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NEWS

Tributes pour in for ex-Blues star



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Facing 37 years in Qatar jail

By Shruti Sheth Trivedi

A BUSINESSMAN from High Wycombe is facing 37 years in a Qatar prison for issuing cheques that bounced on behalf of the company he worked for.

Jonathan Nash (pictured), former CEO at Top House in Qatar, says he is the victim of an internal power struggle at the company, and that he

has been used as a "fall-guy" for the liquidation of the company's assets.

Mr Nash wrote a number of cheques on behalf of the business, which provides technical, commercial and management services to the local construction industry, to clients and suppliers, which were reportedly blocked by the firm following an alleged internal disagreement.

He found himself personally liable and facing

the rest of his life in prison. Speaking from inside prison, he added that a "campaign of lies and rumours" damaged his business reputation to the extent that a number of his clients and suppliers "lost confidence" in him and decided to cash cheques he had written in a rush to get their money.

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WANDERERS - IN PICTURES

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Wycombe Wanderers keep promotion push going with superb U's triumph



O'Nien celebrates his wonderful goal to seal the deal over Colchester at Adams Park



Akinfenwa keeps his man at bay



Cowan-Hall and team celebrate



A delighted O'Nien



Tafari Moore on-loan from Arsenal



COMMENT

With
**NICHOLAS
TUNNEY**



WHAT a riveting performance and victory from Wycombe Wanderers on Saturday.

It was arguably, for me, the most enjoyable and best win of the season for a team competing against Wycombe for a play-off place.

Against the Blues, John McGreal set up his Colchester side to go on the attack and that made for a fantastic spectacle for the supporters.

I thought the Chairboys were brilliant and the win was made even better by the fact they had two players making their EFL debuts due to the injury crisis Wycombe have in defence.

What we saw was a dynamic performance led from the back by the two new boys, Tafari Moore and Nathan McGinley.

McGinley certainly played like an old head in young shoulders, putting in some shuddering blocks and playing very

calmly alongside Dan Scarr, who himself isn't very experienced at all at this level.

At right-back, Moore was absolutely superb. He defended very stoutly but it was his attacking prowess which really caught the eye.

He possesses bags of pace and Gareth's pressing game really suited the young Arsenal loanee.

Moore almost scored an incredible goal too in the second half. He destroyed the Colchester defence with his pace and trickery and was only denied by a wonderful save by Sam Walker.

It was very refreshing to see two players begin so well at a club where they are made to feel so welcome and it shows what a great eye for a player Gareth and Richard Dobson have, going through hours of games on video to pick out the next Alfie Mawson or Ebere Eze.

Both players appear to have very bright futures in the game going on that one performance and they have certainly strengthened the squad. As Gareth said, when eve-

ryone is back he is going to have a real problem on his hands with some excellent players likely to be left out of the match day squad.

One player who always seems to play well every week is Luke O'Nien. He marked Sammie Szmodics out of the game, apart from one moment where the Colchester player scored a sublime goal.

That showed what a good player he is and what a good player

O'Nien is considering he didn't give him a sniff all game.

He then topped it off with a quite fantastic strike which rocketed into the corner and his star continues to rise.

Crewe away now and a team who are struggling at the moment. However, it will be a tough game against a decent side and am sure Gareth will have them ready.

COYB!



Tafari Moore was impressive on debut

Wycombe Wanderers

VS

Crewe Alexandra

LAST FIVE LEAGUE GAMES: LWLWW

LAST FIVE LEAGUE GAMES: LWLWL

OPPOSITION VIEW



- 1. Ben Garratt
- 3. Zoumana Bakayogo
- 12. Eddie Nolan
- 6. Michael Raynes
- 14. Callum Ainley
- 30. Paul Green
- 4. Brad Walker
- 16. Tom Lowery
- 20. Charlie Kirk
- 9. Chris Dagnall
- 10. Jordan Bowery

THIS week we take a look back at the reverse fixture between Wycombe and Crewe in September when Wanderers ran out dramatic 3-2 winners.

Nathan Tyson gave Wycombe Wanderers a dramatic late and utterly deserved victory with a rip-roaring 3-2 victory over Crewe Alexandra.

Tyson smashed home an unstoppable shot from the edge of the box on 90 minutes after being put through by a glorious ball from Ebere Eze.

Michael Harriman equalised two minutes earlier when he smashed the ball home from 20 yards thanks to Tyson's cross to give Wycombe a lifeline.

It had all looked good early when Wanderers went 1-0 up on 27 minutes

thanks to Craig Mackail-Smith's second goal in as many games, when he converted from Adebayo Akinfenwa's flick on.

