

Pack gutted by the late chance that got away

MARLON Pack was gutted to miss the chance to grab Wanderers an injury-time equaliser during Saturday's defeat at Brighton.

The 18-year-old Portsmouth loanee was given the responsibility to take the 92nd-minute free kick which was

awarded to Wycombe inside the Brighton penalty area after Seagulls keeper Michel Kuipers was pulled up for time-wasting.

Boss Peter Taylor called on Pack, who was making his league debut, to take the chance but he hit the wall with his shot.

Pack said: "I was going to smash the shot but the defenders came so close at me. I tried to whip it but it was a bit of a feeble effort."

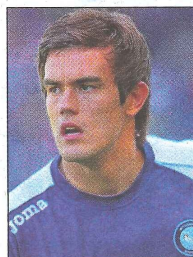
"I was disappointed because it was a chance to grab a point right at the end."

"It's disappointing because we should have

got a draw out of the game."

"The gaffer told me to take it. I was pleased to get the chance and I should have done better to be honest."

Pack is on a youth loan but he is hoping Wanderers will look to extend it until the end of the season.



CHANCE: Marlon Pack

Staying up is the name of the game

WANDERERS boss Peter Taylor has admitted survival is the name of the game for Wanderers this season after seeing them go down 1-0 at fellow strugglers Brighton and Hove Albion on Saturday.

The Blues produced their worst performance of the season at the Withdean Stadium and were sentenced to their fourth defeat in six League One matches.

They were beaten by a 75th-minute Nicky Forster goal and are in the bottom four after six matches, following last season's promotion.

And Former Albion boss Taylor wasn't beating about the bush afterwards.

He said after the game that he would be happy to finish the season fifth from bottom following last year's promotion.

He said: "I think we have got to work extremely hard to stay in the division looking at the size of the other teams. It's not being negative, it's being realistic and I think we are very capable of that."

"I understand supporters would probably want me to say we are going to win it but that would be a bit unrealistic and comparing the teams in the division I am just being realistic."

"I think we are improving. I think we are better this year than we were last year and once we get Tommy Doherty and Lewis Hunt fit I think that will improve us."

"If we are still in League One next year I will be delighted with that."

Taylor was disappointed to leave the Withdean empty-handed on Saturday.

His team had looked set to bank their first away point of the campaign with a rugged no-frills defensive display - which was heavily criticised by



HEADS YOU WIN: Matty Phillips is beaten to the ball by Elliott Bennett

Brighton fans afterwards.

But the plan came apart when Forster swept in a late and rare Albion chance to knock the stuffing out of Wycombe's game plan.

Taylor said: "I'm disappointed that we didn't get anything. I didn't fancy us to concede today I thought we did enough to get a clean sheet. Our central defenders played well."

"I saw Brighton last Friday at Millwall and they looked very good going forward but we certainly restricted them and defensively we were quite solid but I am disappointed with the amount of play we had. We didn't play enough."

"I wanted us to try and play football and I didn't think we had enough players in the middle of the park to go and get hold of the ball."

"Some of the service to Matt Harrold was disappointing, for the first 55 minutes he didn't get much service."

"I thought we did enough to get a point but we didn't and that's the reality."

"We'd all love to be playing superbly well after half a dozen matches but we have actually only played in patches so I think the lads have got to start believing that we can play well and that we can defend well. At times we get it right and at times we don't but I am convinced we will get it right."

"Defensively I was quite happy today but going the other way I was disappointed."

"We got beat 1-0, that's what the papers say and we have got to finish better than we did and be better than that."

"When we came back from

pre-season we said we have got to respect the opposition enough and we have got to work extremely hard."

"At the moment we haven't been solid. Certain parts of our play have been good but we know we can do better, but I'm still confident that we have enough to get at least fifth from bottom."

"We are frustrated that we have only got four points. It is something we have all got to graft at, stick together and work hard."

"We've had quite a difficult start but the papers say we've got four points from six matches and that's not good enough."

"We are in the bottom four and we've got to keep improving. I don't think we are a million miles away and that's what I've kept saying to the players."

Albion angle

ALBION boss Russell Slade was all smiles after seeing his team notch their first win of the season at Wycombe's expense last Saturday.

The former Grimsby and Yeovil boss, who had seen his team battered 7-1 by Huddersfield earlier in the season, said: "It took a long time coming but I thought we were well worth it."

"Wycombe made life difficult. They were 4-5-1, they got behind the ball and had a very deep sitting midfielder. It took a lot of work to grind it out but we got there in the end."

"They didn't really trouble our goalkeeper all afternoon."

The result saw Brighton leapfrog Wycombe in the bottom four but Slade says there's still work to be done.

He said: "We know we are nowhere near the finished article but there were some good things in there. When we lost the ball we were solid and we showed a lot of industry."

Pittman kept waiting

WANDERERS boss Peter Taylor says it wasn't a difficult decision to leave Jon-Paul Pittman on the bench until the last 23 minutes despite him scoring four goals in his last three games.

Taylor said: "His recent performances have been coming off the bench, he has 90 minutes the other night and I thought he would be fresh coming on and to be fair he was quite sharp."

Hero's reception

PETER Taylor was given a hero's reception by Brighton fans on his return to the Withdean as Wycombe boss on Saturday.

Taylor guided the Seagulls to the League One title in 2002 and remains statistically the club's most successful manager after his ten months in charge there, winning 21 of his 38 games and averaging 1.95 points per game.

England to qualify

ONE-TIME England boss Peter Taylor has tipped England to secure qualification for the 2010 World Cup by beating Croatia tomorrow.

He said: "I think not qualifying for the last tournament made a few people aware that nobody has a divine right to get to big tournaments and I think the manager has been incredibly professional and has organised a group of players."

"He doesn't mess about, if you're not playing well he doesn't play you. He's got the respect of everybody. They're grafting like mad to be in the team and go to the World Cup and I've got no doubt they will do that on Wednesday."

Reserves in action

THE RESERVES kick off their season tonight when Watford are the visitors to Marlow's Oak Tree Round ground for a match which starts at 7pm.

See how they get on with a minute by minute clockwatch
wwfc.com