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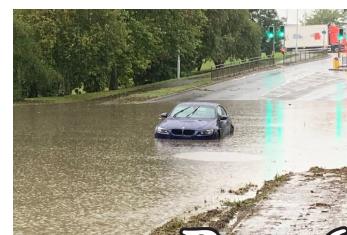
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Flooding chaos across Bucks



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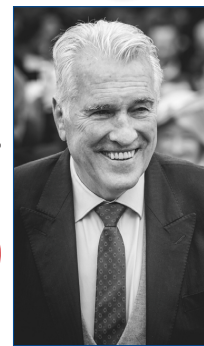
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WANDERERS: Mascoll thanks his team-mates



Jamie Mascoll has settled into life very well at Adams Park. Photo: Andy Rowland

‘Never fazed’

WYCOMBE defender Jamie Mascoll thanked his team-mates for the way they have welcomed him into the club after the Blues' 1-0 win over Portsmouth.

Mascoll made just his second ever league appearance and he replaced Joe Jacobson on the stroke of half-time after the Welshman had to go off with an injury.

The former Charlton man played a big part in the penalty decision from which Adebayo Akinfenwa scored late on, his dangerous ball in being handballed by a Pompey defender.

Mascoll said: "From day one, they have helped me settle in and I am sure it shows on the pitch that is what is happening."

The game suffered with a lot of stoppages with two red cards and a whole host of injuries but the full-back said they weren't fazed by the disjointed nature of the game.

He added: "There were a lot of stoppages with seven minutes at the end and it does slow the game down. "But we are always ready."

Column: Seven of the very best years

Wycombe Wanderers

SEPTEMBER 24, 2019. The day Wycombe Wanderers boss Gareth Ainsworth celebrated a wonderful seven years in charge at Adams Park.

Ainsworth is currently the second longest serving manager in the country behind Morecambe's Jim Bentley and the job he has done to get the Blues to where they are today, is nothing short of incredible.

From walking in the door as a caretaker manager initially in September 2012 to sitting pretty in third in League One today is testament to the skill, application, tactical acumen and supreme man-management of the Lancastrian, who I regard as one of the best young managers in the country.

It shows that when clubs do give managers time, it works. For Ainsworth to stabilise the club, both on and off the pitch, has been a long and, at times, fiendishly difficult road but now the rewards are being reaped.

That day in Torquay in May 2014, the Great Escape, will be forever etched in Wycombe folklore and from that point on, Ainsworth has had the brilliant ability to coax the very best out of his players and make some staggeringly fantastic signings to improve the culture on the pitch, in the changing room and at the training ground.

A trip to Wembley beckoned a season later and they were so close to producing a quite miraculous turnaround from that dramatic day in Devon.

Wanderers hovered in and around the play-offs for the next few seasons before that promotion dream was achieved at Chesterfield in April 2018.

Throughout that season, Ainsworth had played down talk of promotion and just challenged his players to give everything to the cause.

To go up automatically bettered their dream of a play-off place and they thoroughly deserved it after some amazing wins at the likes of Luton, the Marcus Bean inspired victory over Carlisle and gutsy draws at Lincoln and Notts County when injuries mounted up to key players.

For the players to perform like they have week in, week out, shows how much they respect Ainsworth and the job and culture he has created in and around the club.

The team is moulded into how he played as a player; skilful, direct, quick, attacking, but most of all, giving 110 per cent to the cause.

Here's to another seven years.

CHAIRBOYS: Our feature with Wanderers' boss Ainsworth: I am enjoying this season more than ever



Gareth Ainsworth. Photo: PRIME Media Images

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"Today I feel a lot more confident in myself on match days and day-to-day stuff and I am still learning and improving."

"I still want to stay humble and look up to the managers round me who have been so successful and learn off them as well as putting my own stamp on things."

"That is important and one of the reasons why I have stayed in charge for so long because I do it how I see it and I think you have to do that."

Ainsworth admitted that management wasn't on his radar until he reached his late 30s and was more focused into going into the medical side of football.

He added: "I didn't think about going into management until my late 30s if I am totally honest. I always went down the physio route."

"I was never the most tactically away player in my 20s. Give me a ball and will get past the full-back and get a cross in and a few goals."

"That is what my game was. People used to talk about systems and being honest, didn't see a lot of that."

"In my late 30s, Gary Waddock gave me the opportunity to be coach and the plan was with Gary in charge, I would work really hard as a coach and earn my stripes and go to games and watch games but I only had eight games before I came into the

By Nicholas Tunney

caretaker role but I managed to get through that period and that was a real survival role."

Ainsworth clearly is relishing the opportunity to progress Wycombe and the club have had a stellar start to the season, sitting third in League One.

However, there are aspects of management which are really tough and one area in particular that Ainsworth has real empathy for.

He said: "Leaving players out I find really tough."

"It isn't hard because you are being honest and telling him how you see it but I am a very emotional person and have a lot of empathy, I can always put myself in their shoes and get a reaction I want to see."

Ainsworth has seen the highs and lows in his tenure with the Great Escape at Torquay and promotion at Chesterfield to name but two highlights of his reign.

