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warning after
two men attack
daughter
in shocking
'attempted
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**Full story:
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GALLERY: Wycombe 0-2 Coventry



Wycombe defend



Dominic Gape and Liam Kelly



Jason McCarthy



Nick Freeman



Adebayo Akinfenwa talks to the referee



Alex Samuel tussles



Nathan Tyson



Curtis Thompson



Nathan Tyson challenges



Nick Freeman



Fred Onyedinma

In the CHAIR

BFP sports reporter Nick Tunney



Nick Tunney

I TOUCHED on the fact that 2018 has been a memorable year for the Blues and here's hoping 2019 can provide more significant moments for the Blues.

Ever since I started at the Bucks Free Press in November 2016, I have had a few comments from Gareth Ainsworth and some of the media team suggesting I may be a bit of a lucky charm when it comes to Wanderers.

My first game was a 2-1 win at Cambridge United with a last-gasp winner from Aaron Pierre, which was also Wycombe's first win away since February of that year.

I then didn't see the Chairboys lose until that incredible game against Spurs in January 2017 when they lost 4-3, having come so close to pulling off one of the biggest cup shocks in recent years.

That season they came so close to getting into the play-offs but fell agonisingly short. The next campaign was a different kettle of fish as Wycombe stormed to automatic promotion, with the win at Chesterfield sealing the deal.

Fortunately, I was there to witness that incredible moment and this season, the Blues are punching well above their weight in League One.

Saturday's defeat at Scunthorpe was my 97th game and I have seen the Chairboys win 48 games, draw 20 and lose 29.

Although I go to most games as my day job, I have never seen the Chairboys lose three games in a row when I have been in attendance (I wasn't at Burton) so I hope that run can continue into 2019.

Of course, my attendance at games has nothing to do with whether Wanderers win, lose or draw. But I do try and sit in the same seat in the press box if Wycombe are on a good run at Adams Park.

Looking ahead, the Blues sit safely in mid table. That 55-point target is well within their grasp and I fully believe they can achieve that with games to spare.

It would be a truly monumental season if Wycombe stay up, arguably even more so than winning promotion to League One and hopefully, if the Chairboys do achieve their goal, then bigger and better things await Ainsworth and his superb squad of players.

COYB!

WANDERERS

Blues suffer unlucky loss at Scunthorpe

By Nicholas Tunney

WYCOMBE Wanderers lost their third League One game on the spin after a 1-0 defeat to Scunthorpe United at Glanford Park.

However, the Blues will be scratching their heads as to how they lost after completely dominating chances and possession for the majority of the 90 minutes on Saturday.

Scott Kashket hit the post, Alex Samuel had a goal disallowed and Iron keeper Jak Alnwick produced some brilliant saves to keep the Chairboys at bay.

The only goal of the game was a bit of a gift on eight minutes when Ryan Allsop failed to hold Kyle Wootton's shot, which dribbled across the line.

Scunthorpe took 10 seconds to threaten when George Thomas let fly from 20 yards, but the ball was comfortably held by Allsop.

But Allsop was beaten at his near post by Wootton's shot from a tight angle as the hosts went in front.

Wanderers bounced back when brilliant wing-work by Nick Freeman and Joe Jacobson saw the ball find its way to Samuel, who struck home on 10 minutes.

However, after a long discussion between referee Darren Drysdale and his assistant, the goal was ruled out for an apparent offside.

On 42 minutes, Thomas was clean through, but Allsop atoned for earlier error with a terrific block to deny the Iron winger.

Kashket then was inches away from equalising for the Blues on 44 minutes when his half-volley from 12 yards crashed against the post



Scott Kashket hit the post

and bounced out before the relieved Scunthorpe defenders cleared.

The visitors went even closer on 51 minutes when Jason McCarthy's cross reached Kashket at the back post, but his close-range effort was magnificently blocked by Alnwick.

Ainsworth turned to his talisman Adebayo Akinfenwa in the hope of finding a way back, the burly striker replacing the tireless Fred Onyedinnma and he almost made an

immediate impact on 69 minutes, heading Jacobson's corner just wide.

