

BAKER'S BLUES

WITH IAN BAKER

Inquest into Blues poor run of form

What a shocking recent run for the Blues. In the space of six weeks, we have turned from a confident side capable of winning the league, to a shell-shocked shadow of our former selves seemingly unable to win a game.

So just what has gone wrong? The main thing, in my view, is that we've stopped playing as a team.

The magnificent early season performances such as victories at Rochdale and Grimsby Town were won because the players played for one another.

There was a fantastic team spirit and everyone supported one other.

Fast forward six months and that team spirit just does not seem to be there.

They seem to be very low on confidence and appear to me to play as a team of individuals rather than supporting one another.

There have been unconfirmed rumours of a dressing room bust up.

If true, these players should be professional enough to overcome these problems, especially when they are paid in the region of £50,000 a year (as was revealed as the League 2 average this week).

On the field the defence looks a total shambles. It has done all season, but the spectacular early season form of the midfield and attack, combined with Wycombe's "we'll score more than you" policy meant that the defence did not become a huge worry.

So how can we reverse our downturn in fortunes?

A great quote by Simon Garner in his autobiography sums up my view nicely. He said he loved playing under Martin O'Neill because he was prepared "to play to our strengths and not worry about our weaknesses, a dream for a player like me."

Continuing with the confident early season form by playing to these attacking strengths is the only way I see to get us out of this mess we find ourselves in. The defensive problems can wait until the close season.

Additionally every player should be aware that they are playing for their places and are not indispensable. Russell Martin and Ikechi Anya are knocking at the door and may be worth starting berths in their own right.

As we look ahead to, what could still be, a vital Easter weekend, it is important for everyone to believe that promotion is still a very real prospect.

Grimsby and Northampton still have to play each other and both sides have tough run-ins.

Supporters, players and the background staff have all got to work together to achieve the success that the first half of this season deserved.

Ian Baker is on the Board of Wycombe Wanderers Supporters Trust. For further details about the Trust and how to join please see www.wwst.org.

