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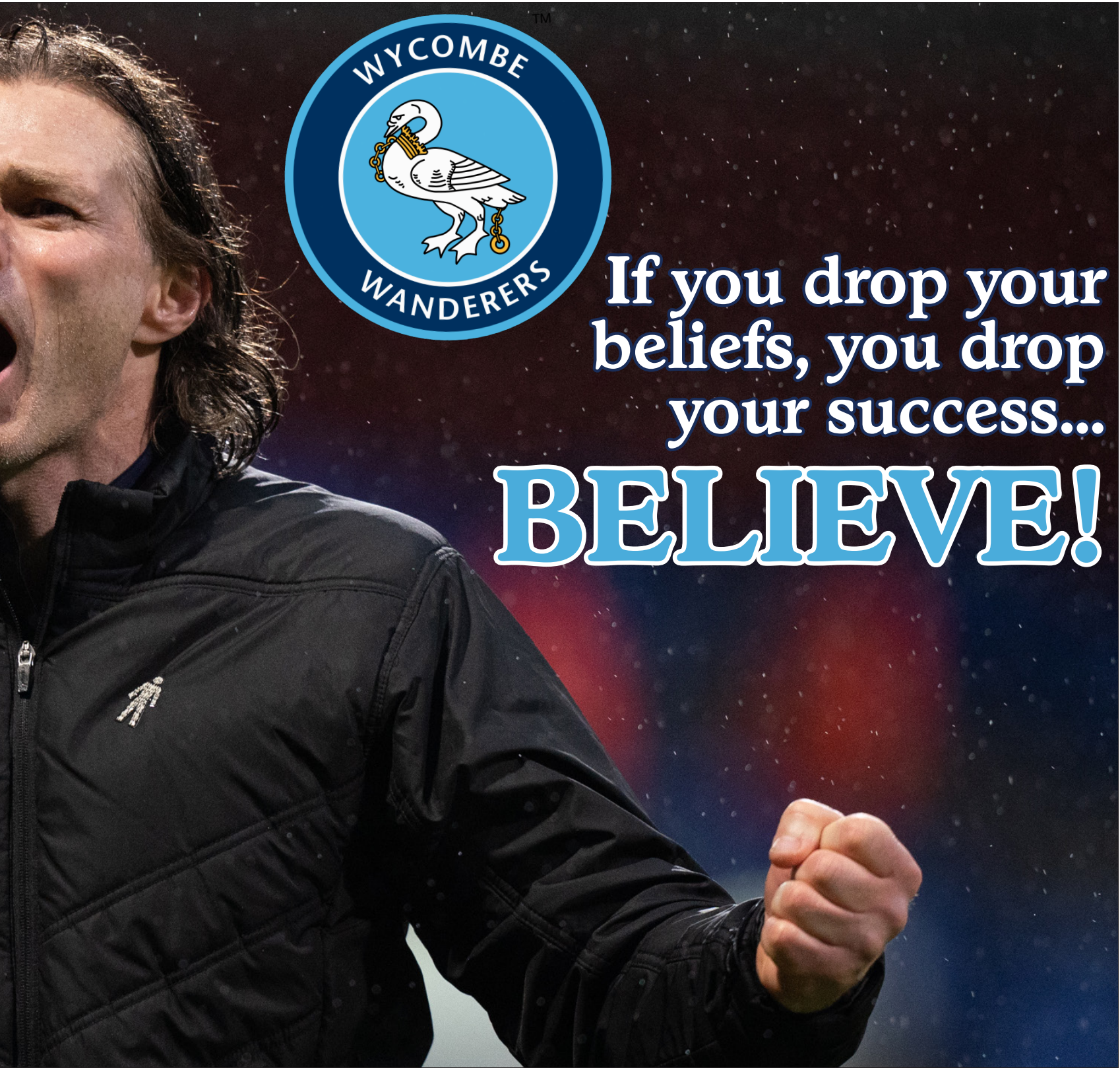
Wycombe Wanderers 2019/20
League 1 play-off semi-final



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FROM EVERYONE AT DORMEO

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We keep supporting Wycombe Wanderers



WITH Wycombe Wanderers about to write another chapter in their illustrious history this weekend, with home and away matches against Fleetwood Town for a place in the League ! Play-off final at Wembley, we take a look at supporters who followed the team in the 1950s and 60s.

Top: Here the crowd are watching the presentation at a cup final at Loakes Park, High Wycombe. April 1951.

Middle left: Supporters at the match against Ilford, Loakes Park, High Wycombe. February 1955.

Middle right: Enthusiastic supporters on their way to the Amateur Cup semi-final against Corinthian Casuals, Station Yard, High Wycombe. March 1957.

Bottom left: Spectators at a match between Wycombe Wanderers Veterans and a Television All Stars Team, Loakes Park, High Wycombe. April 29 1960.