Akinfenwa was making his presence felt and some expert hold-up play found Freeman on 84 minutes, but he dragged his shot wide.

As the game got into stoppage time, the home side held on for the win, while Blues will have felt they deserved more for their efforts.

WYCOMBE WANDERERS: All-



Alex Samuel saw his goal disallowed

sop, McCarthy, El-Abd, Stewart, Jacobson, Freeman, Gape, Thompson, Onyedinnma (sub: Akinfenwa, 68), Kashket (sub: Cowan-Hall, 71), Samuel (sub: Williams, 88). Subs: Yates, Jombati, Mackail-Smith, Morris.

SCUNTHORPE UNITED: Alnwick, Borthwick-Jackson, Ojo, Perch, Novak, Thomas, El-Mhanni (sub: Dales, 52) (sub: Lewis, 71), Burgess, Sutton, McArdle, Wootton.

WANDERERS: Manager hails display in defeat Ainsworth: I put my name to that

WYCOMBE boss Gareth Ainsworth was left perplexed as he saw his side contrive to lose a game they should have got at least a point from after a 1-0 loss to Scunthorpe United at Glanford Park.

Kyle Wootton's eighth minute goal was the difference between the sides, but Wanderers had so many chances to get level, with Alex Samuel seeing his goal disallowed for offside and Scott Kashket hitting the woodwork just before the break.

Although disappointed to lose a third successive League One game, Ainsworth was very happy with the performance from his team.

He said: "You lose games when you don't deserve to as was the case here.

"I am flabbergasted at the result because we were so dominant. We played some good stuff and had numerous chances. The goal was disallowed in dubious circumstances but

you have to take it on the chin.

"In the last 10 games, I would say we have had only one really poor performance. However, performances like that I put my name too.

"If I start panicking after a performance like that, then we will be in trouble and I am really proud of that.

"We are punching above our weight. We have earned results but it didn't go our way here. Unfortunately I had to bring Scotty off and Fred Onyedinnma has played so many minutes for us, we can't get players like that injured.

"If we keep playing like that then we will win many more than we lose."

He added: "We visualised how Scunthorpe would panic and we did everything but score. It was a great performance and it was more like the Wycombe performances we have been accustomed to."



Gareth Ainsworth was pleased with the performance at Scunthorpe

Gape's pride at leading the Chairboys out

WYCOMBE midfielder Dominic Gape admitted it was a very special moment to lead the team out as captain for the first time in their New Year's Day clash with Coventry City.

The Blues fell to a disappointing loss with Gape wearing the armband in the absence of Adam El-Abd. Although downbeat with the result, Gape was proud to step into the breach against the Sky Blues.

He said: "It was a very proud moment for me and to make my 100th appearance as well.

"It was very special to lead the boys out but we are bitterly disappointed with the result.

"We haven't done too well against Coventry over the past few seasons. The first goal knocked the stuffing out of us a bit.

"Before that we were the better team. After the first goal, we didn't ask enough questions and going forward we have a week and a half to prepare and get these things right by working hard on the training field.

"We have gone through these periods and come out the other side and that is the case again. Everyone knows to get through these periods, we need to stick together and work really hard and there really is no substitute for that."



Dominic Gape captained the Blues for the first time on Tuesday

WYCOMBE: Chairboys poor run continues with Coventry defeat Blues slump to fourth loss in a row

WYCOMBE Wanderers' rocky run continued as they fell to a fourth successive defeat, losing 2-0 to Coventry City at Adams Park in their League One clash on Tuesday.

Goals from Conor Chaplin and substitute Jonson Clarke-Harris gave the visitors a deserved win, with Wycombe failing to create many clear-cut chances.

Coventry were awarded a penalty on 33 minutes when Nathan Tyson fouled Jordy Hiwula and Chaplin coolly slotted home from the spot.

The Sky Blues started the second half on the front foot and Chaplin was denied a second goal on 47 minutes by a magnificent block from Sido Jombati.

