

It's good to be back, even after 'that' semi-final

IT was great to get back into the action at Cardiff last week.

I must admit for the first time I can remember I wasn't looking forward to the season but I got all my old enthusiasm back at Ninian Park.

I've been feeling a bit depressed over the summer and I still haven't quite got over the disappointment of losing the FA Cup semi-final. The defeat is still very fresh in my mind.

It was also a relief to find I was playing at Cardiff. We've got such a strong midfield now and I wasn't

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sure I would be starting.

I really enjoyed the game and I thought we should have come away with something.

The Cardiff fans were worried too. They were goading me when I took a corner and I told them: "We're going to score in a minute," and they said: "We know you are."

At the end of the day we lost because of our old problem - a lack of goals. I know the boss has been working hard in the summer to try and buy a striker and there was a lot of talk about Jamie Forrester coming in.

The clubs agreed a fee but the deal collapsed because Wycombe didn't want to break the wage structure.

I personally don't think the players would have minded too much what he'd have earned if he had come. It wouldn't have bothered me if he was getting more than me.

All the lads know we have struggled for goals since Sean Devine has been injured and if we had someone who could score consistently it would benefit all of us because we all want promotion.

Andy Rammell has chipped in with his fair share and a few others have contributed as well but we all know we need a striker who can get 20 goals a year.

If Forrester or anyone else had come in and done that I wouldn't have begrudged him his money because when I finish I want to look back on what I've achieved.

But you've got to admire the gaffer. He's proved he won't be bullied

into buying a striker just to keep the fans happy. He's very thorough and he wants his signings to be in the best interest of the club.

We move onto the Wrexham game tomorrow. They're always good matches against them. They shipped three goals on Saturday so that should give us encouragement.

We need to win it. You're always under pressure to win your first game of the season. We performed well at Cardiff last week but there were still a few cobwebs which we need to blow away and we know we can't afford to start as slowly as last week.



Steve Brown