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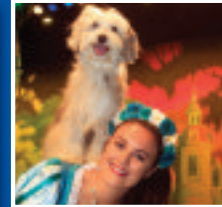
Covering Wycombe, South Bucks & Chiltern Districts
Friday, December 15, 2017

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review

Freetime

SNOW CHAOS

Roads grind to a halt
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days as town sees UK's
third highest snowfall

Inside: your pictures

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NEWS

Schoolboy 'driven
at in hit-and-run'



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NEWS

Roadworks hell
at Handy Cross



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PICTURES

Mary Berry at
lights switch-on



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COMMENT

With
**NICHOLAS
TUNNEY**



FOR a 0-0 draw it was a lively game at Stevenage.
Personally, I thought Wanderers deserved all three points thanks to their excellent second half display at the Lamex Stadium.
Bayo hit the post with a fantastic header with a few minutes to go and Scott Brown saw his effort hacked away just in time.
There has been plenty of chatter around Scott's 'goal'. Did it cross the line? Some angles look as though it did but to be fair the linesman would have had no time to spot that and gave the benefit of the doubt to Stevenage.
Speaking afterwards, both Gareth and Scott backed the officials saying it was a difficult job and preferred to reflect in what was a very solid display.
It was certainly more like the Wycombe we are used to seeing on the

road. After three straight defeats, a performance like that away from home against a side boasting such a dangerous attack is a very good point and after their 3-0 loss their last season it was good to see the players banish those memories.
Another real positive for the Chairboys was the return of Nathan Tyson, who came off the bench for the last 30 minutes.
He looked very lively and caused the Boro defence real issues with his pace and power. He was also unlucky to not get on the scoresheet with a header and it was great to see him looking so lively.
It is fantastic for the Blues to see the players of Nathan's calibre back and looking hungry. The next player to return is likely to be Scott Kashket.
The Chairboys have an embarrassment of riches in the striking department and with the likes of Tys and Scott back in contention that will surely serve as a word of warning to the rest of the division.
Akinfenwa, Mackail-Smith, Tyson, Kashket, Cowan-Hall, Free-

man, Southwell and not forgetting Ebere Eze. The list is there for all to see and they all bring different attributes which poses defences real nightmares.
On to this weekend's game and the Blues face a familiar foe in Chesterfield. Kashket, should he be back in the squad, will have good memories of the Spireites, having scored a sublime hat-trick in their 5-0 FA Cup win their last

last December.
Since that game, Chesterfield have been on a downward spiral. However, after finding themselves at the bottom of the league, new manager Jack Lester has galvanised them and in Kristian Dennis they have one of the division's most in-form strikers.
It should be a great game and I am going for Wycombe to continue their superb home form, COYB!



Nathan Tyson

Wycombe Wanderers

LAST FIVE LEAGUE GAMES: LWLWD

WYCOMBE WANDERERS

VS

CHESTERFIELD FC

Chesterfield

LAST FIVE LEAGUE GAMES: DWWDW

OPPOSITION VIEW



- 1. Cameron Dawson
- 27. Bradley Barry
- 4. Sam Hird
- 6. Ian Evatt
- 5. Scott Wiseman
- 15. Joe Rowley
- 26. Jak McCourt
- 25. Louis Reed
- 3. J Binnom-Williams
- 9. Kristian Dennis
- 10. Chris O'Grady

THIS week's Opposition View comes from Graham Smyth, Chesterfield FC correspondent with the Derbyshire Times.
How have Chesterfield started the season?
After a desperately poor start to the season, Chesterfield sacked Gary Caldwell and replaced him with club legend Jack Lester and that decision is starting to really pay off.
Before Lester's arrival they had just five points in League Two, now they have 20, they're six unbeaten in the league and finally off the bottom and out of the drop zone.
Who are the key players?
With 13 goals already this season it's hard not to look past Kristian Dennis as the

main threat for Chesterfield.
But in recent weeks he hasn't had to carry the side's entire goalscoring hopes, with others like Jak McCourt chipping in.
What are the hopes for Chesterfield this season?
Before the season the talk was of promotion but that soon turned to talk of simply maintaining the club's Football League status.
Thanks to Lester and a big improvement in both performances and results, talk can once again turn to a loftier ambition.
What are your thoughts on Wycombe?
When the two sides met last season Chesterfield were given a lesson in fast, attacking football

The movement of Wycombe's front men was a joy to behold, with everything going through Adebayo Akinfenwa.
Prediction?
A draw and there's no reason why they can't do that.



