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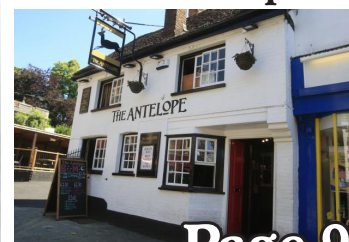
Town's notorious supermarket jihadi 'killed in Syrian suicide bombing'

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SPECIAL REPORT

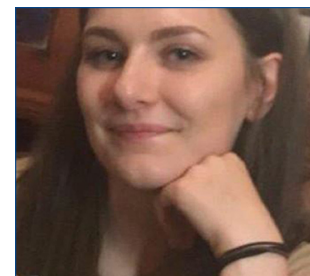
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WANDERERS

Ainsworth's pride as his

By Nicholas Tunney



WYCOMBE Wanderers manager Gareth Ainsworth was full of praise for his side's resilient and determined performance as they battled to a 3-2 win against rivals Milton Keynes Dons at Adams Park on Saturday.

With the game entering the 90th minute substitute David Wheeler popped up in the box finishing calmly getting his first goal for the club and ensuring a second win out of three for the new season.

Wycombe had led twice in the game, first from a Joe Jacobson penalty after 12 minutes and Fred Onyedimma towards the end of the first half but on both occasions were pegged back by the Dons.

The visitors also missed a penalty in first-half stoppage time when Conor McGrandles blazed his spot kick high over the bar.

As the game entered the 90th minute, Wheeler, the former MK Dons man scored to hand a proud Ainsworth all three points.

He said: "We work on culture here, we can't go out and pick the best players because they're the expensive ones, we focus a lot on character and what's right for the group, and I have a great group as they've shown once again.

"We were very tired from Tuesday, but David Wheeler's legs weren't at the end there, he's a great guy and it was a great finish.

"I have a lot of respect for MK Dons and Paul Tisdale, they have a good team and will win a lot of games this season, they cause teams problems with a lot of fluidity on the ball, so I'm even more pleased we've beaten them.

Ainsworth added: "What is really pleasing me now is the way we can mix things up and play different systems, we are showing our real talent going forward, but we have to go



game by game.

"I'd be very naive to think we've cracked anything, I'll make sure we're consistent and with the fans fantastic till the end as always its exciting times at Wycombe.

MK manager Paul Tisdale added: "It was a really good game but I am disappointed.

"We had out chances but we conceded three.

"We didn't come here to defend and we wanted to play and be attacking.

"Our desire to play and the way we play, I was really impressed with and be proud of, but we have lots to be better at as well."



‘resilient’ side get late win



All the best bits from Wycombe's dramatic late victory against MK Dons on Saturday. Photos: PRiME Media Images

WANDERERS

Wycombe held to a late

By Nicholas Tunney



WYCOMBE Wanderers came agonisingly close to beating promotion hopefuls Fleetwood and a rain-lashed Highbury on Tuesday evening but in the end had to settle for a 1-1 draw.

Adebayo Akinfenwa gave the Blues the lead on 57 minutes, heading home Alex Pattison's deflected cross.

However, Paddy Madden equalised deep into stoppage time after Ryan Allsop failed to hold onto the forward's header.

The Chairboys had other chances to win the game with Darius Charles, making his comeback, hitting the post with a header and Alex Samuel seeing his shot saved by Gilks late on.

Fleetwood boss Joey Barton told the Blackpool Gazette: "He said: 'They play very direct and the big fella is evergreen, no matter what you say about him.'

"I cannot wait for him to retire because he scores against us.

"He scored against us here last year, scored again here and I cannot wait for him to ride off into the sunset because he is becoming a thorn in my side.

"Unfortunately with the size of him there is not much any of us can do about it."

He added: "We are the side who started off the game wanting to win it from kick-off. I love Gareth, he is a top guy and I love what Wycombe stand for as a football club, but they came for a point.

