

Shellshocked

'I can't go into what was said afterwards'

SHELL-SHOCKED boss Gary Waddock was fuming as he tried to explain his team's crushing 4-1 defeat at home to Yeovil.

The normally-happy go lucky chief was reduced to several one-word answers as he was left reeling by the ferocity of Yeovil's unexpected ambush.

Waddock is normally Mr Bubbly, the person who could find a positive out of the most negative situation.

But not this time. The defeat and the severity of it knocked him sideways.

He was angry after the 6-0 television humiliation at Huddersfield, but he was full of plans then and vowed to put it right. He was fuming after the 5-2 home defeat against Brighton, but he came out fighting afterwards.

But this time he was con- cussed by it all as he delivered a painful after-match press conference where the disappointment was etched all over his face.

He had not seen this defeat coming, just like the players and the fans hadn't seen it coming.

Waddock was the busiest League One manager during the transfer window with eight January signings and after last week's win at Bristol Rovers, coming on the back of away draws at Leeds and Southend, there was a genuine feeling that his team had turned the corner.

But instead of accelerating out of it, they reversed down a dark alley, where they found a Yeovil

Wanderers
by DAVE PETERS

outfit, who didn't even need to mug them to get their hands on the three points as Wycombe simply handed them over.

Waddock said: "The performance wasn't good enough and that was quite obvious. I can't go in to what was said afterwards."

His players held their own inquest in the middle of the pitch afterwards before doing their warm down and eventually heading down the tunnel to face the wrath of Waddock and his assistant Martin Kuhl.

And after speaking to his team, Waddock told the press: "I think you can all see that I'm frustrated and annoyed. Every time Yeovil attacked it looked like we were going to concede a goal and I thought we had solved that problem in recent games - but it was there again today and it wasn't very pleasant viewing."

"It was like having flashbacks to those Brighton and Huddersfield games again."

"My saying to the players is you take care of the performance and I'll take care of the result but on today's showing they didn't take care of the performance, simple as that."

"I'm very disappointed. I didn't see this coming after the performance of last week and a few of the performances before that."

"We took a step forward last

week, but we took a step back today, well more than a step back. On today's performance I feel like we are back to step one. It was nowhere near what we are about."

But he was keen to keep it in perspective. He said: "The players have shown a big improvement recently in the games we've played, but on that evidence today that wasn't what we are about at all."

On the eve of the game he had warned his players not to allow any complacency to creep in.

But after a bright opening, his side stopped performing all over the park as they let their standards drop.

He said: "People will look at the scoreline and say the goalkeeper and back four were to blame, but it wasn't about that it was about the whole group."

"It was flat, there was no spark. We didn't make that spark, we were waiting for things to happen and they didn't happen."

And when it did finally go right for Blues, with Man of the Match Matt Harrold powering in a 49th-minute headed equaliser to make it 1-1, Yeovil proved the old football adage that you are at your most vulnerable when you have just scored as they ran in three quick goals to win it at a canter.

Waddock said: "We got ourselves back in the game at 1-1 and then a few minutes later we were out of the game again."



FUMING: Gary Waddock watches in horror as his players capitulate at home on Saturday



POST MORTEM: The Wanderers players held their own inquest on the pitch after the final whistle, but it did not save them from the wrath of manager Gary Waddock

LEAGUE ONE

Team	P	GD	PTS
Norwich	30	33	63
Leeds United	28	29	61
Charlton	30	20	57
Colchester	28	14	52
Millwall	29	12	49
Swindon	27	8	49
Huddersfield	27	20	46
MK Dons	28	-8	39
Bristol Rovers	29	1	37
Brentford	29	1	35
Leyton Orient	28	15	34
Southampton	27	1	34
Walsall	29	-2	34
Yeovil	28	-4	34
Carlisle	30	-10	32
Hartlepool	28	-7	31
Southend	30	-11	31
Exeter	26	-9	29
Oldham	28	-13	29
Gillingham	28	-23	26
Brighton	30	-25	23
Wycombe	28	-31	16
Stockport			