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TRAFFIC MAYHEM

'10 weeks' of roadworks on major road

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Three town centre bars 'set to be sold' - **See page 7**

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Heartless thieves raid charity shops



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Grieving family's plea to catch woodland killers

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SPORT

Inspirational
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TEST - PAGE 55



FOOTBALL: David v Goliath at Stadium Of Light Ainsworth is hoping to take down a giant



Wycombe Wanderers manager Gareth Ainsworth insists his side are the David against the Goliath that is Sunderland on Saturday.

WYCOMBE Wanderers manager Gareth Ainsworth has hailed the mouth-watering trip to Sunderland in League One this Saturday as a 'special occasion'.

The Chairboys continue to set the pace despite their last win coming back in the visit to Adams Park from Burton Albion in mid-December.

Ainsworth admits the Wycombe squad is stretched but he has challenged his side to embrace the moment, whilst Sunderland are bid-

ding to extended their unbeaten run to six games for a potential return to the play-off spots.

Ainsworth said: "We're a team with a small, stretched squad that has made it to the top of the league and everyone wants to have a pop at beating us, which is a huge compliment."

"But I make no bones about what a tough game this will be, away at Sunderland, a real special occasion, with tens of thousands of fans roaring them on. It's an

atmosphere that we will need to be ready for.

"It'll be an honour for me to be taking Wycombe Wanderers to such a huge club, and I'm sure I'll have a little flutter in me as we walk through the front door."

"There might be some fans who try to turn this game on its head and suggest we're now the bigger club because of where we are in the league, but I have nothing but respect for everyone at Sunderland."

"This is still David against Goli-

ath, and we're still the David in this scenario, but hopefully we can get our slingshot right and take down another giant in this division."

He continued: "We'll need all the experience of our generals in the squad to help set the tone and make sure the boys are ready."

"We'll embrace the moment and enjoy stepping out at the Stadium of Light, but once we get over the white line it's business as usual and we'll be doing all we can to get something from the game."



Chinnor will lock horns with Rams

A new first for Chinnor

CHINNOR V RAMS PREVIEW

CHINNOR Director of Rugby Matt Williams is expecting a scrum battle when his side and Rams lock horns on tonight (Friday, 7.45pm).

The sides go head-to-head in a much-anticipated derby fixture which breaks new ground for the Kingsey Road-based club.

It is the first time Chinnor are hosting a league match on a Friday night and the stage is all set for a thrilling derby between two of the division's top four sides.

The club head into the fixture sitting fourth in National League One, just two places and nine points behind local rivals Rams.

There was little to separate the sides in Berkshire in September and Williams expects a similarly bruising encounter.

"I'm looking forward to it," he said. "It's always a spicy game when we play Rams. It's two very committed teams and everyone knows what is coming - two big packs going at each other hammer and tongs."

"The team that comes out on top is going to be the one that gets the upper hand in the set piece, scrummaging will be big."

Chinnor are hoping the change of date will help to attract people across the county to come and experience third tier rugby at its best when they would otherwise be busy on a weekend.

Williams said: "It's an opportunity for rugby fans, as opposed to just Chinnor and Rams supporters."

"If you are a fan of rugby in the area, this is a chance to come and watch National League one rugby that you wouldn't normally get to see because of it being a Friday not a Saturday."

There will be a curry buffet from 6.30pm.

0963-2336

