

Evans sees Blues fall to Millwall then admits it's a tough job

TERRY EVANS admitted that whoever replaces him as Wycombe manager has got a big job on, after Millwall ruined his first game as caretaker boss last Saturday.

Evans is holding the fort until Wanderers appoint a successor to the sacked Neil Smillie, but it hasn't taken him long to realise the size of the task as Tim Cahill's 79th minute strike inflicted a fourth successive defeat of the New Year on the Blues.

He said: "It's a tough job to take on and it needs someone who has been in this situation before."

The 6ft 5in youth team physio is urging the board to take their time to make the right decision and says he is happy to fill in until then, although he stresses he does not want the job long term.

Against Millwall, the acting manager made four changes from the side which lost at Luton a week earlier – a defeat that ultimately cost Neil Smillie his job.

Evans brought in forgotten striker Paul Read for his first league start since October as Jermaine McSporry made way. Playmaker John Cornforth was recalled into the midfield in place of the suspended Michael Simpson while Steve Brown, who was suspended at Luton, returned to stiffen the midfield. There was also a change in goal where Martin Taylor returned after his hamstring strain to replace Mark Westhead in goal.

Having picked his team, 6ft 5in Evans then set about inspiring them, telling his players that their future manager was likely to be sitting in the stands watching.

He said: "I told them that

every manager who is out of work would be sitting in the stands."

He also passed on the good luck messages that had been phoned in from Smillie on the morning of the match and John Gregory the day before.

But while Blues showed plenty of endeavour, and looked set fair for a 0-0 draw until Cahill snatched the winner with 11 minutes left they lacked the creativity needed to unlock a well-organised Millwall defence.

It might have been different had referee Mark Halsey awarded Paul McCarthy a penalty when he received a full blooded shove in the area but, in front of Millwall's loud and notorious support, he decided against awarding a penalty.

In that first half Mr Halsey also disallowed two goals, one from each side, for offside.

But the best legal chance in that spell fell to Steve Brown who could not get enough power on his header after Keith Scott had intelligently set him up.

The second belonged to Millwall. They dominated possession but until their winner had only really troubled Taylor with Bobby Bowry's drive, which the keeper turned around his post for a corner.

Wanderers tried to stem the tide with McSporry coming on for Read but with the exception of just a couple of breakways Wanderers were pinned inside their own half.

Afterwards Evans was delighted with the character his players showed at the end of a traumatic week.

He said: "The lads have been magnificent. For the first couple of days after Neil went, their chins were on the floor."



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