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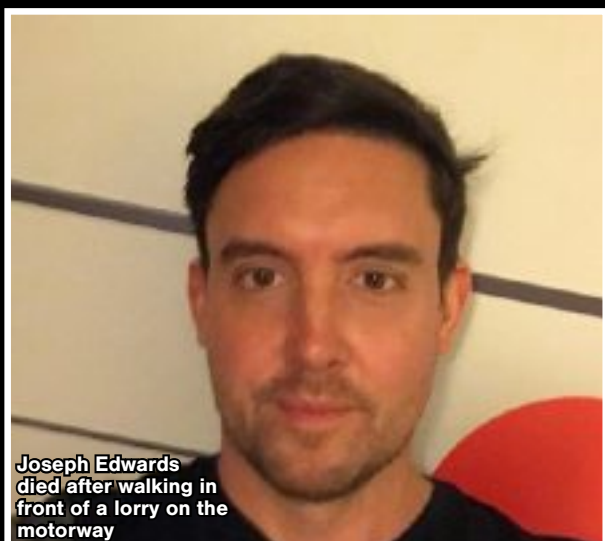


Bank Holiday bonanza
Crowds flock to Bucks for fun-filled weekend
Picture special inside



INSIDE 24 pages of Property • 12 pages of Freetime • 3 pages of Nostalgia • 10 pages of Sport

DOUBLE TRAGEDY



Joseph Edwards died after walking in front of a lorry on the motorway



OAP Joseph Arthur was found dead in the River Thames after a lengthy police search

Devastating details emerge as investigation ends into deaths of 'much-loved' men

Full stories: Pages 7 & 11

NEWS

Firm wins 'David and Goliath' fight



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EDUCATION

Parents' school place outrage



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CRIME

Man guilty over shooting cover-up



Page 9

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COMMENT

With
**NICHOLAS
TUNNEY**

Luton test will be epic



THIS Saturday sees an absolutely mouthwatering clash against Luton Town.

I have been looking forward to this game since the fixtures were released in June. Last season, these sides were involved in two epic matches that had a bit of everything and am sure this season will be no different.

Luton have won their previous two league games and have clearly got some dangerous players in their ranks but I feel as if both teams are very evenly matched and it should be a thriller this Saturday.

Wanderers are slowly but surely improving game by game. I couldn't get down to Plymouth but I was at Bradford to see their excellent 2-1 win against a side tipped to make a push for the play-offs.

On the day I thought the Blues were easily the better side over the 90 minutes, especially in the first half, and the likes of Bryn Morris and Jason McCarthy were extremely impressive.

I have said this before but it shows what a great eye Gareth Ainsworth and his staff have for a player. They study hours of footage to make sure they make the right investment for the squad and those two clearly have what it takes to play at a higher level.

With McCarthy it is as if he has never been anyway and he has fitted seamlessly back into the defence and Morris is proving a fantastic acquisition in both boxes.

The football played at Valley Parade was a joy to watch at times and there have been a few tweaks to Gareth's system which are paying dividends and after a shaky start, they now look at home in League One and long may that continue.

I was in the press box at Adams Park on Tuesday evening to see Wycombe get into the third round of the Carabao Cup for the first time since 2006 at the expense of Forest Green Rovers. This club is no stranger to a cup run and the last time they progressed this far in the League Cup, they got to the semi-finals against Chelsea! Something mirroring that would be amazing and this season the excitement continues to build thanks to some very strong performances.

This match, though, will be one to savour and the month of September sees some absolutely brilliant fixtures for everyone connected with the club to really get their teeth into. After this, they face the likes of Charlton, Oxford and Portsmouth and it will be a real rollercoaster month, one which I can't wait for.

COYB!

Wycombe Wanderers

VS

Luton Town

Last five league games:
DLLDW

Last five league games:
LDLWW

OPPOSITION VIEW



- 36. James Shea
- 7. Jack Stacey
- 5. Sonny Bradley
- 6. Matty Pearson
- 3. Dan Potts
- 17. Pelly Ruddock
- 16. Glen Rea
- 11. Andrew Shinnie
- 18. Jorge Grant
- 9. Danny Hylton
- 10. Elliot Lee

THIS week we take a look at Luton Town's last League One match, a 3-2 win over Shrewsbury.

