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Bucks Free Press

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Adebayo Akinfenwa scored on his first league start in the win against Doncaster Rovers on Saturday, October 16 (PA)

Bayo on his performance

WYCOMBE striker Adebayo Akinfenwa has praised the attacking depth Wanderers have to offer, following their 2-0 win over Doncaster Rovers.

The forward, who will be hanging up his boots in April, scored the second after Anthony Stewart gave Wanderers the lead at the Keepmoat Stadium in a fixture where Wycombe were in control from the first whistle.

His goal was his first of the league season, and his first in League One since scoring against Donny in February 2020.

That was the last match before the first lockdown kicked in due to the ongoing coronavirus pandemic.

On his goal, which was assisted by Garath McCleary, he said: "G-Mac is that guy and Jase [McCarthy] did one [a cross] five minutes before.

"I tried to be a young Defoe and get onto it near the front post – I don't know what I was thinking! But we've got that quality and Vokesy will say the same. We've got players who are something else when they are on the ball and that is what we've added to our squad with Horgan, McCleary, McCarthy, Jordan [Obita] and Brandon [Hanlan].

"I just wish we connected a few years earlier when I could move a bit more! But I did what I have been doing all my career and I'm glad it went in."

Akinfenwa deputised for Vokes after the latter's partner gave birth a day or so before the game.

Boss's analysis of the Doncaster victory

Wycombe Wanderers boss Gareth Ainsworth was pleased with his side's performance against Doncaster Rovers (PA)

By James Richings

WYCOMBE Wanderers manager Gareth Ainsworth has shared his thoughts on his side's 2-0 win over Doncaster Rovers.

Anthony Stewart and Adebayo Akinfenwa scored a header each in the first-half as they brushed aside League One's basement team to stay in the league's top two.

The victory was also their fourth in a row and their third in the league this season.

Speaking after the victory at the Keepmoat Stadium, Ainsworth said: "It was a complete performance.

"It was similar to last week as we came out of the traps as you wouldn't believe with the system we play, and what we saw in the week, analysis-wise, with Josh Hart doing a cracking job, we saw that there were some weaknesses and we exploited them.

"This was at the expense of us being left open but once we went ahead, we saw the game off.

"The change of formation was always going to be a thing, as well as Bayo coming off, and we soaked up the pressure and the possession.

"Yes, the possession stats will go in Doncaster's favour but that doesn't worry me one bit.

"We always felt had the ability to break and score another but now, it's about picking up the boys and getting ready for Tuesday against Rotherham."

The boss also revealed that his side will be staying up in Yorkshire this weekend.

The Chairboys face Rotherham at the New York Stadium on Tuesday night, and the Couhigs have given Ainsworth and his side permission to stay in the north of the country, to prepare for the midweek match.

"We want to be a club with Championship standards and if we can manage to get that on the pitch as well, then it's amazing.

"With our new backers, this is something we haven't really done before.

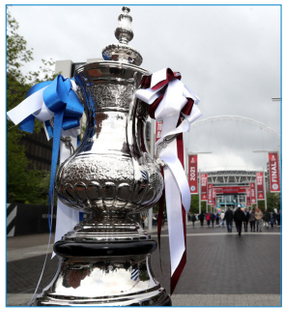
"All the subs as well will be so pleased and they are right behind the boys.

"And I know what it's like, if you're not playing, you're feeling that you're not contributing.

"But they are contributing as they are right in that squad and the ones that came on made a difference.

"I've got a real good group and I am so proud of them."

Hartlepool to host the Chairboys in the Cup



The FA Cup (PA)

WYCOMBE Wanderers have been drawn to face Hartlepool United in the FA Cup first round.

The Chairboys will travel up to Victoria Park to take on the League Two side in what will be the first ever cup meeting between the two sides.

The match will take place on the weekend of November 5 to 8.

The two sides have played each other 16 times since their first meeting in 2003, with Gareth Ainsworth's men beating the Pools 10 times.

Hartlepool have been victorious on four occasions, with there being two draws.

The last time these two sides met was in the 2016/17 season, when an Adebayo Akinfenwa strike and a Paris Cowan-Hall goal gave Wanderers all three points versus a then-struggling Hartlepool side in League Two.

