

O'Neill says performance is one of their best

WYCOMBE ARE COMEBACK KINGS

WYCOMBE Wanderers boss Martin O'Neill described Saturday's heroic performance against Huddersfield Town as one of their best ever.

Blues, reduced to ten men after new signing Gary Patterson was sent off, fought back after going behind to beat the visitors 2-1 at Adams Park. Simon Garner scored the winner five minutes before the end. Huddersfield striker Andrew Booth, under pressure from Blues skipper Terry Evans, had earlier put the ball into his own net.

"We came roaring back in the second half. I thought we thoroughly deserved to win," said O'Neill afterwards. "We won it on spirit alone. It was a great, great effort. The team was magnificent, absolutely magnificent."

Blues now stand nicely poised in third place in Division Two after doing a satisfying double over Neil Warnock's men.

They now travel to Cambridge United on Friday (ko 7.45pm) with a view to notching up further points to keep in touch with leaders Oxford United and second-placed Birmingham who they trail on goal difference.

Victory will also ease the pressure, but only slightly, for Wycombe's four Christmas holiday matches – the most eagerly awaited clash being that against Oxford United on Tuesday, December 27.

"I think we have got ourselves in a good position with 38 points from 19 games. But it won't be until we have got 55 points that I will feel more secure. However, if there's a little gap that can develop over the Christmas programme, I will be pleased," said the Blues boss.

Blues revelled in Saturday's memorable victory. Ten-man Wycombe stuck to their guns in a stirring second-half performance. "Martin didn't really make any changes. He just told players to stay in their positions and take it from there," said defender Matt Crossley.

"Huddersfield seemed like they wanted to just hold onto their 1-0 lead and didn't think we would cause them any problems," he added.

Huddersfield boss Neil Warnock described his players' performance as 'amateurish'. "My players played like non-League players. It was very disappointing," he said.

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New signing makes fleeting appearance



Say hello, wave goodbye:
New signing Gary Patterson
makes an early exit

MARTIN O'Neill wants to see video evidence of Gary Patterson's tackle, which resulted in a red card, before deciding whether or not to fine his new signing.

The Blues boss said after Saturday's match against Huddersfield that the 22-year-old central midfielder didn't deserve to be booked, believing the fouled Huddersfield player Tom Cowan made more of the challenge than necessary.

But replacement referee Paul Taylor gave Patterson his marching orders for his second bookable offence.

It was an inglorious debut for the new arrival who was signed for £40,000 from Shrewsbury Town on Friday. The fee for the former Notts County player equals Wycombe's record figure paid to Northampton Town for midfielder-cum-full back Steve Brown last February.

The transfer could reach £75,000 after a fixed number of appearances. The midfielder is the first in a flurry of new players O'Neill wants in place before the forthcoming fixture-filled Christmas programme. But Patterson will be suspended for the Brighton match on Boxing Day.