

'I hope the strikers read this, they have to step up'

Blues legend challenges the forwards to ram his criticism down his throat



Keith Scott scored 98 times in two spells with Wanderers.

KEITH Scott has called for Wanderers' forward line to do what they haven't managed this season – deliver in front of goal.

The legendary former Blues striker says the current crop of forwards at Adams Park haven't been good enough and it's down to their profligacy in front of goal that Wanderers are struggling at the bottom of the table.

And his message to whoever's selected to grab the goals against Northampton in today's do-or-die clash is simple – prove me wrong.

Scott, who scored 98 goals for Wanderers in two spells with the club, said: "They have got six strikers and collectively their goals to games ratio is not where it should be, and individually it's not where it should be.

"Are the team creating enough chances? I think they are. I'm a big one for the strikers' union and the bottom line is they aren't delivering.

by **ANDY CARSWELL**
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"I hope the strikers read this – they are the ones who've got to step up to the plate on Friday. Whoever the two that are picked, they have to deliver.

"For me, they haven't delivered this season and it's about time they did.

"I hope they do and ram my words straight down my throat."

He added: "If you don't get your fair share of goals to games, then it heaps a lot of pressure on your midfield and your back line to make sure they keep a clean sheet. Over the course of the season it's not good enough.

"They don't really concede a lot of goals for a team that are third bottom.

"As a unit, they do very well. The nucleus of that squad is good enough to finish mid-table. The problem is when they get to the final third."

2,000 Cobblers fans on their way

MAKE some noise is the plea to Wanderers fans as Blues face a relegation six-pointer against Northampton Town today.

Only goal difference is keeping Wanderers out of the bottom two and they face the side immediately below them in the table in a game that will go a long way to deciding who will remain in the Football League next season.

The Cobblers have sold out their initial allocation of 1,800 tickets and will get another 200 tickets to sell at the ground.

Meanwhile, Wanderers players went out onto the streets of High Wycombe this week to hand out leaflets and spread the word about today's game, hoping to attract more supporters along.

Matt Bloomfield, the club's longest serving player, said: "Make some noise and get behind us.

"We need it, the club needs it. Please get behind us, make a lot of noise and drown out the away following from Northampton.

"We need everyone we can and every voice we can get on Friday to back us and urge us forward.

"Hopefully we can give them something to cheer about. It's up to us to create an atmosphere on the pitch but equally it's great when there's an atmosphere in the stands."

Blues boss Gareth Ainsworth said: "It's times like this supporters can step up to the mark and prove they are true supporters, rather than sunny day golfers like I am.

"A famous Liverpool manager once said, 'If you're not going to support us through the bad times, don't come in the good times'.

"I know the ones who have been there during the bad times. These are bad times but I'm sure there will be good times over the next two weeks.

"The fans know the situation and the enormity of where we are in the league, and what we want to achieve. They can play a big part."

Wanderers rely on goal difference after former star pins them down

CHRIS Zebroski returned to haunt his former club as his goal sealed a defeat for Wanderers that leaves their survival hopes hanging by a thread.

The former Wanderer netted the killer second goal that condemned Blues to a loss that leaves them outside the relegation zone on goal difference only.

After a first half that the visitors edged, Wanderers fell apart after the break as Christian Jolley opened the scoring before Zebroski's strike wrapped things up despite plenty of time left.

Blues came close to edging in front as Darcy Blake cleared off the line from Nick Arnold and goalkeeper Ian McLoughlin made a great save to keep out a header from Steven Craig.

Matt Ingram also made a save from Jolley but could do nothing to prevent the same player from prodding in from close range after

Newport 2 Wanderers 0
ANDY CARSWELL reports

the break, as Wanderers were unable to clear their lines from a long throw into the area.

And six minutes later the Exiles sealed the win as a long ball out from the back sent Zebroski streaking clear of the visiting defence and he calmly finished from ten yards.

Manager Gareth Ainsworth said: "I didn't like the nerves I saw out there. I felt we were outthought, out-thought and outplayed."

Wanderers: Ingram, McCoy, Pierre, Rowe, Arnold (sub Jeffrey), Wood, Lewis, Scowen, Kretzschmar (sub Morgan), McClure, Craig (sub Kuffour).

