

WYCOMBE: Chairboys into FA Cup third round

Wycombe's wizards produce cup magic

by Nicholas Tunney

WYCOMBE WANDERERS have been drawn against Northampton Town or Stourbridge FC in the third round of the FA Cup, following their 5-0 annihilation of Chesterfield in round two.

The home tie on January 7 represents a real opportunity for Wycombe to progress in the competition and their chances of getting a big team become ever closer.

A hat-trick from Scott Kashket, plus others from Paul Hayes and Anthony Stewart, gave the League Two side an incredible victory at a freezing Proact Stadium last Saturday against the Spireites.

Manager Gareth Ainsworth was ecstatic with his side's performance in Derbyshire. He said: "We never lost concentration.

"We knew it would be tough and if we could turn it on we may have a chance but the way we did it was very emphatic and we didn't switch off.

"I thought Adebayo Akinfenwa was unplayable at times. We played every pass at the right time at the right moment. I told them to dream and think about who you want to get and to make those dreams reality is incredible."

Kashket's superb treble was his first at senior level and he was over the moon to do it in this competition.

He commented: "To do it the FA



Chairboys skipper Paul Hayes was delighted to notch Wycombe's first goal in their 5-0 demolition over League One Chesterfield

Cup is a bit more special, it's knock-out and it is a bit bigger than the league so if your muck up that's it, you are out."

The in-form frontman also praised his team and strike partner Akinfenwa for giving him the opportunity to be hero at the Proact Stadium.

"I just want to thank the team for playing so well and helping create the chances for me," explained

Kashket.

"I love playing with Bayo, he takes other defenders away and you know he is going to flick it on and give me more space and it is brilliant to play there with him."

Skipper Hayes has been a Chairboys hero for many years and he spoke with real pride about how the fans were so vociferous in their support of the team at Chesterfield.

He said: "The fans were brilliant. They were singing throughout and we thought how could we not put on a performance for them. It spurs us on and gives us extra energy to push.

"They have travelled up and spent their money and we all appreciate their efforts week in, week out."

Hayes also added how impressed he has been with Kashket and Akinfenwa's impact at the club and explained why they work so well together.

"With Bayo, when you get it to him you know that he is going to create space for you and he is a massive influence on how we are playing at the moment. His touch is absolutely amazing and he works so well with Scott.

"I am so pleased for Scotty too. He is a smashing lad and he works so hard in training and you can see the talent that he has got. Since being paired up top with Bayo, their partnership is going from strength to strength. Nine goals in nine games is very impressive whatever league you're in.

"The lads are just so confident at the moment and every time we step onto the pitch we feel we can beat anyone and it is a great feeling to have as a team."

Wycombe now face Notts County tomorrow in League Two action at Meadow Lane where they hope to continue their incredible form (kick off 3pm).

Kashket pens new Chairboys contract



Kashket has signed a new Wycombe contract until 2019

WYCOMBE WANDERERS manager Gareth Ainsworth has delivered the news that Chairboys fans have been hoping to hear – Scott Kashket has signed a two-and-a-half-year contract.

The 20-year-old striker has been a revelation since arriving on a short-term deal in August, scoring nine times in nine appearances including a hat-trick in the 5-0 FA Cup triumph at Chesterfield.

Kashket's contract was due to expire on December 31 but he has now signed until 2019.

Ainsworth said: "We gave Scott the opportunity to prove himself by giving him a deal until Christmas, and to say he has exceeded our expectations is an understatement. It was important for us not to miss out on the chance to extend his stay here as I'm sure there will be a lot of interest in him, and we have pushed really hard to get this deal done.

"Scott has applied himself superbly and grabbed his opportunity with both hands. The fans have seen what he's all about – he's a nightmare for defenders to deal with, he can score goals out of nothing and he's a popular lad as well.

"We are building something special here and of course we want to keep our best players. We have a fantastic initiative here – the 500 Club – where fans have contributed money to boost our playing budget, and the funds received so far have allowed us to commit to signing Scott.

