

Injury heartache for jinxed Brucie



Spot the ball: Steve McGavin is stopped in his tracks at Wrexham on Saturday

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DEFENDER Michael Forsyth has played his last game of the season after he limped away from Saturday's 2-0 defeat at Wrexham on crutches.

The unlucky Wanderer, who was playing only the second game of his comeback after a hamstring injury, was ko'd by a knee problem.

Worried physio Dave Jones said: "There was a crack and a pop and a lot of players heard it."

But the results of a scan showed that the cruciate ligament has not been injured, as first feared.

Forsyth has instead damaged the ligament behind the knee and also had severe bruising.

The injury will put him out for the rest of the season, but the club is confident the player will be fit enough to make a return for the start of next term.

It was a bad day all round for Smillie, the division's newest

manager, as he came up against the division's longest serving boss, Brian Flynn. Experience won as Flynn's side finished on top, but only because Wanderers made two crucial and costly mistakes.

Jason Kavanagh's unfortunate own goal, just before half time and a horrible mix-up between Nicky Mohan and Dave Carroll, allowing Dave Brammer to run on and score in injury time, cost Smillie his unbeaten record in his second stint as Wanderers manager.

But the performance against the third-in-the-table Welshmen bodes well for the future and Wrexham's Welsh international goalkeeper Andy Marriott was man-of-the-match with three fine saves to deny Mark Stallard early on and Mo Harkin, twice.

Wanderers, with four at the back, always looked comfortable and created more than their hosts.

Smillie was quick to recognise

the point. He said: "We performed very well and were unfortunate to lose by the margin we did.

"Martin Taylor didn't have a save to make in the first half and we ended up scoring their goal for them and then giving them another right at the end. We did well to stifle them and create some good chances of our own. Jason Kavanagh was unlucky."

Blues' performance was more adventurous than in Smillie's only other away game, the 0-0 bore draw at Luton. Blues were roundly criticised that day and Smillie was quick to remind his knockers of the fact after Wrexham.

He said: "Against Luton we were criticised for not playing very well but ended up with a point. Today we created plenty of chances and played good football but got nothing. Everyone was saying what a bad game Luton was but as I said at the time we came away with a point

from that game."

Smillie said: "I thought we were better than Wrexham. For long spells we were equal to them and better than them. We caused them a lot of problems.

"I thought the boys were terrific. We had a couple playing with pain killing injections and Jason Kavanagh had been feeling unwell.

"When I started the job I asked for 150 per cent and they have given me that. We created more than the home team. It bodes well for the future but we've got to stay disciplined defensively."

And as Leicester sat in the stand watching Keith Ryan, Smillie singled out 18-year-old Mo Harkin for praise as he tormented Wrexham.

He said: "He'd been ill with a virus and it took him a little while to get into the pace of the game. He's got lots of ability, the sky's the limit for him if he keeps his head down and works at the game."