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Andy's stand-up

Comedian hopes to
heal the nation

Freetime: Page 27



Talking Business

The latest in the world
of business

Page 31

INSIDE • 12 pages of Property • 7 pages of Freetime • 3 pages of Nostalgia • 6 pages of Sport

CRASH TRAGEDY

Heartbroken
family pay tribute
to 'incredibly
popular and
charismatic'
father-of-two, 39,
killed in horror
bus crash on busy
country road

Full story: Page 3



NEWS

Raising cash for
hit-and-run victim



Page 6

NEWS

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Page 9

Mum's bid for awareness after teen son's death

Full story:
Page 2

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SPORT

Jacobson keeps his cool



Above; Wycombe Wanderers manager Gareth Ainsworth. Below; Joe Jacobson (right) scored on his third debut. Right; Joe Jacobson



WYCOMBE WANDERERS END A RUN OF SIX GAMES WITHOUT A WIN

JOE JACOBSON scored a 94th-minute winner as Wycombe Wanderers defeated Rochdale to end a run of six games without a win.

Wycombe, who had not won since the 2-0 victory over Burton Albion on December 14, were actually on the back foot as soon as the first minute when Ryan Allsop was called into a save as Jordan Williams' fierce effort from the 18-yard line stung the fingertips of the Chairboys stopper.

After a very timid opening quarter-of-an-hour from both sides, Wycombe found themselves a goal behind in bizarre circumstances in the 18th minute.

Jason McCarthy, who was making his third debut for the club, passed the ball back to Allsop, whose clearance smashed into the back of Ian Henderson with the ball flying into the middle of the goal.

Everyone in the ground, including Henderson himself, were bemused by what had just happened as the Wycombe fans were stunned into silence.

Gareth Ainsworth was urging his team on, and after a couple of half-chances from Darius Charles and Adebayo Akinfenwa, Wycombe got their equaliser on 30 minutes through the debutant, McCarthy.

Similar to Rochdale's strike, the 24-year-old's goal was incredibly fortunate as his cross from the right-hand side eluded everyone in the penalty box and floated over the back-peddling Jay Lynch.

It was McCarthy's fifth goal for Wycombe and he celebrated like a man who was happy to be back home.

As the first-half was drawing to a close, both teams had a number of chances to go into the break 2-1 up, with Nick Freeman having two efforts which went wide, whilst Rochdale's Calvin Andrew's looping header went just past Allsop's goal.



Despite Wycombe being second and Rochdale in 18th, 1-1 at half-time was a very fair score.

As soon as the second-half started, Wycombe were hungry for blood as just two minutes in Freeman had another effort, but his powerful drive flew over the crossbar.

It was then the turn of Josh Parker to have a shot on goal, but he too could not keep the ball down as he sliced his chance over from seven yards on 50 minutes.

Wycombe started to turn the screw as Rochdale sat deeper and deeper into their own half, with Akinfenwa having two glorious chances to give them the lead.

His first attempt, a header from six yards on the hour mark, took a wicked deflection which went into the side-netting at such pace that everyone in the BMI Healthcare

Stand thought the Beast had scored.

Eighteen minutes later, with Lynch off his line, the former Northampton man fired in a curling left-footed drive towards goal, but the ex-Premier League defender in Paul McShane blocked it off the line.

It looked like Wycombe were heading for their sixth game without a win in the league, but in the 94th minute, Adams Park erupted when the home side were awarded a penalty.

Luke Matheson, the 17-year-old who scored against Manchester United back in September, was hacked down substitute Paul Smyth and referee Craig Hicks had no option but to point to the spot.

Up stepped Joe Jacobson, who sent Lynch the wrong way to coolly place it into the bottom left-hand corner.

Phillips sees red as Chairboys lose at Peterborough

A FIRST-HALF red card shown to Giles Phillips (pictured) and the award of a penalty to Peterborough was the turning point as Wycombe Wanderers went down 4-0 at the Weston Homes Stadium on Tuesday night.

Ivan Toney converted the spot-kick and added another later on, with Siriki Dembele and Jack Taylor also on target for Darren Ferguson's men, who collected their first win in six games.

The home side looked the brightest in the opening stages of the game, exploiting the space down the left wing but failing to find a cutting edge in the final third. Despite this early pressure, the Chairboys managed to stand strong and clear their lines.

As the 15-minute mark approached, possession was still being shared but with the home side threatening on the attack once again. This time, Dan Butler crossed into the area from the



right looking for the run of Ivan Toney but the Wanderers keeper gathered the danger well.

The deadlock was broken on the 23rd minute from the spot. Following a suspected push by Phillips in the Posh area, he was dismissed by referee Charles Breakspear, leaving Toney to slot home from the spot.

