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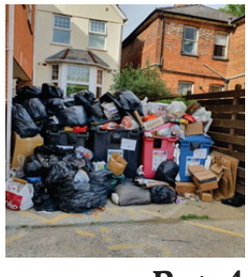

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Goaleeper Przybek joins Midlands side

By James Richings

FORMER Wycombe Wanderers goalkeeper Adam Przybek has officially joined League Two Walsall.

The 22-year-old, who spent one season with the Chairboys, has penned a deal with the Midlands side and will officially join the club on July 1 this year.

Przybek signed for Wycombe in the summer of last year and played seven times during the 2021/22 campaign, keeping two clean sheets.

They were both in the Berks and Bucks Cup against Long Crendon and Ascot United respectively.

Upon signing for the Saddlers, he said: "As soon as I spoke to the Head Coach it was appealing.

"He has big ambitions for the club and I get to move closer to home so for me, it was a no brainer.

"I am still young, and I have got big ambitions in the game.

"For me, the move just made sense and hopefully it is the right step for me now."

This will be the goalkeeper's 10th club since 2018, with all of his 24 league career appearances coming in the Non League for Worcester City, Gloucester City, Rushall Olympic, Braintree Town, Concord Rangers and Chesterfield respectively.

As well as the sides mentioned above, the Welsh Under 21 international has also been on the books at Ipswich Town and West Bromwich Albion.

Head coach Michael Flynn added: "We're delighted to add Adam to the squad.

"He's a Wales U21s international and has a bright future.

"He's been at Ipswich; he's been at Wycombe and both goalkeepers will provide each other with good competition."

This comes on the same day that Walsall signed Owen Evans from Cheltenham Town.

On his departure, Wycombe Wanderers said: "#Chairboys wishes @PrzyAdam the best of luck in his new adventure at @WFCOfficial.

"We thank you for all your efforts last season, Adam!"

Following Przybek's departure along with David Stockdale's move to Sheffield Wednesday, Wycombe Wanderers currently have one goalkeeper in their ranks, which is Tyla Dickinson.

Out of the seven games he played for the club, Przybek was on the winning side just twice.

These were in the 4-0 away in at Long Crendon in February this year, with the first being on his debut against Stevenage in the League Cup.

The cup tie finished 2-2 after 90 minutes with the Chairboys winning 5-3 in the penalty shootout.

Tjay De Barr scored the winning spot kick for Wycombe.

Adam Przybek only played seven times for Wycombe, two of those games being played at Adams Park. He leaves after one season with the Chairboys which saw him play second fiddle to David Stockdale (PA)

One of the league's favourites

Gareth Ainsworth (PA)

WYCOMBE Wanderers are one of the favourites to gain promotion to the Championship according to a leading betting firm in the UK.

Betfair, which has got thousands of branches and outlets across the country, have put Gareth Ainsworth's men as 5/1 favourites to earn a place in the second tier, with the odds being shared with the Chairboys' Thames Valley rivals in Oxford United and Milton Keynes.

They have made Ipswich Town as the favourites to go up before the season started with odds of 7/4.

Betfair spokesperson Sam Rosbottom said: "The EFL offers up drama like no other and the anticipation for the new season is building after Thursday's fixture release.

"Looking at League One, Ipswich are the 7/4 frontrunners to return to the Championship at the fourth attempt of asking and they are followed by Sheffield Wednesday at 9/4 and Wayne Rooney's Derby, who are 11/4."

The season will start on July 30.

Spurs to take on the Chairboys

WYCOMBE Wanderers will play the Tottenham Hotspur Under 21 side in the EFL Trophy (Papa John's Trophy) group stage.

The Chairboys, who will also face in Stevenage and Peterborough in the group stage of the competition, discovered on June 23 that the invited Premier League development that will take on the Adams Park outfit will be Antonio Conte's men.

It will be the third competitive match between Wycombe and Spurs in any capacity, following their FA Cup battles in 2017 and 2021, which Spurs both won.

Wycombe have never won the EFL Trophy and were eliminated from the group stage last season.

Dom Gape and Joe Jacobson (pictured) signed new deals with Wycombe (PA)

Trio pen new deals with the Chairboys

JOE Jacobson, Dom Gape and Lewis Wing have all signed new-and-improved deals with Wycombe Wanderers.

Their previous contracts were due to expire at the end of this month, but the trio have all agreed to remain at the Adams Park club.

Joe Jacobson

The Welshman will enter his ninth season with Wycombe, and his first-full campaign as captain following Matt Bloomfield's retirement in February.

Since arriving as a Chairboy in the summer of 2014, the Welsh left-back has represented the club 351 times with 346 of those appearances being starts and has scored 42 goals.

Dom Gape

A player that has had been hit with many injuries over the last two seasons, Dom Gape's new contract with the club shows that he still has the desire to take Wanderers back to the promise land of the Championship.

Since the start of the 2020/21 season to now, the midfielder has only played 32 games, but he started the final seven matches of last season.

Lewis Wing

An arrival in the winter transfer window, Lewis Wing has provided an extra spark in the centre of Wycombe's midfield which was very much needed.

