

Tributes paid by six players leaving Blues

DEPARTING group thank club, staff and fans

By Harry Gray

WYCOMBE Wanderers' departing players have paid tribute to the club after ending their stays at Adams Park.

Jason McCarthy, Ryan Allsop, Jerrell Sellars and Paris Cowan-Hall are returning to their parent clubs after loan spells, while Max Kretschmar and Alex Lynch depart after their contracts came to an end.

All six have paid tribute to the management staff and reflected on their careers in Buckinghamshire.

Kretschmar has been with Wycombe since the age of 14 and gave an emotional statement upon the announcement of his departure on Monday.

The midfielder wrote in a post on twitter: "It's with a heavy heart I say goodbye to Wycombe Wanderers. This club has been part of my life since I was 14 years old and will always live on with me. I want to say a massive thank you to Dobbo [assistant manager Richard Dobson] and the manager for giving me my first opportunity in professional football and letting me achieve my dreams."

"I'm happy with the decision that has been made and I'm excited for what the future may hold. Avoiding relegation and reaching the play-off final the next season was an unbelievable achievement and will live with me forever."

"I couldn't have spent



Leaving with a 'heavy heart': Max Kretschmar has been with Wycombe since the age of 14.

my time here with a better group of lads and I wish them all the best next season, and finally to the fans, thanks for your support over the years"

Lynch has made a handful of appearances in the Wycombe side and developed a habit of being involved in the club's bigger games. He said: "After two unforgettable years my time at Wycombe has come to an end. I have gained experience that I could never

have dreamed about. It's been a pleasure to be part of a club moving forward."

"Thanks to the gaffer and Baz [goalkeeping coach Barry Richardson] for giving me the chance to play, to the lads for making my time here enjoyable, and to the fans for their support through being chucked in at the deep end."

McCarthy, who returns to Southampton after a successful loan spell, also tweeted to thank everyone

at Wycombe. He said: "I want to thank WWFC for an amazing season – the manager, his staff, the fans and players I've had the pleasure of learning off every day. I have memories that will last a lifetime and I'm forever grateful to all of you."

Sellars, Allsop and Cowan-Hall were equally forthcoming in their praise of Gareth Ainsworth, his coaching staff and everyone connected to the club.

Sellars tweeted: "Massive thank you to all the fans, players and staff for welcoming me to the club and helping me enjoy my time! All the best!"

"I've really enjoyed it here and I'm really grateful to the gaffer and Baz for the opportunity. Everyone has made me feel so welcome."

Cowan-Hall, who had an injury-disrupted stay, said: "Want to say a big thanks to the players, staff and fans. Very special club."

Boss is 'hurt' by Chairboys capitulation



Gareth Ainsworth was annoyed

IN the end, Wycombe Wanderers' attempts to spoil the Oxford United promotion party amounted to a toothless surrender on a glorious day for the hosts.

In pure statistics, the Chairboys managed zero shots on target – for the second match running – while Oxford mustered nine, three of which nestling in Ryan Allsop's net.

The Kassam Stadium was jumping before, during and after the match as Chey Dunkley's header, Chris Maguire's penalty and Callum O'Dowda's clinical finish gave United the 3-0 win their dominance warranted.

Oxford can now prepare for life in the third tier of English football, while Wycombe must ready themselves to go again in the fourth. And manager Gareth Ainsworth could not hide his disappointment.

"We capitulated in the second half and the first goal is too soft, we don't seem to score goals as easily as that from set pieces," Ainsworth said.

"I am just sorry to the fans who came up here and wanted an upset. We should have been better than that."

"That [the result] really hurts me. I know it hurts the fans and I am going to make sure it hurts the players."

Oxford dominated from start to finish and but for the wayward finishing of Danny Hylton and Kemar Roofe, would have been home and dry by half-time.

They would not be denied much longer and Dunkley headed home from a corner in the 54th minute.

The Us would only have to wait 18 minutes for their second, which came in controversial fashion.

A clipped ball into the box found Roofe who went down under a challenge from Anthony Stewart and Maguire converted from the spot.

It was arguably a harsh decision, but Ainsworth chose to focus on his own side's failings.

He said: "The second goal, the referee has given them a lift but there is no blaming him and the third goal is poor again."

O'Dowda's injury-time strike was full of attacking quality as he shrugged off Sido Jombati before lifting a clipped effort over Allsop.

Oxford United: Buchel, Kenny, Dunkley, Wright, Ruffles, Macdonald (O'Dowda 78), Sercombe, Lundstram, Maguire, Roofe (Waring 87), Hylton (Bowery 85). Subs not used: Slacombe, Mullins, Ashby, Roberts.

Wycombe Wanderers: Allsop, McCarthy, Stewart, Pierre, Jombati, Rowe, Bean, McGinn (Kretschmar 61), Harriman, Thompson (Ugwu 61), Hayes (Liburd 72). Subs not used: Siegrist, Sellers, Sellars.

Ainsworth wishes best to departing cohort

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in his contract for playing a certain number of games throughout the season.

Ainsworth also took time to wish the players who are leaving the club the best of luck in their future careers.

"Max, Alex, Ryan and Gozie are all fantastic lads who have never shied away from the challenge whenever they've crossed

the white line," Ainsworth said.

"They can hold their heads up high knowing they've given everything they can during their time with us."

"I honestly hope they come back and prove me wrong because I'd love to see each of them enjoying a long and successful career in the game, and I'll be proud if their experiences at Wycombe Wanderers

can shape their futures in the right way."

"From the bottom of my heart I'd like to thank them for everything they've given to the club."

