

A CASE FOR THE DEFENCE

WANDERERS chief Gary Waddock heaped praise on keeper Nikki Bull and his defenders as Blues emerged unscathed from their trip to bogey ground Edgeley Park.

Blues survived a second half onslaught to earn a 0-0 draw on a ground where they haven't won in 12 visits as they maintained their unbeaten start to the League Two campaign.

Waddock's teams are recognised for their attacking prowess but on Saturday the rearguard stood up to shine while their much-lauded attack misfired.

Blues created little up front and needed a star performance from Bull to earn a draw as they came increasingly under the cosh.

Waddock said: "He made an unbelievable save in a one-v-one situation and then a fantastic save from a free kick.

"He is vital. He is as important as a 20-goal-a-season striker and he put in a fine performance.

"I've worked with him before and I knew how important he'd be for us and already he's picked up important points for us."

Waddock also paid tribute to centre halves Alan Bennett and Leon Johnson, who played instead of the injured Dave Winfield.

He said: "They handled Barry Conlon really well and he is a big handful.

"You want your back four to play well especially when in front of them we didn't move the ball as well as we can."

Bull and his defence needed to be at their best because offensively Wycombe had an off-day creating very little in front of goal and spurning the few chances that did come their way.

Waddock said: "We're disappointed with our performance because we know we can play better than that.

WANDERERS

"We had periods with the ball but our final pass or the decisions we made weren't the right ones.

"We gave the ball away far too easily and we need to do better in possession.

"We want to play better and we want to create more."

Wanderers' lethargy presented Stockport with the encouragement they needed to come out of their shell following the 5-0 midweek mauling they suffered at the hands of Preston in the Carling Cup.

And as Stockport came on strong in the second half, Waddock admitted he was relieved to stay unbeaten and said he would not be underestimating the value of collecting an away point.

He said: "It was always going to be a difficult fixture for us. Stockport lost 5-0 in midweek and wanted to respond and they certainly did.

"They were a wounded animal and you have to give credit to them for the way they played.

"We're disappointed but a point away from home and a clean sheet is two positives.

"It's a very difficult league and if you can pick up points away from home you give yourself a chance and Stockport will win a lot of games here.

"They put us under a lot of pressure in the second half but we were able to hold out where possibly last season we may have crumbled and not got anything.

"If you had offered me a point on the way up here I would have taken it. I always look for three but I would have taken one."



HEADS UP: Leon Johnson keeps the ball away from Wanderers' goal as Blues were put to the test at Stockport County on Saturday