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COMMENT

With
**NICHOLAS
TUNNEY**

Wanderers on a revival



IT has been another decent for Wanderers as their renaissance continues. After a shaky start to the term, they are now unbeaten in five games and after a thrilling draw against Luton, they won comfortably at Northampton in mid-week.

I was at both games and you can see the changes that Gareth has made and the confidence that the players are now playing with.

For me, the Blues just about shaded Saturday's match against the Hatters after a superb first hour where they dictated the match.

Unfortunately the missed penalty changed the course of the game and Luton could have nicked it were it not for three superb saves from Ryan Allsop.

They produced an eye-catching performance at Northampton in the Checkatrade Trophy which showcased the strength in depth at Gareth has at his disposal this season.

The likes of Scott Kashket, Nick Freeman and Alex Samuel all played really well and their performances will present a nice headache for Gareth ahead of this weekend's match with Charlton.

It will be a tricky match in south-east London but the Blues' away record is so strong that they have a decent chance as underdogs against Lee Bowyer's men. I predict another battling point on the road.

There is a whole plethora of different sports featured in this week's paper: Christian Wade, England and Wasps winger and former RGS student, has spoken out about a lot of black rugby players ignored by state schools.

Also this week, Tyrrell Hatton's Ryder Cup place is confirmed and he marked that achievement by almost winning his first PGA Tour title in Boston earlier this week.

He was within one shot in the fourth and final round but numerous poor tee shots with the driver put paid to his chances.

With the Ryder Cup fast approaching, it is great to see Hatton in really good form and I firmly believe he will be a real asset for Team Europe.

He has a similar fiery on-course demeanour to Ryder Cup legend, Ian Poulter, who will be one of his teammates in Paris, and I could certainly see them forming an excellent partnership against the USA.

He putts brilliantly under pressure and has a brilliant short game to match and that putting will be a key element in trying to win back the Ryder Cup after defeat in 2016.

Wycombe Wanderers

Last five league games:
LLDWD

VS

Charlton Athletic

Last five league games:
WDLDW

OPPOSITION VIEW



- 1. Dillon Phillips
- 20. Chris Solly
- 5. Patrick Bauer
- 6. Jason Pearce
- 3. Lewis Page
- 17. Joe Aribio
- 4. Krystian Bielik
- 15. Darren Pratley
- 32. George Lapslie
- 9. Lyle Taylor
- 18. Karlan Grant

THIS week's Opposition View comes from Louis Mendez of the South London Press.

How did Charlton get on last week?

They edged former boss Chris Powell's Southend side out 2-1 at Roots Hall. An almighty brawl broke out in injury time that led to three red cards being shown – one to Charlton's Tariqe Fosu and two for Southend men.

What signings have you made over the summer?

The freebies that Lee Bowyer has picked up this year are impressive – Lyle Taylor bagged 18 goals in a poor AFC Wimbledon side last term and already has four this year. Darren Pratley is vastly experienced in the midfield.

What is the aim for the team this season?

The Addicks reached the play-off semi-finals last season, losing to Shrewsbury over two legs. Lee Bowyer has stated that his aim is go one better and finish in the top two – although the size of the squad might prove a hurdle.

Who are your danger-men?

Charlton's front two of Taylor and Karlan Grant are both in and amongst the goals already. They are starting to gain a real understanding of each other too.

What are your thoughts on Wycombe?

Craig Mackail-Smith is coming towards the end of his career now but has al-

ways had an eye for goal so Charlton will be wary of him. Fred Onyedinma has joined on loan from Millwall so will be hoping to get one over on us.

Prediction?

Charlton to win 2-1

Louis Mendez

GALLERY: Wycombe 1-1 Luton



Anthony Stewart despairs



Joe Jacobson celebrates



Bryn Morris controls the ball



Adebayo Akinfenwa



The team celebrate Joe Jacobson's penalty



Fans look on



Wycombe supporters



Matt Bloomfield



In the CHAIR

Wycombe midfielder Marcus Bean



Marcus Bean

WANDERERS stalwart Marcus Bean reached the incredible landmark of 500 career appearances following his substitute appearance against Northampton Town on Tuesday evening.

The 34-year-old has had a stellar career, beginning his career at QPR before playing for the likes of Brentford, Blackpool and Swansea before a successful spell at Adams Park.

Bean's career didn't get off to the most auspicious starts as he was sent off for QPR at Wycombe in August 2002.

However, he said: "I dreamed of playing the one game when I was a kid and to get to 500 I am truly grateful but I am grateful to the people who have supported me throughout my career. It is a dream job and I am lucky to have done it 500 times."

In terms of career highlights, Wycombe's promotion last season is right up there. He added: "All my highlights revolve around promotion."

"When you do anything for a year, you put your blood, sweat and tears into it and to get rewarded at the end is a feeling you can't beat it and especially to do it with such a great bunch of lads here."

When quizzed about some of the best players he has played with, he went back to his Swansea days to reminisce.