The club also confirmed loanees Jason McCarthy, Ryan Allsop, Paris Cowan-Hall, Rowan Liburd, Benjamin Siegrist and Jerrell Sellars will return to their respective clubs.

The Wanderers boss added: "We've been fortunate enough to once again be given the opportunity to bring in some fantastic loan players from higher levels and I'll keep a keen eye on each of the lads who are now going back to their clubs."

"They would all be welcome back here if the circumstances were right for all parties and I hope they feel their careers have benefitted from their time here."



Alex Lynch

SPORT

GOOD START

Champions High Wycombe start their title defence with a success against Slough



AINSWORTH: 'Last eight games have been more of a whimper' Boss says Wanderers must learn from defeat



Gareth Ainsworth

GARETH Ainsworth says his young Wycombe Wanderers side must learn from their painful 3-0 defeat at Oxford United if they are to survive in the game.

The Chairboys were outplayed by their League One-bound local rivals and the loss brought to a close a disappointing end to a campaign which has floundered towards its conclusion.

Ainsworth though, insists his players must learn from the mistakes of not only Saturday's defeat but their poor run of form towards the end of

the campaign.

"They [the players] have got to learn from today, if you don't you get left behind and you don't have a career in football. That is how brutal it is," Ainsworth explained after Saturday's defeat.

"Players haven't reached their potential this season. All in all we went out to get 61 points and ended up with 64.

"People will say 'it's ok, we have done more than we expected', but, being honest, I expected just that little bit more and I was gutted the

last eight games have been more of a whimper than anything."

A youthful squad means Ainsworth can be hopeful his side will take the required steps needed to learn from the mistakes of the closing months of the League Two season.

The Wycombe manager also believes some of the players have been tested in a way their limited experience has not readied them for, and concedes he is still learning in the game himself.

It is a fair point to make and de-

spite being in charge of Wycombe for 200 matches Ainsworth, who turned 43 today, is still a young manager.

The Wanderers boss said: "Some of the older players do feel it more and the young boys come in and haven't got experience.

"You are asking them to do things that maybe their years are not ready for.

"Again I am learning as a manager and I will be rebuilding in the summer the way I think we need to rebuild."

BLUES: Bloomfield relishing being guiding hand 'It's great for them to turn to me for advice'

IT'S been a long time since Matt Bloomfield signed his first contract with Wycombe Wanderers. In fact, it's more than 12 years.

A one-year contract extension, which he signed on Monday, ensures he will reach 13 in the Wycombe blue he first donned as a reserved 19-year-old after arriving at Adams Park from Ipswich Town in 2003.

A lot has changed in the decade plus since he made the swap – not least, Bloomfield says, the Wanderers number 10's role at the club.

"My role has changed unrecognisably. When I first joined I was 19-years-old and I came into a changing room of men I'd never met before in my life and I didn't know any of them by name," Bloomfield explained.

"I didn't have a clue about what was out there in the big wide world of football because I'd come through the Ipswich youth system and lived at home."

Fast forward to 2016 and there is little the 32-year-old doesn't know about the perils and pitfalls of life as a professional.

Now the club captain is looked upon as a font of knowledge by Wycombe's hoard of younger players. It is fair to say he relishes the position.

Bloomfield explained: "From joining the club to now I have taken on a leadership role, trying to guide players and give them ad-

By Harry Gray

vice. They always come to me for chats about their game and little bits and pieces. It is great for them to turn to someone like myself who they can lean on for help.

"I have loved doing that and in this squad there are some great lads, so it is something I enjoy and I thrive on the responsibility of trying to lead the team."

With both Bloomfield and Wanderers keen to continue their relationship, a new deal at the club was always likely to materialise.

He was pleased to put pen to paper so soon after Wycombe's season had come to a close, and will now turn his focus to his continued rehabilitation from a broken arm.

Bloomfield's latest contract will take him beyond his 33rd birthday and the question of retirement inevitably rears its head as he reaches the latter stages of his career.

It is a subject, however, which Bloomfield has no interest in. He is instead looking forward to an extended tour of duty with Wycombe which he hopes will see him end his career at the club.

"As long as I am performing to the right level, and the club is happy with what I am doing, I don't see why I would ever want to leave," Bloomfield explained.

"I certainly don't have any desire to move elsewhere, or to play my football anywhere else."



Matt Bloomfield in his teenage years playing for Ipswich Town.

Picture: ACTION IMAGES

Three stay and four leave club

NEW CONTRACTS FOR THREE PLAYERS
AS FOUR DEPART ADAMS PARK

WYCOMBE Wanderers have announced the extension of three players' contracts while four players will leave the club.

Matt Bloomfield, 32, Paul Hayes, 32, and Sam Wood, 29 have all agreed deals to remain at the club, while Alex Lynch, Gozie Ugwu, Max Kretzschmar and Ryan Sellers have been released.

Marcus Bean is also considering a new deal and Aaron Pierre has been offered an extension on his current contract which expires in the summer of 2017.

Wycombe manager Gareth Ainsworth said in a statement: "It's the hardest part of the job, making the decision about how best to move forward as a club in terms of the squad we want to build.

"Matt, Paul, Marcus and Sam are all integral parts of Wycombe Wanderers and they have earned the chance to stay with us due to their hard work on and off the pitch.

"They fit the culture that we have developed here and their experience and ability are so important for us.

"With Luke O'Nien signing on a three-year contract a fortnight ago, and with the new contract we have offered Aaron Pierre, I hope the supporters will see that we are doing all we can to hit the right blend in terms of young talent and older heads."

Bloomfield's deal will keep him at the club he has served for other a decade for another year while captain Hayes has signed a new two-year deal. Wood's one-year extension comes after the midfielder triggered a clause

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