Ainsworth added: "This season I am enjoying it more than ever."

"League Two was tough because there is a trapdoor out of the league and into non-league and with not much money it was difficult."

"I think this season I feel confident in the team's ability and more confident in myself."

WANDERERS

Wycombe put Pompey to



By Nicholas Tunney

WYCOMBE Wanderers manager Gareth Ainsworth praised “unsung hero” Dominic Gape for his brilliant performance in their 1-0 win over Portsmouth at Adams Park on Saturday.

Gape was instrumental in midfield for the Blues in keeping the Pompey playmakers quiet and the Chairboys were rewarded with an excellent three points when Adebayo Akinfenwa thumped an 83rd minute penalty past Craig MacGillivray to seal victory.

Ainsworth said: “Dominic Gape is one of the most unsung heroes at Wycombe Wanderers.

“He is one of the first names on the teamsheet, believe me, because he is so good at what he does.

“He is a fantastic acquisition from Southampton and he organises so well for such a young boy.

“He is a future captain and his legs are unbelievable. He got Freeman and Pattison running about thanks to Gape’s voice getting them going.

“I don’t normally like singling people out because we are a team, we are a group and I will credit that to all 24 players that we have got. That is all we have.

“We have 18 fit players with six out, but that is 18 quality players and thanks to Rob’s help, that has been a big help.”

Ainsworth also explained he was very grateful at being allowed time to build a culture at the club as he approaches his seventh anniversary at the helm.

He added: “In seven years’ time, I am so grateful to the club for giving me this time.

“I have built a culture where the lads don’t get fazed and every player has a job description and they all know what they have to do for me.

“I felt in this game we should have stayed at 4-3-2 with ten men. If I had



left Akinfenwa up there on his own, their defenders could have kept striding out.

“I was so proud to see the team’s desire and that is what has won us the game here.”



the sword with late win



Wychcombe beat Portsmouth 1-0 thanks to Adebayo Akinfenwa's late penalty kick. Photos: PRiME Media Images

SPORT

Football

Brave Heathens bow out of the FA Cup
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EXCLUSIVE: Ainsworth's seventh anniversary

'I always make sure that I do it my way'



Ainsworth celebrated seven years in charge at Adams Park on Tuesday

WYCOMBE manager Gareth Ainsworth explained the key to his success as he celebrates seven incredible years in charge at Adams Park - he does it his way.

Ainsworth spoke exclusively to the Bucks Free Press earlier this week as he talks about his highlights during his seven years in charge, the hardest parts of being a manager and how much has changed since he first walked in the managerial door on September 24, 2012.

This season has seen a remarkable change of fortune, on and off

By Nicholas Tunney

the pitch, after years of financial uncertainty surrounding the club, even leading into this summer.

Ainsworth revealed the pride he has in getting to his seventh anniversary and in sailing the Blues through choppy waters with a brighter future on the horizon.

He said: "I am really proud to have got here.

"I didn't know it was coming until about a week ago and obviously it is always nice to know that you

have been supported.

"I think seven years at the club means that we have done ok. The patience was there right at the start but between all of us, the fans and the players, we have done well and it has been a real team effort.

"I am lucky to have worked with some fantastic players and some fantastic staff and I am really happy in my job as well.

"Now, is a million miles from when I first came in. I will admit I was a player not ready to go straight into management and I had to learn on the job.

"We had this club that had no manager, was Trust owned, was in a bit of a chaotic situation with what had gone on and I had a tiny bit of experience at QPR when I was caretaker there.

"I just took the reins there and it put in pole position to take the caretaker's job while they looked for other people.

"After quite a long caretaker period, I was offered the job.

"I was ready to be a manager on the leadership side of things but there is so much more to the job.

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Rochdale boss Brian-Barry Murphy

Gaffer wary of stern test

Wycombe Wanderers

WYCOMBE Wanderers manager Gareth Ainsworth is expecting a stern test for his side against Rochdale as they go in search of their first away win of the season.

Whilst the Blues have been superb at Adams Park, they are yet to win away from home and have scored just one goal on their travels.

Rochdale came so close to pulling off a huge shock as they drew 1-1 with Manchester United at Old Trafford in the Carabao Cup on Wednesday before bowing out on penalties.

With that in mind, Ainsworth believes Dale will be a tricky test.

He said: "We have been solid away from home, barring the Gillingham game and there are various factors involved in that.

"It was a tough game although we created three more chances than Gillingham. The performance was there still and I believe we have got enough to compete with anyone in this league.

"I can't believe we didn't get anything out of the game at Rochdale last year. Brian-Barry Murphy [Rochdale boss] was gracious in the win and he said they were lucky so I have a lot of respect for him.

"He is doing well and he has a style of play that he wants to keep to and it will be tough because they are a good side on the ball.

"They had Man United midweek and I am not sure if it will play into our hands.

"It is not just a one-off. This isn't a fad. Almost a quarter of the season has gone now and we have been a consistently strong side.

"We are performing week in and week out and I am hoping we can turn Rochdale over."

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