to continue their strong attacking form when they travel to The Crown Ground to face Accrington Stanley tomorrow.

The Blues produced a fine attacking display during their 2-1 FA Cup win against Millwall on Saturday as they created a number of chances.

Ainsworth believes it was another example of Wycombe's recent impressive forward play as goals from Paul Hayes and Michael Harriman secured a place in round three and is hoping they can continue the

theme against high-flying Stanley.

"We were fantastic going forward against both Portsmouth and Millwall, and maybe lost that against Bristol," he explained.

"We have been creating chances and scoring some really good goals and we want to do the same at the weekend.

"It would be easy for me to say our level dropped last time in the league against Bristol because of tiredness, but maybe it did have a bit of an impact."

Despite Ainsworth delighting in

his side's current attacking flair, he is as aware as anyone that Wanderers rely on their defensive solidity as much as their other qualities.

It is a strength that has seen them concede only 19 league goals this season and has gone a long way towards their continued presence just outside the play-off places.

With fourth-placed Stanley's Josh Windass and Billy Kee having plundered 18 league goals between them this season, Ainsworth is conscious that his dependable defence will be central to Wycombe's success.

He said: "They [Accrington Stanley] are having a big season and it will be a big test for us against them. It's true that they score a lot of goals and are in good form.

"They have players like Windass and Kee who are very good at this level, but we are hoping we can exploit them defensively with our attacking play as well.

"We pride ourselves on our defence and being together, and will keep that going. It is really important to me to know that when we are on our game we can beat anybody."

BLUES: Ainsworth hails 'brilliant' third round draw 'I want to show what the cup means to us'

LEAGUE Two clubs rarely get to enjoy the limelight of a live TV audience but Wycombe Wanderers will do exactly that in round three of the FA Cup.

The Blues' meeting with Aston Villa at Adams Park will be shown live on BT Sport at 12.45pm on Saturday, January 9.

Manager Gareth Ainsworth is delighted with the news and is looking forward to welcoming a Premier League side to the Chairboys' home.

"It is a brilliant draw for the club and I am really pleased for the players because they deserve to face a Premier League side," he explained.

"To have the game on TV and everything that goes with that means so much for the club and for the players. My main thing is that I want the game to be competitive and I want us to show what the cup means to the club."

"It will be great for the younger guys to play in front of the TV, and even if you are a player who has done it before you can never get bored of that."

While the tie is already being fervently anticipated by Blues fans, a busy Christmas period lies between now and the match in a month's time.

On current form Villa would present the ideal candidates for a famous cup giant killing as they sit bottom of the Premier League

By Harry Gray

with just six points and one win all season.

However, Ainsworth argues that a month is a long time in football and believes Villa's form could easily change before the teams meet.

Blues manager said: "It is a month away and we have seven games to go before we even play the game and things can change dramatically in that time.

"There is no way of telling what will happen at Aston Villa in that time so you can't expect a giant killing. We have a vital Christmas period and I want to focus on getting results in that time."

While Ainsworth is understandably focused on footballing matters he is, of course, aware of the financial advantages of hosting a live cup tie.

Wycombe will receive a fee from the TV rights deal and the game is also likely to attract a sell-out crowd to Adams Park, which will have an immediate impact on finances.

"It is fantastic and we all know that the FA Cup is massive for small clubs and that it can have a big impact financially," Ainsworth explained.

"The money will help ease the financial pressure on the club for a little while, and it will be great

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Gareth Ainsworth says 'there is no way of telling' what shape Aston Villa will be in when next month's FA Cup tie comes around.

'I'm proud of players', says Leese

GENERALS BOSS ADMITS BRADFORD DESERVED TO REACH THIRD ROUND

ANDY Leese says he is proud of his Chesham United players despite their FA Cup dream coming to an end at the hands of Bradford City on Sunday.

The Generals went down 4-0 in the second round tie and missed out on the chance of replicating the club's finest ever cup run of 1980.

The manager, though, remains firm in his belief that their achievement is a commendable one, and claims that he is happy with how far United have come in the competition.

"It is a proud day. I am proud of the club, and the players and the performance. I hate losing like always but it was certainly the right result, maybe not in terms of the score but Bradford deserved the win," he said.

"I don't want to be too simplistic about things but I am always proud of the players. They have done well, and getting this far is a real achievement and we should focus on that really rather than the result."

Chesham went behind just after the 20-minute mark, a lead which was doubled minutes before half-time, and conceded two goals during stoppage time of the second period.

The timing of the goal before the interval had a lasting impact on United, and Leese felt that the two late goals were a product of his side's hunt for a comeback rather than the quality of Bradford.

"The nature of the goal before half-time was poor and we didn't defend it particularly well. It took a bit out of us but I think we came out and did well in the second half," Leese explained.

"With 15 minutes to go we just

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