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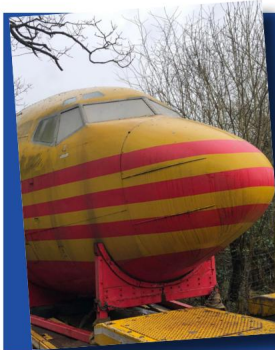
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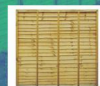
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‘Sweet’ win over the Wednesday



The boss (Carol Mason)

WYCOMBE boss Gareth Ainsworth believes his side ‘deserved’ to beat Sheffield Wednesday in what was the club’s final home game of the regular league season.

Jordon Obita scored the winner midway through the second-half with a tap in from a Daryl Horgan cross in the 1-0 victory, which was the Chairboys’ 11th league game without defeat.

The result means that the club have nearly secured a play-off place in what was only their second-ever victory against the Owls in eight attempts.

Ainsworth said: “It was nothing more than we deserved.

“We put a full press on them in the second-half so they couldn’t get behind us and Chris Forino and Ryan Tafazolli had to be win those headers which they did, as we really stepped on them and the goal we scored was brilliant. I thought we edged it.

“Sheffield Wednesday are a Championship side, their players have Championship calibre so that makes this result so sweet.”

Wednesday annoyed at no goal

SHEFFIELD Wednesday boss Darren Moore believes his side were denied a ‘perfectly good goal’ in their 1-0 away loss at Wycombe Wanderers.

Chey Dunkley scored a close-range shot midway through the first-half but the referee, Andy Davies, ruled it out for a foul in the box.

The Owls were also denied a penalty when it seemed Jason McCarthy handled a shot taken by Marvin Johnson.

Moore said: “The most clear-cut chance of the game falls to them after a little lapse of concentration from us and they put the ball in the back of the net.

“The goal that Chey scored was a perfectly good goal and the handball was a handball, but I can’t complain because the officials have seen it in their way, and have called to how they have seen it.”

Ainsworth’s brave and bold statement

By James Richings

WYCOMBE boss Gareth Ainsworth has promised the Wanderers that he will achieve Championship football for the club, regardless of how long it will take him to do so.

The 48-year-old succeeded in his quest two years when the Chairboys defeated Oxford United in the League One play-off, however, the following season only saw three matches of the 46 see fans allowed in stadiums.

This was due to the coronavirus pandemic which caused havoc around the globe.

However, this season as fans have since returned, the club have achieved one of the best performing campaigns in recent years.

In they were to reach 83 points, which is the most the Chairboys can achieve this season, it will be their highest tally since 2018 when they picked up 84 in their promotion-winning season to League One.

The boss said: “It was a real shame that they weren’t allowed in last year too see their team in the Championship as it would have been fantastic.

“I’m going to deliver that for them.

“Whether it’s this season, next season or whenever, I will deliver Championship football for this club and I want to make sure that they have a chance to support their team in the Championship.

“They’ve been supporting this team this season up and down the country and on the other day at Wimbledon, they were great as there were so many of them.

“Let’s get together.”

The match against Sheffield Wednesday also saw the club achieve their highest home crowd of the campaign with 9,005.



Gareth Ainsworth hopes to secure promotion with Wycombe this season (PA)

Prior to the match on April 23, the club had only hit the 8,000 mark twice this season, but they had come in wins against fellow promotion rivals in Oxford United and Plymouth Argyle.

Both coincidentally were 2-0 victories for the Chairboys.

Ainsworth continued: “We’re right up there and that’s credit

to the boys, to the staff and everyone who works within the club as they have helped me put on a great platform so that I can pick the team to win games.

“We know what is at stake and we want to give the fans what they want and deserve.

“If you asked me if we would have taken 77 points at this stage

of the season with two games to go, I think we would have all taken it.

“At the moment, it’s all about the next game and hopefully, we’ll have one or two players coming back from the treatment table to aid us.”

Wycombe won the match 1-0 thanks to a Jordan Obita winner.



The fans at Adams Park will have the same season ticket prices for next year

Season ticket prices to remain the same

IT’S been confirmed that Wycombe Wanderers’ season ticket prices will be frozen for next season.

The club revealed the news on April 23, just two days before the Chairboys’ final home league match of the season against Sheffield Wednesday.

At the time of writing, more than 8,000 tickets have been sold.

The club have only reached over this figure twice since the start of the season.

They were against Oxford United

in January and Plymouth Argyle in April, which ended in 2-0 wins for the Chairboys.

The fixture against their M40 rivals saw 8,005 people attend the match, whilst 8,181 witnessed Wanderers’ Good Friday victory over the Pilgrims.

Speaking on the season ticket prize free, chairman Rob Couhig told the club: “We’re going to keep our season ticket prices exactly the same whether we’re in League One, which is doubtful, or more

likely in the Championship.

“We’re going to keep our prices the same.

“We value these things slightly differently to most clubs.

