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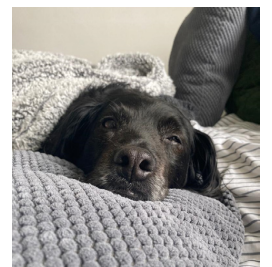
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SPORT: Wanderers secure vital victory over Bristol City

The long wait is over for Bayo

WYCOMBE striker Adebayo Akinfenwa has opened up on scoring his first goal as a Championship player.

The 38-year-old, who last scored for Wanderers in the 3-1 away defeat at Doncaster Rovers on February 29, 2020, bagged an injury-time penalty to defeat Bristol City 2-1 at Adams Park.

The penalty came about when goalkeeper David Stockdale went up for a corner and struck a half-volley on the edge of the box which was handled in the area by substitute Kasey Palmer.

Up-stepped the EFL legend who sent Daniel Bentley the wrong way to convert his first goal of the season in his 35th game of the season.

Following the victory, Wanderers are now six points away from safety with three games to score.

Speaking after the match, he said: "It's taken me two decades to get my Championship goal.

"But honestly, the three points are most important.

"It felt like the fans were here, the

way the boys all celebrated."

The goal was Akinfenwa's first in 37 matches in all competitions and his first at Adams Park since Saturday, February 22, when he bagged the second in Wanderers' 3-1 win against Tranmere Rovers.

This was the last home match Wycombe had before the pandemic began, and therefore the final time the club had a full house of supporters.

At 38 years 11 months 11 days, Akinfenwa is the oldest Championship goal scorer this season, and is one of the oldest in the division's history, since he EFL was rebranded in the summer of 2004.

He has joined a list of players such as Eiður Guðjohnsen, Aaron Wilbraham, Emile Heskey, Kevin Phillips, Gareth Barry and the late Gary Speed as of the league's oldest goal scorers.

The oldest scorer in the league is Teddy Sheringham, as he bagged a goal in the division at the age of 41 years, seven months 29 days.

The hope is still there

WANDERERS SUPPORTER JAMIE CAMERON ON THE FINAL GAMES

THE brilliant win against Bristol City continued a theme of late turnarounds in Wycombe's recent games, but this time it was the Chairboys getting the result they needed.

After squandering leads against Luton and Swansea, Adebayo Akinfenwa's stoppage-time penalty kept Wanderers' slim survival hopes alive.

The inspirational forward scored for the first time since breaking the club's EFL scoring record against Doncaster in a game that had fans present, which tells you how long ago it was!

His first Championship goal further emphasises his importance to the team and may turn out to be the start of one of the greatest escapes in the history of the sport.

If that is to be the 38-year-old's last goal for Wycombe, what a way to go out. Nobody could have expected that he'd still be scoring for the Chairboys five years after initially signing on a one-year deal.

As mentioned, the previous two results seemed to have all-but put an end to Wycombe's chances of avoiding relegation.

Luton was a real hammer blow as Josh Knight's red card led to three Hatters goals, before an excellent performance against Swansea was pegged back late on.

It's a big if, but if Gareth Ainsworth's side had held on for six points from those two games, they'd have won five in a row and would be just one point from safety.

As it is, Wanderers need at least seven points from their last three and have to hope 21st-placed Derby pick up no more than one point from here.

The Rams are arguably the worst team in the Championship at the moment and have won just one of their last 12, losing their last four.

To add to that, they still have to play in-form Birmingham and play-off bound Swansea before a potentially huge final-day clash with Sheffield Wednesday.

With the momentum Wycombe have, more wins are certainly a possibility, but coming up against the league's form side in Bournemouth may be a stumbling block.

Their other two fixtures, against Cardiff and Middlesbrough, are more than winnable, but Jonathan Woodgate's Cherries are absolutely flying as they've won their last seven in the league, scoring 21 goals in the process.

However, four points from the other two may be enough to finish off the bottom.



David Stockdale's shot was handled in the box and Adebayo Akinfenwa scored the resulting penalty for Gareth Ainsworth's men (PA)

FOOTBALL: Point shared in the South Wales sunshine

Chairboys surrender two-goal lead away at Swansea



Garath McCleary celebrates scoring Wycombe's side's second goal against Swansea City at the Liberty Stadium (Bradley Collyer/PA)

WYCOMBE Wanderers' fight to stay in the Championship was severely dented after they blew a 2-0 lead to draw 2-2 against Swansea City at the Liberty Stadium.

Two goals within the first five minutes of the second-half from Admiral Muskwe and Garath McCleary, looked like they had given Wycombe their ninth league win of the season, and their first at the Liberty since 2006.

However, two quick goals from a Jamal Lowe penalty and a Liam Cullen header rescued Steve Cooper's men a point.

The first big chance of the contest came on 13 minutes, when Connor Roberts latched onto the ball from a mistake by Joe Jacobson, but David Stockdale made a save to deny the Welsh right-back.

Moments later, Swansea had another effort to go 1-0 up but Conor Hourihane fired wide from 18-yards.

After a wobbly 15 minutes or so, Wycombe got into the match and had a huge penalty claim waved away.

In what was their first attack on 19 minutes, Admiral Muskwe cut inside on his left foot to shoot seven-yards away from goal.

However, his effort was blocked by one of the Swansea players, with Wycombe suggesting that the ball had hit an arm.

Huge appeals from the Wanderers

By James Richings

players and bench followed, but no spot-kick was given.

A flurry of half-chances followed for Wanderers as it remained goal-less at the break.

The start of the second though was a completely different story.

