

WYCOMBE: The Chairboys carry on march up League Two

Kashket scores again to haunt his old club

by Nicholas Tunney

SCOTT KASHKET's incredible run of form continued as he scored the only goal of the game to give Wycombe Wanderers an amazing eighth win on the bounce with a hard-fought 1-0 win over Leyton Orient.

The former Orient player rifled into the corner of Alex Cisak's net on 50 minutes after the Orient stopper had saved well from Paris Cowan-Hall.

Wycombe manager Gareth Ainsworth was absolutely delighted with his side's ability to grind out a hard-fought success after a period of champagne football in recent weeks.

He said: "We are in a really happy place at the moment. That was such a tough game and Orient will be up there at the end of the season, make no mistake.

"Scott Kashket will obviously grab all the headlines and rightly so, his finishing is fantastic in the box. However, my back six with the keeper, the defence and Dominic Gape were absolutely outstanding.

"Anthony Stewart produced a brilliant performance and I think Dominic must have covered every blade of grass and these guys allow us to go forward with such guile."

"This win wasn't as emphatic as it has been recently but a 1-0 win is as good as a 5-0 win for me so I am absolutely delighted."



Gareth Ainsworth saw his side chalk off their eighth win on the spin in all competitions against Leyton Orient. Photo: Anita Ross Marshall

The commitment shown by his players was also very pleasing for Ainsworth to see. He added: "We were competing with their big men. The commitment is now a given from us, full-blooded and giving absolutely everything.

"We never go out expecting to win and if we work hard and keep the team spirit we have a chance against anyone in the league."

A crowd of over 4,500 were on hand to witness the Chairboys take a step closer to becoming recordbreakers and the Wycombe manager was full of admiration for the fans.

"It is so special to see the fans turn up in their numbers," praised Ainsworth.

"To see the fans stay behind as well to speak to the players in our last game of the year is fantastic

and rightly so because the lads have been brilliant.

"The fans believe we have always got a chance in the game and they want to sing and we are giving them performances to sing about."

Being Wycombe's matchwinner has become second nature to Kashket in recent weeks but this win was particularly sweet for the former O's player, whose accurate finishing has rocketed the Chairboys into the playoffs in recent weeks.

He was a constant thorn in the side of his ex-employers and was very pleased to have scored the goal which leaves Wycombe just a point of fourth spot.

Kashket commented: "I couldn't have asked for it to go any better, getting the only goal in a 1-0 victory against my old club so I am over the moon with that.

"Since the day I joined Wycombe I have had my eye on this fixture and I am glad it has worked out well for the team."

Midfielder Luke O'Nien hailed the impact Kashket has had since his arrival at the club. He said: "He is an absolute genius.

"He is great to play with and his scoring stats speak volumes. The way he grabbed the winner against his former team who let him go, I am just delighted for him. His finish was absolutely top class.

"Scotty works really hard in training so I am really pleased for him."

Crushing blow for Chesham



Roberts' penalty could only gain a single point for Chesham

CHESHAM UNITED threw away two points in their league game against Biggleswade Town, succumbing to a late equaliser to end up drawing 2-2.

With the home team down to nine men, Chesham had chances to sew the game up, but a last-minute break-away led to a penalty and a surprise equaliser.

Russell Short had given Town the lead on 20 minutes before Drew Roberts equalised seven minutes later.

Ryan Blake gave the Generals the lead on 52 minutes before Inih Effiong cruelly denied them late on.

With Dave Pearce at a family wedding and Adam Martin also away, Brett Longden came in at left-back with Toby Little playing further forward, and Matt Taylor started in midfield.

The home team took the lead on 20 minutes when Taylor cleared a Hoenes free kick only as far as Short who shot into the corner of the net from just outside the penalty area.

However, the lead lasted only seven minutes, as Evan Key was penalised for a foul on Mat Mitchel-King in the home area and Roberts tucked away the resulting penalty.

In first half stoppage time, Little went over after a run into the penalty area, and as he got up he was shoved over by Short who was shown a straight red card.

