

A Wanderers record then back to school for teen sensation

WONDERKID Jordan Ibe took time out from exam revision to become Wycombe Wanderers' youngest-ever Football League player against Hartlepool United.

He was almost a whole year younger than previous record holder Kadeem Harris when he entered the fray at Victoria Park as a 90th minute substitute.

Wanderers needed special dispensation from the Football League to let Ibe – aged 15 years and 311 days – play league football.

The youngster still had time to make an impression, with team mates thinking he might have a shot from way out with Hartlepool keeper Scott Flinders struggling to get back on his goal line after coming up for a late corner.

Striker Ben Strevens said: "To

come on and be playing league football at his age is unbelievable – he's probably back at school on Monday.

"It's a brilliant experience for him and he's a quality player. We all hope he goes on to bigger and better things

FACT BOX:

- Kadeem Harris was 16 years and 201 days old when he set the previous Wanderers Football League record at Yeovil in 2009.
- The youngest player to ever represent Blues was Kevin Keen, who was 15 years and 209 days old when given his debut by dad Mike in 1982.
- Ibe isn't even in the top ten youngest players to play in the Football League however. The youngest ever is Barnsley striker Reuben Noble-Lazarus, who was aged just 15 years and 45 days when he made his debut against Ipswich in 2008.
- He can claim the record for youngest FA goalscorer if he scores in either of the first two rounds of this season's competition.

but at the moment we are enjoying having him here."

Manager Gary Waddock said: "We wanted to give him his debut. I didn't feel it was right last week. He's here on merit, he's a very talented young man and he's got his league debut and smashed Kadeem's record.

"When he came on Kadeem had a big smile on his face because he was pleased for his mate as well, and that tells you a lot about the group. I'm delighted he's got his debut. He'll gain a lot of confidence from that."

He added: "He's back at school and had some exams this week as well, so he's been a busy young man."

It was Ibe's fourth Blues appearance this season, having previously featured in Carling Cup and Johnstone's Paint Trophy matches.



MODEL PUPIL: Jordan Ibe

Dunne goes on loan

CHARLES Dunne joined Wanderers team-mate Jesse Kewley-Graham at Staines Town after agreeing a youth loan move to the Conference South side.

The 18-year-old made his debut for them on Saturday as they beat Worthing 2-0 to seal a place in the final qualifying round of the FA Cup.

Blues boss Gary Waddock said: "Charles has done very well and we awarded him a pro contract. The reason why we wanted him to go out was to play regular games on a Saturday where the result counts. I think it will be good for him, he'll get stronger playing in men's football."

Waddock has sent four players out on loan in recent weeks and all of them will be eligible to play in the FA Cup for the teams they are temporarily calling home.

These include Andy Sandell, who faces a trip to Arlesey Town with Forest Green Rovers next weekend, and Scott Rendell, who will be allowed to play for Bristol Rovers in the first round proper of the competition.

Waddock said: "They are there to play games – it'll be good for their development. There will be a clause in there where if we pull them out they won't play against us."

Rowlands will improve

THERE'S more to come from QPR loanee Martin Rowlands, believes Blues boss Gary Waddock.

The former Ireland international bossed the midfield against Hartlepool but Waddock thinks he can put in even better performances as his match fitness improves.

He said: "Rowly played well against Hartlepool. He's not played for close to two years and his match sharpness will come back with the more games he plays. I think he showed on Saturday he's getting closer to that."

"I think there's more to come from him. He'll get sharper and stronger the more games he plays. I thought we saw more of the Martin Rowlands of old up at Hartlepool."

Blues keeping tabs

WANDERERS want to have another look at a defender who featured as a trialist for the reserves in midweek.

The unnamed centre half played the full 90 minutes against AFC Wimbledon on Tuesday and manager Gary Waddock said: "He's done reasonably well. He's only a young lad. It's a case of giving him more games before we make a final decision on him. We will have another look."