"They will be disappointed not to take all three, but I thought we at least deserved a point on the balance of play and with our chances. We probably don't come away disappointed because of the manner of the game.

"For the boys to fight back and get in the game, and then go on to



try and win the game, says an enormous amount about the character we have in our dressing room.

"It's disappointing not to pick up all three points at home, but Wycombe are a good side and it's another point on the board for us.

"I asked the lads for a response following Saturday's game and I felt we

got that.

"The factors that conspire against you, you obviously need to make changes and I thought the lads who came off the bench, Ash Eastham – who saved a shot after Gilks parried it onto the post – and he showed great awareness and readiness to play.



draw by Fleetwood Town



Wycombe were so close to getting a third win from four games at Fleetwood. Photo: PRIME Media Images

SPORT

Cricket

Cross bounce back
with easy win
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BLUES: Defender returns after retirement beckoned Charles' comeback is a massive fairytale



Darius Charles made his first start for nine months against Fleetwood. Photo: PRiME Media Images

WYCOMBE Wanderers may have got a good result against Fleetwood Town on Tuesday evening but it was truly a fairytale return to playing for one Chairboys player.

Darius Charles made his first appearance for the Blues since November in the 1-1 draw at Highbury and almost marked the game with a goal, seeing his header crash back off the post with the score at 1-0.

Charles' journey over the past nine months isn't your usual for a footballer making a comeback after a long-term injury.

By Nicholas Tunney

The former AFC Wimbledon defender was told he would likely have to retire but Charles never gave up and was determined to play again.

And last week, the 31-year-old signed a deal until January to prove his fitness and his worth on the pitch to the Chairboys.

He said: "I can't put into words how happy I am with being able to come back here and sign a contract.

"Retirement was the only option for me, if I am honest. I was told by a surgeon I wouldn't be able to play at this standard again, if at all, and they wouldn't be able to operate.

"I had my mind prepared for the afterlife. Somehow by some divine intervention, I started to get better and feel better through rigorous and intensive rehabilitation work and I decided I wasn't going to hang up my boots and I wanted to give it a real go at coming back."

Charles also praised manager Gareth Ainsworth for making him feel part of everything at the club de-

spite his horrible injury woes.

He added: "I can't speak highly enough of the gaffer and I really mean that.

"As a man, he has been so accommodating to me. They had high hopes for me in being able to produce performances and him and Dobbo have made me feel part of the team and the work I have been doing with Cian [O'Doherty] has been second to none."

Ainsworth added: "He is one of the best humans you can meet and he is absolute leader and he has worked so hard to get back here."



David Wheeler. Photo: PRiME

Wheeler praises spirit

Wycombe Wanderers

WYCOMBE new boy David Wheeler praised the togetherness of the Chairboys squad as he came on to score the winner against his former club at Adams Park on Saturday.

Wheeler was introduced to the action just past the hour mark, coming on for Paul Smyth and in the 90th minute was played in by Nick Freeman and the former MK Dons man calmly finished in front of the terrace to make it two out of two at home.

The former Exeter man was signed by QPR but after a tough time at Loftus Road, Wheeler did very well at MK.

Wheeler said: "I was really fond of my time their (MK Dons) but really happy to score my first goal for Wycombe. When you come on in a game all you hope to do is to have an influence and I'm pleased I could do that."

The Chairboys new number seven also praised the togetherness of his new teammates with everyone playing their individual part.

He said: "The atmosphere in the changing room is one of the best I've had, everyone respects what one another brings to the party and we're all enjoying ourselves at the minute.

He added: "The competition in the squad is also really healthy, it keeps you on your toes as you don't want to get to comfortable, it also helps takes the pressure off each other and is great for us as we'll need everyone throughout the course of the season."

The club have propelled themselves into the top six, Wanderers' highest league position in their history.

Wheeler commented: "It is a nice thing for the club and the group of players we have here now."

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