Since arriving at Adams Park, he has played 15 times and has scored two goals. Both of those strikes came against Crewe which was Gareth Ainsworth's 500th match in charge.

'No place like home': Wycombe Wanderers will have played 18 of their 23 opening day league fixtures since 2000 at Adams Park (PA)

Opening day stats

AS we get ready for the new season, let us look back at how well Wycombe Wanderers have done on the opening weekend of the league season since 2000.

In the last 23 years, the Chairboys have incredibly played 18 fixtures on the first weekend of the campaign at Adams Park.

This includes a run of six straight consecutive opening day matches at their ground between 2003 and 2008, which saw the club only lose one of those matches, which was against Accrington Stanley in the latter year.

This run has now been match after Wycombe found out that they will play Burton Albion at Adams Park to start the season for the 2022/23 campaign.

The last time they played away from home on the first day of the campaign was in 2016 when they fell to a 1-0 defeat at Crawley Town.

Overall, Wycombe have won nine times on the opening day since the turn of the millennium, drawing eight and losing just five.

From those five defeats, only two have come at home which were both 1-0 losses against Rotherham United and Accrington Stanley respectively.

Wanderers have also kept eight clean sheets on the first day, and have not lost by more than

They have not lost by more than one goal on the first day of the season since 1997, when they fell to a 5-2 defeat away at Wigan Athletic.

What happens as Stewart leaves AP

Anthony Stewart played a big part in Wycombe's promotion season of 2019/20 and was a vital player for the Championship campaign (PA)

By James Richings

WYCOMBE Wanderers fan favourite Anthony Stewart has left the club to join Aberdeen in the Scottish Premiership.

The 29-year-old, who played 292 games for the Adams Park outfit and scored 18 goals across two spells, was out of contract with the Chairboys this summer and decided to turn down a new-and-improved offer o stay with the club.

He has instead signed a pre-contract with the four-time Scottish champions which will begin on July 1.

The centre-back is another notable name to leave Wanderers this summer following the departures of Adebayo Akinfenwa who has retired, and goalkeeper David Stockdale, with the latter joining Sheffield Wednesday on a free transfer.

He was one of many players at Wycombe whose current contracts were due to expire at the end of this month.

The centre back played 42 times for the club last season and scored two goals which were both away at Wigan Athletic and Doncaster Rovers respectively.

Speaking on his exit, the club said: "He leaves the club with the best wishes and gratitude of everyone at Wycombe Wanderers, and we wish him well with the two-time European trophy winners."

Aberdeen manager added: "I'm delighted to get Anthony over the line.

"We've been working on this one for quite a period of time now.

"Anthony has played a lot of games in League One and the Championship in England.

"He is a proper, old-fashioned centre back that enjoys the art of defending.

"We've got some exciting young players at the club, and I think it is always important that you have some experienced players throughout the team and at 29, Anthony will be one of the more senior figures within the group.

"We look forward to working with Anthony and I'm sure he'll have a positive impact in the season ahead."

It is the second time that the Stewart has left the club with his first exit being in 2014.

The then 22-year-old joined then League One club Crewe Alexandra on loan in November 2014, before signing a permanent deal in January 2015, only to be released at the end of that season.

He would then re-join the Adams Park side that summer.

What next for Wycombe?

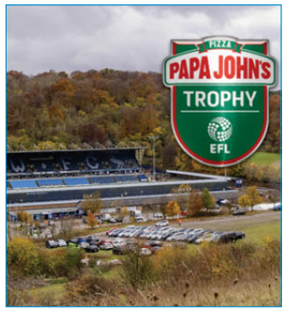
Stewart's exit means he is now the ninth player to depart Wycombe Wanderers this summer, and the third first-team regular.

This would suggest that the Chairboys are going through an pivotal transitional phrase to try and regain Championship football for the second time in their history.

Areas that are in need of strengthening are in goal following Stockdale and Adam Przybek's departures, leaving just development goalkeeper Tyla Dickinson as the club's only shot-stopper.

At the back, it will be important if the Chairboys were to acquire the services of at least two centre backs, as well as a left-sided defender. As it stands, Ryan Tafazolli and Chris Forino are the only CBs on the club's books and even though they both performed exceptionally well last season, depth in numbers is vital for a push for a promotion.

Who will Wycombe play in this year's PJT?



Adams Park (PA)

WYCOMBE Wanderers will play Stevenage and Peterborough United in the 2022/23 Papa Johns Trophy group stage.

The Chairboys, who have never won the competition, will also face one of the following eight Premier League Under 21 sides in their group:

- Arsenal
- Aston Villa
- Brighton & Hove Albion
- Chelsea
- Crystal Palace
- Southampton
- Tottenham Hotspur
- West Ham United

The draw was made on Monday, June 20, with Wanderers finding out what Under 21 team they will play on June 23, which will be the day they discover their league fixtures.

In last season's Football League Trophy, Wycombe finished bottom of their group with zero points after falling to three defeats against the Aston Villa Under 21s (3-1), Milton Keynes (2-1) and Burton Albion (5-0).

