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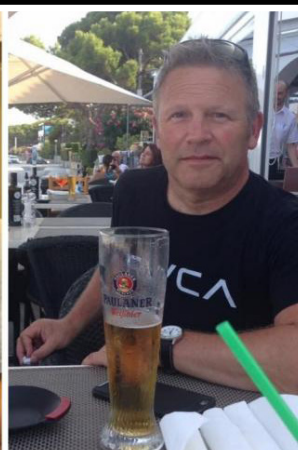
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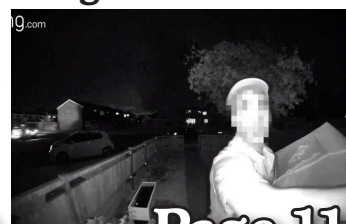
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SPORT

B Team added to the squad

SQUAD NUMBERS REVEALED FOR WYCOMBE'S BRAND NEW PLAYERS

THE squad numbers for five of Wycombe's new signings have been announced.

Andre Burley, Andron Georgiou, Malachi Linton, Anis Mehmeti and Curtis Anderson are just five of the 12 players the club have recruited so far this summer/autumn.

However, they'll be playing in the side's B and reserve team before potentially making the step up into the first team this season.

Curtis Anderson, 19, who joined from American side Charlotte Independence will wear number 32.

Anis Mehmeti, 19, who has represented Albania at under-19 level, will don the number 33 jersey.

Andre Burley, 21, will wear number 34 whilst Andron Georgiou, 20, has been given number 35.

Finally, Malachi Linton, 19, has been given the number 36 shirt.

The five youngsters have joined the likes of Uche Ikpeazu, Jason McCarthy, David Stockdale, Giles Phillips, Daryl Horgan, Josh Knight and Ryan Tafazolli as the Chairboys' other signings so far this season.

Stadium in need of flags

ADAMS PARK ARE LOOKING FOR FOREIGN FLAGS TO BE PUT UP

WYCOMBE Wanderers are calling on international fans to have their nation's flag proudly displayed at Adams Park.

The club said: "We have seen a huge rise in worldwide fan clubs being established across social media in the past few months, particularly since its elevation to the Championship, and invites those groups to order flags bearing their name and country's flag and have them delivered to Adams Park for display.

"We have teamed up with www.footballflags.co.uk, based locally in Farnham Common, to secure a 10 per cent discount for fans wishing to buy flags through their website, with the option to upload existing artwork or create your own design online."

Email harry.gadd@wwfc.com for a coupon code.

FOOTBALL: Wycombe lose fourth straight game Winless, goalless, pointless: Wanderers defeated again

By Alan Parry

THE wait goes on.

After six hours of Championship football, Wycombe are still seeking their first point and their first goal, after old rivals Luton Town condemned them to a fourth successive defeat with a 2-0 victory at Kenilworth Road.

Although Wanderers were deservedly beaten by Blackburn and Swansea in recent weeks, losing this game was harder to take because they gave a much-improved performance.

Matching Luton for long periods, Wycombe came close to scoring on a couple of occasions and were on the wrong end of some disappointing decisions by Premier League referee Graham Scott.

However, you do not get any points for hard luck stories and there must be a significant improvement if Gareth Ainsworth's team are to finally get off the mark at this level.

They now have a long break before the next game, at home to Millwall on October 17th, and the Wycombe manager says he will use the time to recruit new players.

Ainsworth has been unable to pick his strongest team in any game so far.

Talisman Bayo Akinfenwa is recovering from a knee operation, new signings Ryan Tafazolli and Uche Ikpeazu, and midfield 'general' Dominic Gape were all missing at Luton because of injury.

Wycombe made four changes from the side beaten by Swansea. Darius Charles and Joe Jacobson were recalled in defence, Daryl Horgan was preferred to Fred Onyedima in attack, and Matt Bloomfield was left out for the first time this season to



Richard Dobson and Gareth Ainsworth ponder at Kenilworth Road (photo by Andy Rowland/Prime Media)

accommodate the return of Curtis Thompson.

After conceding early goals against Blackburn and Swansea, Wycombe looked more solid in defence during a goalless and largely uneventful first half.