Chesham made a great start after the break and Blake beat the offside trap and slotted the ball past Brown to give Chesham the lead.

On 68 minutes, Brad Wadkins was in the clear and about to take on the keeper when he was hauled to the ground by Key.

Key was sent off but Brown guessed correctly to turn Roberts' penalty round the post. Brown then pulled off another spectacular save from Blake's 25-yard shot that seemed destined for the top corner.

In the 89th minute, Chesham switched off and the lively Hoenes broke away down the home right only to be brought down by Sam Youngs as he broke into the penalty area. Effiong smashed the penalty straight down the middle, leaving Biggleswade to celebrate as if they had won.

The Generals take on local rivals Kings Langley at home on Boxing Day (kick off 3pm).

Holmer go Green with envy as Colney stroll to win

HOLMER GREEN put up a good show but ultimately lost their league fixture to London Colney 3-1 last Saturday.

Greg Deer gave the Greens the lead on 15 minutes when he headed home a superb Curtis Stone cross.

However, a Jon Clements brace and a goal for Ashley Morrissey saw Colney take the spoils from an entertaining game.

The opening exchanges saw Holmer well on top and they deservedly took the lead through Deer's decisive header.

Holmer suffered injuries to two key players early on. Joe Collins was replaced by Ben Booker on 36 minutes when he was injured by an opposing player and Ben Bradley suffered two head injuries from robust challenges.

Unfortunately for the Greens, Colney's equaliser was the stuff of nightmares. First the defence allowed a player to run in behind them, then Sam Butcher completely misread the situation.



Holmer Green started well against table-topping London Colney but were then comfortably beaten 3-1. Photo: Anita Ross Marshall

The young 'keeper, who has come to The Greens' rescue on so many occasions, rushed out. However, he only placed himself in a position where the attacker had time to look up, and lob the ball comfortably into an open goal.

With Booker replacing Collins in central defence, the new partnership was caught out almost instantly moments later. Ryan Tackley slipped when trying to recover the situation. But although Butcher saved the first shot, the ball fell per-

fectly for the attacker to tap in the rebound.

Holmer came out with renewed vigour in the second half, determined to find a way to get back into the game.

In the first minute of the second half, Deer headed the ball down for Tom Gant to get a shot off, but Colney's keeper, Gowans, did very well to save.

On 54 minutes, Gowans missed a left-wing free-kick. Tackley and Booker both attacked the ball as it flew across the goal, but the debutant could not keep his effort under the bar.

With ten minutes to go, the visitors capitalised on good fortune to secure the game. Speedy substitute Parkinson attacked down the stand side. He pulled the ball back well for Clements to grab his second goal of the game.

Holmer face London Tigers at home on December 27 in a bid to kick-start their league campaign (kick off 3pm).

SPORT

Rugby

Marlow beat Bletchley
to top table at Xmas
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RUGBY: New Zealand star goes back to school to coach kids Shields gives youngsters helpful rugby advice

PUPILS AT a Marlow school had a real treat earlier this week when a professional rugby player from New Zealand visited and took part in a couple of coaching sessions.

Bradley Shields, 25, plays for the Hurricanes back in his native country and has represented New Zealand at under-20 level.

Shields was invited into Great Marlow School (GMS) by his uncle Stuart Ross, who is a teacher there, and he worked alongside Steve Goodright, a PE teacher and head of rugby at GMS.

Two 90-minute sessions were scheduled with 80 kids on Monday with Year 9, 10 and 11 students first before Year 7 and 8 pupils later that afternoon.

Shields spoke to the Bucks Free Press about the sessions and how beneficial they are to 11 to 16-year-olds, especially back in his home country.

He said: "We are currently in the off-season in New Zealand and with my parents being from over here, I fitted these sessions into my UK trip.



"I taught them a few techniques to help them develop and I hope my time with the kids inspired them. "Back home, we do this kind of

thing quite a lot with schools, as well as rugby clubs, and it is hugely rewarding for youngsters to meet rugby players they look up to and idolise and it is nice to be able to give them some of your own knowledge."