Graham Smyth

In the CHAIR



PANACHE CUP



Darren Anderton

LEGENDS from Arsenal, Tottenham Hotspur, Crystal Palace and Wycombe Wanderers will compete for the inaugural Panache Cup in a special Masters Football UK event at Adams Park on Saturday, May 26, 2018.

Stars including Kanu, Robert Pires, Nigel Winterburn, Darren Anderton, Andy Sinton, Ledley King, John Salako and Geoff Thomas are all excited to take part in the mini tournament which runs throughout the afternoon, in support of two main charities, Cure Leukaemia and Clic Sargent.

Tickets go on sale at noon on Saturday 16th December, costing just £10 for adults (16+), and £5 for seniors (65+) and children (under 16s), while executive boxes can be booked for £1,000 + VAT, to include a meet and greet with players, pitch-side advertising board and a meal for 12 people).

To book, go online at tickets.wvfc.com, or call 01494 441118 or visit the shop at Adams Park (9am-5pm, Monday-Friday excluding Wednesdays) or ticket office 1 on home matchdays.

Anderton and Thomas will be in attendance at Saturday's fixture against Chesterfield to officially launch this event, and take part in a Q&A session with fans in the Vere Suite before kick-off.

Sponsors Panache Fire Services would like to thank The Stand Palace Hotel, Fitzdares and Autumn Wood Kitchens for supporting the event. For further sponsorship opportunities, please contact enquiries@pd-d.co.uk



WANDERERS RECAP

Blues make a good point at Stevenage

STEVENAGE 0-0 WYCOMBE

WANDERERS manager Gareth Ainsworth was pleased with his side's performance at the Lamex Stadium in their 0-0 draw against Stevenage, albeit slightly disappointed his team couldn't get a deserved win.

Adebayo Akinfenwa and, incredibly, Scott Brown came closest to scoring for Wanderers with both players hitting the woodwork.

The draw stopped a run of defeats on the road and Ainsworth felt his side deserved more after they laid siege to the Stevenage goal in the second half.

However, it was Brown's effort that was the real talking point as certain camera angles suggested the ball went over the line, although it wasn't clear-cut.

He said: "Obviously I am going to say it went in. People have showed me various footage and it looks like it has gone over but it is difficult.

"In the Premier League, we have goal-line technology and it would have been a great moment for Scott.

"It is a big decision and we will see and there are only the slow-mo cameras who can see whether it went in or not.

"Let's get it right, the second half was an onslaught and there was only one team in it.

"I was glad Alex Samuel [Stevenage striker] went off and he was a thorn in our side but once they took him off they lost their threat.

"We got the ball forward well. Nathan Tyson in his first game back had a great chance with a free header and he is disappointed he didn't score and concentration levels were good.

"The second half stats must be great in our favour as we really did press and probe but unfortunately we couldn't

get a killer touch but it is a good point."

Tyson's comeback was a huge boost to Ainsworth after two months on the sidelines and the boss praised his performance as well as fellow sub, Sam Saunders, for the way they affected the game.

He added: "I am really pleased with both Tys and Sam.

"Sam was excellent last week against Leatherhead so was Matt Bloomfield and Luke O'Nien so it was a tough decision to change it round and he came on and made a mark.

"It was great to see Tys back. His pace and his power causes problems and he was gutted he didn't score that header but it wasn't as easy as he thought."

Another player who has been struggling recently is Adebayo Akinfenwa, who has had an infected foot.

Ainsworth confirmed that the big striker still isn't fully fit but he still put in a terrific display to worry the Stevenage defence, his main contribution being a superb, improvised header from Brown's long kick seven minutes from time.

He commented: "Bayo still isn't fully fit and he has been on anti-biotics all week.

"We saw in the second half a couple of times that it affected. It was touch and go whether to bring him off.

"He is such a big weapon for us and he hit the post with a back header, which had so much power on it but he will get back and I am sure he will be fine for Saturday's game against Chesterfield at Adams Park."

WYCOMBE WANDERERS: Brown, Jombati, Stewart, El-Abd, Jacobson, O'Nien, Bloomfield, Eze (sub: Saunders, 61), Freeman (sub: Tyson, 61), Akinfenwa, Mackail-Smith. Subs: Ma-Kalambay, Scarr, Williams, Bean, Southwell.