Things livened up after the break and both sides had their chances before a moment of magic from Luton broke the deadlock. Midfielder Pelly-Ruddock Mpanzu took possession just outside the Wycombe penalty

area before curling a brilliant shot into the top corner to give the home side the lead.

Wycombe thought they had grabbed their first ever Championship goal – and with it a chance of their first point of the season – only to see a late effort by Scott Kashket ruled out for a marginal offside.

Luton added a second goal in the last minute, and to rub salt into Wycombe's wounds it was scored by Elliot Lee whose father Rob played for

the Blues when John Gorman was manager.

The early season statistics make grim reading for Wanderers – four defeats out of four, ten goals conceded, and none scored – but it is far too early to panic.

Last season it was Luton who made a bad start to life in the Championship, collecting just one point from a possible 12 in the opening weeks, but they survived and there's no reason why Wycombe can't do the same.

FOOTBALL: No clean sheets in 11 for Wycombe 'Poor defending' cost the Chairboys points



No luck yet in the Championship (Andy Rowland/Prime Media)

CHAIRBOYS boss Gareth Ainsworth said he was 'disappointed' at the goals Wycombe conceded in their 2-0 defeat at Luton Town.

Second-half goals from Pelly-Ruddock Mpanzu and substitute Elliot Lee condemned the Adams Park outfit to their fourth straight Championship defeat.

These means Wycombe are winless in the five games they have played so far this season in all competitions, where they have conceded 11 goals and have scored just one.

That goal was against Brentford in the EFL Cup defeat back in September.

And if it wasn't for Sheffield

Wednesday's points deduction, Wycombe would be rooted to the bottom of the Championship table, joining Nottingham Forest on zero points.

Speaking after the defeat at Kenilworth Road, Ainsworth said: "We hit the post twice and we've put one in but it was judged to have been offside which looks very close.

"But I am disappointed with the two goals we conceded.

"One [goal] is a worldie strike and the other was really poorly defended by us.

"We're here, this is Championship level, and I'll keep saying it, you can't make mistakes at this level.

"We're missing a few big players like Dominic Gape, Akinfenwa, Ryan Tafazolli and if you look at that, that is the spine of the team which is missing.

"But I'm positive as always as I can't ask for any more effort from the boys and we almost broke our duck with the scoring, but we will have to wait.

"We have got an international break coming up which will help us, the window is still open, and I'm looking forward to seeing what we can do against Millwall in two weeks time."

After the international break, Wycombe's games in October are against Millwall, Reading, Norwich, Watford and Sheffield Wednesday.

FOOTBALL: The stats are from the 2019/20 season

How many fans were arrested?



Only two Wycombe fans were arrested last season

POLICE arrested two Wycombe Wanderers fans for their behaviour at football matches last season, figures show.

The UK's football police chief said disorder was on the rise across the top five divisions before coronavirus restrictions forced more than 500 fixtures to be cancelled or played behind closed doors.

Home Office figures revealed that two Chairboys supporters were arrested in the 2019/20 season, with one one arrest was made for violent disorder and one was made for throwing missiles.

Leeds was the club with the highest number of arrests across all divisions (52), followed by Birmingham (49) and Bolton (45).

There were 1,021 football-related arrests across the five leagues in 2019-20, a decrease of 21 per cent on 2018-19 – but with 546 matches either cancelled or played without fans.

The UK's football police chief, deputy chief constable Mark Roberts, said: "What we can see is that prior

to the restrictions from Covid-19, there was already an increase in the levels of disorder at fixtures.

"In the previous season, there were incidents reported at 33 per cent of 3,022 fixtures, and for the 2019-20 season, there were incidents reported at 36 per cent of the 2,663 regulated fixtures.

"Significantly, the number of assaults against stadium staff and police officers are worryingly close to what we saw from a full season in 2018-19."

Arrests linked to celebrations around matches played during lockdown are included in the figures, but DCC Roberts said that aside from a few high-profile incidents, such as Liverpool winning the Premier League, the vast majority of fans respected the rules and stayed away from grounds.

The figures also showed arrests for racist and indecent chanting across the top five divisions more than doubled last season compared to the campaign before.