"There is more work to be done in January to extend contracts of other players and we're asking the fans to please keep contributing because you are making a real positive difference to our chances of achieving something this season."

Kashket's rise this season has been nothing short of remarkable since joining on a free transfer from Leyton Orient in the summer.

His previous club played him in midfield and out on the wing but Ainsworth added: "I spoke to a few people who had him and they said he was a midfielder. I took one look at him and immediately thought he was a striker and I am pleased to have been justified so far."

Chairboys fans will be hoping that Kashket's prolific form coincides with a surge to promotion.

Horrific injury setback for The Generals' skipper

CHESHAM UNITED were dealt a huge blow when their game against Chippenham Town was abandoned just after half-time last Saturday, after an extremely serious injury to captain Bruce Wilson.

The game was 0-0 at the time when Wilson suffered a double break of his tibia and fibula, as well as a dislocated ankle.

Wilson thanked the players, medical teams, management teams, supporters, directors and all associated with Chesham and Chippenham for the help and support last weekend.

In addition, Wilson thanked the paramedics and hospital staff for all their fine work on his behalf and sent his thanks for the many get well messages from all those in and outside of the game.

Manager Andy Leese said: "Following the horrific injury suffered by Bruce, he was transported to hospital in Swindon.

"Bruce is made of tough stuff, probably our fittest player and mentally strong. If anyone can deal



Bruce Wilson suffered a horrific injury against Chippenham last weekend. Due to the severity of the injury, the game was abandoned

with the injury, I know Bruce can. We will be behind him all the way and will support him in whatever way we can.

"Many thanks for the messages of support from those in the game."

Chippenham Town went one step

further in their support of Wilson in their game against Slough Town on Tuesday.

Staff and fans of both clubs donated £233 towards Wilson's recovery which was warmly received by the Chesham captain, who took to so-

cial media to express his gratitude.

He tweeted: "What an unbelievable gesture from Chippenham Town FC. Huge thanks to everyone associated with the club and Slough Town FC for the donations."

The Generals got back to winning ways on Tuesday evening against Hayes & Yeading with a 6-0 demolition of their rivals.

A Dave Pearce brace and other goals from Ryan Blake, Sam Young, Drew Roberts and Brad Wadkins gave Chesham an emphatic victory over their relegation-threatened rivals.

Chesham's dominance of the game could have equated to even more goals with Wadkins spurning other opportunities in front of goal. With this 6-0 win fresh in the memory, Andy Leese will be hoping his men can replicate performances like this.

The Generals entertain Basingstoke Town tomorrow (kick off 3pm) as they hope to kick on with their decent form.

SPORT

Skiping

Tiff Branscombe claims superb jump rope gold - page 48



HOCKEY: Beaconsfield High reach national hockey finals Under 16s stick it to opponents at regionals

BEACONSFIELD HIGH SCHOOL Under 16 outdoor hockey team have made it to the National Finals next year in London after winning qualification at the regional finals.

Beaconsfield are now the only school in the top eight in the country to not be a private school and the team will play in the National Finals at the Olympic Park on March 1 and 2.

They achieved the unbelievable and qualified for the outdoor national finals in emphatic style by starting the day with a game against

Wellington, last year's National Champions at U14 level, finishing the game with a 0-0 draw.

The second game against Reigate ended 1-1 and brought many compliments from officials and spectators about how well the Beaconsfield girls play as a team and how outstanding their hockey was.

A win was then needed in the final game of the day against Epsom and with nine minutes remaining Maddy Peacock lifted the ball over the goalkeeper and the net rippled. The team saw the game out by managing



it tremendously and the final score was 1-0 to the heroic Beaconsfield High.

Lead coach, Kat McGonigle, who

also captains Slough Ladies first team, said: "As you can imagine the team went crazy, there was tears, there were screams and general euphoria."

"I cannot express what an achievement this is and how much hard work the girls have put in leading up to and throughout the day; they had to dig deep when they were hurt and exhausted and fight for everything."