However, four minutes before half time, Crewe skipper Chris Dagnall stabbed home from six yards after Michael Raynes knocked down Perry Ng's cross.

Then completely against the run of play on 64 minutes, Dagnall met Chris Porter's flick-on and calmly slotted the ball past Scott Brown for a barely deserved lead.

However, Harriman and Tyson had the last laugh.

WYCOMBE WANDERERS: Brown, Harriman, Scarr (sub: Stewart, 70), El-Abd, Jacobson, Bean, Saunders (sub: Freeman, 81), Eze, Tyson, Akinfenwa, Mackail-Smith (sub: Umerah, 73). Subs: Rich-

ardson, Jombati, Gape, Southwell.

CREWE ALEXANDRA: Garratt, Ng, Bakayogo, Walker, Raynes, Porter, Dagnall, Bowery, Nolan, Ainley (sub: Cooper, 90), Lowery. Subs: Richards, Pickering, Dale, Kirk, Stubbs, Grant.



Chris Dagnall

In the CHAIR



WYCOMBE LADIES



Wycombe Ladies

WYCOMBE Wanderers Ladies progressed to the semi-final of the Chairman's Cup after demolishing Fleet Town 9-2 last Sunday afternoon.

Abigail Canvin hit four and Tara Woodward grabbed a hat-trick as Andy McIntosh's side bounced back in style from their narrow Jubilee Cup defeat to Bournemouth the week before.

With just three minutes played, Tara Woodward sprung on a chance, as a cross from the right side came in, and she was able to dink the ball around the keeper into the back of the net.

Wycombe's second goal came from Abi Canvin who was able to head the ball home from close range after some excellent play by Angeli Lotay, Bonnie Messitt and Kitty Jones along the right side of the pitch.

Woodward hit the back of the net again in the 39th minute, with some great team play resulting in a coolly executed shot, beating the Fleet keeper.

Just three minutes into the second half, Jones bagged herself a well-deserved goal as she slid the ball past the keeper's outstretched fingers.

In the 71st minute, a searching Woodward cross was pounced upon by Alicia Povey who was able to slot the ball into the left corner of the goal. Fleet were then lucky however to score a consolation.

However, Wycombe were able to increase the goal tally once again. With some neat play between Chante Inniss and Povey, Inniss was able to drive into the box, and although her shot was saved by the keeper, Canvin was able to smash the rebound into the back of the net in the 80th minute. Unfortunately, Wycombe were again taken by surprise as Fleet were able to make it into the Blues half, and with some strong play from their captain, they were again able to claw a goal back.

Wycombe didn't let that faze them though, and with some quick play through the middle from Erin Jenkins and O'Connor led to a through ball falling to the feet of Canvin, who outpaced the final two Fleet defenders to then beat the keeper one on one to round off a four-goal tally.

WANDERERS RECAP

Blues boss exultant after Colchester win

WYCOMBE 3-1 COLCHESTER UTD

WANDERERS manager Gareth Ainsworth celebrated his 250th league game in style with his 100th league win after the 3-1 victory over Colchester.

Goals from Adebayo Akinfenwa, Paris Cowan-Hall and Luke O'Nien cemented Wycombe's place in the play-offs as they recorded their first ever league double over the U's.

With those statistics in mind, Ainsworth preferred to deflect that milestone to heaping praise on his players, especially debutants Tafari Moore and Nathan McGinley.

Both players were fantastic for the Blues and Ainsworth purred over a fantastic win for his charges.

He said: "I thought both of them were outstanding."

"They both played really well and they grew into the game. Second half, Nathan was imperious and Tafari looked like he has played for us for years."

"However, it is about the whole team and they wouldn't have been able to play like that were it not for the group."

"This group is fantastic to manage. I am so proud of their application and they took to what we wanted to do really well with the high press."

"Even when we were in the lead, we still kept pushing and probing and we had a lot of energy and it was a good win for us."

At the other end of the spectrum, Akinfenwa recorded his 14th goal of the season, just four off his personal best for the season.

Ainsworth added: "I think he is going to break that this season."

"He has been here 18 months and he must have 32 goals which is absolutely phenomenal."

"Bayo is a player that has come here

and embraced the place and the fans have embraced him and he really has delivered."

"He is a big character to have around and he is a great guy and a leader."

"I am so pleased to have him at the moment. If there is anything you know there is a real chance that Akinfenwa will get his head on it."

Akinfenwa gave the hosts the lead on 13 minutes with his 14th goal of the season when he thumped a header past Sam Walker from Craig Mackail-Smith's wonderful cross.

Cowan-Hall made it two on 24 minutes when his deflected shot bobbed into the corner after more excellent work by Mackail-Smith.