No luck in the loss at Luton

CHAIRBOYS THE ONLY TEAM NOT TO SCORE A GOAL SO FAR THIS SEASON

THE side needs "more luck", manager Gareth Ainsworth has said - after Wycombe fell to another Championship defeat.

During the 2-0 loss away at Luton, Scott Kashket thought he had scored Wycombe's equaliser and first goal as a Championship side in the 87th minute.

However, after a lengthy discussion with his linesman, referee Graham Scott disallowed the goal which denied Kashket his first strike for the club in nearly a year.

And less than a minute later, Elliot Lee, a second-half substitute for the Hatters, sealed the win with a low finish past Ryan Allsop.

The defeat leaves Wycombe winless and goalless so far in the Championship this season.

On the disallowed goal, Ainsworth said: "I can't call it. It looks level.

"I wouldn't like to be a referee or a linesman.

"They've got a job to do and they've done their job.

"We don't seem to be getting anything at the moment but hopefully that will turn."

It has been a difficult start for the club this season, who have now lost their last four league games.

The last time this happened was during the 2018/19 season when Wycombe lost five in a row in March/April 2019, which was part of a dreadful run of 12 games without a win.

However, with an international break next week, Ainsworth believes the endless flow of fixtures in the autumn/winter months could benefit his team.

He said: "It has been a tough start, believe me.

"I said, let me work the division out, I have worked the division out and I'm looking forward to getting into the next crux of games.

"It is going to be a hell of a schedule that other teams will not be used to, but we are from Leagues One and Two.

"We will know what we are doing.

"We got players to come back, I'm remaining positive, I can't ask for any more effort and as a manager that's all I need."

On finding that first goal and first point, he said: "We need a little bit more luck.

"If Jack Grimmer's shot goes in then that is a fantastic strike, Scotty Kashket's one is ruled out for offside and I think we hit the post twice. The chances are there but they're just not falling for us at the moment.

"But that isn't going to keep me down and I'm really positive."

FOOTBALL: Wanderers a world behind in finances

Will the Chairboys be able to compete with their rivals?



Gareth Ainsworth has signed 12 players so far this season (Andy Rowland/Prime Media)

WYCOMBE boss Gareth Ainsworth has promised Wanderers fans that the club will be in the market for new players before the transfer window closes.

After seeing his team lose their first four league games, Ainsworth was given the go-ahead by owner Rob Couhig to sign the reinforcements he hopes will transform their season.

But fans expecting Wanderers to 'splash the cash' in a bid for Championship survival will be disappointed.

Wycombe are the poor relations of this division, so the loan market is the likeliest source of new recruits.

Most of their rivals have already spent eye watering sums of money to buy players this season.

Norwich signed Jordan Hugill from West Ham for £5m, Cardiff spent £2m on Wigan striker Kieffer Moore and Jonathan Leko moved to Birmingham from West Brom for £1m.

Even Coventry, who were promoted from League One with Wycombe last season, paid a fee of £1.5m for Brazilian midfielder Gustavo Hamer.

You have to go back 19 years for the last time Wanderers spent a substantial sum on a player when in 2001, they bought Darren Currie from Barnet for £200,000, equalling what they had paid the same club for Sean

By Alan Parry

Devine two years earlier.

Those amounts would not even cover the agents' fees for the record signings made by every Championship club apart from Rotherham, and even their biggest outlay on a player is twice what Wycombe have ever paid.

Watford top the list of Championship big spenders, paying £30m for Senegal international Ismaila Sarr.

Bournemouth (£25m) Stoke (£18m), Huddersfield (£17m), Middlesbrough (£15m) and Cardiff (£15m) have all spent fortunes on their record signings. Nottingham Forest (£13m), Queens Park Rangers (£12m) and bottom-of-the-table Sheffield Wednesday (£10m) have also paid huge transfer fees to sign star players.

The lure of reaching the Premier League, or the target of simply remaining in the Championship, tempts clubs to make these huge investments, and most of them can afford it. Even Championship 'paupers' like Barnsley and Millwall have handed over cheques for more than £1m in the transfer market. It is a hugely different financial world that Wycombe find themselves in after winning promotion, and a far cry from their days as an amateur club.