Bottom right: Supporters at the 1957 F.A Amateur Cup final against Bishop Auckland, Wembley Stadium. April 1957.

Send your pictures to deweymiked@aol.com

CHAIRBOYS: Matt Bloomfield on play-off matches

2014 was 'the driving force'

MATT Bloomfield insists Wycombe will wear the underdogs tag with pride during the League One play-offs matches against Fleetwood.

At the start of the season, Wycombe were tipped for relegation at the start of the campaign but instead they challenged at the other end of the table and placed third when the campaign was decided on a points-per-game basis.

It is already the best season in Wycombe's history and just three matches separate them from claiming a place in the Championship for the first time.

Ahead of their semi-final first leg at Fleetwood, the Chairboys captain told the PA news agency: "No one's expecting Wycombe Wanderers to win the play-offs, that's for sure."

"At pre-season in July we had nine players on the grass in the first few days back, a couple in the treatment room, no one else signed and things were looking pretty bleak."

"Everywhere you read were predictions that Wycombe were going

to get relegated, we were going to finish 23rd, so to finish 20 places above that in the league, we've just got to be really chuffed with what we've done so far."

"This is the highest Wycombe Wanderers have ever finished in their history. No one expected us to be in the play-offs and no one's expecting us to win it. There's no pressure on us, we're the underdogs and we're just looking forward to enjoying the games."

"Coming so close to being relegated to the Conference on that day [back in 2014] has really been a driving force behind what the manager has been able to put together and achieve ever since."

"None of us want to be back in that position, so it was a massive driving force to make sure that we weren't and subsequently he's [Ainsworth] been able to improve the club and now we find ourselves in this position that we are. We're thoroughly motivated and enthusiastic at the task in hand."

The boss on play-off chances

AINSWORTH ON THE 'BIGGEST ACHIEVEMENT IN FOOTBALL'

GARETH Ainsworth has stated that gaining promotion to the Championship will be one of the biggest achievements in football.

The 47-year-old has taken Wycombe from near relegation to the National League to the brink of the second-tier of English football in just six seasons.

He said: "I don't want to say this just because I'm the manager but it will be as big as an achievement as you've seen in football."

"For a team like Wycombe Wanderers to be competing in the Championship next year, it doesn't even feel real talking like that, Championship."

"It's just unbelievable and it's possible which is magnificent."

"And it shows how well the players have done this season."

"The players have been unbelievable, overachieved, played out their skins."

"So I'd just like them to be looked upon in the future as the team that got there."

"That's what I would love and if they don't, they will be the team that finished the highest position we've ever had."

"They've done brilliantly this year and I'm really proud of them. I'm sure they've got three more games, three more big games in them still."

The Chairboys boss was still quick to label his side as underdogs but admits one day he may well need to admit his side may be favourites.

He continued: "Being underdogs has been great."

"One day maybe I'll have to start trying to tag ourselves as the team that might be expected to win games and that'll be fantastic."

"But at the moment we're still underdogs, in my office is the prediction of 23rd in the league in 'FourFourTwo' magazine."

"We are still this team that were told we wouldn't survive two seasons in league two."

"Rob, Pete and Missy Couhig have been awesome for us. All they said to me when they took over was keep us in league one, just keep us in league one and we'll build this club."

"I'm sure that not keeping him in league one and going into the championship is acceptable."

"I'm sure I'll get away with that. But we're definitely not going down. And that's the best part of it. We're not going down now."

"We've achieved with nothing to lose. We're going to attack these play-offs. In that vein we know how big they are, but we've got nothing to lose. We're really looking forward to this."

The League One play-off final will be played on Monday, July 13.



Matt Bloomfield

WYCOMBE: Three wins away from the Championship

Ainsworth is full of praise for Fleetwood boss Barton



Gareth Ainsworth

GARETH Ainsworth has praised Joey Barton as the latter openly complimented the Chairboys manager.

The Wycombe manager believes that Barton does not get the credit he deserves for his achievements at Fleetwood.

Ainsworth said: "He's only second season in charge and they've made the play-offs for the Championship."

"People judge Joey Barton on other things more than football sometimes."

"Although he has this passion that can spill over sometimes, he's done an incredible job to be in the play-offs for the Championship."

"Let's say his full season in charge. 'Wow - you've got to give him some respect."

"They've got a good side, they've got some real talented players, they're a good club and they're run really well."

"They came out of the non-league, which has probably helped them."

"They've got a good investor and he's backed Joey, with some good signings."

"But Joey has got to put that team together and get them playing football."

Ainsworth also believes Barton realises and loves that Wycombe have had to fight hard to make the play-offs.

By Robert Folker

He continued: "I think, what's good about Joey is he recognises Wycombe as a club."

"He knows that we're a small club."

"He knows that what we've had to do to survive, what we have to do to scrap and what we have to do to get results."

