

Boss admits Blues are heading in the wrong direction

JOHN Gregory was forced to admit Wanderers are going backwards after seeing them create just one chance in a dismal 2-0 defeat at York.

He has spent £455,000 strengthening his team but it did not show in a performance alarmingly similar to last season's away displays.

He moaned: "I haven't quite got it right at the moment. We've gone backwards in the last couple of weeks and it's down to me to sort it out.

"There's a lack of composure. We showed a lack of belief and it's up to me to put that back into the team.

"We need to get back on the training ground and go back to basics, get back to getting things right because we're not playing as well as a team as we have done this season. Collectively we were very poor.

"We couldn't pass water, players gave the ball away in situations they didn't need to."

The game turned on a controversial penalty, given after the ball struck Paul McCarthy's hand just before half time and Wanderers

never got over feeling sorry for themselves.

Gregory described it as an "obscene decision" but refused to allow it to camouflage an inept performance.

He said: "I don't want the referees' decisions in our last two matches to cover up what went wrong with our game."

Mark Stallard, the division's leading scorer, might just as well not have been there as Blues' midfield failed to provide him with any ammunition. Michael Simpson was the chief culprit repeatedly overhitting his passes until his 62nd minute substitution.

And without the suspended Steve Brown's bite in midfield, Wanderers struggled to regain possession every time they gave it away.

Gregory said: "You always look to people who weren't there. We weren't right in midfield and it's an area which is causing me some concern at the moment.

"It is easy to say we missed Steve Brown but I don't fall back on excuses. I was quoted as saying I'd built up a squad that I felt was good enough to compete when players are injured or

suspended and I stand by that. We can't get any more in so I'll have to keep working hard."

Wanderers bad distribution made John Cornforth's omission, one game away from another £15,000 going to Birmingham, all the more surprising.

Against a York side similarly uninspiring until their goal it had 0-0 written all over it before the half time penalty award.

Rodney Rowe flicked the ball up and it struck McCarthy, back in the side because of a back injury to Michael Forsyth, on the hand.

Wanderers argued it was ball to hand and not the other way round but the referee pointed to the spot and Tony Barras beat Brian Parkin with the game's first shot on target.

They fell two behind in the 57th minute. Alan Poulton skipped past three defenders, lost the ball but reacted first to cross for the unmarked Rowe to head past Parkin.

York: Samways, Murty, Hall, Bushell, Reed (Jordan 60), Barras, Poulton (Himsworth 84), Tinkler, Bull, Rowe (Greening 77), Stephenson.
Wycombe: Parkin, Cousins, Kavanagh, Ryan, Mohan, McCarthy, Carroll, Scott, Stallard, McGavin (Harkin 70), Simpson (Beeton 62).
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