Coventry then dealt the Blues a sucker punch as substitute Clarke-Harris made an immediate impact on 61 minutes, firing home past Ryan Allsop after a lovely pass from Tom Bayliss.

Wanderers had a big shout for a penalty on 84 minutes when Fred Onyedinma looked to be pulled back by Jordan Willis, but referee Neil Hair waved away the protests.

However, a Wycombe comeback failed to materialise and the Blues now have an 11-day break before they face Doncaster Rovers at home on January 12.

WYCOMBE WANDERERS: Allsop, McCarthy, Jombati, Stewart, Harriman, Onyedinma, Thompson, Gape, Freeman (sub: Kashket, 68), Samuel (sub: Akinfenwa, 64), Tyson (sub: Mackail-Smith, 86). Subs: Yates, El-Abd, Cowan-Hall, Williams.

COVENTRY CITY: Burge, Sterling, Willis, Hyam, Mason, Thomas, Kelly (sub: McCallum, 79), Bayliss, Shipley, Hiwula (sub: Clarke-Harris, 60), Chaplin (sub: Doyle, 74). Subs: Addai, Grimmer, Davies, Westbrook.

REFEREE: Neil Hair.

ATTENDANCE: 6,183



Nathan Tyson gave away the penalty

SPORT

Football
Beaconsfield
battle at home
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Wanderers
Chairboys slip
to away loss
- Page 38



Ainsworth working hard to bolster squad

Wycombe boss believes break is a bonus



Ainsworth backed his to bounce back after their break

By Nicholas Tunney

WANDERERS manager Gareth Ainsworth admitted he will be working extremely hard to get his side back on track, as well as hoping to secure some loan deals, after seeing his players lose their fourth successive League One match.

The festive period has been the undoing of Wycombe's magnificent start to the season, with no points picked up out of a possible 12 in the past two weeks.

With the likes of loan duo Fred

Onyedima and Randell Williams having returned to their parent clubs, Ainsworth explained that he will be putting all his efforts into strengthening his squad in the hope of guaranteeing their survival in the division.

Speaking after a 2-0 home loss to Coventry City on Tuesday, he said: "I can't remember the last time we lost four in the spin."

"In League One it is going to happen and we knew times like this would come. The second Coventry goal was a real killer. I thought

we started really well but once they scored, they took dominance of the ball and we struggled to get in behind them."

"Losing four in a row keeps expectation at a realistic level and shows that 50-point target is going to be special when we get there because I believe we will."

The next game for Wanderers is on January 12 at home to Doncaster and Ainsworth believes the break will benefit him and his team.

He added: "The loan players [Onyedima, Williams and Bryn

Morris] have been fantastic and hopefully we can retain some faces who have done well for us."

"Myself and the chairman are working really hard on trying to secure our best players. I am not saying there will be a lot of business, but we are working hard on getting gems in and generally in January we have done well in doing that."

"Hopefully we have a chance of keeping these guys we had."

"There is no doubt we can get out of this run and if we keep working hard we won't have any worries."



Casterton eyes a huge 2019

Cricket

YOUNG cricketer Teddie Casterton has had a 2018 to remember. The former RGS student won the Wisden Schools Cricketer of the Year award and has already started preparations for the new season.

The cricket season typically runs from April until September, but Casterton isn't sitting around during the off season and has been hitting the gym hard in preparations for the new campaign.

He said: "The next season is always in my mind pretty much straight after the previous one finishes. I've been training with London Universities at Lord's as their vice captain, working on my playing style and improving on my weaker areas."

Casterton went on to say that liking his cricket is a key factor in his game, playing his best when he is having fun.

He added: "As long as I'm enjoying my cricket I should be at the crease for a long time. I think last season my play against spin improved a lot, before getting a bit stuck."

"I feel so much more confident and just keep growing in that confidence with everything about my cricket, whether it be on the field or my mental side of the game."

Along with preparations for next season Casterton is at university studying English with high aspirations for his writing career as well.

He said: "Being an author would be a dream. I'm working very hard to just work on my style and creativeness and just see where I want to go with it, whether it be journalism or publishing."

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