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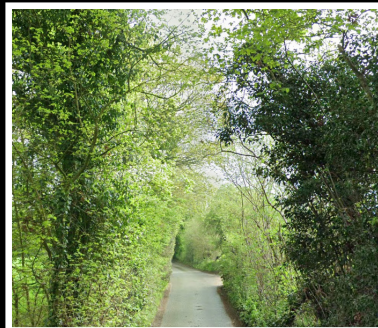
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SPORT

Gaffer praises the LMA

THE BOSS WAS TALKING ABOUT HOW MANAGERS ARE SUPPORTED

WYCOMBE manager Gareth Ainsworth has praised the LMA [League Managers Association], after he said that football management 'can sometimes be a lonely place'.

Prior to the Chairboys' draw against Watford, Ainsworth's men had lost their last seven league matches, where they failed to score in five of those fixtures.

However, after the 1-1 draw against the ex-Premier League side, he hopes that the wins will come, and has thanked managers, both current and ex, on their support as he embarks on this Championship journey.

He said: "It can be a lonely place sometimes and you find out what people are about sometimes.

"It is fantastic to know that other managers are looking out for you in this game.

"The LMA is a great organisation and all the managers look out for each other and it is awesome to see and receive all those texts. Believe me, I am the most passionate, confident and 'be myself manager' that you'll find, but you need a little comment from somebody who has been there and done it."

Team of the Week

THE WELSHMAN WAS ONE OF WYCOMBE'S BEST PLAYERS

JOE Jacobson was named in the Championship midweek Team of the Week, after his brilliant display against Watford.

The left-back was on hand to assist Anthony Stewart's second-half equaliser against the Hornets on Tuesday evening, which helped the Chairboys secure their first point of the season.

It is the Welshman's first assist of the campaign, but he also had a hand in Wycombe's equaliser against Norwich on Saturday, when his long ball was flicked on by David Wheeler, to allow Scott Kashket to run in and score for the Chairboys.

Last season, Jacobson was named in the EFL League One Team of the Year, following Wycombe's promotion to the Championship in July.

FOOTBALL: Wanderers were heartbroken in Norfolk First point snatched away as Norwich beat Wycombe

By Alan Parry

IF there is truth in the old football adage that poor decisions by referees even out over the season, Wycombe fans can look forward to happier times in the months ahead.

Wanderers were victims of mistakes by match officials for the third time in their last four games when they fell to a heartbreaking defeat at Norwich last Saturday.

In recent weeks, the Chairboys have seen goals against Luton and Millwall controversially ruled out, and they were once again denied justice when referee Gavin Ward made wrong calls on two key moments in the game.

Both incidents involved Wycombe forward Fred Onyed-inma.

In the first half he was fouled by Norwich defender Ben Gibson as he was through on goal.

It should have been a penalty and a red card for Gibson, who had been cautioned just two minutes earlier, but Mr. Ward gave nothing.

Why would Onyed-inma deliberately fall over when he had a good chance of scoring, and if it was an act of 'simulation', why wasn't he shown a yellow card?

Only the referee can answer those questions, but match officials are never made accountable for their actions.

However, much worse was to follow.

As the game moved into stoppage time with Wycombe on the verge of earning their first point as a Championship club, Mr. Ward gave Norwich a free kick just outside the Wanderers penalty box.

The referee thought that Onyed-inma had tripped Norwich's Mario



Uche Ikpeazu was crestfallen at the final whistle (photo by Any Rowland/Prime Media)

Vrandić but replays clearly showed that Vrandić had stamped on Onyed-inma's foot and the free kick should have been awarded to Wycombe.

To add insult to injury, having conned the referee into awarding the kick, Vrandić took it himself and fired a brilliant shot into the top corner of the net to give Norwich victory.

On the corresponding weekend last season, Norwich hosted Manchester United in a Premier League fixture

and they started this game with eight of the players who featured that day.

They included Finland international Teemu Pukki who gave the Canaries an early lead that was deservedly wiped out by Wanderers striker Scott Kashket's equaliser.

Gareth Ainsworth's team dominated most of the first half and defended brilliantly when Norwich threw everything at them in the second half.

They did not deserve the cruel blow of losing to a late and controversial goal after producing their best display of the season so far.

