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Rugby

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FA Cup: Non-league Chesham fail to upset Posh Generals boss Leese proud after cup heroics

CHESHAM United manager Andy Leese says his players can hold their heads high despite exiting the Emirates FA Cup in frustrating circumstances against Peterborough.

The Generals did not look 94 places below their League One opposition but they were undone by two goals from Posh striker Shaquille Coulthirst either side of half-time to lose 2-1 at the ABAX Stadium.

And although they forced a thrilling finale when Ryan Blake halved the deficit ten minutes from time after latching onto a woeful backpass,

second half where they bossed the play.

"We laboured a bit after half-time, they pushed on and Michael Bostwick played ten yards further forward which hurt us and we lacked a little bit of belief at that point.

"Perhaps we should have made changes earlier, but we stuck at it, kept our shape and we could have nicked something at the end."

Chesham were not far away from snatching a replay when Benji Crilley put his diving header over the bar in the dying embers, but there was to be



there was no grandstand finish.

"I have absolutely no regrets," admitted Leese. "We showed good quality and competed with them apart from a small period in the

no fairytale ending.

"If we're honest with ourselves and everybody who was in the ground is honest, we slowed their tempo and we didn't just bang it down the other end and defend for our lives," added Leese.

"We looked good, kept our shape, stuck at our game plan and played the way we know we can and for that I was really pleased with us, very proud."

More than 600 Chesham fans made the short trip north to Peterborough and their support is something

Leese believes has been paramount to their cup heroics this season.

"It's just the best ever," he said.

"Last year at Bristol Rovers and Bradford I felt like we couldn't top it, but I got to our ground this morning to see all these supporters' coaches.

"It's the best support I've ever known and I think the players were lifted by them towards the end because they never stopped believing in us.

"I couldn't be prouder of the football club."

WYCOMBE: FA Cup joy on the road at Pompey

The Beast: he's simply unplayable

HE is the Beast and the man who could single-handedly turn around Wycombe Wanderers' season.

Bulldozing striker Adebayo Akenfenwa scored a significant late winner in the FA Cup tie at Portsmouth last Saturday for a 2-1 win which supporters are hoping will provide a significant springboard.

Victory set up a second round tie at Chesterfield on December 3 at the Proact Stadium.

Gareth Ainsworth's side lie 21st in League One going into tomorrow's Adams Park clash with Morecambe.

But the 34-year-old, signed from AFC Wimbledon over the summer, had praise ringing in his ears after securing only Wycombe's second away win of the season.

And when he was substituted before the end, Akenfenwa was given a standing ovation by the Fratton Park crowd.

"Bayo deserves every song and every clap he got," admitted his manager. "The Portsmouth fans were fantastic, and it was a really nice thing that they gave him a standing ovation."

He added: "Of course Bayo will steal the headlines after scoring the winner. He was a constant threat all game - but what a team performance that was.

"I brought Bayo here to be a plan B, but also to be a plan A against certain teams.

"When we played Portsmouth in

By Dave King

the league earlier in the season, Bayo came didn't have much time. This time he started.

"He's not going to start every game and Bayo knows that, but I'll try and work out what games he will be best in when he starts."

Paris Cowan-Hall had given Wycombe a first half lead with a poacher's goal after 26 minutes.

And though Pompey equalised soon after the re-start from Gareth Evans, it was Adebayo seven minutes from time who sealed the win with a clever looping header.

Team-mate Dominic Gape, had nothing but praise for the experienced professional, who has taken him under his wing since the loan move from Southampton.

"Bayo, is a great guy. As soon as I come in he welcomed me and has taken to me, which I am grateful for. He puts in a lot of work off the ball which people don't see.

"The concept is that Bayo likes the ball in the air, but if you actually analyse Bayo's game he wants it to feet, he wants to play football. His strength and his size is something he can use."

And team-mate Paris Cowan-Hall admitted that is team-mate was very difficult to defend against.

"He has big arms, so he's able to create space," he said. "Bayo is a big guy who is good at finishing and, at times, he is unplayable."



Adebayo Akenfenwa scored his fourth goal of the season in the 201 FA Cup win at Portsmouth at the weekend

Kamikaze defending proves costly

WYCOMBE boss Gareth Ainsworth lashed out at what he described as "kamikaze defending" after his side squandered a two goal lead in a 4-2 Checkatrade Trophy defeat to Coventry City on Wednesday night.

After taking a two-goal lead either side of half-time through Stephen McGinn and Scott Kashket, Wycombe looked to be cruising at Adams Park.

But thanks to two substitutions, including the introduction of livewire, Jodi Jones, the Sky Blues stormed back after the break with three goals inside six minutes - and the visitors closed out the tie with a fourth goal five minutes from time.

"Our defending was kamikaze in the second half," reflected Ainsworth after the match.

"Their subs changed the game and that six-minute spell really cost us.

"We need to be more solid at the back and we will work hard on that. But I shall take some positive out of the game, and it was good to see Myles (Weston), Scott (Kashket), Marcus (Bean), Stephen (McGinn) and Nick (Freeman) get game time."

The only consolation was that both teams had already booked their places into the knockout stages of the competition, with Wycombe finishing runners up in their group.

Their reward is a last 16 tie at Millwall, which is scheduled for the week beginning December 5.

"To be fair, we didn't do much work on Coventry, our focus has been on Morecambe this Saturday," added Ainsworth.

"Come Saturday, it will be a totally different game."