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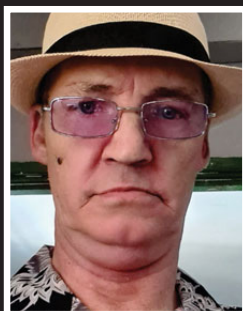
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CURRYING FAVOUR

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FAILINGS

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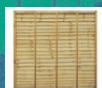
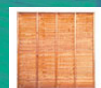
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SPORT

Boss wants 'killer touch'

WYCOMBE Wanderers boss Gareth Ainsworth has shared his thoughts as his side drew 1-1 against Morecambe.

A win would have moved the Chairboys into the top half of the table, but a point each meant the club stayed in midtable.

Speaking on the performance, Ainsworth said: "We were on top but we needed to put our chances away when we're on top.

"You go through these periods but overall, I am pleased with the boys' performance.

"We might need to score two/three at home and keep clean sheets as we're not getting any favours from the officials.

"We were fantastic in the first half, in the second half they defended well, and it was tough to get behind them but we did.

"We got past their defenders, we danced our way through, but we don't have that killer touch and we need that at the moment.

"I'm not one to moan about that [the officials] as you need to make your own luck.

"We need to keep working hard and not get frustrated because I don't want them to lose their heads.

"But it's disappointing as that's five points dropped in the last two home games."

Adams on draw at Wycombe

MORECAMBE manager Derek Adams believes his side 'deserved' a point, if not more, following their 1-1 draw against Wycombe Wanderers at Adams Park.

The Shrimps, who started the day bottom of the table in League One, equalised in the final 10 minutes of the contest through a direct corner by substitute Adam Mayor.

This cancelled out Chris Forino's brilliant header in the opening 20 minutes.

The North West didn't offer much from an attacking sense as the Chairboys had two goals disallowed in the fixture, in what was a frustrating afternoon for Wanderers.

Adams told the club's media team: "We have come to a place like Wycombe and we are disappointed to come away with a point.

"They are usually a side that is very dominant at home, but today [October 29] we created the better opportunities."

Points dropped at Adams Park



Gareth Ainsworth's side has had three goals disallowed in the last two matches (PA)



Gareth Ainsworth was not happy with the performance of the officials in Wycombe's 1-1 draw against Morecambe on October 29 (PA)

CHRIS Forino's first goal Adams Park goal was cancelled out by Adam Mayor's strike from a corner as Wycombe Wanderers drew 1-1 with Morecambe.

Gareth Ainsworth's men bossed for the opening period for large parts with Lewis Wing having the game's first chance, but he could only fire over from the edge of the box after nine minutes.

He was looking to add to his tally after scoring a consolation in Wanderers' 3-2 home loss against Cambridge United four days before.

Two minutes later, Max Stryjek was called into action to deny Caleb Watts' drive, but this was as it as it got for the away side.

Wycombe brilliantly soaked up the Shrimps' pressure and after Nick Freeman's shot was blocked on the line after 20 minutes, Wycombe took the lead through a brilliant goal by Forino.

The centre back, who returned to the starting 11 after missing the midweek loss against Cambridge with illness, towered in a fantastic header from a Garath McCleary cross.

It was his second of the campaign and his first at Adams Park since joining the club in April 2021.

The Chairboys carried on their arsenal of attacks on the Morecambe goal as Sam Vokes thought he made it 2-0 on the half-hour mark.

But for the second game in a row, the Welshman had his strike disallowed for a 'foul' in the box.

This nearly came back to haunt Wycombe as they survived a huge goalmouth scramble as numerous

By James Richings

Morecambe shots found their way at Stryjek's net to no avail.

Anis Mehmeti nearly got his seventh of the campaign just before the break, but his long-range strike was clawed away by Connor Ripley, as Wycombe went into the break a goal up.

The second half saw Wanderers have numerous chances to kill off the fixture Jordan Obita, Mehmeti, and Vokes all went all close.

Morecambe started to improve as Liam Shaw's effort was tipped over by Max Stryjek before Adam Mayor, who came on to replace Kieran Phillips, saw his deflected attempt hit the post.

From the resulting corner, he managed to get his set piece over the line despite Stryjek along with several Wanderers bodies doing their best to get it away.

