



'The ramifications of relegation would be a player exodus'

WANDERERS legend Keith Scott says the ramifications of his former side being relegated don't bear thinking about.

The striker's goals were instrumental in Blues achieving Football League status 21 years ago, but the club now faces the prospect of dropping back into non-league football.

Scott says more of the pressure going into today's Good Friday's showdown with Northampton is on the Cobblers – but an away win would have serious consequences for the team he used to play for.

He believes the fact Luton Town have taken so long to re-emerge from the Skrill Premier despite

their huge financial advantage serves as a warning to Blues' possible future.

The 46-year-old said: "As an ex-player and one of those players who were part of that squad that got them in the Football League, myself and everyone connected with the squad will be absolutely devastated if they got relegated. You don't want your club to be in that position.

"The ramifications would be a player exodus.

"Matt Ingram has had a fantastic season, Josh Scowen has played really well for two seasons, Anthony Stewart has great potential and Max Kretschmar is regularly putting himself in the

starting line-up. These are players who would be comfortable in any League Two side.

"The ramifications of players leaving would be greater than sitting back and thinking, 'Wycombe have got relegated'.

"To replace those players would be very, very difficult. They've performed exceptionally well for the club.

"I've seen 15 or 16 teams in the Skrill Premier and it's a tough league. Luton have been in that league for five years – it's not an easy league to get out of.

"I'm hoping Wycombe get the result they need to stay in the Football League. If they got

relegated, I'm sure I wouldn't be alone in being absolutely gutted."

He added: "With the potential ramifications of the result, I think it's one of the biggest games that the club has had for a long, long time, based on what's at stake.

"Hopefully they won't, but if Wycombe were to lose the game that puts Northampton in the driving seat, with their destiny in their own hands."

But Scott says there is cause for optimism going into the home straight, as Wanderers play the other three sides in the bottom four before the end of the season and face promotion-chasing Fleetwood Town on Easter Monday.

He said: "I was at the home game against Fleetwood and thought Wycombe played exceptionally well, and perhaps should have won the game. Over the course of the season they have done well against the top seven sides."

Scott added: "There's more pressure on Northampton than Wycombe. They have to win the game. It's a bigger game for Northampton – if Wycombe win, it gives them what's effectively a four point cushion because of the goal difference.

"It's not the end of the world if they come away with a draw. That's a good result. If they lose the game, destiny's in Northampton's hands."

Cowan-Hall could feature against Town

PARIS Cowan-Hall has returned to training this week and could make today's squad.

The five-goal forward has been sidelined for a month with an ankle injury and Wanderers have sorely missed his creativity and supply line from the wing.

Manager Gareth Ainsworth played down talk of throwing him straight back into the thick of the action – despite admitting his displays have been key to Blues' better results this season.

He said: "He's only just come back in. He's had a long lay-off so we'll have to see whether he'll feature.

"It's one we have to tread carefully with. A lot of people desperately want Paris back as soon as possible because he's been a good player for us and he's done well for us this season.

"We'll probably play down his chances of being involved."

Midfield duo Matt Bloomfield and Max Kretschmar could both play a part after responding well to injuries.

Youngster Kretschmar picked up a dead leg against Newport County, while Bloomfield missed the trip to Wales with a hamstring problem.

But Jon-Paul Pittman is definitely out after picking up another injury in the warm-up to last Saturday's game.

Tee it up with Matt

PLACES for a golf day to celebrate Matt Bloomfield's testimonial are still up for grabs.

Golfers can join former Wanderers playing heroes Tommy Mooney, Roger Johnson, Russell Martin, Keith Ryan and Steve Brown on the greens along with seven members of the current squad and raise money for Bloomfield's testimonial kitty at the same time.

The event takes place at Harleyford Golf Club on Wednesday, April 30 and tickets start from £85, which includes the full 18 holes, breakfast rolls and a three-course meal.

Go to www.wycombewanderers.co.uk for details on how to book.

Out of the Wood

JUNIOR Morias has been recalled from his loan spell at Boreham Wood.

The teenager scored eight times, including netting a hat trick in a 7-0 win over Tonbridge Angels, during his three month stay with the non-league outfit.

Fellow Wanderers loanee Lee Angol will remain with the Hertfordshire side until the end of the campaign however.



Pull the other one, Gareth

'NOTHING will be decided today' is the message Wanderers boss Gareth Ainsworth wants to reiterate ahead of kick off in the titanic showdown with Northampton Town.

Defeat will send Blues into the relegation zone for the first time all season with just three games of the campaign left.

But Ainsworth was keen to highlight the fact time is still on Wanderers' side in their battle for survival at the bottom of the Football League.

He said: "It's a big game, obviously, but we've got four big games left. No matter what happens in this game, everyone will be saying next Saturday's a big game against Bristol Rovers, and

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the Saturday after against Torquay is a big game.

"I don't want to put any added pressure on anyone by saying this is the pivotal game – it isn't.

"If we win three and lose one then everyone will be happy. If this is the one we lose and we win the next three, everyone will be happy – it doesn't matter which combination we have.

"They are all big, they are all games for our league survival. There isn't one bigger than the others. People will look at this one but for me it's four big games. There's no way anything can be

decided on Friday."

The Blues boss added: "They are all big games, it just happens to be we are both level on points in the table and goal difference is separating us. That's why football's so great. It's amazing how it put things like this in front of you.

"I'm really looking forward to it and the boys are as well. We are desperate to get the game started."

Ainsworth's words were reiterated by long-serving midfielder Matt Bloomfield, who is no stranger to the big occasion during his time with Wanderers.

He's played in a League Cup semi-final and promotion and relegation deciders in his ten years at Adams Park – but he doesn't

agree today's clash is a must-win one.

Bloomfield said: "In those cup matches, if you lost you're out. If we lose this one, we are not relegated. It's a big game, there's no denying it, and we'll be doing everything we can to win.

"If we win we don't stay up and if we lose we don't go down, but it's certainly a big game and one where we have to try our utmost to collect all three points from.

"Our destiny is in our own hands. We play the three teams around us, as well as a tough trip to Fleetwood.

"If we do what we need to do and get the points we need to get, we don't have to rely on anyone else, which is a comforting thing."

At home against a team below them, yet Blues says they're underdogs

GARETH Ainsworth believes there's more pressure on Northampton than his players – who he's expecting a reaction from after their poor second half showing at Newport last week.

A draw will be enough to keep Wanderers out of the relegation zone but momentum is with the Cobblers, who've won their last two to draw level on points with the Chairboys.

Ainsworth believes that will be enough to make today's opponents favourites – and that suits him fine.

He said: "The form is in Northampton's favour. Many people will see them as favourites going into the game and that's great for us.

"Let them be the favourites for the game, because we know what we can do. We've always reacted

well after a bad half and that's what we had last week at Newport.

"Nothing will be decided on Friday. We're going into it as the underdogs so it's going to be an interesting one for us."

The Blues boss branded the second half display at Newport County as unacceptable in the immediate post match inquest, but he said if history is anything to go by then a good reaction is sure to

follow.

Ainsworth said: "Second half we were poor at Newport. We've had those halves this season, like the second half against AFC Wimbledon.

"It's been few and far between but what has happened is when there has been a performance like that, we've always addressed it and reacted really well. I'm confident we will react really well again."