O'Nien then scored one of the goals of the season on 74 minutes when he laced an exocet past a stranded Walker from 25 yards into the far corner.

Sammie Szmodics, well shackled by O'Nien all afternoon, evaded him once and stroked home a delightful shot into the bottom corner on 77 minutes past Scott Brown.

Moore almost scored one of the goals of the season a minute before O'Nien's stunner when he evaded three of four Colchester challenges before his shot was well saved by Walker.

Wanderers saw out the game comfortably and keep their promotion challenge motoring on.

WYCOMBE WANDERERS: Brown, Moore, McGinley, Scarr, Jacobson, O'Nien, Saunders, Bloomfield, Cowan-Hall (sub: Tyson, 69), Akinfenwa, Mackail-Smith. Subs: Ma-Kalambay, Gape, Bean, Kashket.

COLCHESTER UNITED: Walker, Kent, Inniss, Eastman, Jackson, Comley, Murray, Szmodics, Wright, Mandron, Guthrie. Subs: Gilmartin, Prosser, Kpekawa, Lapslie, Loft, Senior, Hanlan.

REFEREE: John Busby



Ainsworth was delighted with the victory over Colchester which cements Wanderers' play-off place

BLUES: Luke caps top showing with wonder goal O'Nien shows he is the real deal

WYCOMBE midfielder Luke O'Nien scored another sublime goal to rivals his goal against Chesterfield weeks previously.

The midfielder scored the all-important third goal in the 3-1 victory over Colchester with a rocket of a strike which gave opposing keeper Sam Walker absolutely no chance.

However, O'Nien had a more important role defensively in keeping Colchester's danger man, Sammie Szmodics, quiet.

Although Sammie Szmodics scored a late consolation with an excellent strike, O'Nien shackled the Colchester number 10 brilliantly after being asked by Gareth Ainsworth to keep tabs on him.

O'Nien said: "The gaffer gave me a job and put a lot of trust of me and

if he tells me to do something I am going to do it to the letter."

"I am glad I could do that but a bit disappointed that he scored although we got the three points and that is the most important thing."

The goal against Colchester should come as no real surprise due to the amount of work O'Nien puts in during training, especially on his perceived weaker left foot.

He added: "My left foot is better than my right to be honest."

"I have been working hard and the boys had a dig at me saying it is about time I scored one of them."

"It was very sweet in front of my family and all the fans and it was nice to get that breathing space to put us 3-0 up."

With 19 games remaining, O'Nien



O'Nien was on brilliant form on Saturday

feels their cup exit the week before could play a key hand in keeping up their promotion push.

He commented: "It will be an ad-

vantage to get rest during the week for all the boys and it is always a benefit that now we can just focus on the league."

Defensive injury crisis still not over

THE injury crisis in the Wanderers' defence remains with the likes of Anthony Stewart, Michael Harriman, Sido Jombati and Adam El-Abd still weeks away from a return.

After overcoming a calf injury over the festive break, El-Abd played the whole game against Preston before suffering a recurrence of that problem.

Manager Gareth Ainsworth said: "Adam is the type of guy who will battle through anything."

"He played the full 90 against Preston and we thought that was him

back but he picked it up on the Tuesday and pulled up with his calf again.

"It is a red flag to make sure it is right again before he plays for us and obviously he is captain as well.

"We need to be careful with Adam. We have picked up one or two too many injuries but we will get by.

"In the current market, there are names we want to try and get in and we will see how it pans out."

Sam Saunders and Nick Freeman are being assessed with both doubts for the trip to Crewe tomorrow with slight knocks.



El-Abd has picked up a recurrence of a calf injury

BLUES: Ainsworth keeps loanees feet on ground Boss keen to lift pressure

By Nicholas Tunney

WYCOMBE Wanderers have made an excellent start to 2018 in League Two.

Two wins out of two against Forest Green and Colchester sees the Chairboys sit handily in fourth place, cementing their position in the play-offs.

They are in a fantastic position to strike and they have just 19 games remaining this season. No cup distractions with just one aim in mind. Promotion.

The win against Colchester was all the more impressive given the raft of injuries in defence but with Tafari Moore and Nathan McGinley stepping into the breach.

Both loanees were magnificent for the side on their EFL debuts and although they lit up Adams Park, boss Gareth Ainsworth was wary just to keep a lid on the excitement of their performances.

He said: "Tafari and Nathan were outstanding last week.

"Finances dictate the players we can get in and I am always looking. There are always gems that other clubs miss and I am glad we got these two over the line.

"However, let's wait five or six games before we start praising them too highly. They have come in and done really well but they are the ones that other people didn't fancy and missed on the radar because these bigger names come to the fore.