“We look at what can we give you and what is a reasonable price to charge, and I think we can live with this price.

between Wycombe Wanderers and Sheffield Wednesday

“We’re doing to do it even though we see prices going up for everything.”



Wycombe Wanderers manager Gareth Ainsworth and striker Adebayo Akinfenwa were in a good mood after the win (Carol Mason)

Boss happy after victory

WYCOMBE manager Gareth Ainsworth hailed the performance of Chris Forino as Wanderers defeated Sheffield Wednesday 1-0 at Adams Park.

The young centre back started alongside Ryan Tafazolli in the victory over the Owls, as they kept their seventh clean sheet in 11 games.

The result has also put the Chairboys onto 80 points and in sixth place in the league table, with one game remaining.

During the match, Forino looked assured and assertive when dealing with high balls, and certainly made himself known when going in for sliding challenges.

He has now played 18 times for the Chairboys, scoring twice and

has kept four clean sheets.

The boss said: "I have got fantastic hopes for Chris Forino, as I think this boy is a fantastic player and I think he can play at a top level.

"He has got everything and to be keeping Anthony Stewart out of the team is just phenomenal as he is a week in, week out centre back.

"I thought the Tafazolli/Forino partnership would work for the high press that we wanted and sometimes it doesn't work but today it did."

"I can't believe we're on 80 points and we will have to go again next week against Burton and hope some favours are done this week.

"The table is just crazy - what a mental league this is and I said to judge us after 46 games."

Spanish supporters in South Bucks



The Spanish fans (Paul Lewis)

WYCOMBE'S brilliant win over Sheffield Wednesday on April 23 was a great day for many reasons.

Wanderers' unbeaten league run stretched to 11 games, that's 17 clean sheets in 45 matches, and the victory over the Owls saw an amazing 9,005 people attend Adams Park.

That's the highest home crowd for the Chairboys this season, their highest at the stadium for six years, and their highest in the league for 13 years.

The fixture saw many supporters visit the ground to watch the match, but there was one area of Adams Park that caught everyone's attention.

A section of the Presonus Stand was packed full of fans that had flown all the way over from Spain to witness Wycombe live in the flesh, and they did not stop singing throughout.

The supporters, who are part of the club's Worldwide Wanderers campaign, were welcomed to Buckinghamshire with open arms on what was a brilliant day for the Chairboys.

We hope to see you again soon!

Obita is Wycombe's vital match winner



Jordan Obita is mobbed as he scores Wanderers' winner against Sheffield Wednesday on April 23. His fourth of the campaign (PA)

JORDAN Obita's second-half tap-in gave Wycombe Wanderers a vital win over promotion rivals Sheffield Wednesday, as they defeated the Owls 1-0 at Adams Park.

The first-half was a tense affair as both sides enjoyed large portions of possession but it was the away side that was peppering their attacking goal.

On four minutes, Massimo Luongo fired wide from 20-yards and nine minutes later, Nathaniel Mendez-Laing thought he had scored a firecracker, but his long-range shot just went over the target.

The shot that the former Cardiff man took a deflection and from the resulting corner, Chey Dunkley thought he had scored for Wednesday, but his effort from six-yards was ruled out for a foul in the Wycombe box.

The Chairboy just couldn't get into the match.

Wanderers' best chances of the match fell to Sam Vokes, but his header midway through the opening half was easily saved by Bailey Peacock-Farrell and on the stroke of half-time, Garath McCleary smashed a shot from distance just over the bar.

It was a frustrating half for both sides, as either team needed all three points to all but guarantee a play-off place.

The second half saw Wycombe improve as they took the lead through an unlikely source.

After Daryl Horgan found some space behind the Wednesday backline, the Irishman ran through on goal and was one-on-one with Pea-

cock-Farrell in the Owls goal.

Going against shooting, Horgan instead squared the ball to Obita who tapped-in first time from six-yards.

He just couldn't miss.

Cue chaotic scenes at Adams Park as the promotion dream seemed to be in full swing.

This was Obita's fourth of the campaign and his second against Wednesday.

Coincidentally, the left-wing back's first goal for the club was at the Owls' expense in the 2-2 draw at Hillsborough back in November.

The away side tried their best to breakdown a stubborn Wanderers backline, but to no avail.

Chris Forino and Ryan Tafazolli were solid at the back as Sadio Berahino and Lee Gregory struggled to past the dogged defence, before the Owls had a huge chance to get on level terms.

With five minutes left, Barry Bannan, who has been one of the club's best performers this season, lifted in a brilliant ball to substitute Calum Paterson.

But the ex-Cardiff City man could only fire his header from close range wide of the target.

Seven minutes of added time followed, and Wycombe managed to hang on secure only their second-ever win against Sheffield Wednesday in an EFL fixture.

On a more important note, the win has lifted Wanderers back into the play-off places.

By James Richings

Another big away day for the Wanderers

IT'S going to be a packed away end at Burton Albion this Saturday, as Wycombe Wanderers have sold every ticket of their allocation.