Twenty-five seconds after the re-start, Muskwe fired in a beautiful half-volley past Woodman, to put Wycombe 1-0 up before Garath McCleary made it 2-0 five minutes.

The ex-Reading man, who hadn't scored since the Boxing Day defeat away at Bristol City, just ran at the Swansea defence, before he smashed in a low shot from 16-yards past Woodman.

However, the Chairboys surrendered their two-goal lead in the space of three minutes.

Out of nowhere on 79 minutes, Jason McCarthy slipped over and handles the ball in the box.

Up stepped Jamal Lowe to fire in the spot-kick high into the goal to give Swansea hope.

Three minutes later, a delicious ball was whipped in and substitute Liam Cullen headed in past Stockdale from three-yards.

A bittersweet afternoon in Wales as the Chairboys were just minutes away from an important victory.

SPORT



FOOTBALL: Wycombe Wanderers 2-1 Bristol City Is The Great Escape on after late victory?



Adebayo Akinfenwa is mobbed by his Wycombe teammates after he scored his first goal as a Championship player at the age of 38, with an injury-time penalty against Bristol City in the 2-1 victory at Adams Park on April 21. It was his first goal since February 29, 2020 (PA)

By James Richings

ADEBAYO Akinfenwa scored his first goal as a Championship player with an injury-time penalty as Wycombe Wanderers came back from behind to beat Bristol City 2-1 at Adams Park to boost their survival chances.

In what was an incredible finale, the celebrations at the full-time whistle matched those last seen when Gareth Ainsworth's men were promoted to the division last summer due to the importance of the victory.

The Chairboys were in City's face from the get-go as they had the game's first chance in the opening minute of the contest.

A bit of space in the midfield allowed Admiral Muskwe to run at the Robins' backline before he unleashed a thunderbolt at the goal.

However, Tomas Kalas blocked the shot.

This was the story of the first-half.

Wycombe dominated as Curtis Thompson covered every blade

of grass, whilst Jason McCarthy, Uche Ikpeazu, Garath McCleary and Fred Onyedinma pulled the strings.

It looked like Bristol City, who cannot go down and cannot get into the play-offs, were on their summer holidays as Muskwe again had another chance to give Wanderers the lead.

He found space in the City midfield and continue to run into the box unchallenged, but his tame effort from 10-yards was easily palmed away by Daniel Bentley in goal.

The visitors rarely threatened as Han Noah Massengo had their first real chance, but he placed his left-foot shot from eight-yards just wide of David Stockdale's goal, who was left stranded.

This was a rare attack from the away side as Wycombe just continued their onslaught on the visitors' goal.

goal.

They showed no mercy as it was McCleary's turn to try his luck but his lob from an acute angle went just wide.

With the way the game was going, it seemed that it was just a matter of time before Wanderers took the lead - however, the Chairboys were pegged back by a piece of brilliance.

On 29 minutes, in what was a rare attack for Bristol City, Adam Nagy teased the Wanderers defence before he laid the ball to Tyreeq Bakinson, who smashed one in from 20-yards.

It was a first-time effort that just flew into David Stockdale's top-right corner.

It was one of the best goals to be scored at Adams Park this season, and it went against Wycombe.

A real blow, as Ainsworth's men were the better side.

Wanderers continued to fight as Muskwe fired another effort at goal, but his shot only found the side-netting as Wycombe went into the break 1-0 down.

The second-half was a lacklustre affair (until injury-time) as City just sat back and defended.

They allowed Wanderers to have the ball, but the Wycombe pressure finally paid off.

On 65 minutes, David Wheeler, who came on for McCleary, chipped in a cross from the left-hand side and Ikpeazu dove brilliantly to fire in a bullet header from six-yards.

It was his fifth of the season.

The barrage of Wycombe shots continued as they threw everything at the Bristol City goal with Daryl Horgan and Akinfenwa testing Bentley in the final few moments before drama ensued in injury-time.

In the first of four added-on minutes, Stockdale came up for a corner and struck a half-volley from just outside the box which struck Kasey Palmer on the arm in the area, and referee Dane Whitehouse pointed to the spot.

Up stepped Akinfenwa to score his first of the season and his first as a second tier player, aged 38.



Nigel Pearson (PA)

Pearson's praise for Ainsworth

THE EX-LEICESTER AND WATFORD BOSS WAS IMPRESSED WITH THE CHAIRBOYS

BRISTOL City manager Nigel Pearson was full of admiration for Gareth Ainsworth following Wycombe's 2-1 win over the Robins at Adams Park.

Adebayo Akinfenwa scored an injury-time penalty to secure Wanderers' ninth league win of the season to put them six points away from safety with three games remaining.

They did it the hard way after they came back from 1-0 down, but thanks to Uche Ikpeazu's header which gave Wycombe their equaliser, it was one-way traffic for Gareth Ainsworth's men.

The defeat for Bristol City means they have only won four matches from their last 19.

He said: "I said to him, 'Whatever happens this year, well done you. 'He has been fantastic here.

"What an achievement it was to get them here into the Championship and I really feel for the club, as they have waited so long to get here and the fans haven't been here.

"I think that is a real shame for them, as the club haven't been able to create an environment to give themselves more of a chance to help them win games because I am sure, as their supporters have waited so long, to get to this level.

"I applaud him and the club for the way they have handled themselves and they'll be looking to bounce back. "They'll be even better prepared for their next foray into the Championship when that happens.

"He's a man that should take a lot of credit for the way they have enjoyed success."

Wycombe's victory over Bristol City on Wednesday night was their first over the Robins since October 2013, when they defeated the West Country side 2-1 in an EFL Trophy match.