

ROBBBO RUES HIS MISSED CHANCES

14/01/03
BFP

Welsh striker would swap last week's hat-trick for a winning goal on Saturday

STUART Roberts admits he would have swapped last week's hat-trick at Northampton for just one goal at Field Mill on Saturday.

The Blues striker had two good chances to win the game as Wanderers were held to a 0-0 draw by Mansfield Town, but on both occasions he was denied by former Manchester United keeper Kevin Pilkington.

Roberts said: "I'm disappointed because my two chances probably cost us the match. They were both good chances and I should have scored at least one of them."

"It was great to take the matchball home with me last week but I would sooner have had one goal last week and one this week."

"Winning is what matters. Winning games for the team is more important than individual performances."

Roberts, who ended his personal 14½ month goal drought with his treble in the previous weekend's 5-0 romp at Northampton, could have added to that tally as early as the fifth minute when his pace took him clear of the Mansfield defence, but Pilkington dived to his left to stop his shot.

Then, 12 minutes later, Robbo was presented with an equally good opportunity when he latched onto an Andy Thomson flick-on, but Pilkington stuck up his hand to deny him again.

Roberts said: "The keeper did well but I felt I should have scored at least one of them, particularly the second one."

"I'm disappointed I couldn't get us the win, but I'm not going to get down about it because the important thing is getting into the position to score."

FOOTBALL By Dave Peters

But after that Wanderers came under the cosh as lowly Mansfield turned up the heat on a freezing cold day in the east Midlands.

Roberts said: "Last week I was the hero, this week it is the defence. They were outstanding and they kept Mansfield out when we were under a lot of pressure."

"We've done well. We've got a point, we've kept a clean sheet and we're all delighted. We've got seven points from three games this year and we're very happy with that. It's been a good ten days for the club after what was a difficult Christmas."

Boss Lawrie Sanchez, who had an astonishing war of words on his mobile phone with referee Lee Mason before the kick-off, was also happy to bank another point and maintain Wanderers' unbeaten start to the New Year.

He said: "We were hanging on at the end but we defended stoutly. The defence was very good again. We're three games into the New Year and a penalty is all that has beaten them."

HOW THEY STAND

Teams	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Wigan	26	9	3	1	24	10	10	2	1	20	4	62
Crewe	26	8	14	17	8	7	4	2	27	13	50	
Cardiff	25	9	2	2	24	8	6	3	3	18	13	50
Oldham	26	6	3	4	22	10	8	5	0	18	9	50
Bristol City	26	8	3	2	24	9	7	1	5	27	21	49
QPR	27	9	2	3	22	13	3	5	5	13	17	43
Tranmere	26	7	3	3	19	14	4	2	7	17	26	38
Luton	25	4	4	4	20	15	6	3	4	17	18	37
Chesterfield	26	8	3	2	17	9	3	1	9	6	21	37
Plymouth	25	6	4	3	21	16	3	5	4	13	15	36
Brentford	24	6	4	2	15	6	4	2	6	15	21	36
Blackpool	25	7	4	2	24	13	3	2	7	9	22	36
Wycombe	27	6	2	5	26	22	3	5	6	12	14	34
Swindon	26	5	3	5	18	15	3	4	6	14	23	31
Northampton	26	5	2	6	16	17	3	3	7	7	23	29
Stockport	26	5	4	4	23	20	3	0	10	11	21	28
Peterborough	27	4	3	6	14	13	2	6	6	14	23	27
Port Vale	25	4	2	6	15	18	3	4	6	14	21	27
Colchester	26	3	6	5	13	14	3	3	6	14	23	27
Barnsley	26	4	5	4	16	19	3	1	9	13	22	27
Notts County	25	3	5	4	19	20	2	6	5	17	19	26
Mansfield	26	5	1	7	26	29	2	3	8	15	29	25
Cheltenham	25	3	3	6	10	18	2	5	6	13	20	23
Huddersfield	26	3	5	5	13	14	2	2	9	6	20	22



Robbo robbed: Mansfield's Adam Eaton slides in to nick the ball away from Stuart Roberts during Saturday's goalless draw at Field Mill. Report: Page 42

ISSN 0963-2344



03

9 770963 234002