Blues won the game 2-0 thanks to goals from Elliot Benyon and Matt Bloomfield.

Beavon finally reaping rewards for hard toil

STUART Beavon is finally getting the rewards for all his hard work with more goals, believes strike partner Ben Strevens.

After failing to hit the back of the net since New Year's Day Beavon broke his duck against Colchester in August, and his strike at Hartlepool on Saturday was his seventh of the campaign.

It was also the best of the bunch, as a stunning touch and turn opened up the Pools defence before he slammed home the second goal of the game.

Stevens said: "It was brilliant skill. The boys defended unbelievably, we were blocking all sorts of crosses and shots. I've given it to Gaz, he's picked him out with a great ball and Bevs has done what he does. He's got this natural ability to get out of situations with his quick feet."

"It was great watching it and a lovely finish to go with it. He's capable of that. Last season I thought Bevs was really good but probably didn't score as many goals as he's deserved. This year he seems to be playing well and adding the goals to it. He's a top player and it's good to see."

"I thought Bevs was unbelievable up front with me. First half me and him caused a few problems, second half was more of a battle and digging in."

"He's no different a player to what he was last year but he's adding the goals. He always works hard – if you speak to any of our defenders, they don't like playing against him in training because he's always a handful. He's adding the goals to his game, which as a forward you're judged on. It's good to see his hard work's paying off with a few goals this year."

Beavon wasn't the only one to put in a shift as a high tempo from Wanderers constantly hassled Hartlepool into making mistakes.

Stevens said: "First and foremost we worked

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really hard and a little bit of quality shone through afterwards. The first thing was to work so hard and dig in as a team. We did that today – everyone was encouraging each other, people are blocking crosses, blocking shots, putting their body on the line for the team.

"Results have been hard to come by lately, especially away from home, so to come here and put in a performance like that against a side that's been up there is a great feeling. I know they have lost their last two but it's a hard place to come. Not many teams are going to come here and win."

"We worked hard and we broke really well. I think we truly deserved the three points – even their fans would admit to that today."

Striker Stevens did as much as anyone to ensure Blues picked up only their third win of the season, having been at fault for Walsall's equalising goal against his side last week.

Manager Gary Waddock sang his praises afterwards and Stevens said: "I'm obviously pleased I played and the team's won. To bounce back from a bit of a disappointment last week – I thought we put in a good performance last week and only got a point but today we've come away with the three, which is very pleasing."

GOAL-GETTER: Stuart Beavon is congratulated by Stuart Lewis



LEAGUE ONE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	D	Pts
Charlton Athletic	13	8	4	1	24	11	13	28
Huddersfield Town	13	7	6	0	28	10	18	27
Sheffield Wednesday	13	8	2	3	25	19	6	26
Notts County	3	8	1	4	24	15	9	25
Sheffield United	13	7	3	3	23	14	9	24
Milton Keynes Dons	13	6	5	2	24	14	10	23
Preston North End	12	7	1	4	24	20	4	22
Brentford	13	6	3	4	17	15	2	21
Carlisle United	13	6	3	4	18	18	0	21
Hartlepool United	12	5	4	3	18	15	3	19
Tranmere Rovers	13	5	4	4	13	11	2	19
Colchester United	13	4	2	3	20	19	1	18
Oldham Athletic	13	5	2	6	14	19	-5	17
Stevenage	13	4	4	5	19	16	3	16
Walsall	13	3	5	5	13	14	-1	14
Bury	13	4	2	7	13	20	-7	14
Scunthorpe United	13	2	7	4	17	24	-2	13
Rochdale	13	2	4	6	17	24	-7	13
Wycombe Wanderers	13	3	3	7	14	20	-6	12
Bournemouth	13	3	3	7	14	22	-8	12
Leyton Orient	13	3	3	7	13	24	-11	12
Chesterfield	13	3	2	8	15	23	-8	11
Yeovil Town	13	2	3	8	14	23	-9	9
Exeter City	13	2	2	9	6	22	-16	8

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