SPORT

0963-2336



FOOTBALL: EFL and others write letter to Parliament 'Clarity' is needed on fans attending games



The last time Wycombe played in front of fans was on February 29, when they lost away at Doncaster

WYCOMBE Wanderers are one of many clubs that have backed several of the country's top football governing bodies to allow fans back into stadiums.

Organisations such as the EFL, Premier League, Women's Super League and Women's Championship have all called for clarity from the government, after other forms of entertaining have allowed spectators to return, apart from football.

The empty stadiums on matchdays has led to a loss of income for several clubs, with many having to place people on furlough, which includes the Chairboys, who let go several members of their staff back in the spring.

It had also been hoped that successful pilot events would see turnstiles re-open on a limited basis from October 1, but those plans were put on hold in the wake of a national rise in coronavirus cases.

National League clubs received an offer of financial aid from the

By James Richings

government to help them start the season last weekend, while a support package for the three divisions below the Premier League remains the subject of ongoing dialogue.

It has been predicted playing behind closed doors could continue for at least six months, which would see many clubs lower down the leagues facing financial ruin.

And on Tuesday, October 6, an open letter to supporters was published on behalf of Premier League chief executive Richard Masters, EFL chief executive David Baldwin, FA chief executive Mark Bullingham and Kelly Simmons, the FA director of the women's professional game, issuing a collective call for action.

Part of the letter read: "We all know football is not the same without fans.

"Every player and manager is

missing the direct connection with you and the impact that you have on our games.

"With the EFL, Premier League, Women's Super League and Women's Championship already staging 11 successful test events recently, we have demonstrated that we can deliver matches safely.

"The sooner we can return, the sooner we can reunite communities and support local jobs, livelihoods, regional businesses and also the national economy.

"We will continue to urge government to allow us to return fans safely to stadiums.

"It is positive progress that major arts and music venues have been told they can run socially-distanced events indoors. And now football should be allowed to do the same - in highly regulated and stewarded outdoor environments."

The governing bodies highlighted the work which had already taken place to 'make our grounds as safe as, if not safer than, any other pub-

lic activity currently allowed'.

Football also has representatives within the government's Sports Technology and Innovation Group, as well as the 'Moonshot' mass-testing project which it is hoped can help open up all sectors of the economy.

The open letter continued: "In light of the postponement of test events we will intensify our efforts to pioneer new approaches - working with epidemiologists, scientists and medical experts in areas such as public health, clinical processes and occupational hygiene.

"This will make sure stadiums are Covid-safe by considering best practice screening and hygiene methods to ensure that fans and the general public will be safe and drive the government's sporting plans to move faster."

The Government responds to all petitions which get more than 10,000 signatures but should it reach 100,000, the petition will be considered for debate in Parliament.



Gareth Ainsworth and Josh Knight

Knight rides into Wycombe

CHAIRBOYS SECURE THE SIGNATURE OF PREMIER LEAGUE DEFENDER

LEICESTER City defender Josh Knight has been confirmed as the latest signing by Wycombe Wanderers.

The 23-year-old, who can also play in the midfield, has joined the Chairboys on a short-term loan deal until January.

He is the club's 12th signing so far this season.

Speaking on Knight's arrival, manager Gareth Ainsworth said: "Josh is someone we tried to bring in during the summer and I'm really pleased to be able to get the deal done.

"We've been keeping tabs on him for some time and he proved he could make the step up into senior football with a really strong loan spell in League One last season.

"He gives us another option in defence and he comes in at an important time as we're working hard to get the team as strong as possible to make sure we can start picking up points and meeting the standard that's required to survive in this division."

Prior to joining the Chairboys, Knight has spent the last season-and-a-half on loan at Peterborough United.

During his 18-month spell with Posh, he played 34 times and scored three goals for the club, which included a thunderous strike against Ainsworth men in an entertaining 3-3 draw at Adams Park in October.

This goal was scored on October 5, 2019 - exactly one year later, who would be joining the Chairboys.

Speaking on Twitter, Knight said: "Delighted to be at @wffcofficial - time to push on #chairboys".

Despite making a handful of appearances for Leicester in the EFL trophy, Knight has only played for the first-team once - an EFL Cup match in 2017.

He will wear the number 12 shirt.