Luton produced a display with bags of character to come from behind twice and pinch all three points against Shrewsbury Town this afternoon. Trailing 1-0 and then 2-1 with 17 minutes to go, after a bizarre second goal for ex-Hatter Lee Angol, the hosts had looked like they would fail to capitalise on the momentum gained from Tuesday night's win over Southend.

However, Jack Stacey and Elliot Lee struck in the space of four minutes, while Town could even afford to miss a late penalty with James Collins' denied by Joel Coleman from the spot.

Manager Nathan Jones was pleased with the win but expressed an injury concern over striker Danny Hylton. He said: "He was feeling his hamstring."

"You could see he wasn't himself first half and I wish he'd told me earlier because we could have made a change which probably would have given us a little bit more impact."

"But he's a soldier and he wants to soldier on and fight on, but it didn't do us any favours really as he couldn't really sprint, so he's no good to us."

"A fit Danny Hylton is brilliant for anyone, but a half fit one, no."

"Especially when it was a day where we needed that sharpness, we needed that real zest in the final third."

"We didn't have quite it first half and that was disappointing, but second half, I thought we showed character and showed a real cutting edge about us."

"We scored three, but we should have scored more."

Jones added: "They had one opportunity really, when they came out and showed a bit of adventure, but I felt we pushed all day to try and get the goal."



Danny Hylton

Look back: Wycombe 1 Luton 2



Scott Brown saves Danny Hylton's penalty



Adebayo Akinfenwa



Craig Mackail-Smith battles for possession



Adebayo Akinfenwa wins a header



Adebayo Akinfenwa celebrates his goal with Luke O'Nien, but Wycombe lost 2-1 to Luton Town in the last at Adams Park in September, 2017. James Collins and Scott Cuthbert scored for the Hatters



Matt Bloomfield



Craig Mackail-Smith



Craig Mackail-Smith on the run



In the CHAIR



General manager Michael Davies



Michael Davies

YOU spend all summer looking forward to the start of the season and then once it hits, there's no stopping the fast and frantic pace of games coming thick and fast. We're already seven games into the new season, having witnessed the drama of two penalty shootout wins, some fantastic performances and a couple of setbacks along the way.

That first game against Blackpool already feels a long time ago but it was a great way to get started, with our highest attendance for the first home league game of a season in nine years.

A fantastic 20 per cent uptake on season tickets on a like-for-like basis was a big factor, and we are especially delighted to see a 94 per cent increase in our free entry to season ticket holders aged 12 and under.

The incredible achievements of last season have no doubt brought the Chairboys more and more into the attention of the community and we are proud to see so many people coming along to see what Wycombe Wanderers are all about.

We know a promotion or a cup run can excite not just the regular Wycombe supporters but also the whole town, as we've seen from recent adventures against Aston Villa and Tottenham...

And that's at the forefront of what we're trying to do – engage and galvanise the local community and invite them on our journey with us.

That's also the case off the field, in terms of our partnerships with local businesses, and we know that while not every company is in a position to take up our advertising and sponsorship packages, there are many who'd love to pledge their support in some way.

That's why we launched the FA Cup shirt sleeve raffle, giving businesses the chance to buy one of 18 tickets for just £1,000 each, and go into a prize draw to have their logo displayed on the sleeve of the team's shirt for every FA Cup game we play this season.

Every entrant will receive a VIP hospitality package and a signed shirt; see our website if you'd like to get involved.

WANDERERS

Wycombe boss hails 'phenomenal' group

By Nicholas Tunney

BLUES manager Gareth Ainsworth was understandably delighted as his side recorded their first League One win of the season with a 2-1 victory against Bradford at Valley Parade.

Goals from Craig Mackail-Smith and Bryn Morris eased the Chairboys into a 2-0 lead before a late Luca Colville consolation pulled one back for the Bantams.

Wycombe, however, were full value for the win and Ainsworth praised his players for their performance in West Yorkshire.

He said: "Never doubt this group of boys. They are a phenomenal and together group of players.

"I believe what we are doing will keep us in League One and they have been fantastic.

"We have tinkered with systems and here we showed how we stifled Bradford in the first half.

"The boys out there put into place what you ask and it was really special as a manager to see that.

"There is plenty more work and lot more games to go and we know things can turn quickly in this game.

"To a man, every one of them believes we can stay in this league and achieve higher than that and performances like this will go a long way to putting Wycombe on the map."

