

Tranmere waiting to greet Wanderers with 'all guns blazing'

TRANMERE midfielder Joss Labadie has warned Wanderers to expect a backlash as the Merseysiders look to end their own poor run of form.

Rovers were among the early pacesetters after winning three of their first five matches, but back-to-back losses against Huddersfield and Carlisle have pushed them back into mid-table.

And Labadie said: "We are going to come out with all guns blazing and try to get

Tranmere v Wanderers League One Tomorrow, 3pm

back onto the winning track. No one likes to lose. We had a really good start to the season and we need to push on again.

"Wycombe are going to look at our last two results but we won't let that faze us."

Wanderers boss Gary Waddock wants his players to show more fight but said luck wouldn't be a factor.

He said: "You make your own luck. If you work hard enough that turns round. What we need now is characters who roll up their sleeves even higher and become fighters and scrappers to get what we're looking for."

The Blues boss said he would take a win no matter how it comes as Wanderers look to climb the table again.

He said: "If it means we're under the cosh for a large period of the game and we go on a counter attack and win it

1-0, I'll take that at the moment."

Referring to Tranmere's start to the season Waddock said: "They've probably had a better start than they thought they would have. The manager's done a good job there. He's assembled a good group of players and we are on a run at the moment that's not too kind to us.

"We've got to make sure we go there and fight and scrap, like they will do for the result."

Shooting stars quickly losing their lustre

WANDERERS players were set for extra shooting practice this week as they bid to end a run of four games without a goal.

Blues haven't found the net since last month's trip to Leyton Orient and failing to hit the back of the net has seen them drop into the bottom four.

Manager Gary Waddock said the lack of goals was all that was concerning him, saying he was encouraged by his side's displays during the winless run.

He said: "That's the thing that stands out. We've gone four games not picking up any points. We need to score goals in order to pick up points so that will be the focus.

"The games we've played in, I think we've done reasonably well. We've not got anything out of it in terms of points.

"You look at how we played against Brentford, that was encouraging. The goals we've conceded, the one against Brentford was a penalty and then there was a screamer from 30 yards on Tuesday night.

"I think we've been reasonably solid, it's just that end product we need to make sure we improve on."

In their seven League One

By Andy Carswell

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Blues strikers summoned for extra practice

matches this season Blues have only conceded ten goals, with goalkeeper Nikki Bull not being called into action as often as he was last season in a lower division.

Waddock said: "The last few games he hasn't been tested as much as he was last year and certain games this year. That's hard to take as well. It shows we are possibly taking the game to the opposition but that's the way it is at the moment.

"No one said it was going to be easy. It wasn't easy last year in League Two and it isn't easy in League One. We have to accept that and not be too downhearted or downbeat about it all. We have to keep working hard to try and turn it round.

"We've seen in games we've played against teams that will be there or thereabouts, we've performed very well and that's encouraging.

"When you go on a run where you're not winning it knocks confidence, but we've got a group of players here who are strong mentally and can deal with it."

Places up for grabs

GARY Waddock has threatened to ring the changes after saying not enough of his players had done enough to justify a run in the side.

The Blues boss saw his side fall to their fourth defeat in a row at Yeovil Town on Tuesday night, with Wanderers also having failed to score in any of those games.

He's changed his side around game to game in a bid to find that so-far elusive winning formula and he said after the 1-0 loss at Huish Park he would do the same for the weekend visit to Tranmere Rovers.

Waddock is hoping to have top scorer Stuart Beavon and club captain Gareth Ainsworth back for tomorrow's game but is still undecided on how his team will line up at Prenton Park.

He said yesterday: "I want to see what the mood is today and see how the players come in and train. Everything's up for grabs.

"We're hopeful Bevs is fit and we're hopeful Gaz is fit and we'll decide what team we go with. We need to go there with a team that's going to be able to get a result. We're hopeful both will train today. They'll come back into the reckoning for Saturday."

After the Yeovil game the Blues boss said: "I have changed it around a number of times. At the moment there's only a few players that have stepped up to the mark. We need to collectively be doing more than what we are doing."

Scott blames referee

SCOTT Donnelly has called for greater consistency from referees after two penalty decisions went against Wycombe Wanderers in their last two games.

Saturday's home match against Brentford was settled in the Bees' favour by a hotly-disputed spot kick when visiting striker Clayton Donaldson was clipped by James Tunncliffe.

And Donnelly felt Blues should have been given a penalty of their own against Yeovil after what he thought was a foul on Kevin Betsy in the second half.

The midfielder said: "The penalty [that was awarded] was very harsh. He's touched him but it's so, so tiny, I don't think it's a stone cold penalty.

"Tonight, with the one with Bets in the second half, it was a foul in the box and if they give that one Saturday, they have to give that one tonight.

"Refs have different points of view but I think the ref tonight didn't give us some of the challenges he should have done and they were getting challenges for the exact same thing."

Losing to Bees stung

BEN Strevens said losing to his old club Brentford gave him the most disappointing feeling he's felt as a player.

The former Bees striker said Wanderers should have beaten the west London side, who secured the win thanks to a contentious first-half penalty.

He said: "We're obviously disappointed, I don't think we should have lost the game. I think even a draw would have flattered them, but that's football. We certainly had a lot of the pressure.

"Today certainly hurts, I think that's probably been the most disappointed walking off the pitch I've felt, just thinking we should have at least got a point.

"I don't think it was a penalty. I don't think many people in the ground thought it was a penalty. Refs make those decisions. I can't blame him solely for it but it was a crucial moment in the game. A little bit of luck went against us today."

Strevens added he was really up for playing against his old club and said: "It hurts that little bit more that they've come here and beat us on our own pitch."

Looking for omens?

FANS looking for omens ahead of tomorrow's game should cast their minds back to the last time Wanderers went four games without a goal.

In March 2007 Blues failed to beat the custodians of Torquay United, Walsall, Boston United and Bristol Rovers during their last goal drought.

But they bounced back in spectacular fashion by drawing 3-3 at Peterborough United thanks to goals from Matt Bloomfield, Sam Stockley and Tommy Mooney.

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