

From crushings to collapses – the five games that really cost Wanderers this season

WWFC 0 Huddersfield 6, January 6

Blues had played badly before this game but this was the first time they were completely torn apart. Heads dropped as Jordan Rhodes helped himself to five goals in Wanderers' heaviest home league defeat - which took place in front of the Sky cameras.

WWFC 2 Yeovil 3, February 14

In front at half time against a relegation rival, Wanderers tossed it away after the break after gifting Andy Williams a brace. Days later they were beaten 2-0 at Walsall and the sound from the alarm bells was deafening.

Chesterfield 4, WWFC 0 April 9

Wanderers had staged a revival after a goal glut from loanee Paul Hayes. But by the time they visited the b2net he had gone, Blues were winless in three, and they were thumped by a side they'd have relegated if they won.

WWFC 2 Oldham 2, April 14

Despite the Chesterfield horror show Blues were still clinging on and with ten minutes left they had a penalty at 2-1 up. Grant Basey put it wide, Oldham scored from a penalty of their own, and another chance to close the gap had been missed.

WWFC 3 Notts County 4, April 28

In the 89th minute Wycombe were 3-2 up and just a single point below the safety line. They blew it in three minutes of madness as Dele Adebola levelled and Alan Judge scored in injury time to condemn them to relegation.

Tomorrow is Wednesday

Sheffield Wed v Wanderers
Tomorrow, 3pm

WANDERERS will take about 400 fans to Sheffield Wednesday tomorrow – they will do well to make themselves heard amongst 37,000 Owls fans.

Hillsborough is sold out for the match, with some home fans bidding £1,000 for tickets on ebay.

To say the hosts – who need to win to make sure they're promoted ahead of city rivals United – are up for it is an understatement.

Wanderers boss Gary Waddock said: "It's going to be a massive, massive ask for us to go up there and get a result. But we'll give a good account of ourselves and be extremely professional in everything we do to try and finish on a high."

"We've got everything to gain and nothing to lose. We've been relegated, they're looking to get promotion."

"We can go up there and be extremely relaxed and composed and calm and go and play our football, whereas they have to win. All the pressure is on them. There is none whatsoever on us."

Meanwhile, Waddock is also planning to use the match as incentive for next season.

He said: "It's a brilliant game. It gives us something that we can use to work towards."

"These are the games you want to be playing in League One. We're going down to League Two so we can always remind them that this is what we want to get back to – playing in those stadiums against clubs like that."

"37,000 people – if you can't run out into a stadium like that and perform you're in the wrong profession."

Trio ruled out

DAVE Winfield, Chris Hackett and Anthony Stewart will all miss tomorrow's game with Sheffield Wednesday because of injury.

Winfield had a thigh injury, Hackett has a groin problem and Stewart won't be back from a ligament strain in time.

Ben Strevens is also doubtful after limping out of the Notts County match.

Unpleasant hat-trick

MATT Bloomfield completed an unwanted hat-trick on Saturday after being relegated for the third time in his Wanderers career, but he said the most recent demotion was the toughest to take.

Bloomfield said: "It's been a rollercoaster four years – up, down, up, down. It's never quiet around here, there's always something going on. "It's as disappointing as it comes. Getting relegated is not a nice feeling. I've had it three times at this club and I think it gets worse each time because I've been getting more and more attached to the club. My affinity to the club is getting stronger the longer I'm here. With each one that comes it's been getting harder because I've enjoyed my time here so much."

But Wanderers' longest serving player admitted the team's results over the course of the season didn't warrant a place in League One next year, despite an upturn in fortune towards the end of the campaign looking like it might save them.

He said: "We've given it everything today, as we have done over the last couple of months and come up short. The table doesn't lie, we haven't been good enough over the season and I'm afraid we've come to the conclusion we have."

Relegation sets clock ticking on ownership

By Alan Feldberg

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CONTRACT TALKS: Gareth Ainsworth is one of the Blues players out of contract this summer

WANDERERS' relegation last Saturday has turned up the heat on the behind-the-scenes machinations regarding the club's ownership.

Planning for League Two can now begin apace but there is only so much manager Gary Waddock can do while the club remains under a transfer embargo.

The transfer window is still closed for now and it won't open officially until July 1, but deals can be concluded as soon as the season ends.

However, until Wanderers' ownership issue is settled it's unlikely the club will complete its end-of-year accounts – which it needs to do to lift the embargo.

The manager, who says he began planning for his League Two promotion campaign 'last Sunday', said: "It [the transfer embargo] is not a hindrance at the moment. When it was put in place the transfer window was closed."

"If it's still in place in the coming weeks it then becomes a problem, but we'll have to see what happens."

The uncertainty at the top also casts doubts over Waddock's budget for 2012/13.

He said: "We have targets and we'll plan and once we know what we've got we'll be able to change things around."

"But it depends what the budget is. If the budget tells me I can only bring in one player I'll bring in one player, if it

Transfer embargo will soon start to pinch Blues

tells me I can bring in four I'll bring in four."

The first few weeks of the close season, managers insist, are always the most important with a mad scramble for the hottest prospects on the market.

On that front, Wanderers haven't lost any ground yet.

Waddock said: "You speak to agents and see which players are available and which players you believe will be available who could come in and improve the group."

"I've spoken to agents."

It's not just arrivals though, and Waddock also needs to meet with his own out of contract players.

He said: "Players are out of contract and we need to talk to them over the next week or so."

"They need to know early because if they're not being retained they need to find clubs and sort their own careers out."

"The sooner the better."

'I'd be very surprised if an offer didn't come in for him'

WANDERERS boss Gary Waddock says £200,000 has 'no chance' of buying ace striker Stuart Beavon.

Beavon netted 25 times during his team's relegation campaign and is almost certain to attract significant interest this summer.

However, the Blues boss says his prize asset is contracted to Wanderers and won't go unless the price is right.

Waddock said: "With the season he's had, I'd be very surprised if an offer didn't come in for him."

"But there's not a price on his head. If we get an offer for him the club will decide if it's good enough

and then take it from there."

"But he's under contract and I've not had a phone call yet."

"There's not been an offer yet. Whether one will come in the next few weeks, only time will tell."

"Rumour and speculation happens in this profession. But until that phone rings we don't know what will happen. We're just speculating on something that hasn't happened."

Wanderers don't have a habit of blocking player transfers to clubs at a higher level, and Waddock admits that the same sort criteria would probably be in

place again.

He said: "If it's a club at our level [League Two], is he going to improve himself?"

Meanwhile, team-mate Matt Bloomfield said: "We don't want him to leave, that's for sure."

"If someone bids enough money for him, we're not a club who can turn down a lot of money."

"I'm sure the gaffer won't want him to leave, the chairman won't want him to leave, the board of directors won't want him to leave and the supporters want him to stay. Quite what the summer will bring, I don't know."



WANTED: Supporters' Player of the Year Stuart Beavon