

# Schoolboy errors cost the Blues



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VIEW FROM THE STAND

WANDERERS fans' rollercoaster ride continues. Whilst we've had some enjoyable highs, they have been quickly followed by some depressing lows. Last Saturday was certainly one of the latter experiences.

For most of the game we looked the better side against a very ordinary looking Tranmere. No wonder they had the worst away record in the division. However, our suicidal defending allowed the Scousers to nick all three points. I wouldn't be surprised if they also left our goalposts balancing on a pile of bricks.

This switchback of a season currently leaves us stranded in mid table, seven points off the last play-off place but, more worryingly, just five points away from a dreaded relegation place.

Our once solid defence seems to be rapidly crumbling and we have now conceded ten goals in our last three home matches. Several of these goals would have embarrassed Sunday morning defenders playing on The Rye. Wanderers' back line have now shipped almost twice as many goals at home as they have on the road. What was that someone said about building fortress Adams Park?

Unless we put together a decent unbeaten run soon, we'll have no chance of challenging for the play-offs. We need to average at least two points a match for the rest of the season to make the top six. Ideally, we must start beating sides above us in the table. On our record to date that's going to be a very tough task. So far, we've played eleven of the top twelve teams and only picked up eleven points. We need to double that rate if we are going to be serious contenders.

Whilst we need to make a dramatic improvement from now on, it certainly isn't an impossible mission. We have the management team and players to achieve our aim, but we need to eliminate the schoolboy errors in the defence and find the right combination of strikers up front. As yet, none of our four fit front men have gelled together as a deadly duo.

Wanderers' disciplinary record isn't helping either. We have the fifth worst card count in the division including the two unnecessary yellows last Saturday, Ruby for kicking the ball away and Rambo for dissent. We also have Danny Senda and Simmo suspended for the trip to Stockport. Now, on top of that, we have lost Ruby for two months with a serious shoulder injury. This is a real blow because he had a very good match against Tranmere and provides our main service to the front pair.

One bit of good news is that The Big Chief has got an experienced short term loan defender as cover for Vinnie. Given our great unpredictability, we'll probably go to Stockport with a much depleted squad and come away with all three points. Let's hope so anyway.

## HOW THEY STAND

| Teams          | P         | W        | D        | L        | F         | A         | W        | D        | L        | F        | A         | Pts       |
|----------------|-----------|----------|----------|----------|-----------|-----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|-----------|-----------|
| Wigan          | 19        | 5        | 3        | 1        | 17        | 9         | 7        | 2        | 1        | 16       | 4         | 41        |
| Cardiff        | 19        | 8        | 1        | 1        | 19        | 5         | 4        | 3        | 2        | 12       | 10        | 40        |
| Oldham         | 19        | 6        | 1        | 3        | 21        | 7         | 5        | 4        | 0        | 11       | 5         | 38        |
| Bristol City   | 18        | 7        | 0        | 1        | 18        | 3         | 5        | 1        | 4        | 20       | 18        | 37        |
| Crewe          | 19        | 6        | 1        | 3        | 12        | 6         | 4        | 3        | 2        | 16       | 9         | 34        |
| QPR            | 19        | 6        | 1        | 2        | 17        | 7         | 2        | 5        | 3        | 11       | 11        | 30        |
| Brentford      | 19        | 4        | 4        | 2        | 12        | 5         | 4        | 1        | 4        | 13       | 17        | 29        |
| Luton          | 19        | 3        | 4        | 3        | 17        | 13        | 4        | 2        | 3        | 10       | 13        | 27        |
| Blackpool      | 19        | 5        | 2        | 2        | 16        | 10        | 3        | 1        | 6        | 8        | 17        | 27        |
| Chesterfield   | 19        | 6        | 2        | 1        | 12        | 5         | 2        | 1        | 7        | 4        | 16        | 27        |
| Tranmere       | 19        | 6        | 2        | 1        | 12        | 7         | 2        | 1        | 7        | 9        | 23        | 27        |
| Northampton    | 19        | 5        | 2        | 3        | 16        | 7         | 2        | 2        | 5        | 5        | 17        | 25        |
| Plymouth       | 19        | 4        | 3        | 3        | 16        | 14        | 2        | 3        | 4        | 11       | 14        | 24        |
| <b>Wycombe</b> | <b>19</b> | <b>4</b> | <b>2</b> | <b>4</b> | <b>20</b> | <b>18</b> | <b>2</b> | <b>3</b> | <b>4</b> | <b>5</b> | <b>10</b> | <b>23</b> |
| Barnsley       | 19        | 3        | 4        | 2        | 11        | 13        | 3        | 1        | 6        | 11       | 16        | 23        |
| Port Vale      | 19        | 3        | 2        | 4        | 10        | 13        | 3        | 3        | 4        | 11       | 15        | 23        |
| Swindon        | 19        | 3        | 2        | 4        | 11        | 10        | 3        | 2        | 5        | 12       | 19        | 22        |
| Stockport      | 19        | 3        | 3        | 3        | 15        | 14        | 3        | 0        | 7        | 8        | 14        | 21        |
| Colchester     | 19        | 3        | 3        | 3        | 8         | 7         | 2        | 3        | 5        | 11       | 19        | 21        |
| Notts County   | 18        | 1        | 5        | 4        | 13        | 18        | 2        | 4        | 2        | 11       | 9         | 18        |
| Cheltenham     | 19        | 2        | 2        | 5        | 9         | 14        | 2        | 4        | 4        | 9        | 11        | 18        |
| Huddersfield   | 19        | 2        | 5        | 3        | 10        | 10        | 2        | 1        | 6        | 5        | 13        | 18        |
| Peterborough   | 19        | 3        | 2        | 5        | 10        | 10        | 1        | 3        | 5        | 11       | 18        | 17        |
| Mansfield      | 19        | 3        | 0        | 7        | 18        | 27        | 1        | 3        | 5        | 12       | 22        | 15        |

*For a report & pictures of  
Blues' match at Stockport  
see Tuesday's BFP  
Midweek*