Despite the defeat, the Chairboys left Norfolk with their heads held high and with several positives.

They took a former Premier League to the last minute of the match and with Uche Ikpeazu back in the frame following his latest injury, it won't be long until Wycombe get that first Championship win.

FOOTBALL: Norwich's winner came in injury-time Upbeat Ainsworth is not going to give up



Gareth Ainsworth (photo by Andy Rowland/Prime Media)

WYCOMBE manager Gareth Ainsworth believes his side will 'absolutely stay up' despite a heartbreaking 2-1 loss at Norwich City.

The home side took the lead through Teemu Pukki's third-minute opener which was his second goal of the season, but nine minutes later, the Chairboys equalised through Scott Kashket.

Joe Jacobson's free-kick was fired into the Norwich box which David Wheeler flicked on, and there was the 24-year-old to score his second goal of the campaign, after bundling the ball past Tim Krul.

But the Championship is a cruel

league and in the first minute of stoppage time, Mario Vrancic, who had only been on the pitch for a few minutes, scored a stunning 20-yard free-kick which left Ryan Allsop stranded, as the ball nestled into the top left-hand corner.

This means that the Chairboys continue their woeful start to the league season with seven losses from seven games, with the defeat also meaning that they have lost every game they have played against Norwich.

Speaking after the game, Ainsworth said: "It's a defeat and people will think I'm crazy for picking positives.

"But these boys will absolutely stay

up if they play like that.

"There was a potential red card and a penalty but we're not getting those at the moment.

"Eight or nine of their team were in the top flight last year.

"Daniel [Farke] is a great manager, but we did so well.

"That's three games on the spin where we maybe deserved something but it's coming.

"It probably is a free-kick for the winning goal, I'm not going to argue that.

"But the ref has to be consistent and give the penalty in the first-half."

Wycombe have now not won any of their eight matches this season.

FOOTBALL: Ainsworth praises Adebayo Akinfenwa

The boss opens up on the Beast

GARETH Ainsworth praised the attitude and performance of Wycombe striker Adebayo Akinfenwa, after the 38-year-old made his first start of the season in the club's 1-1 draw against Watford.

The Beast had knee surgery in the summer and has come on as a substitute in the last two matches for the Chairboys, where he caused the Reading and Norwich backline countless problems.

This was clear to see against the Hornets, as Watford centre-backs Craig Cathcart and Christian Kabasele struggled to contain the former AFC Wimbledon, Gillingham and Northampton Town front man.

He had two chances in the first-half, with one flying over the goal, and the other being caught by Ben Foster.

Speaking after the Watford clash, Ainsworth said: "We want teams to come here and have it tough.

"We created numerous chances with the best falling to the big man [Adebayo Akinfenwa] and a couple more weeks training, that is buried in

the back of the net.

"I thought he was outstanding tonight - a captain's performance and I was really proud of him.

"He leads these boys and they followed with everything they've got.

"There were some very good performances and now we get them ready for Saturday."

On the all round performance, he said: "We're here to fight and we're here to compete in the Championship.

"We're not here to make the numbers up.

"We're different - of course we are, but we are here to stay in the Championship and if we keep playing like that, then there is no chance we will go down.

"It was a brilliant performance."

The striker signed for the club in the summer of 2016 after being released by AFC Wimbledon following the Dons' promotion to League One that season.

He has since scored 54 goals in 180 appearances in all competitions for the Chairboys.

Gaffer on refs after draw

WYCOMBE MANAGER GAVE HIS HONEST OPINION ON REFEREES

'I WOULD not want to be a referee.'

These were the words of Gareth Ainsworth after his side had victory snatched away from them in the dying seconds, as Alex Samuel's 90th-minute header was disallowed by referee John Brooks.

The man in the middle believed that the Welshman impeded Watford's Ben Foster, with the striker backing into the former Manchester United and Birmingham City goalkeeper.

Replays showed that the decision was somewhat harsh against the ex-Swansea man.

Ainsworth said: "It looks like there is nothing wrong with it, but I have said this before, I would not want to be a referee.

"I'm not going to criticize referees or the officials.

"I know John Brooks is a good ref as we have had him before, and people are saying, maybe it is to do with us being the smaller club in the Championship, small club syndrome, we're not getting the rub of the green, but it is nasty to say that.