Attendance: 2,838

Twitter Man of the Match: Danny Rowe

Chesham face
Dacorum
neighbours in
Easter Monday
title-decider

Page 128



Sport

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Wasps set for
Gloucester
re-match with
Europe at
stake

Page 134



Friday, April 18, 2014

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This is the light at the end of the tunnel

■ Blues play their most important game in years at Adams Park this afternoon

■ Chairman Don Woodward assures fans the club could survive non-league football

THE off-field future of Wycombe Wanderers won't be affected by what happens on the pitch, club chairman Don Woodward said this week.

This afternoon Wanderers play their biggest game in many years as they face off against Northampton Town in a match that could determine who falls through the relegation trapdoor and into non-league football.

Uncertainty around which division Blues will be in next year has stalled talks with parties interested in taking a 75 per cent controlling interest in the club.

But Woodward insists relegation wouldn't necessarily mean any takeover deal is dead in the water – and says the club will have the funds to fight on in the Conference next season should the worst happen.

Woodward says a planned share issue, with fans pledging money to help swell the club coffers, will now go ahead regardless of whether a takeover is completed.

The Wycombe Wanderers Trust board hope the share issue will raise £2million over a five-year period, and so far supporters have pledged £315,000 towards that total – with £115,000 of that being raised within the last fortnight.

Woodward believes that backing is proof that Wanderers won't suffer the same financial turmoil as recently-relegated Aldershot Town and Hereford United if they do end

WANDERERS v NORTHAMPTON

League Two
Adams Park,
Today, 3pm

up taking the drop.

Both clubs are now battling to avoid a second relegation into regional football, with Hereford this month needing fans to raise £78,000 in two weeks to pay off a tax bill that could have closed the club down.

Woodward said: "We are in a better position than other people because of attendances and we've got the facilities. It's not great, but it's not a nightmare scenario."

"The share issue will go ahead. There's been a lot of work done and a lot of pledges so we will run it alongside [any takeover]."

"We've had a lot of interest from people – they've said 'stay as you are', as a supporter owned club. That's been really encouraging and it takes the pressure off."

Regarding talks on the takeover – which still needs the backing of 75 per cent of Trust Legacy members before it can go ahead – Woodward said: "Things are still progressing on several fronts, although there's no front runner or clear leader."

"It [relegation] affects the planning for some of the people but not all. Some have said yes it will depend on where you are, others have said it doesn't rely on that."



LEAGUE TWO

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
Scunthorpe U	42	19	19	4	64	39	25	76
Rochdale	42	22	9	11	64	42	22	75
Chesterfield	42	20	14	8	65	38	27	74
Fleetwood Town	42	20	9	13	61	48	13	69
Burton Albion	42	18	14	10	43	38	5	68
Southend United	42	16	14	12	51	43	8	62
Oxford United	42	16	14	12	51	43	8	62
York City	42	15	16	11	47	39	8	61
Plymouth Argyle	42	16	10	16	46	48	-2	58
Mansfield Town	42	14	14	14	46	52	-6	56
Bury	42	12	18	12	51	46	5	54
Dagenham & Red	42	13	15	14	49	53	-4	54
Newport County	42	13	14	15	51	54	-3	53
AFC Wimbledon	42	13	13	16	43	48	-5	52
Cheltenham Town	42	12	16	14	48	56	-8	52
Portsmouth	42	12	14	16	48	57	-12	51
Accrington Stanley	42	12	15	15	45	57	-12	51
Hartlepool United	42	13	10	19	47	51	-3	50
Morecambe	42	12	13	17	47	61	-14	49
Exeter City	42	12	12	18	48	54	-6	48
Bristol Rovers	42	11	14	17	38	47	-9	47
Wanderers	42	11	13	18	41	50	-9	46
Northampton	42	11	13	18	35	54	-19	46
Torquay United	42	10	9	23	37	60	-23	39

Wanderers have been riddled with nerves in recent home performances. They'll need to play with courage and character against Northampton Town this afternoon.

More Blues news on
pages 130 and 131.



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