REFEREE: Scott Duncan



Ainsworth was pleased with a point at Stevenage although slightly rued the fact that his team could have won the game

WYCOMBE: Brown effort caused goal-line debate Keeper keeps celebrations on hold

WYCOMBE goalkeeper Scott Brown said it was difficult to tell if his 70-yarder went in as Wanderers drew 0-0 at Stevenage.

The incident happened before half-time when Brown launched a massive kick towards the Stevenage box.

Stevenage keeper Joe Fryer completely missed the ball but defender Ronnie Henry looked to have got back just in time to hook it from the goal via the aid of the crossbar.

Brown joked: "It was difficult to tell and difficult for the linesman to give but I was running off celebrating Steve Bull style!

"I always said I would never celebrate like that as you don't mean to score but it was just one of those things."

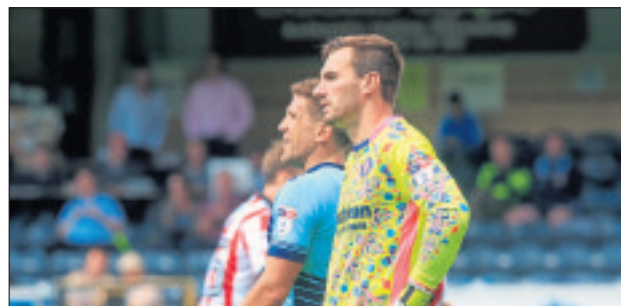
Brown's effort seemed to galvanise the side in the second half and the keeper added: "I thought we were excellent after the break.

"We got a lot of balls into the box and we had a couple of chances that on another day would have gone in.

"Fair play to them though. They put their bodies on the line and they kept going right to the end and it is a tough place to go.

"I am pleased with a clean sheet and I didn't really have to much to do but we are disappointed not to get all three points."

Brown's superb kicking causes havoc with opposition defences and Stevenage seemed to have a ploy when Brown was kicking out of hand with both strikers keen to put him under pressure by standing



Brown almost scored an outrageous effort at Stevenage

next to him and put him off.

The Wolverhampton-born stopper said: "A lot of teams do that as they know it's a threat when I can roll it

and kick it up to Bayo Akinfenwa.

"It is less accurate out of your hand which makes it awkward but you just have to deal with it."

Scarr extends stay at Adams Park until May



Scarr has been impressive in his 13 appearances so far for Wanderers

WYCOMBE Wanderers have announced the loan extension of defender Dan Scarr from Birmingham City until the end of the season.

Scarr, 22, has made 13 appearances for the Chairboys this season and put in a number of strong performances at the back, keeping four clean sheets in his time with the club so far.

The defender's loan, which was initially until January 1, will now run until the end of 2017/18 campaign and Scarr will be eligible to play in the Sky Bet League Two playoffs, should Wanderers make it.

Wycombe boss Gareth Ainsworth said: "We are delighted to extend Dan's loan with us until the end of the season.

"He has proved himself to be an important member of our squad and having him as part of our plans for the second half of the season will give us a big boost for the run-in.

"He's a player with a lot of ability and a fantastic attitude who has the potential to go on to have a very successful career, and this loan has and will continue to be a great step for him in terms of his development."

BLUES: Kashket has 'every chance' for Saturday Boss backs young striker

By Nicholas Tunney

'TIS the season to be jolly for Wanderers boss Gareth Ainsworth as he welcomes key players for the busy festive period.

After a hectic period where a plethora of first-team players were missing through injury, Ainsworth has near enough a clean bill of health in his squad as they prepare for five games in 17 days.

Only Michael Harriman and loanee Josh Umerah are currently out of action. Nathan Tyson rejoined the squad last weekend and came on to produce a lively 30 minute cameo at Stevenage.

Now this weekend, Ainsworth explained there is 'every chance' that Scott Kashket could be drafted into the squad for the game against Chesterfield and praised the striker for the attributes he gives to the team.

He said: "He has got to come in at some stage and get in the deep end and there is every chance it could be for Saturday.

"Scott has been out for such a long time we have to make sure he is OK confidence-wise. It is tough to work on something like that as there are no sessions that can aid with that.

"We can work on his striking. It comes naturally to him. It is a very tough injury he has had and we want to make sure there is no pressure on him when he does return.

"He is still very young and we treat him with utmost respect like we do with all our players and he is extremely close now."

With no less than eight players who can occupy the front three positions, all those forwards bring their own styles to the front line.

Ainsworth lauded Kashket for



Kashket could be back in the squad for this weekend's game against Chesterfield

his own skills when he plays which show what a dangerous operator he is.