At the end of that campaign, Hartlepool were relegated from the Football League whilst Wycombe finished ninth, two places and one point off the play-off spots.

A date and time for the fixture will be announced in due course with ticket information also being released soon.

John Gorman is back at Adams Park

WYCOMBE Wanderers have confirmed that their former manager, John Gorman, will return to Adams Park this weekend as a guest.

The ex-Chairboys boss, who took charge of the club between 2004 and 2006, whilst also having a spell as caretaker in 2003, will be back in South Bucks for the home match against Crewe Alexandra on October 23.

In a statement, the club said: "We're delighted to be welcoming back our hugely popular former manager John Gorman to Adams Park this Saturday. John will be enjoying VIP hospitality and catching up with old friends before and after the League 1 clash with Crewe."

It's the first meeting between the two sides in four seasons.

SPORT

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Akinfenwa's heart-warming message

Wycombe Wanderers' Adebayo Akinfenwa (PA)

By James Richings

'I AM big boy but they make me feel bigger' – these are the words of Wycombe striker Adebayo Akinfenwa after he scored in the win over Doncaster Rovers on Saturday.

The 39-year-old, who started a league match for the first time in the victory in South Yorkshire, scored a textbook header to give the Chairboys their second goal of the contest.

It was his first league goal of the campaign and his first in League One since February 2020 – which coincidentally was away at Doncaster Rovers.

That game saw Gareth Ainsworth's men fall to a 3-1 defeat in what was the final match before the first lockdown.

Speaking after the match at the Keepmoat, he said: "You can see how the world can change very quickly, but the togetherness with the boys is something that I love.

"I have been in the game for 22 years and for the last six, the squad has changed and evolved, but what hasn't changed is the togetherness and I think that's rare.

"I keep saying it's rare because I think this game is a selfish game, because you need to take care of you, but when you're in a squad of boys and management that put the bigger picture first, that is a powerful thing.

"Players come and go but togetherness has stayed the same.

"It's been a beautiful six years and if we can finish how I want us to finish, what an end to the story that will be.

"They have really taken me into their hearts, and I can't put it into words.

"I am a big boy but they make me feel bigger with the love they are showing me and there are times when my knee is sore, my back is sore and I'm aching and they spur me on, as well as the boys, so I'm constantly trying to give my all for them because they show me love and I really appreciate it."

Akinfenwa has scored 57 goals in 223 games for the club since joining on a free from AFC Wimbledon in the summer of 2016.

The striker, 39, known best by his nickname 'The Beast', has confirmed his plans to retire from playing football in the summer.

What's next for Bayo has not yet been revealed, although he is set to be the subject of a documentary series for which filming started last week.

The EFL gave them the award (PA)

Awards for three players after win

THREE Wycombe players have been named in the League One Team of the Week.

This comes after Wanderers defeated a poor Doncaster Rovers side 2-0 at the Keepmoat Stadium on October 16, to keep up their good run in the league.

Following the victory in South Yorkshire, David Stockdale, Joe Jacobson have all been named in the TOTW.

Stewart scored the Chairboys' first with a header after 90 seconds which was assisted by Jacobson, whilst Stockdale produced several important saves to help Wycombe keep their fourth clean sheet of the league season.

In the EFL Team of the Week, which is made up of players from the Championship, League One and League Two, both Stewart and Jacobson made an appearance.

Goalkeeper leaves on loan

WYCOMBE Wanderers have confirmed that goalkeeper Tyla Dickinson has joined Non League Hayes & Yeading on a short-term long deal.

The 20-year-old, who signed for the Chairboys in the summer for the development squad, official penned his contract with the club on October 15, and made his debut a day later, as Hayes drew 2-2 with Dorking in the final qualifying round of the FA Cup.

The winners of the reply will go into the first round of the competition, where they will face League Two Sutton United.

Dickinson has yet to play a first-team game for Wycombe.

Hayes & Yeading currently sit top of the Southern League Premier Division.

Dickinson, who joined the club from QPR, is the second keeper to sign for Wanderers this summer, as the club signed Adam Przybek from Ipswich Town on a free transfer.

When he joined the club, he penned a one-year-deal with the Chairboys.

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