Bean said: "Adebayo Akinfenwa would be right up there but someone we both played with at Swansea was Lee Trundle."

"Those two up top were frightening. Lee was doing crazy stuff and if he was around now with YouTube he would have gone viral. He was an incredible player."

"There are so many. I don't just judge people on the pitch but it is about being good people as well. That is the thing I would miss the most about football is the characters in the dressing room."

With 500 now gone, Bean is eyeing loads more games before he calls a halt to his playing days.

"I still love it, I still enjoy it and I still get that buzz when I step on the pitch," added Bean.

WANDERERS

Ainsworth: Hatters draw was fair result

By Nicholas Tunney

WYCOMBE manager Gareth Ainsworth claimed a point was a fair result for both sides as Wycombe drew 1-1 with Luton at Adams Park on Saturday.

Wanderers were the better side in the first half and deservedly took the lead thanks to Joe Jacobson's 14th minute penalty.

The Blues had a golden chance to make it two on the hour from the spot again after Glen Rea hand-balled in the box but Jacobson was this time denied by Luton keeper James Shea.

Moments later, Matty Pearson equalised after an error by Ryan Allsop but the Wycombe keeper made amends with three world-class saves after that to foil the Hatters.

Ainsworth said: "It was fair for both sides."

"Any team coming off today without something would have been gutted."

"Were Luton worth a goal? Of course they were. They had a four on one break and Ryan pulled off a fantastic save and you expected them to score from that."

"However, they probably wouldn't have expected to score the goal they did but it goes that way."

"We were totally worth a goal and had chances. I was disappointed we didn't score the second penalty and disappointed with the break in between it awarded and when it was taken. It seemed to take an age."

"That definitely has to play on JJ's mind but for me that was the turning point."



Gareth Ainsworth was happy with side's display

"If we score that, we probably see the game out but fair play to Luton. They are a big side with big resources and it could have gone either way."

With a tinge of disappointment over the delay of the second penalty, there was also a hint of controversy over the first penalty as Sonny Bradley, already on a booking, fouled Matt Bloomfield in the area.

Ainsworth said: "I thought Brad-

ley was a tad lucky to stay on the pitch but my opinion is obviously one of bias towards Wycombe and the referee saw it differently."

"You see them given both ways. Two yellows wouldn't have been a massive shock but overall I thought the referee had a good game."

WYCOMBE WANDERERS: Allsop, McCarthy, Stewart, Jombati, Jacobson, Gape, Morris, Bloomfield (sub: Thompson, 48), Williams (sub:

Kashket, 79), Mackail-Smith (sub: Onyedina, 70), Akinfenwa. Subs: Ma-Kalambay, Saunders, Harri-man, Thompson, Onyedina, Freeman.

LUTON TOWN: Shea, Justin (sub: Cornick, 52), Bradley, Pearson, Potts, Stacey, Rea, Shinnie (sub: O'Kane, 64), Ruddock, Collins, Lee. Subs: Stech, McCormack, Grant, Jones, Sheehan.

REFEREE: Darren England



Joe Jacobson scored in the first half

WYCOMBE: Defender enjoying spell in the side Jombati hails squad's quick learning

WYCOMBE defender Sido Jombati explained the squad are learning fast following a positive performance against Luton Town on Saturday.

Jombati delivered a solid performance in the 1-1 draw against Luton, allowing himself to pick up the man of the match award.

After an admittedly slow start to life in League One, the 31-year-old admitted that the squad are now picking things up.

He said: "We started a bit slow, but we're picking up now and learning fast."

"Last year in League Two, we started very slow and it took us a bit of time to get back on track. This year we did start slow again, but we're learning much quicker than

last year."

Jombati, who played at centre-half in Saturday's draw, expressed his delight at being awarded man of the match and explained how happy he is to be playing football.

He said: "I'm pleased. I'd be more pleased with the three points but it happens in football and we'll try to attack another three points next Saturday."

He added: "Everyone here is fighting for their place. At the moment I'm doing well so I'm happy that I'm playing my football."

"Everyone is doing their best; it's just about waiting for the opportunity and then grabbing it with both hands."

Wanderers go again in the league next Saturday when they travel to



Sido Jombati was man of the match against Luton

Charlton Athletic, and Jombati displayed his positivity when signalling that Charlton themselves will be in for a test when the two sides

meet at The Valley.

He explained: "We're Wycombe, we go everywhere trying to fight for the three points."

Chairboys snap up teenager Yates after impressive trial

WYCOMBE have handed a contract to 19-year-old goalkeeper Cameron Yates for the 2018/19 season, following a trial spell at Adams Park.

The Scotsman left Leicester City in the summer after playing regularly for the Foxes' under-18 side, as well as deputising for their under-23s in Premier League 2.

Yates, who will wear the number 13 shirt at Wanderers, has been training alongside senior keepers Ryan Allsop and Yves Ma-Kalambay and new first-team coach Andy Fairman, and has now been offered the chance to continue his development with the club over the coming season.

