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Friday, October 16, 2020

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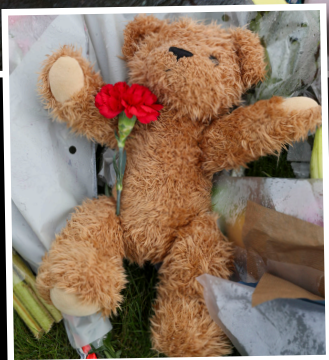
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HEARTBREAK



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SPECIAL REPORT

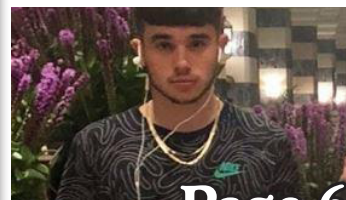
Fears of tighter virus restrictions



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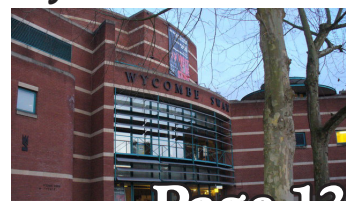
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COVID-19

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FOOTBALL: Wycombe could sign one more player

Manager still has positivity

THE international break may have come at the perfect time for struggling Wycombe Wanderers, with many previously injured players returning.

Speaking to the press ahead of a Championship clash with Millwall, manager Gareth Ainsworth expects to have a fit and firing front line ready to bag the first Chairboys goal of the season.

He said: "Hopefully the break has done us well.

"They're all in contention for the weekend so now we have to find out from our physios in the next two days who's fit and who is not but I'm hoping that [Adebayo] Akinfenwa, [Dominic] Gape and [Uche] Ikepeazu are all close to full fitness and we can get some goals going in at the right end and reduce some of the mistakes."

However not everyone was at the training ground over the international break, with summer signing Daryl Horgan receiving his first Republic of Ireland cap for over two years when

he played against Wales.

Ainsworth was over the moon to see him run on for the Boys in Green, but was even happier seeing him running off.

"We are really proud of him, and I'm sure his family are immensely proud, he's been one of the shining lights for us this season and deserved his cap.

"It was nice to see him jog off the pitch last night and not limp off and hopefully we can get him recovered for the weekend, a tough game against Millwall."

Friday, October 16 marks the close of the domestic transfer window and the end of dealings between English clubs.

The manager is still hopeful of bringing one more player in, having signed Josh Knight from Leicester City on loan 10 days ago.

"We signed Josh Knight last week from Leicester so he's going to make a big difference in his position and I am trying to add one more before the window closes, whether we can or not we will see."

Project Big Picture plans

MANAGER OPENS UP ABOUT WHAT HE MAKES OF THE CURRENT PLAN

KEEPING the 'smaller teams alive' is something that needs to be encouraged, according to Wycombe manager Gareth Ainsworth, following the Project Big Picture proposals.

It has been reported that Manchester United and Liverpool are in favour of the plan, which will see radical changes to the English football pyramid.

Changes such as scrapping the League Cup and Community Shield as well as reducing the amount of teams in the Football League from 92 to 90 have been put forward.

These changes also include the Premier League being reduced from 20 teams to 18, with there being a relegation play-off – a system that is used in Germany.

It is also alleged that EFL Chairman Rick Parry supports the idea, mainly due to the promise of up to £250million being given to the organisation and its clubs.

Speaking ahead of the Chairboys' home Championship match against Millwall on October 17, Ainsworth said: "I'm a big advocate of keeping the smaller teams alive.

"The passion at Bury and Macclesfield is the same passion you get at Man United, Man City and Liverpool – the fans have the same passion at both ends.

"Having the 92 clubs through history has made football unbelievably powerful in this country and I don't think we can ever forget that.

"I think the leagues are so important to have underneath the Premier League and Championship.

"Wycombe have played a huge part in those leagues and I'm really proud of our part, and everyone else's club's part.