Training match thrashing in Missenden

THE reserve players from Aylesbury Vale FC played each other in a training match last weekend.

Taking place at Buryfield on Saturday, June 18 in Great Missenden, the match ended 6-0.

The fixture was arranged to see the player's fitness and strengths before the start of the new campaign this summer following their promotion last season.

The club currently train in Bedgrove and will play in the Aylesbury and District League Division One in the 2022/23 season.

If they were to gain promotion again this season, they will play in the Premier Division.

SPORT

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New fixtures are out for Wanderers

The League One fixtures for the 2022/23 season were released on June 23, and Wycombe will begin their campaign at home to Burton (PA)

By James Richings

WYCOMBE Wanderers will begin their 2022/23 campaign at home to Burton Albion on July 30.

This means for the 18th time in 23 seasons, the Chairboys will start their league season at home.

Wanderers' first away league game of the season will be on August 6, when they take on Bolton.

Long away midweek trips will include a visit down to Exeter City on Tuesday, August 16, and away at Plymouth Argyle during the festive period (December 29).

In a much-anticipated game following the off-the-field issues, the Chairboys will travel up to Derby County on September 17, before taking on their Thames Valley rivals in Oxford United and Milton Keynes in October.

The Boxing Day fixture will be at home to Bristol Rovers with the New Year's Day clash being away at Peterborough United.

The club will end its season on May 6 at Portsmouth.

Here is the full list of fixtures.

Jul 30 - Burton Albion H
Aug 6 - Bolton Wanderers A
Aug 13 - Shrewsbury Town H
Aug 16 - Exeter City A
Aug 20 - Barnsley A
Aug 27 - Charlton Athletic H
Sep 3 - Fleetwood Town A
Sep 10 - Port Vale H
Sep 13 - Accrington Stanley H
Sep 17 - Derby County A
Sep 24 - Sheffield Wednesday A
Oct 1 - Plymouth Argyle H
Oct 8 - Oxford United A
Oct 15 - Peterborough United H
Oct 22 - Milton Keynes A
Oct 25 - Cambridge United H
Oct 29 - Morecambe H
Nov 12 - Forest Green Rovers A
Nov 19 - Cheltenham Town A
Dec 3 - Portsmouth H
Dec 10 - Lincoln City A
Dec 17 - Ipswich Town H
Dec 26 - Bristol Rovers H
Dec 29 - Plymouth Argyle A
Jan 1 - Peterborough United A
Jan 7 - Oxford United H
Jan 14 - Sheffield Wednesday H
Jan 21 - Bristol Rovers A
Jan 28 - Fleetwood Town H
Feb 4 - Port Vale A
Feb 11 - Derby County H
Feb 14 - Accrington Stanley A
Feb 18 - Bolton Wanderers H
Feb 25 Shrewsbury Town A
Mar 4 - Exeter City H
Mar 11 - Burton Albion A
Mar 18 - Barnsley H
Mar 25 - Charlton Athletic A
Apr 1 - Milton Keynes H
Apr 7 - Ipswich Town A
Apr 10 - Forest Green Rovers H
Apr 15 - Morecambe A
Apr 18 - Cambridge United A
Apr 22 - Lincoln City H
Apr 29 - Cheltenham Town H
May 6 - Portsmouth A

Please note that some of the dates might change as the season goes on due to postponements and cancellations.

Pattenden is a Wanderer (PA)

First signing of the summer

WYCOMBE Wanderers have made their first signing of the summer transfer window.

The Chairboys confirmed the arrival of 20-year-old Jasper Pattenden from Non League Worthing on June 23, after impressing Sam Grace and Gareth Ainsworth during a trial period at the end of last season.

The mreative midfielder, who is a former product of the Brighton & Albion youth system, won Worthing's Young Player of the Year last season as they were crowned the Isthmian League Premier Division champions with 97 points.

He also scored the club's 100th league goal of the campaign against Brightlingsea Regent.

Worthing's Director of Football, Nathan Bowen, told the club's media: "It's brilliant to see one of our academy graduates get this opportunity."

As part of the transfer, Wanderers will play a friendly at Worthing in August.

Northampton trip confirmed

WYCOMBE Wanderers will play Northampton Town in the first round the League Cup.

The Chairboys will travel to Sixfields Stadium in August for what will be the first meeting between the two clubs since September 2018, which was a Football League Trophy that Gareth Ainsworth's men won 1-0.

The Wanderers boss will also be returning to the stadium where he made his final appearance as a professional footballer.

The then 43-year-old came off the bench for the final five minutes for the Chairboys' 3-0 victory over the Cobblers in August 2016, after the club had a shortage of players for the match.

His cameo appearance saw the winger set up Garry Thompson for the third and final goal of the night.

Each of the last three fixtures between Wycombe Wanderers and Northampton Town have been in cup competitions, with this being only the second time the two would have played each in this contest.

The previous battle was in August 2018, which saw Wycombe defeat their opponents 7-6 on penalties following a 1-1 draw at Adams Park.

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