However, Michael George the linesman, flagged immediately to signal the ball had gone over the line.

The drama wasn't over as in the final few moments of stoppage time, Mayor nearly got his second but his shot was denied by the goal-keeper.

From the resulting save, Brandon Hanlan thought he had scored his first of the season, but for the second time in the match, and for the third time in two games, Wycombe had a goal disallowed.

The crowd of 6,263 is the highest for Wycombe so far this league season.

Attendance: 6,263 (138 away)

Boss bemoans officials after home draw

WYCOMBE manager Gareth Ainsworth has heavily criticised the officials following Wanderers' 1-1 home draw against Morecambe.

Chris Forino had given the Chairboys the lead with a brilliant header after 20 minutes, before Sam Vokes scored a second not long after.

However, for the second time in two matches, the Welshman's strike was ruled out for an alleged foul.

It looked like Wycombe were going to secure their fourth league win in five matches, but with less than 10 minutes remaining, Adam Mayor's corner found its way over the line and Derek Adams' team were level.

Drama then ensued in stoppage-time as Brandon Hanlan's goal with seconds remaining was also disallowed for another alleged foul by Vokes in the build-up.

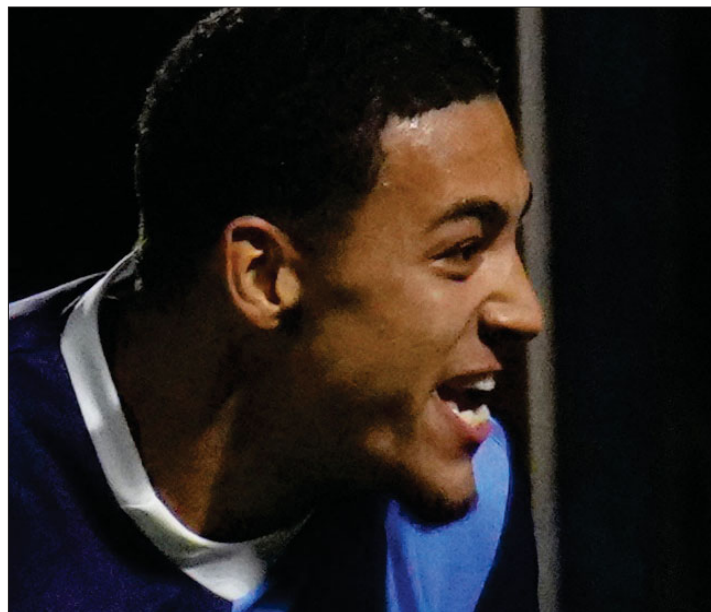
Ainsworth said: "It's super frustrating.

"We've dominated possession and dominated chances, we stick three in the goal, and only one counts.

"They [Wycombe] were very good but for the life of me, I can't figure out why we are having goals taken away from us.

"Honestly, I can't.

"I'm disappointed with the officials but I am pleased with the performance from my players."



Chris Forino came off after 45 minutes in Wycombe's draw against Port Vale but Gareth Ainsworth hopes he will be back to face Walsall in the FA Cup (PA)

Update on Chris Forino

GARETH Ainsworth hopes that Chris Forino's injury isn't as bad as first feared, following Wycombe Wanderers' 2-2 home draw against Port Vale on November 1.

The 22-year-old centre back picked up a knock a few moments before James Wilson scored for the visitors right on the stroke of half-time in the fixture, which made it 1-1.

Forino had been struggling prior to the equaliser and was replaced by Jack Grimmer at the break.

Ainsworth said: "Chris is a phenomenal player, I love him to bits and he will play at a very high level believe me.

"He got injured about 15 minutes earlier and it's a brilliant trait to have if he tried to soldier on, but if you've got injured or you're not fit then you have got to get off the pitch.

"But he will learn from this tonight [November 1] and we will make sure that we get him fit before he plays again.

"I think it's just a whack so I don't think it's a strain or anything like that."

Forino has so far played 16 matches in all competitions and has scored two goals for Wycombe and has become one of the most important players for Ainsworth when it comes to squad selection.

Alan Parry looks ahead to the FA Cup on Sat



Wanderers in the Cup (PA)

AFTER three disappointing home results in a row, Wycombe host Walsall in the FA Cup on Saturday, November 5, providing a welcome break from the trials and tribulations of life in League One.