He added: "He offers a couple of roles for us. He can play the role in behind and he is very good at timing his runs and getting on the ball but his pace and ability to read where the ball is going means he can play in the front line.

"Last year, his work with Bayo was phenomenal and anywhere across that front trio is where Scotty is such a threat.

"He wants to be scoring goals and he is that knack of being in the

right place at the right time playing off the big man and it worked well last year.

"We are hoping that he gets through and with Paris Cowan-Hall back we have a lot of striking options and I am looking forward to seeing the goals continue."

This weekend, Wanderers face a resurgent Chesterfield who are unbeaten in their last six games.

Despite their lowly league position currently, Ainsworth is under no illusion as to how difficult the game will be against the Spireites.

He commented: "Jack Lester has

done a great job. He has pulled them away from the bottom of the league and installed belief and spirit in their and done exactly what a new manager wants.

"Jack has done his hours at Forest, coaching the under 23s and I have watched Chesterfield recently. They look a decent side and we are going to have to be on it.

"It is a far cry from the Chesterfield we played last season in the FA Cup and the Chesterfield from the start of the season. Make no bones about it, it will be a tough game for us on Saturday."

Blues striker relishes starting competition

WANDERERS striker Craig Mackail-Smith is delighted at the competition for places up front with the likes of Nathan Tyson and Scott Kashket returning from injury.

The 33-year-old has made the right hand side of the front three his own since signing from Luton Town and has bagged seven goals in all competitions, including a hat-trick against Crawley Town a few weeks ago.

The Blues have an embarrassment of riches in the striking department and Mackail-Smith explained he welcomes the fact he has to fight for his place.

He said: "It is fantastic. We have been looking forward to welcoming Nathan and Scott back and it makes us a lot stronger.

"There is competition for places all over the pitch now and that is what we need. We have players coming back who can put the pressure on and make the boys perform.

"I enjoy the competition. I have to maintain my form and keep scoring goals and obviously I want to stay in the team and keep doing well if I can and keep putting the performance in."

With five league goals and two FA Cup goals to his name in a Chairboys shirt, Mackail-Smith said he is very pleased with his current form.

He added: "I should have scored against Stevenage. Had a couple of chances that were blocked but I feel in really good form at the moment and should be scoring when I get the opportunity."

Mackail-Smith signed for Wanderers back in August and has already endeared himself to the Wanderers faithful with his tireless displays and selfless attitude on the pitch.

The former Peterborough man feels at home in south Bucks. He said: "I am having a fantastic time here and I am really enjoying it.

"The boys are great and we are performing well. We have got ourselves into a fantastic position and hopefully coming into Christmas we will be there or thereabouts and closing in on the top three.

"Hopefully, come the second half of the season the games will still be exciting and we have a great promotion push."

SPORT

Rugby

Chiltern hold Diss to a dramatic 22-22 draw
- Page 59



0963-2336



GREAT SCOTT SET TO RETURN

- **Kashket back for busy festive period**
- **Ainsworth hails 'natural finisher'**
- **Adds different dimension to Wanderers attack**



See page 63

'Gutted' Smith aims for big 2018

WYCOMBE boxer Ben Smith explained it was 'heart-wrenching' his fight at the weekend had to be cancelled due to his opponent pulling out at the last minute through injury.

Smith was billed to fight Lee Connolly in a six-round bout at the Copper Box Arena in London on the James DeGale undercard.

However, Connolly withdrew two hours before the 48-hour deadline which gave promoter,

Frank Warren, the onerous task of finding a new opponent for Smith.

Unfortunately, that never materialised and Smith was left to rue a missed opportunity.

He said: "I am gutted the fight didn't go ahead. I felt in the best shape physically and mentally before any fight I had been involved in.

"It is just one of those things but it was heart-wrenching it

happened right at the last minute and we couldn't find anyone else to step in.

"My camp-mate, Harvey Horn, was also fighting and to see him get a third-round stoppage was fantastic but it was also hard to take seeing him get the win with no chance of me fighting."

Despite the disappointment of missing out on his last fight in 2017, Smith said next year will definitely be his biggest yet.

He added: "We hope to get five fights scheduled before July and then later in the year have a title shot.

"I am going to have a bit of time out over Christmas then get back in the gym before a training camp to Marbella at the end of January.

"Next year is going to be massive for me and I can't wait to get going in 2018 and further my career."



Ben Smith is looking ahead to 2018