"The Morecombe's, the Accrington's – we've got to keep all these stories alive because the passion in those clubs is exactly the same as it is at the top, they just they don't have the same money."

Out of all the clubs in the Championship, Wycombe are the smallest team on paper, with this being their first season in the division.

The club defied the odds by being promoted to the league last season following their play-off final win against Oxford, and despite a tough start to life in the Championship, which has seen them lose four games on the bounce, where they have conceded 10 goals and not scored any, the manager will be hoping for a response when Millwall come to Bucks on Saturday afternoon.



Jack Grimmer looks dejected after Luton defeat Wycombe on October 3 (photo by Steven Paston/PA)

FOOTBALL: Tricky fixtures up next for the Chairboys

Will the winless run stop before October finishes?



Scott Kashket had his goal disallowed in the previous match against Luton (photo by PA)

WITH minds and bodies refreshed after the two-week international break, Wycombe hope to get their season up and running when they host Millwall tomorrow, the first of a daunting spell of five games in 14 days.

Millwall finished just two points outside the Championship play-off places last season and have lost only a handful of games since appointing Gary Rowett as manager 12 months ago.

They will doubtless be favourites to beat a Wycombe team desperate to get off the mark after four successive defeats, with a worrying goals tally of ten conceded and none scored.

Some of the players who helped Wanderers win promotion from League One last season have quickly adapted to life in the Championship, but others are still getting to grips with the higher standards.

After his team's disappointing start, Gareth Ainsworth pledged to strengthen the squad before the transfer window closed. He brought in loan signing Josh Knight from Leicester City, with further additions rumoured to be in the pipeline before deadline on October 16.

Seven players have now been recruited for the first team, plus a further five for the newly formed 'B' team.

By Alan Parry

With a dozen new arrivals at Adams Park since Wanderers won the League One play-off final, no one can accuse owner Rob Couhig of failing to back the manager.

The American, who gained control of the club in February, has loosened the purse strings despite stating that his aim is to make Wanderers financially sustainable.

The new players will need to hit the ground running with so many challenging games coming up in the remaining weeks of October.

After tomorrow's meeting with Millwall, Wanderers face another tough game on Tuesday night when they make the short trip to Reading, who won their first four league games and currently sit second in the table, equal on points with leaders Bristol City.

Next up is a visit to Norwich, who a year ago this week were hosting Manchester United in a Premier League fixture, and that is followed by a home game against Watford, another club playing in the top flight only last season.

Wanderers complete the month against Sheffield Wednesday, the only team below them in the table having started the season with a 12-point deduction

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FOOTBALL: Ross Jeavons raised money for Tommy's Charity Wycombe fan runs 100 miles in seven days



Ross, Katie and Callum Jeavons

LIFELONG Wycombe Wanderers fan Ross Jeavons ran 100 miles - the equivalent of almost four marathons - in seven days and finished at Adams Park to raise awareness for Tommy's Charity. Tommy's Charity supports research into miscarriage, stillbirth and premature birth, and provide pregnancy health information to parents. Ross and his wife Katie suffered four continuous miscarriages in 2019, but in July this year welcomed their boy Callum into the world.

After the event, the runner said: "I'm really proud that I managed to do it. "We definitely managed to do it together, it was a team effort with my wife who came up with the idea of raising money for Tommy's, which is an amazing charity. "In 2019 my wife and I suffered four miscarriages, four consecutive losses in pregnancy. "Obviously, it was a really traumatic time for us. "I've said a few times this week speaking to various different

people, it's just not the days and the actual losses themselves. "It's everything that surround it, it's the anxiety, it's the struggles with mental health, it's the constantly looking for answers and we were one of the lucky ones in that we found our answers and we had a baby boy Callum this year in July. "But we always knew in the back of our minds that we were still scarred from the experience and people still going through what we went through in looking for answers

so we wanted to raise awareness and raise money." The runner was supposed to compete in this year's London Marathon but after the event was cancelled twice Ross wanted to do something more imaginative to raise awareness. He continued: "I'm a Wycombe fan and I always have been. "Some of the messages from Wycombe fans on social media have been amazing and some of the donations coming in via them has been really special."

