

ROCK 'N' GOAL GAZ IS WALKING ON AIR

WANNABE rock star Gareth Ainsworth celebrated his 100th professional goal by staging an impromptu air guitar concert on the pitch.

The 37-year-old Blues captain and former lead singer with the rock band Dog Chewed The Handle, fired in a 25-yard rocket to reach the milestone during Saturday's 2-1 win at Burton.

Then he turned to the crowd and strummed out an air guitar tune with his team-mates.

Ainsworth said: "All the lads joined in. A few of them said I blanked them when I ran straight past them but I wanted to be leader of the band and have them on backing."

Blues dreamed up the celebration on the bus up to the Midlands after watching a DVD featuring 60 of Ainsworth's goals, a few of which featured the guitar celebration – a throwback to his rock band days.

For many it was the first they knew of his musical past.

Ainsworth said: "The lads said that if I scored I had to do the celebration again.

"But the music is long gone now. I be greedy if I tried to be a footballer and a rock star.

"Saturday was a special moment and I wanted to share it with these lads because they are a great bunch."

Ainsworth had been stuck on 99 goals for six months but came close to his ton in last week's win at Stevenage when he saw his shot whack the post.

But he made up for it on Saturday, slamming in a 25-yarder to set Wanderers on their way to a victory that takes them within five points of top spot.

WANDERERS

Ainsworth said: "I'm half glad that last week's effort didn't go in because that would have been an alright goal but this one was a whole lot better. It ranks right up there in all of my 100 goals."

It came 18-years after his first for Cambridge United and Ainsworth is just as hungry now as he was then.

He said: "It was great to score but the main thing is we won. I wouldn't have cared if it was a tap-in if the result was the same."

Andy Sandell doubled Blues' lead before the break with a 25-yard free kick before Burton halved the deficit and piled on the pressure in the second half.

Ainsworth said: "A year ago we probably would've crumbled. But this is a new Wycombe, the Wycombe machine. We are turning the cogs and we are grinding people down."

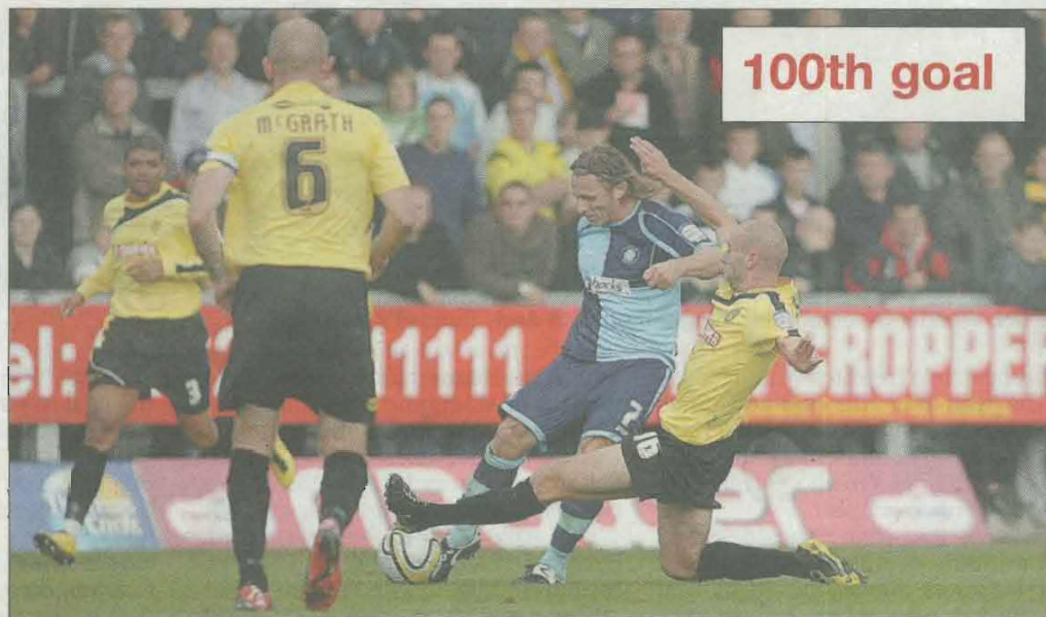
"Burton hadn't lost at home, Colchester and Stevenage hadn't lost at home and we've beaten all of them. We're proud of what we're doing and I'm proud to be leading them."

"We've got a great management team and very high ambitions with owner Steve Hayes at the helm."

"With the sports village he wants to create. Wycombe is going to go places."

"We are not a giant but there is massive potential there, and if we can get things on the pitch off the pitch things will go and hopefully we can be a big club."

● For more Blues news see pages 42-47



100th goal



Party time