Mackail-Smith scored the first goal for Wanderers and was a constant thorn in Bradford's side throughout.

Ainsworth hailed the 33-year-old for his professionalism and work ethic.



Gareth Ainsworth was delighted with his side's win at Valley Parade on Saturday

He added: "Craig has been doing that all his career.

"There is no surprises. He has played at the highest level because of his work rate.

"He is an example to all strikers who think its about getting goals and strolling about.

"He runs and runs and doesn't stop and he makes every single bad ball and good ball and he is just awesome to have."



Bryn Morris got his first goal for the club

Players are also making their way back from injury and Ainsworth also left the likes of Adebayo Akinfenwa and Scott Kashket on the bench on Saturday.

Ainsworth explained that upcoming selection problems will be a nice problem for him to have.

He said: "Nathan Tyson, Paris Cowan-Hall and Darius Charles are three massive players for us who could get into most League One

sides. I am really looking forward to having a fit squad and full squad and my job is to keep this team in this league and to pick the right team every week and I am so proud to be their manager."

Wanderers were on top from the first whistle to the last as they laid siege to the Bradford goal, especially in the first half.

Ainsworth will be hoping they can use this result to climb the table.

WYCOMBE: Craig Mackail-Smith joins 500 club Forward praises belief in the camp

WYCOMBE forward Craig Mackail-Smith explained the belief was back in the Wanderers camp thanks to their second half display at Plymouth.

Mackail-Smith scored the first goal in their 2-1 win at Bradford on Saturday.

After a shaky display against Bristol Rovers the previous Saturday, the 34-year-old highlighted the second 45 minutes in the 1-1 draw with Argyle recently as crucial to the team's development.

He said: "The first few games we were a bit nervy and wondered if we could compete at this level." Second half at Plymouth, we got the ball down and played fantastically and that belief is now running through the team and allowed us to play like

we did here.

"We looked good and we pressed high and we did our homework on them and I think the first half where Bradford couldn't get out of their half and the high press at this level is what we can work at.

"It is a pleasure to be in the team."

Mackail-Smith played in a central striker's role in the team, having mainly been used out wide during his Wycombe career so far.

He explained he really enjoyed playing down the middle and that it is certainly his favoured position.

He added: "Playing down the middle is my favourite position.

"It allows me to be free and do what I want. It is great to be involved and we have a mixture of everything which is fantastic."



Mackail-Smith (right) with Sam Saunders

The former Brighton and Peterborough striker recently passed the milestone of 500 career appearances and he expressed his real sur-

prise at hitting that landmark.

He said: "To pass 500 is amazing. I have enjoyed every minute and there is a lot more to come."

THE BIG MATCH: Cowan-Hall back for Luton match

SLOWLY but surely, Wycombe's squad is hitting full strength with the likes of Paris Cowan-Hall returning from injury to be named on the bench in Tuesday's Carabao Cup win.

Cowan-Hall and Scott Kashket are now back in full training after knocks earlier this season, and Kashket scored the first goal against Forest Green on Tuesday.

Chairboys manager Gareth Ainsworth admitted that these were nice selection posers for him to have with Darius Charles and Nathan Tyson close to comebacks too.

He said: "We saw Scotty's sharpness is good but he is still a little bit short.

Bayo is getting up to speed and he showed how important he is.

"We are working on a style of play and there are still some tweaks to do. The goals we let in were sloppy but I want to keep getting points on the board."

Charles is now back in full training after picking up an injury in pre-season and he is close to making his debut for the Chairboys since moving from AFC Wimbledon.

He could well be in line to feature in next week's Football League Trophy game against Northampton at Sixfields on Tuesday night against their League Two opponents.



Cowan-Hall returned against Forest Green

WYCOMBE: Allsop heroics see the Blues through to third round Goalkeeper heaps praise on coach

By Nicholas Tunney

WYCOMBE keeper Ryan Allsop was the penalty hero for Wanderers as they got through to the Carabao Cup third round for the first time since 2006.

The Blues saw off Forest Green 4-3 on penalties after it was 2-2 in normal time and Allsop's save from Paul Digby ensured a passage into the third round for only the second time in their history.

Scott Kashket opened the scoring before Dayle Grubb equalised minutes later.

Anthony Stewart thumped home to make it 2-1 before Carl Winchester equalised with five minutes to go.