FOOTBALL: Will the Chairboys win this weekend? Ainsworth on getting 'luck' this campaign

GARETH Ainsworth is expecting a tough battle when his former teammate Gary Rowett arrives at Adams Park on Saturday with his Millwall side.

The Wycombe manager was a teammate of Rowett when the two men played for Cambridge United in 1992/93 in the old Second Division.

Ainsworth only spent one season with United, scoring one goal in five matches while his counterpart scored 13 goals in 82 games across three seasons.

And despite looking forward to meeting the former Stoke City, Birmingham City, Derby County and Burton Albion manager, he knows that his old pal will try and inflict Wycombe's fifth straight league defeat.

Speaking ahead of the clash against Millwall, Ainsworth said: "They're a very organised team - Gary knows what he is doing.

"We played together in the 1990s so he's a good friend and I'm sure he will be wanting all three points as well, so we have to make sure we are up for this one.

"The lads will be - it is just getting the bit of luck we need, getting the injuries back and the spirit we have."

It has been a difficult start to life in the second tier for Wanderers, losing all four matches and failing to score a goal, but Ainsworth is hoping to channel the spirit of another former Rowett side, Burton Albion, in order to survive this season.

By James Earnshaw

Rowett managed the Brewers from 2012 to 2014, but former Liverpool and Nottingham Forest star Nigel Clough lead the Midlands side to the Championship for the first time in 2016.

He continued: "We're the tiniest club in the Championship by a mile and probably the tiniest one for quite some time.

"Us and Burton, and Burton managed to survive one season and we've got no reason why we can't as well.

"It is a tough league and the money seems to get stronger and stronger so we'll make sure we are competitive but at the end of the day, the experience and togetherness of the boys is very important.

"I want to make sure we keep fighting and scrapping and if we do lose a game it won't be for our lack of effort."

With the previous two weeks being the international break, the gaffer had a chance to fully assess his squad and work on the training pitch before a packed four-week period with seven matches.

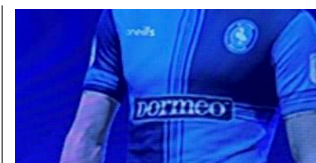
He added: "We just need to make sure we have more cutting edge going forward and make the chances count when we get them.

"It's a results based game.

"I need results and want results and want wins, and any way we can get one would help but we've been working hard on how we do things and we're looking forward to the game on Saturday."



Gareth Ainsworth's side have not scored a goal in the league this season (photo by PA)



Mistake on kit in FIFA 21

THE BLUNDER SEES THE INCORRECT SPONSOR ON WYCOMBE'S NEW JERSEY

EAGLE-EYED Wycombe fans have noticed an error in the recently released FIFA 21 game.

EA Sports, which produce the annual video game, have included the Chairboys in the Championship following their promotion to the division back in July.

However, there's one problem. Those at the game's headquarters have put the wrong sponsor on the front of Wycombe's kit.

In a tweet that was published on October 8, one Wycombe fan said: "Is it sad that I actually care that EA have messed up the Wycombe home kit on FIFA 21?"

"The wrong sponsor is on the front." The sponsor should be Dreams, not Dormeo (photo courtesy of Alex Broom)

The user later said that: "I don't really care that much about it if I'm honest, was slightly annoying but not the end of the world."

The game currently has Dormeo as the club's sponsor, which was the Chairboys' sponsor on last season's away shirt.

Currently, Gareth Ainsworth's men are sponsored by Dreams on the home and away kits, with Cherry Red Records being their third kit sponsor for the 2020/21 season.

Cherry Red Records were the club's home kit sponsor last season.

This Twitter user then said: "I noticed that too, it bugs me."