"It is a talent that myself and Richard Dobson have had to work on. We never look at the top signings or the ones that everyone is after because we are not going to get them.

"We look at the ones that nobody is after and we try and get the best



Nathan McGinley was impressive on debut

of them in and that is how we work which is dictated by what we have here.

"With Tafari making his league debut and getting in team of the week is fantastic for him and Nathan will go onto play Middlesbrough first team as well.

"I am really proud that they came in and did well on their league debuts and I am pretty sure there is plenty more to come from both."

Next up is a trip to Crewe for the Blues. Wycombe enjoyed one of their finest moments against the Railwaymen this season with a

3-2 win, turning round a 2-1 deficit with three minutes to go.

However, Gresty Road provides mixed memories for Ainsworth and he feels his side are in for a very tough test in against David Artell's team tomorrow.

He added: "We have indifferent results there in recent years.

"I remember winning and losing in the cup and losing in the league. It is a tough place to go.

"We have seen the likes of Chesterfield beating Luton the other week and it shows anyone can beat anyone in this league.

"It is not a given that we should beat Crewe Alexandra. They are scrapping for their lives.

"David is a manager who is cutting his teeth and will be fighting to try and survive and it will be very tough.

"They have picked one or two injuries up and there is always transfer talk around George Cooper.

"We are scoring goals. We bagged another three on Saturday and goals have been plentiful this season which is great.

"If we can score goals, we always give ourselves a chance."

Freeman delighted with new Blues deal

WANDERERS forward Nick Freeman was over the moon to sign a two-year contract extension earlier this week, keeping him at Adams Park until 2020.

The winger has been in impressive form this campaign, making 24 appearances following on from his debut campaign total of 17.

He has been an integral part of the side in recent weeks, making him a firm fans favourite with the Wycombe faithful.

Freeman said: "I am delighted to get it over the line. This is my first long-term deal and I envisioned this happening if I worked hard.

"I came to the club 18 months on one-year deals and I am so happy to get that long-term deal and get that security in my life and I couldn't be happier and it feels like a weight has lifted off my shoulders."

As well as the help of Gareth Ainsworth and Richard Dobson, Freeman said the advice of the more experienced professionals has been brilliant for his development.

He added: "Akinfenwa, El-Abd, Saunders, Bloomfield and JJ have all helped me when times are tough and they are the ones bringing you through in those tough times.

"Playing with Bayo as a winger is just good to learn from."

Ainsworth said: "Nick was someone that we took a chance on 18 months ago after he impressed us on trial, and he's grabbed his opportunity to develop his career as a professional footballer with both hands.

"We knew we had to be patient with him as he made a big step up from playing part-time non-league football, but he's now become an important member of the squad for us.

"He still has areas of his game that need work but I've been delighted with his attitude and the hard work he's put in to improve his game. He's a player who excites the fans when he runs with the ball at his feet and he's looking more and more of a threat in front of his goal.

"I'm really pleased to agree this new deal with Nick, and thanks must go to those supporters who have contributed to the playing budget through the 500 Club. We're committed to working hard."

SPORT

Golf
Hatton back with a bang this season
- Page 71



Akinfenwa: I would take promotion over my goals



Akinfenwa has been in red-hot form this season

WYCOMBE: 'The Beast' means business

By Nicholas Tunney

WYCOMBE Wanderers striker Adebayo Akinfenwa is in the form of his career at the moment. The 35-year-old notched his 14th goal of the season at the weekend, to leave him just four goals away from equalling his career best for a season with five months of the campaign still remaining. With five months to go, 'The Beast' is in line to break that record as well as potentially hit 200 goals in his illustrious career. However, the humble frontman admitted he would forego those in-

credible records to get promotion this campaign with Wanderers. He said: "Goals are there but points and wins are more important. It would be nice to reach the milestone of more than 20 goals and 200 career goals but I would take promotion over any personal glory. "Fourteen goals is a good return so far. But I can't take the plaudits for myself and the players around me help me do what I can do. "I joke that Blooms [Matt Bloomfield] does my running for me but you have the likes of Nathan Tyson, Paris Cowan-Hall and Craig Mackail-Smith who allow me to do what I do best. It is a team effort and I do salute the boys for helping me score my goals. I feel good and I feel strong and I am playing a lot of minutes." Akinfenwa added: "It is always about progression so I hope to beat last year's tally and aim to get over 20 goals and I am on course to beat that." After the Crewe game, Wanderers have a 10-day break before a tough trip to Luton. Akinfenwa said: "It is beneficial to get a break with how many games we have had, especially with the injuries as well and get some players back."



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