The Pirelli Stadium will see 1,650 Chairboys fans descend to East Staffordshire on April 30 as the Adams Park outfit continue to push for a play-off place.

It's also been reported that several inflatables are being brought to the stadium as part of a the end-of-season tradition.

Wanderers are winless in their last four matches at the Pirelli.

Burton are in 16th, which is the highest position they can finish in this season.

SPORT

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One of the greatest days at Adams Park?



One final push (Carol Mason)

What needs to happen for Wycombe?

THE end of the 2021/22 League One season is now just days away and after the penultimate round of fixtures were played April 26, the final set of results mean Wycombe Wanderers will be relying on favours to guarantee their place in this year's play-offs.

At the time of writing, Wycombe are sitting in seventh on 80 points, level on points with sixth-placed Plymouth who have a better goal difference by two.

And depending on how the other results go on the final day, a victory for Wanderers against Burton Albion still might not book them a place in the top six.

This will mean that with 83 points (if they were to defeat Burton), it will be the highest points total for a team to miss out on the play-off places in the history of third-tier English football.

The current record belongs to Bristol Rovers and Tranmere Rovers who both achieved 80 points in 1999 and 2003 respectively.

So, what needs to happen in order for Wycombe to get into the play-offs?

Wycombe will be in top six if they beat Burton Albion and:

- Plymouth don't win at home to Milton Keynes
- Sunderland don't win at Morecambe
- Sheffield Wednesday lose at home to Portsmouth

Alternatively:

- Wycombe can make the top six if they win by two more goals than Plymouth win by on Saturday
- Wycombe can also make the top six if they beat Burton and Sheffield Wednesday don't beat Portsmouth (Wycombe would need to score two or more goals for that option)

- Wycombe can also make the top six if they draw at Burton and Plymouth lose to Milton Keynes
- Another option is Wycombe drawing against Burton and Sunderland losing by three or more goals at Morecambe
- The final permutation that Wycombe can make the top six is with defeat at Burton providing Plymouth lose by two more goals than Wycombe do.

The match against Burton will kick-off at 12.30pm and the away end is expected to be a sell-out, as more than 1,600 Wanderers fans will attend the match at the Pirelli Stadium.

Fans are also bringing inflatable items to the contest in East Staffordshire, as part of the end-of-season tradition.



Jordan Obita is mobbed after he scored the winner against Sheffield Wednesday, and Rob Couhig spoke to the BFP (inset) (Carol Mason)

Exclusive by James Richings

WYCOMBE'S 1-0 win over Sheffield Wednesday on April 23 will go down as one of the most impressive and most memorable in the club's recent history.

Jordan Obita's goal midway through the second-half not only secured the Chairboys' 11th consecutive game in the league without defeat, but also put Gareth Ainsworth's men in a great position for a play-off place.

Going into the final game of the season against Burton Albion at the Pirelli Stadium on April 30, Wanderers sit seventh, and if the footballing gods are not favourable towards the Adams Park faithful, the final league table could see Wycombe not get into the play-offs with 83 points - the highest points total for a club to not book a

play-off place.

But, if results do go their way, Wycombe will play at least to two more matches.

Whatever the outcome, the 2021/22 season will go be forever remembered as one of the best in Wycombe's history, and the club's owner, Rob Couhig, believes this is just the beginning of a trial of success.

The Couhig family have been in charge of the club for just over two years, and have revolutionised Wycombe Wanderers as a product.

Speaking exclusively to the Free Press at full-time, Rob Couhig said: "I want to say that I was excited and happy but mostly, I just have this huge feeling of relief!

"It's because we that had an elephant on our chest for most of the game and when we scored, it starts to get off" and

that was the longest seven minutes of my life!

"I can say that without question!

"These guys deserve it though, they really do as well as the fans.

"So, we play no role in what we do but we're happy for them.

"I feel good! When we started this season, I told everyone that we would get 9,000 in here and everyone laughed at me.

"And look at us now?

"And the Spanish fans were brilliant! Worldwide Wanderers, they made fun of me when I said we were a worldwide club and here we are."

The party-like atmosphere at the stadium was similar to a promotion celebration, and even though nothing is guaranteed going into the final weekend of the season, there is no question that the Couhig family's positivity, fresh ide-

as, and dialogue with fans, players, and the community are part of the club's on-field achievements.

Rob's nephew, Pete, then told the Free Press: "It's hard to call it the biggest match we've been involved in the three years we've been here because we played in a play-off final at Wembley which we won.

"But, to have today [April 23], in the season to get 80 points with everybody here, honestly?"

"It was better than Wembley.

"We need three points to keep on pushing and the boys just kept going and the fans were phenomenal, our terrace was loud and proud the whole day, the Spaniards were amazing and today was just as good as it could have been."

The crowd of 9,005 is the highest the club have had for a home league match since May 2009.