"I think Joey loves that."

"He appreciates what we do with limited resources to get where we are."

"The compliments are great to have."

"It's not a love fest between me and Joey."

"Somebody in his second full season to get to the play-off for the Championship."

"I think that is a good achievement and perhaps sometimes gets overlooked with some of the other news issues that surround Joey and that's football."

"But we'll definitely have a beer after the two legs. And I'm sure whoever reaches that final will be wishing the other one good luck."

"I don't want him playing mind games trying to put me off either. I'm sure he's not going to be expecting any more than the two games which were played against them, which were good battles."

SPORT

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WYCOMBE: Ainsworth's men gear up for play-offs

Empty stadiums could benefit the Chairboys



Gareth Ainsworth

GARETH Ainsworth has claimed that playing behind closed doors will slightly benefit Wycombe more than other clubs.

Even though the manager believes fans are a huge part of the game, he has stated that clubs that are used to bigger crowds could suffer.

The Chairboys boss has been watching other leagues and thinks some clubs have been caught out by the lack of intensity.

Ainsworth said: "It is definitely different. So, anyone who says it's the same, he is telling a lie because it is definitely different.

"The fans play a huge part in this game.

"It's a real strange atmosphere. You know, it does feel like a reserve game or not even that or your pre-season friendly behind closed doors.

"I think some teams have been caught out by the intensity in the league above especially, maybe not the Premier League so much.

By Robert Folker

"I don't want my team to be caught out by that. I don't want them to be either relaxed or even a bit worried that there's an empty stadium, some players thrive off the crowd.

"I think it does give us a slight advantage when some teams are used to big crowds.

"I'll be looking very carefully at the players' body language and mental attitude during the games, as well as all the football.

"Even driving in when you see the same people in the car park, you get your car parking spot, you're walking through, you sign your autograph.

"It's a routine that the players will not have."

The manager has a fully fit squad and will be relying on all members of his squad to be ready for action at point over the two legs.

He continued: "Everyone's fit so I

can actually say I have a full squad to choose from, which is fantastic.

"I'm really pleased with the physio, the sports science department. I've trusted them and they've delivered for me on availability.

"We have a plan. I've got about five plans in my head. Because after the first leg any one of those plans could come up.

"I do anticipate that the two 11s that start will not be the same 11s. That's my anticipation.

"But if I was a betting man, I would bet on the change of team, definitely because of the ages of my squad and also the dynamics of the play-off situation."

The boss also revealed that Craig Mackail-Smith is back training with the squad and is available to play in the play-offs after being out on loan.

Ainsworth continued: "He's a seasoned professional.

"So if Craig Mackail-Smith is needed, Craig Mackail-Smith will be there.

"We wouldn't be in this league

without Craig Mackail-Smith, he helped get us promoted.

"He had a difficult loan at Stevenage. But he's back now and he's been training every day and there's been no issue with Craig.

"So he's part of that squad that goes up to Fleetwood."

The second leg is at Adams Park and Ainsworth admitted that this too could give Wycombe a slight advantage over Joey Barton's side.

The manager said: "The travelling comes into it, obviously. We're a long way from home for the first leg and getting back as well.

"But if you need something and you know there's no other games after that than being at home is probably where you want to be."

The first leg will be played on Friday, July 3, at Fleetwood's Highbury Stadium with the second leg taking place on Monday, July 6, with both matches kicking off at 7.30pm.

Wycombe are aiming to be playing in the second tier of English football for the first time in their history.



Matt Bloomfield

Blooms shrugs off retirement

SKIPPER HAS NO PLANS ON LEAVING WYCOMBE WANDERERS JUST YET

MATT Bloomfield has shrugged off the thought of retirement as Wycombe prepare for their League One play-off matches against Fleetwood.

The 36-year-old has made more than 500 appearances in all competitions across 17 seasons with the Chairboys, and he is confident he will soon sign a new contract, with his current deal set to expire this summer.

By that point, both the midfielder and the club could be in uncharted territory.

If the Cod Army is seen off over two legs and Wycombe prevail in the Wembley final, then they will seal a spot in the second tier of English football for the first time.

Irrespective of that, Bloomfield, who started his career at Ipswich before moving to Wanderers in December 2003 having not made a league appearance for the Tractor Boys, still feels he has plenty of miles left on the clock.

Asked about whether he was contemplating hanging up his boots, Bloomfield told the PA news agency: "Absolutely no thought.

"I don't even consider the word (retirement) at this moment in time.

"There might come a day when I have to but I always say that if you don't admit it, it's not true.

"I'm sure it will come true one day and I'll have to deal with that but at this moment in time, I don't even consider it.

"I'm hoping to get something sorted out very soon. I love being where I am, I love playing football for this football club.

"The stuff I do off the pitch gives me a massive buzz, trying to help the boys and guide them in their careers and learning off them and trying to improve as well."