However, the 10-men of Wycombe did not let the man disadvantage hinder them at this point - Josh Parker picked up the knock-down from Adebayo Akinfenwa brilliantly allowing him to let rip from distance, but he could not quite keep the shot down.

With the half-time whistle approaching, Gareth Ainsworth's

men continued to drive for a first half equaliser. Joe Jacobson stung the palms of Christy Pym in the home net with a free-kick just outside the box with their luck not seeming to change.

Matt Bloomfield was next to test the Posh keeper, forcing a strong save with a long-range effort.

Moments later at the other end the travelling Wanderers were punished, Dembele placing the ball past Ryan Allsop to double the home side's advantage.

The Chairboys keeper reacted well to numerous spells of danger from Posh to keep them out. Allsop being forced to make a well placed save to deny a close range shot from Sam Szmodics.

The home side took their two goal advantage into the break.

Despite a fairly bright start to the second period from Wanderers, Taylor was left in space to put a right-footed finish into the back of the net in the 53rd minute.

Filled with confidence after netting in front of the packed terrace at the Weston Homes Stadium, Taylor looked to double his tally for the evening. Commanding work in the middle of the park allowed for a chance at goal, which was soon denied by the Chairboys defence.

Jason McCarthy aimed to craft out a chance with just 15 minutes left on the clock, his free-kick fell to the feet of Curtis Thompson but his shot was blocked in a crowded penalty area.

At the other end, Toney found a rebound at his feet in front of goal and he made no mistake to score his second of the game and worsen the Chairboys disappointment in the 73rd minute.

Unable to pull one back on a chilly Tuesday evening in Cambridgeshire, the Chairboys fell to a convincing defeat against strong opposition.

SPORT

CRICKET - P62
ANTHATHI WINS
DUAL BUCKS
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FOOTBALL: A familiar face rejoins the Chairboys McCarthy arrives on loan for a third spell



Jason McCarthy (right) has rejoined Wycombe Wanderers on a loan spell from Championship club Millwall. PHOTO: Anita Ross Marshall.

WYCOMBE Wanderers have announced that Jason McCarthy has rejoined the club for the third time.

The 24-year-old, who played for the Chairboys during the 2015/16 and 2018/19 seasons, has joined on loan from Millwall until the end of the campaign.

McCarthy joined the South London side in the summer for an undisclosed fee but has only played five times for the club.

Following the signing of McCarthy, Wycombe manager Gareth Ainsworth said: "Once we knew

By James Richings

Jason was available we had no hesitation in bringing him back to the club to strengthen our defensive options.

"We know all about what a first class player and professional he is to have around the place.

"With Jack having been injured in recent weeks, we wanted to make sure we had another option at right back and also in the middle of defence, and Jason fits the bill perfectly.

"The boys loved having him back around the place and I've no doubt he will settle right back in and hit the ground running.

"I'm sure the fans can't wait to see him back in Wycombe colours and picking up where he left off last season."

The news was announced just before the club's game against Rochdale, where he was included in the matchday squad. He will wear the number 26 shirt.

Chairboys striker Craig Mackail-Smith has extended his loan deal

with Stevenage.

The former Brighton & Hove Albion forward originally joined the Hertfordshire-based side in the summer on a half-season loan however has seen the deal extended.

He is yet to score in 14 league appearances for the Boro but manager Graham Westley has drafted the veteran in to aid their League Two survival bid.

The team are rock bottom of the Football League and three points adrift of Morecambe in 23rd position.



Dan George. Photo: David Howlett

Forwards battle with Cinderford

CHINNOR RUGBY CLUB IN THE NATIONAL LEAGUE ONE

CHINNOR Head Coach Dan George knows his forwards will have to be at their best again when Cinderford visit Kingsey Road this Saturday.

Chinnor are bidding to make it three wins from four games in 2020 and record the double over their Gloucestershire opponents.

Fourth-placed Chinnor head into the National League One encounter off the back of an impressive victory at Bishop's Stortford last weekend.

The forwards shone at Silver Leys and were dominant in the set-piece with three of the four tries coming from driving lineouts.

And George is fully aware that more of the same will be required on Saturday.

"It's going to be tough, it's going to be a very physical game," he said.

"Cinderford are renowned for having a big physical pack and a dominant scrum, so there's going to be some big challenges but the boys are really looking forward to it."

George added: "It's any forward coaches dream to see a scrum penalty kicked to the corner and then a five-metre driving lineout to score.

"Nick Selway scored a hat-trick at the weekend all for a maximum of three metres of carry, but we set our stall, we wanted to go to Bishop's Stortford and win the set piece.

"They're a team that throws it around and plays a lot of good free-flowing rugby but I felt the battle laid in the forwards, as it does this week.

"We're expecting a different game from Cinderford but no doubt the threats will be there."

This weekend's match is Chinnor's first at home since their inaugural Friday night league game on January 10.

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