"Beaconsfield High School at outdoor hockey national finals- something that has not been said in over 15 years and has only happened

once before in the school's history. This is truly massive."

The team was Elle Green, Alicia Fairman, Niamh Holbrough, Eleanor Buckeldee, Katie Webb, Lavinia Champion, Imi Smith, Katie Jurdon, Sophie Willis, Imi Relf, Mia Lasocki, Ami Robinson, Issy Harris-Evans, Maddy Peacock and Katie Sanders.

Beaconsfield High also had their U16 and U18 teams in the U16 and U18 Regional Indoor Hockey Finals on December 4 and they both performed well throughout.

WYCOMBE: Ainsworth scoops manager award Ainsworth: This prize is a real team effort

GARETH AINSWORTH has been named Sky Bet League Two Manager of the Month for November after a scintillating run of results.

The 44-year-old saw off competition from Blackpool's Gary Bowyer, Doncaster boss Darren Ferguson and Darren Sarll of Stevenage to claim the trophy for a second time, having also won the award in March 2015.

After starting the season slowly, things began to turn around for the Chairboys at Doncaster on October 29 when they snatched a creditable draw before beating Portsmouth at Fratton Park in the FA Cup first round a week later.

However, the Chairboys' real change in fortunes came at home to Morecambe on November 12 as they won comfortably 2-0 and since then Wanderers have rocketed up the table into the playoffs.

A first away win since February 9 came against Cambridge United at the Cambs Glass Stadium when Aaron Pierre struck a 95th minute winner to give Ainsworth and his team a priceless victory to end their away day drought.

Like London buses, two came along immediately as they had another late, late show just three days later when full-back Sido Jombati scored a wonderful 88th minute free kick to beat Newport County 1-0 at Rodney Parade.

The last of the wins in November was arguably their best as they

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ran out very easy 2-0 winners over Hartlepool at Adams Park.

With his usual modesty, Ainsworth praised his squad and backroom team for the award and hopes that the current run they are on can continue as long as possible.

He said: "It's brilliant to be named Sky Bet League Two Manager of the Month and I'm honoured to receive the award."

"We had four excellent league wins in November, including ending our wait for a victory away from home and conceding only one goal, and we hope to build on that with a good run now into December and over Christmas."

"It might be my name that takes the award but I have to recognise the efforts of my staff and all the players; they've won this prize. We're together in everything we do and have a real team spirit, and I can't thank them enough because they've been fantastic."

Centre-half Pierre unfortunately missed out on the Sky Bet League Two Player of the Month award after receiving a nomination following his two goals in November, as well as playing his part in three clean sheets.

With a supposed curse over the manager of the month award, Ainsworth will be hoping the gods will still be smiling on him come the end of the season.



Wycombe manager Gareth Ainsworth couldn't thank his staff and players enough for his deserved award. Photo: Andy Rowland

Wycombe tame limp Lions at New Den

WYCOMBE WANDERERS' reward for beating Millwall 3-1 in the Checkatrade Trophy last night is a trip to Bloomfield Road to face Blackpool on the week commencing January 9.

The third-round tie represents a good chance for Wycombe to progress further in the competition and get a step closer to Wembley.

The Tangerines currently sit one place below The Chairboys in League Two and after Wycombe's superb recent form, Gareth Ainsworth's men will be feeling confident.

Chairboys boss Ainsworth expressed his delight at seeing his Wycombe side win their sixth game in a row, embarking on their best run in ten years.

A brace from Garry Thompson and an Adebayo Akinfenwa penalty gave Wanderers a superb win against a team who are ninth in League One.

With eight changes from the win at Chesterfield being made, Ainsworth was very pleased that the players who came in were able to replicate the form of those not playing at The New Den last night.

He said: "I am really proud and it was a well-deserved win."

"There wasn't a lot in the game but the guys I brought in did very well and the performance was very good, second half especially."

Ainsworth hailed the impact of debutant Max Muller, who played for an hour at the heart of the Wycombe defence.

He said: "Max handled it really well and he has come through the test. I think we saw some glimpses of his real talent."