Although sessions with professional rugby players are rare at schools in the UK, Shields thinks that to enhance future stars, sessions like this should be held much more regularly over here.

"These types of sessions are hugely beneficial," added Shields.

"It is such a great opportunity for the youngsters to be able to listen to some bits of advice we can give them to help them progress and if schools in the UK did this, then that would really aid students."

Goodright explained that he was delighted to be able to use Shields' skills to help his pupils further. He commented: "This is a really significant step for us.

"We wanted to inspire the children and to be able to meet such a phenomenal player like Brad was great for the whole school."

WYCOMBE: Boss believes in local festive games Ainsworth advocates Boxing Day derbies

A BOXING DAY encounter with Plymouth Argyle looms for Gareth Ainsworth's Wycombe Wanderers, a daunting 450-mile round trip to South Devon and back.

Ainsworth and his squad, brimming with confidence after an eight-match winning streak, are having to travel down on Christmas Day to face the League Two leaders Plymouth Argyle.

With calls by some managers in the past, such as Liverpool's Jurgen Klopp, to introduce a winter break to English football, Ainsworth believes that a local fixture on Boxing Day is the way forward.

Going back 60 years, teams used to play each other on Christmas Day and Boxing Day, facing their local rivals so players and fans wouldn't have to travel far at all to see their heroes in action, as well as spend time with their families over the festive period.

Speaking to the Bucks Free Press, the Chairboys manager said: "I think the local games are the ones the fans relish at this time of year.

"The smaller clubs, like ourselves, will benefit more financially for that. It is ultimately better for family time at Christmas, although that is low on the priority list when you are a professional footballer.

"The finances and the game itself would benefit for that. The non-leagues play their local rivals on Boxing Day and then they play

by Nicholas Tunney

them again on New Year's Day.

"When the league used to do this, it was really good. It intensified the crowds and I know we are very careful with policing and crowd trouble nowadays but I can't see too much of a problem with this at Wycombe.

"We are probably paying a price for other problems that have happened in the past but I would like to see the local derbies back on Boxing Day. That is what I grew up with.

"For example, we have had Luton in the past which isn't too far and they have been good games but Plymouth seems like a real slap for us and I know there are a few League Two teams nearer to Plymouth than we are."

Ahead of the Argyle trip, Ainsworth has been boosted by the news that captain Paul Hayes is back in contention for the match and he added that during the festive period, things can get chaotic with training and injuries.

"The preparation has been very good," commented the Wycombe manager.

"We have changed training round a little bit and it is a crazy way of doing it but we have tried to make the week as normal as possible.

"It is hard but all the guys are professionals and they know what is expected of them."



Ainsworth believes that teams across the country should play local games on Boxing Day as opposed to long journeys for staff and fans

Players confident ahead of Argyle test

SCOTT KASHKET and Luke O'Nien are both hoping Wycombe's superb run continues as they looked ahead to the Boxing Day fixture at League Two leaders Plymouth Argyle.

Wanderers go into the game on the back of an eight-match winning run in all competitions and the in-form Kashket and midfield maestro O'Nien are confident the Chairboys will give a good account of themselves at Home Park.

Kashket said: "Everyone feels very confident at the moment and we just want to keep this going on. We want to make sure we don't go all that way, travelling on Christmas Day to lose.

"We want to bring back a positive result and the boys are hopeful we can do that."

O'Nien was in bullish mood ahead of the long trip down to Devon and echoed Kashket's words. He added: "I am looking forward to it as is everyone. We are preparing well for it and we will continue to give our all and hopefully at the end of the game we will have the right result.

"It is a pleasure to be a part of playing with all the lads. We all know each other very well and we know what each other is going to do so we are all on the same wavelength.

"Playing in midfield with Dominic Gape and Matt Bloomfield makes my job a lot easier as I know where they are and vice versa.

"I would always put my body on the line for the lads and they would do the same for me so I hope we can continue to do that."

"My own form is good and I am feeling fit so I hope that carries on."