"It is not going our way at the moment but it evens itself out, and I am hoping that in the second half of the season, we might get a few decisions that go for us.

"We were the better side, I am happy with the performance and when the opposition keeper gets Man of the Match, then that tells you everything about the game."

It is the second home game in succession that the Chairboys have had a goal ruled out, following Joe Jacobson's disallowed goal which came directly from a corner in the 2-1 home defeat to Millwall on October 17.

However, with positive performances in their last three games against Millwall, Reading and Norwich, Ainsworth is confident that the results and wins will come, following Wycombe's first point of the season.

He continued: "The last three games, I thought we were worthy of a point and today [October 27], I thought we could have got all three.

"I thought we were the better side today against a team that were in the Premier League last season and almost stayed in the Premier League last season, and it was a phenomenal effort my boys put in.

"I'm really proud of them and it has been coming.

"I hope people watched that and thought, Wycombe is not going to be an easy game, it is going to be a tough game."



Adebayo Akinfenwa (Adam Davy/PA)

FOOTBALL: Chairboys remain in the relegation places

Wycombe finally off the mark after Watford draw



Anthony Stewart scored Wycombe's goal in the 66th minute (Andy Rowland/Prime Media)

WYCOMBE finally have their first point as a Championship club, and it could so easily have been their first win but for a brilliant display by Watford goalkeeper Ben Foster and another controversial disallowed goal in an entertaining 1-1 draw.

For the second time in four days, Wanderers faced a side who were playing in the Premier League only last season, but you would never have guessed there were two divisions between the teams just a couple of months ago.

The unlucky defeat at Norwich proved that the Chairboys have what it takes to survive in this division, but their performance against Watford was even better.

Watford's defence struggled to cope with the pace and energy of Wycombe's diminutive striker Scott Kashket, who might have had a hat-trick if visiting 'keeper Foster hadn't been in such magnificent form.

Foster, an England international who holds the record for the most saves in Premier League history, was deservedly voted man-of-the-match by Sky TV, who screened the game live.

One first half save to deny Kashket his third goal in four games was world class, and he was also at his best to thwart David Wheeler early in the second half.

By Alan Parry

They were the pick of a string of great saves that prevented a rampant Wanderers from taking the lead, but it was Watford who broke the deadlock just after half time.

A perfect cross by Kiko Femenia, who has spells with Real Madrid and Barcelona on his CV, was met by Senegal international Ismaila Sarr and his firm header gave Watford the lead against the run of play.

The goal might have knocked the stuffing out of Wanderers after they had played so well, but they roared back with an equaliser just 14 minutes later.

Predictably, it came from a Joe Jacobson corner that was met by Anthony Stewart, and even Foster was unable to stop the defender's superb header from flying into the net.

But the Watford keeper had a big let off when Jacobson swung in another of his devastating corners as the game moved into stoppage time.

Distracted by Wycombe substitute Alex Samuel, Foster appeared to punch the ball into his own net to give Wanderers a famous victory, but referee John Brooks disallowed the goal for obstruction by Samuel.

It finished all square and it was an unlucky ending to a great night for Gareth Ainsworth's team.

SPORT

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FOOTBALL: Wembley hero on being a player in the Championship Joe Jacobson - 'I am here and I am enjoying it'



(Andy Rowland/Prime Media)

WYCOMBE left-back Joe Jacobson is 'loving' life in the Championship, despite the Chairboys' poor start to the season.

Gareth Ainsworth's men have picked up one point from a possible 24 this season, and despite losing seven of their eight league games this campaign, performances against Millwall, Reading and Norwich were positive as Wycombe lost each match by a single goal.

Their 1-1 draw against Watford on October 27 saw the Chairboys pick up their first point of the campaign,

and the 33-year-old believes the results and wins will come.

He said: "I'm playing against players that have been linked to Man United and players last week against Norwich, who were bought for millions of pounds - what is not to love.

"When you're in it and you're able to compete with these players, it is a nice feeling, and that is for all the boys who have come through from League Two and League One."

Prior to his appearance against Rotherham on September 12,

Jacobson's last Championship outing came in April 2006, when he played for Cardiff City against Norwich at Ninian Park.

