

Should Blues be read the last rites?



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VIEW FROM THE STAND

THAT banging you can hear in the distance is the first of the nails being hammered into Wanderers relegation coffin.

Despite picking up a very valuable point at Bristol City our league position still looks pretty grave. Wanderers are still nine points away from safety and, with just 12 games to go, we are beginning to look dead and buried.

If we are to make a Lazarus style recovery we are going to have to win more than half of our remaining matches and hope our fellow strugglers continue to drop points. Considering we have now gone nine games without a win, and have not won away all season, this would indeed be a minor miracle.

Wanderers' chances of recovery were not helped by our exasperating, although at least exciting, 4-3 defeat at home to Hartlepool. Just when the forwards remember how to score, the defenders forget how defend.

Trying to look on the brighter side of life, we have only lost one of our last seven games. Wanderers have become the pools punters pals with a string of six draws. We are also joint top of the table for the longest run since suffering an away defeat, sharing a four-game unbeaten run with Swindon.

As well as the results, the football is slowly but surely improving as Tony Adams begins to get the team playing the way he wants. If we are going to go down, we at least look like we are going to go down fighting.

It was more than a little ironic that Frank Talia had to miss last Saturday's match, and the next six weeks, with a pulled calf. After weeks of fans asking why Frank wasn't playing, he was finally given his chance to try and impress Adams, only to get injured doing extra training on the Friday.

To add insult to injury, Frank was even featured on the front cover of the match programme. Hang on in there Frank, hopefully you will get another chance before the end of the season.

Adams has certainly been busy clearing out the dead wood as he begins planning his squad for next season. So far he has read the last rites to Stuart Roberts, Andy Bell, Steve Dell and Luke Oliver. In addition, Craig Faulconbridge and Andy Thomson have been put on the transfer list.

Robbo and the Falcon were relatively high wage earners who have both failed to cut the mustard at Wycombe. While it's slightly disappointing to see them go, I think most fans will think it's right to cut our losses.

Judging by Big Tony's comments at last week's Fans' Forum, the Adams axe is going to fall a few more times. It looks like several other players are likely to be bombed over the next few weeks.