

Title may be too much but spirit will get us up

MIDFIELD ace Matt Bloomfield has conceded the title to Carlisle United – but says Wanderers' incredible team spirit will see them nab one of the other automatic promotion places.

Saturday's 1-0 reversal at promotion rivals Leyton Orient dropped Blues down to fifth – their lowest position in the table since September.

It was Blues' third defeat in their last four outings, but Bloomfield insists it will take much more than that to break Wycombe's resolve as they bid to go up behind the Cumbrians.

He said: "It's up to Carlisle to throw it away now. They are not the prettiest of teams but they are very effective and there's probably only the two places to play for now behind Carlisle.

"There are four of us fighting for those two places and we know we are not the form side at the moment."

But Bloomfield is convinced that Wycombe's collectiveness will see them turn it round starting with tomorrow's visit to Adams Park of Bristol Rovers, who have won at five of the top-eight teams.

He said: "We have got the team spirit, the players and the ability to do it. We know we are in a bad run, but no-one is pointing the finger at anyone like they do at other clubs when results start to go against you.

"That's not the case here. Everyone is still singing off the same hymn sheet. With the manager we have got it is impossible not to. He is so infectious and that rubs off on everyone.

Royle U-turn over Dean Bowditch as he goes back

IPSWICH boss Joe Royle has recalled striker Dean Bowditch less than 24 hours after agreeing to let him stay on loan at Wanderers.

Blues boss John Gorman signed the papers on Monday to extend the England U19 international's loan spell at Adams Park only to be told to rip up the contract the following day.

Gorman said: "Joe's got some injuries at Ipswich and he said he needed Dean back.

"He's a quality player and we would have liked to keep him for a bit longer but he is their player and we always knew this could happen and we have got enough players."

Bowditch made 11 appearances for Wycombe scoring one goal.

Wanderers by Dave Peters

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"We are still all together and confident we can get automatic promotion."

And Bloomers is more determined than ever to get back on the winning trail after missing a good chance to equalise at Orient on Saturday.

He headed the ball over the bar during the first half.

He said: "I've seen it on the video a few times and although I was stretching I knew I should have done better."

The former Ipswich man has been beating himself up about the chance ever since the final whistle went at Brisbane Road.

He even went to the gym on his day off from training on Wednesday to take out his frustration on the weights.

He said: "I try not to be too hard on myself but it does hurt.

"I am just hoping I get the chance to put it right against Bristol Rovers on Saturday. All of the lads are. The game can't come quickly enough for us."

But Bloomfield is expecting another tough match.

After going 21 matches unbeaten at the start of the season Wanderers have only won six of their last 17 matches since then.

Bloomfield said: "Teams are getting wise to us now. They put everyone behind the ball against us because they know we can pass it better than anyone in this league.

"Last Saturday showed just how



Up for the battle: Matt Bloomfield can't wait for Saturday

desperate teams are against us. Orient were belting the ball 50 yards back to us just to clear it.

"It was really weird seeing that

from a professional team who are up there with us near the top of the league and going all-out for promotion."

The race for promotion and who plays who as it hots up

LEAGUE TWO

TEAM	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	P	S
Carlisle	39	12	3	5	43	20	10	5	4	33	17	74	
Grimsby	39	11	1	7	32	16	9	7	4	26	24	68	
Northampton	39	9	7	4	25	13	8	8	3	27	20	66	
Leyton Orient	39	9	5	6	25	20	9	7	3	32	26	66	
Wycombe	39	9	9	2	40	22	7	8	4	25	23	65	
Cheltenham	39	9	5	6	33	27	7	8	4	19	18	61	
Peterborough	39	8	7	4	25	15	7	4	9	25	24	56	
Lincoln City	39	9	7	3	33	17	4	10	6	22	28	56	
Wrexham	38	11	5	4	33	16	3	7	8	22	27	54	
Bristol Rovers	39	7	5	7	24	23	8	3	9	26	34	53	
Darlington	38	9	6	4	25	19	3	7	9	20	24	49	
Mansfield	39	8	6	5	35	22	4	6	10	21	35	48	
Shrewsbury	39	8	9	3	27	18	4	3	12	17	30	48	
Boston Utd	39	8	7	5	29	27	3	8	8	14	27	48	
Notts County	39	7	7	5	25	21	5	5	10	16	31	48	
Rochdale	37	6	6	6	30	25	6	3	10	27	34	45	
Macclesfield	38	9	8	3	32	23	1	7	10	18	36	45	
Oxford Utd	39	6	7	6	20	23	4	8	8	17	24	45	
Stockport	38	5	10	4	29	26	4	6	9	20	40	43	
Bury	38	6	6	7	21	22	4	6	9	16	27	42	
Barnet	38	7	7	6	21	21	2	8	8	16	29	42	
Chester	38	4	5	9	25	26	6	5	9	22	29	40	
Torquay	38	5	8	5	26	27	4	4	12	16	33	39	
Rushden	39	7	4	8	21	25	2	7	11	17	39	38	

CARLISLE

Grimsby H 08-04
Bristol R A 15-04
Notts Co H 17-04
Mansfield A 22-04
Torquay H 29-04
Stockport A 06-05

GRIMSBY

Wrexham H 01-04
Carlisle A 08-04
Shrewsbury H 15-04
Leyton Orient A 17-04
Cheltenham H 21-04
Macclesfield A 29-04
Northampton H 06-05

NORTHAMPTON

Peterborough A 01-04
Rochdale H 08-04
Darlington A 15-04
Stockport H 17-04
Oxford A 22-04
Chester H 29-04
Grimsby A 06-05

LEYTON ORIENT

Notts Co A 01-04
Boston Utd H 08-04
Mansfield A 15-04
Grimsby H 17-04
Lincoln A 22-04
Peterborough H 29-04
Oxford A 06-05

WYCOMBE

Bristol R H 01-04
Macclesfield A 08-04
Chester A 15-04
Lincoln H 17-04
Rushden A 22-04
Darlington H 29-04
Peterborough A 06-05

CHEL TENHAM

Shrewsbury A 01-04
Stockport H 08-04
Torquay A 15-04
Darlington H 17-04
Grimsby A 21-04
Cheltenham H 29-04
Mansfield A 06-05

For a report on Blues' match against Bristol Rovers see Tuesday's Free Press Midweek