He continued: "I'm loving it. "I didn't think it would be 14 years between my first and second game at this level, but I loving being here. "I have backed myself throughout my career to get back to this level and even though it has taken me a bit longer than I thought, I am here, and I am enjoying it."

Jacobson started his career at his boyhood club Cardiff, where he

enjoyed loan spells at Accrington Stanley and Bristol Rovers before joining the Gasheads permanently in 2007.

He has since had spells at Oldham, two more stints at Accrington and Shrewsbury before joining Wycombe in 2014.

He has become a cult hero at the Adams Park outfit, where he has scored 33 goals in 270 matches for the club. Twelve of those goals came last season.

Up next for the Chairboys is Sheffield Wednesday on October 31.

FOOTBALL: Blues play Wednesday at weekend Big boost as players return from injury

JOE Jacobson believes it is now 'onwards and upwards' after Wycombe got their first point of the season against Watford on Tuesday night.

The Welshman supplied the cross for Anthony Stewart's 66th minute header against the Hornets, which ended the Chairboys' seven game losing run in the league.

And even though Gareth Ainsworth's men have finally got a point on the board, his side are still winless in nine games so far this season.

But Jacobson is confident that elusive win will come, and with Sheffield Wednesday up next for the Chairboys, a side who lost 3-0 to Rotherham on Wednesday night, Wycombe could be smelling blood against Garry Monk's men come the weekend.

Jacobson said: "We just want to go into every game with intent and with a game plan and I think we did that against Watford.

"We have got a fit bunch of boys who will run for days with the distances that they put in, which were extremely high on Saturday [against Norwich], but this is a new league with different football and it takes time to adapt.

"I think we have adapted and I think we can more than compete, especially in the last two or three games, but we haven't had the points to show for that.

"Against Watford, I thought we deserved more and hopefully, that will settle a few nerves."

The performance against Wat-

By James Richings

ford proved that Wycombe can easily compete in the second tier, with Ben Foster producing several stunning saves to deny the Chairboys getting that important first win of the season.

He continued: "I think we had some great chances [against Watford] in the first half and I think we created a lot more chances than we have done all season - we were a threat going forward.

"The front boys worked so hard and when we did get the ball, we broke well, and I think we were disappointed with the chances we had.

"It is onwards and upwards."

The Welshman was also happy to see several first-team players return to side after lengthy spells on the sidelines.

The draw against Watford saw striker and new signing Uche Ikepeazu make his home debut for the club following his latest injury. Adebayo Akinfenwa made his first start of the campaign after three substitute appearances against Millwall, Reading and Norwich and midfielder Alex Pattison, who was an unused sub, was back after six weeks.

He continued: "We have struggled with injuries a lot this season and for a team like us who don't have a huge squad, to miss a few players is not easy and it is not easy for us to replace them.

"To see those boys back in training and on the pitch is a huge lift."



Joe Jacobson giving orders in the defeat against Norwich (Andy Rowland/Prime Media)

Wycombe goal is 'justified'

ANTHONY STEWART SCORED THE EQUALISER AGAINST WATFORD

ANTHONY Stewart's equaliser against Watford was 'justified' according to Wycombe manager Gareth Ainsworth.

The centre-back headed in Joe Jacobson's corner in the 66th minute to help the Chairboys get their first point as a Championship club, in their eighth league game of the season.

The goal was scored 14 minutes after Ismaila Sarr gave the Hertfordshire-side the lead, which was very much against the run of play.

However, Wycombe fought back, and Ainsworth was more than happy with the performance.

Speaking after the draw, he said: "The goal was justified.

"I thought we were the better side.

"I think Ben Foster had a brilliant game and that is what he is there for.

"He is one of the best goalkeepers in the Championship, if not the best, and he is a gentleman as he came up afterwards and said, 'well done Gareth, I thought Wycombe were outstanding tonight', and I thought that was great.

"But when Anthony scored, I thought it was deserved rather than relief, and I think that is a really big statement to make as a Championship manager with no points on the board.

"I really believe in these boys as I believe we can stay in the Championship.

"If we can play like that, I think we can give some teams a real game this season."

Up next for the Chairboys is another home fixture - this time against Sheffield Wednesday on October 31.

Wednesday are the only side to be below Wycombe in the table as they started the season on -12 points, after they were found guilty of financial irregularities in the summer.

The Owls are currently on -4 points.