Despite his heroics, Allsop heaped praise on goalkeeper coach Andy Fairman, alluding to the fact that he studiously looks at penalty takers in detail.

He said: "It is something we work on with Andy.

"Andy works very hard behind the scenes. We sat down before the game and had a quick look at their penalty takers and Andy is always there to give me quick reminder.

"Big credit to Andy for the work he has done and it has paid off in this round and the last."

Even though he made that crucial intervention in the shootout, Allsop explained that he would have rather the team won in normal time.

He added: "I would have preferred it if we had done it in the 90 minutes but shootouts present a great opportunity for the goalkeeper to be the hero.

"Yves [Ma-Kalambay] was the big hero in the last round but unfortunately he picked up an injury. It is nice to be a hero."



Ryan Allsop was in fine form against Forest Green

SPORT

Football
Rams secure
league win
- Page 59



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Gaffer looks ahead to 'monumental' battle

Luton encounter set to draw in big crowd



By Nicholas Tunney

WYCOMBE Wanderers manager Gareth Ainsworth is looking forward to a mouthwatering home clash with Luton Town this Saturday (3pm ko), having seen his side put together a mini-unbeaten run in the league and cup.

The Chairboys are unbeaten in three games, drawing 1-1 with Plymouth before a fantastic 2-1 away victory at Bradford which was followed up by a penalty shootout win over Forest Green in

the Carabao Cup on Tuesday.

Looking ahead to Saturday's clash with Luton at Adams Park, Ainsworth said: "It is going to be a very exciting game. There is always a big crowd and there seems to be some history drummed up over the years, which is great.

"Luton have been quite a way off their local rivals and we are sort of a local team which is great for us.

"We have had some momentous battles with them in the last few years and I can't see Saturday being anything different from that.

"I am really looking forward to it, but I need to get the boys recovered first as it will be a tough game."

With the turnaround in form welcome, Ainsworth is delighted with what he has seen generally over the course of the campaign so far.

He added: "We could have beaten Blackpool and we should have beaten Plymouth. We could have had three or four more points on the board than we have and I think that would have been acceptable.

"I don't think anyone would say we don't deserve that and that would

put us in the top 10 in League One.

"At the moment, we are finding out that when you get chances you have to take them and when you give chances to the opposition in this league, they do take them.

"The difference is the forward play in League One. It is sharp and very clinical and you can't give away too many chances.

"We are getting to grips with our goalscoring, which is fantastic, and hopefully we can pack Adams Park out on Saturday. Win, lose or draw, I know the fans will be with us."

Ladies make cup history

Wycombe Wanderers Ladies

WYCOMBE Wanderers are through to the first qualifying round of the Women's FA Cup for the very first time.

They drew 2-2 at Wantage Town in their preliminary round last Sunday before winning 3-1 in the penalty shoot-out.

Conditions were far from ideal at Alfredian Park with the players having to contend with driving rain and wind.

With a number of players absent, Wanderers lined up in a fluid 4-4-2 and gave competitive starts to summer signings Alix Todd, Holly Hussey-Burd and Nicole Jacobs.

They enjoyed more possession for the majority of the first half with Bonnie Messitt and Natalie Barette taking hold of the midfield.

Wanderers took a deserved lead when good work down their left flank ended with Alix Todd unleashing a cross-come-shot finding the top corner of the net for her first goal for the club.

But just before half-time they found themselves on level terms when their defence failed to deal with a long throw-in and the home side took advantage to score.

The second half started in much the same way as the first, with Wycombe attempting to get the ball down and play, while being wary of being caught by the long balls over the top from the Wantage defence.

However, the Blues started to dominate possession once more with Tara Woodward and Hussey-Burd combining well in the centre of the field.

And it was Woodward who headed home to put her side back in the lead.

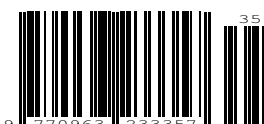
Again, they were unable to hold on to their advantage with the Southern Regional League side hitting back to equalise and take the tie into extra time.

Wycombe brought on forward Yasmin Knock, their fourth debutant of the day, as they pressed for the winner, but they could not find a way through, and a penalty shoot-out was required.

Blues keeper Abbie Whitmee was her side's hero, making vital saves, leaving Woodward to score the decisive spot kick.

In the next round, they will meet Ascot United at Amersham and Wycombe College, Flackwell Heath, this Sunday (2pm ko).

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