

Time's right to swoop on the Falcon

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VIEW FROM THE STAND

SUDDENLY Wanderers' season is beginning to take on a very pear-shaped look.

In just one week, we've gone out of the FA Cup, lost our unbeaten home record and been defeated by the bottom-of-the-table team despite them playing with ten men for nearly all the match.

As if that's not enough, we have not scored for four games and we've lost our leading goalscorer for the rest of the season.

The loss of Andy Rammell is a major blow to our promotion hopes. He has missed seven league games so far this season and we've only managed to score five goals in those games. Whilst we are fortunate to have Sean Devine back in action, we cannot expect him to turn on the magic so quickly after such a long term injury.

Maybe this would be a good time for The Big Chief to put in another call to Wrexham about Craig Faulconbridge. If the striker is serious about wanting to join the Wanderers, now would be a great time to get him on board. There seems little point in waiting until later in the season, or even the summer, if it is then too late for him to help our push for promotion. So come on Lawrie, flash the cash and get Sean some help up front.

Our current situation hasn't been helped by the suspensions arising from our poor disciplinary record and, of course, the loss of the injured Paul McCarthy. Rams, Macca and Martin Taylor are the backbone of our team and to lose two at the same time has been a crippling blow.

The other results also went against us on Tuesday. Wins for promotion rivals Cardiff, Huddersfield, Tranmere and Reading leave us down in eleventh place. More concerning is the five-point gap that has opened between us and tenth-placed Cardiff. We certainly need to start stringing a run of wins together if we're going to get our promotion push back on track.

Our February fixtures give us a chance to get back to winning ways with five of the seven being against teams lower than us in the table. Mind you, these are the games we usually struggle in, especially as four of these are away and we have only won twice on our travels this year.

In contrast, our March programme looks much tougher with four of the seven matches against sides challenging for promotion. Providing we can get a run of wins together over the next few weeks, these four March six-pointers could be vital.