Their confidence has taken a battering after picking up just two points from the last nine at stake, but a decent run in the FA Cup could get their season up and running again.

It is 21 years since Wanderers famously made the semi-finals of the world's greatest knock out competition, and although there have been some memorable moments in the intervening years, recent seasons have provided more lows than highs.

They crashed out in the First Round in three of the last four campaigns, losing to Luton Town, Tranmere Rovers, and Hartlepool United respectively.

The exception was season 2020/21 when, as a Championship club, they were exempt until the Third Round.

That saw a convincing 4-1 win against Preston at Adams Park followed by the visit of Premier League Tottenham, when Wanderers were on the wrong end of the same score line.

Saturday's game is the first time the Chairboys have met Walsall in the FA Cup, but there have been twenty-two games between them in other competitions.

The first came in Wycombe's inaugural season in the Football League in 1994 when, despite a 4-2 defeat at the Bescot Stadium, Wanderers went on to win promotion from Division Three under Martin O'Neill.

The last was in April 2019, a Jason McCarthy goal giving the Chairboys a 1-0 home victory in League One, their only win in the last 10 meetings.

Walsall sit mid-table in League Two with six wins from seventeen games, but manager Michael Flynn has a great FA Cup pedigree.

He led his previous club Newport County to famous wins against Leeds United and Middlesbrough, and a draw with Tottenham Hotspur.

The Saddlers have one of the worst away records in the division with just one win on their travels, but their home record is one of the best, so Wanderers will be keen to avoid the potential pitfall of a replay.

Port Vale rescue a point at Adams Park



Despite not winning their last three games, Wanderers moved up a place to 12th following their home 2-2 draw against Port Vale on November 1

WYCOMBE Wanderers made it three games without a win as they drew 2-2 against newly-promoted Port Vale at Adams Park.

The away side nearly took the lead on three minutes after a long ball by goalkeeper Jack Stevens was flicked to Ellis Harrison.

The former Bristol Rovers man managed to get around Max Stryjek in the Wanderers goal, but he could only fire high and wide in front of the terrace end.

Seconds later, Wycombe took the lead through Anis Mehmeti's seventh of the season, and what a goal it was.

From the resulting goal kick, Jason McCarthy got the ball, he laid it off to the young Albanian and after taking a few touches to steady himself, he unleashed a rocket past Stevens to put the Chairboys a goal up.

Nick Freeman then nearly doubled Wanderers' advantage midway through the half but he dragged his low attempt from outside the box just wide.

Port Vale looked dangerous on the left-hand side every time Sammy Robinson got the ball, and despite his yellow card for a late tackle on Lewis Wing, he was a thorn in Wycombe's defence.

His lofted crosses caused chaos in the Wanderers box as Gavin Massey headed wide and Harrison also tested Stryjek.

And right on the stroke of half-

By James Richings

time, Robinson played a part in Vale's equaliser.

His corner pinballed around the six-yard box and James Wilson smashed home from close range to level.

It was his second of the season.

Vale started the second period the stronger as Harrison again nearly came close but it was Wycombe that took the lead once more.

A long ball toward the visiting goal was headed clear but only to Wing.

He took a touch to steady himself on the volley, before smashing it beyond Stevens for his second strike in three home goals.

However, with 15 minutes left, Tom Conlon scored his first of the campaign and his first in 367 days to save a point for the Staffordshire-based team.

The result means Wanderers remain in midtable but move one place up to 12th.

Up next for the Chairboys is Walsall in the FA Cup on Saturday - their fourth home game in a row.

After that, the club will then have two away games in the west of the country, as they will play Forest Green Rovers and Cheltenham Town respectively.

Wanderers next home game in the league is against Portsmouth on December 4.

Attendance: 4,192 (410 away)

SPORT

Why are Wycombe dropping points?



Gareth Ainsworth spoke about why Wycombe have dropped so many points this season (PA)

By James Richings

FOLLOWING Wycombe's draw against Port Vale, the Chairboys picked up the unwanted record of dropping the most points from winning positions so far this league season with 14.

An injury-hit squad, players playing out of position due to the crisis on top of defensive errors, it has been a frustrating first third of the campaign for the club.