Blues boss Gareth Ainsworth said: "It was always our intention to add a third keeper to the squad, and Cameron is somebody that Andy has had on his radar for a while, from his time with the under-23s at Everton before he came here.

"Cameron's looked sharp in training and will continue to improve by working closely with Ryan, Yves and Andy."

Yates was an unused substitute for the Blues in Tuesday's Checkatrade Trophy victory against Northampton and was almost called upon in the first half when Yves Ma-Kalambay went down with an injury.



Cameron Yates was signed after trialling with the club

WYCOMBE: Star striker eyes bagful of goals for the Chairboys Kashket sets target of more than 20

By Nicholas Tunney

WANDERERS striker Scott Kashket exclaimed he is eyeing a target of 20-plus goals this campaign after grabbing his third of the season in the win at Northampton.

Kashket smashed home a brilliant strike from 20 yards after just 10 minutes and looked lively throughout as he puts his injury woes over the past year behind him.

The former Leyton Orient forward said: "I want to get more than 20 goals this season.

"I have set that target and if I stay fit and don't reach that target, I will be very disappointed with myself."

With the Blues getting to the semi-finals of this competition in the 2016/17 season, Kashket is hopeful Wycombe can go on a similar run this time round and even get to Wembley.

He added: "You go into every game trying to win and we did that here.

"Whoever we get next, we hope for the same outcome and if you win you progress further and further and that has to be the aim."

In terms of his own fitness, he said: "This is the first time I have done 90 minutes since Hartlepool in 2016.

"That is a long time. I was cramping a bit at the end but to get 90 is massive for myself.

"I got 90 and got through it and I now trust myself to be able to do another 90 minutes and my body feels very good."

Besides Kashket's wonderful strike, the Chairboys had a whole host of chances to score even more goals.



Scott Kashket has started the season in fine form

SPORT

Golf

Hatton in line
for cup debut
- Page 68



Wanderers
Blues earn
Luton draw
- Page 74



England star hits out in black players row

Former RGS pupil urges rugby to do more



Christian Wade in action for Wasps at Adams Park during his breakthrough season. Photo: Anita Ross Marshall

By Nicholas Tunney

AN ENGLAND international rugby star and former Royal Grammar School student has told BBC Newsbeat that rugby union isn't doing enough to get ethnic minority children from state schools into the game.

Speaking to BBC Newsbeat, Wasps wing Christian Wade says the sport still suffers from a "white, public school" image.

He believes that big clubs are ignoring a large pool of untapped

talent with the 27-year-old saying he wants to set up a foundation to give state school players more opportunities.

Wade said: "I think there is probably a lot more that can be done to integrate everyone and make it more diverse. There is a lot of talent out there in normal secondary schools that can be transferred across."

The winger, who passed an exam to go to a grammar school, says he regularly receives messages from black kids struggling to get

a break. He added: "The amount of Instagram DMs and posts from kids who look up to me and want to play rugby, but don't know how they can get into good clubs that will give them an opportunity to get scouted, is endless."

All five of the English born, black or mixed-race players selected by England to tour South Africa this summer were at least partly educated in private schools.

Wade added: "To get kids into private school you obviously need money, which not everybody has."

"I was lucky, because I'm not from a wealthy background."

"Luckily I had a little bit of brains to get into a grammar school but, if I didn't, then it could have been a different story for me."

James Honeyben, head of rugby at RGS, said: "RGS High Wycombe is immensely proud of Christian's achievements and we are very supportive of his ambition to promote rugby nationally and diversify the sport."

"We are very grateful for the support we receive at RGS."

'Toughest test of the season'

Wycombe Wanderers

WYCOMBE manager Gareth Ainsworth says this weekend's away fixture against Charlton Athletic will be his side's toughest game of the season so far as they put their mini unbeaten run on the line in south London.

The Blues haven't lost in five games in all competitions and have impressed in recent weeks against the likes of Plymouth, Bradford and Luton as they steadily climb the table after a sticky start to the campaign.

Charlton appointed Lee Bowyer as manager on a full-time basis this week and Ainsworth has plenty of respect for the job Bowyer has done at The Valley during his reign.

He said: "This is definitely going to be our toughest test."

"I have watched them and they are a good side. They are very rotational and keep the ball well."

"They have movement and mobility up front and they have different ways of playing. They have a strong squad."

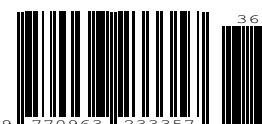
"Lee has the job now and he deserves that and he has set his stall out for what he wants to do so it will be tough."

"They pay for players and pay decent money. They have been through the mill financially."

"Their front two are a real threat with Karlan Grant and Lyle Taylor and we have to contain those two before we start anything else and hopefully we can show what we can do."

"We will be going there to upset and make sure we get something out of the game and we will be working to try and get all three points."

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