

Winger rosy

JOEL Grant had his first taste of disappointment in Saturday's defeat against Bury after nothing but positives to the start of his Wycombe Wanderers career.

The winger was one of the shining lights in an otherwise drab display as Wycombe's 14 match unbeaten streak came to a disappointing end.

He said: "The boys have been on a good run. Since I've been here it's gone quite well so to lose to a team that's come up with us as well is very disappointing."

A pre-season signing from Crewe, Grant caught the eye with a couple of man of the match displays in friendlies against West Ham and Northampton and already has two goals to his name this season.

He said: "Last season I was in and out of the team. This season I've been involved so I can't really complain. I've enjoyed every game. I think regular games will build confidence. Consistency is one thing I've set myself to work on this season."

He scored six times last season, including a hat-trick in an 8-1 romp against Cheltenham, and although he's set himself a goal target for this term he's not letting slip what he's got in mind.

He said: "I like to keep my goals to myself. If I can get some goals and assist I'll be happy."

Grant worked under Blues boss Gary Waddock at Aldershot and he said the manager's influence and that of many of his old Shots team-mates had helped him settle in to life at Adams Park.

The 23-year-old said: "The gaffer knows me in and out, off the pitch as well. He knows what I'm like and to have someone encouraging you only helps.

"Dobbo [assistant manager Richard Dobson] has been tremendous with me since I've been here and obviously my team mates have – no one can do it by themselves."

Ref not to blame

WANDERERS players said they're not using the failure of referee Dean Whitestone to award a second-half penalty as an excuse for losing to Bury.

Joel Grant's goalbound shot was clearly handled by Efe Sodje but the referee waved away strong appeals for a spot kick from players and supporters.

That came with Wycombe 1-0 down and searching for a way back into the game.

But the players said that decision didn't excuse a poor performance that saw them go on to concede again in a 2-0 loss.

Grant said: "I'm convinced it's a penalty. If his hands are down by his side then fair enough, but when his hand goes shoulder height you expect the referee to see it. I think the whole stadium could see it.

"But we can't blame the referee's decisions, we weren't good enough at times to win the game."

Goalkeeper Nikki Bull said: "Even from where I was it's blatantly struck a hand, but you win some and you lose some. That's the big talking point of the game because at the time it was 1-0. If we score the penalty it's 1-1 with 20 minutes to go – you never know what's going to happen.

"These things go for you and against you. We've had a few weak penalty decisions go for us in the past. What goes around comes around.

"It could have been different and could have changed the momentum of the game but we don't want to use that as an excuse. There will be occasions we'll get decisions we shouldn't."