The draw against the Staffordshire-based team was another example of failing to clear their lines effectively, as Wanderers have now let in four goals from corners in their last three games.

However, it is important to note that despite no wins in three, Wanderers had beaten Thames Valley rivals Oxford United and Milton Keynes 1-0

away from home respectively, and defeated Peterborough United 3-1 at Adams Park prior to this recent blip.

The Posh arrived in Bucks sitting fourth in the table at the time, whilst Wycombe were in 17th and despite going a goal down, they managed to score three times to rescue the win.

Wycombe are also one of the 10 teams in League One to lose just one of their last five games.

The others are Ipswich Town, Peterborough United, Portsmouth, Derby County, Charlton Athletic, Lincoln City, Bristol Rovers, Oxford United, and Morecambe.

When asked about why Wycombe are dropping points from winning positions, Gareth Ainsworth said: "It's a combination of not having the squad that I wanted at the start of the season.

"We have had a lot of youngsters on

the bench, and you don't really want to introduce them to League One football too early.

"The aim is to get them out on loan and make sure they are ready for January for when they come back.

"On top of that, we have missed Josh Scowen, Curtis Thompson, Brandon Hanlan, Ryan Tafazolli, David Wheeler, Sam Vokes, Dom Gape, Garath McCleary was out for a little bit, Chris Forino was out too and it was such a long list.

"We also had the keeper situation at the start of the season too.

"However, we are now getting there, and we have only lost one in six which is a decent record, but we need to turn those draws into wins."

Below is a list of all the fixtures Wycombe have dropped points in from winning positions:

August 13: Wycombe Wanderers 1-2

Shrewsbury Town (Chairboys led)

August 27: Wycombe Wanderers 1-1 Charlton Athletic (Chairboys led)

September 3: Fleetwood Town 1-1 Wycombe Wanderers (Chairboys led)

September 17: Derby County 2-1 Wycombe Wanderers (Chairboys led)

October 29: Wycombe Wanderers 1-1 Morecambe (Chairboys led)

November 1: Wycombe Wanderers 2-2 Port Vale (Chairboys led)

Overall, the club have dropped 18 points this season which includes the 14 they have lost after taking the lead, and four from when they have equalised when going a goal behind.

Those were in the following fixtures:

September 24: Sheffield Wednesday 3-1 Wycombe Wanderers (Chairboys equalised)

October 25: Wycombe Wanderers 2-3 Cambridge United (Chairboys equalised)



Adams Park (PA)

Adams Park named one of the best

A STUDY has revealed that Wycombe Wanderers' stadium, Adams Park, has been named as the third safest ground to visit in the UK.

The research, which was conducted by www.scams.info, has shown that in the last 11 years between 2011 and 2022, there have been 0.09 incidents reported per 100 attendants.

The Chairboys are joint third on the list with League One counterparts Bolton Wanderers, and have only been bested by Manchester United with 0.06 in second place, and Brighton & Hove Albion with 0.04 incidents reported in the table.

In fact, Wycombe's average annual crime incidence of 113 is the second-lowest in the website's entire study.

Just along the M4, Wycombe's Thames Valley rivals Reading also appeared on the list in fifth place with 0.10 incidents reported.

Ainsworth on his many attackers

WYCOMBE Wanderers manager Gareth Ainsworth has lauded over his attacking options.

In recent weeks, Brandon Hanlan, Sullay Kaikai, Sam Vokes and D'Mani Mellor have all returned to the Chairboys squad following long injury lay-offs.

The trio, coupled with Garath McCleary, Anis Mehmeti, Tjaj De Barr and Ali Al-Hamadi mean Wanderers have got seven attackers in their arsenal as they prepare to face Walsall in the FA Cup on Saturday.

Speaking on the performance of Hanlan who made his first league start of the season against Port Vale on November 1 following a hernia operation, Ainsworth said: "Brandon will be a big player for us.

"I thought Brandon played well, especially in the central role which is usually filled by Vokes, Bayo did it there last season and of course, we will need a different way of playing there.

"We've got lots of threats on the pitch as D'Mani is getting minutes, Anis' goal was brilliantly taken, Garath McCleary came on, but Saturday will be different so we will see what they are coming with."

Changes are expected on November 5.