



Harriman almost doubles career tally in single match

By Anthony Matthews

MICHAEL Harriman may have 100 career appearances under his belt in all competitions but the 22-year-old would be the first to acknowledge he is not noted for his goalscoring.

The on-loan Queens Park Rangers player had only netted three times before the weekend – once for Gillingham and twice for Luton Town during short-term spells with the two clubs last season – but on Saturday he not only scored for the first time in a Blues shirt, but went on to hit a second to double his career league tally and send his current side to a 2-1 victory over Hartlepool United.

The defender, who has been increasingly utilised by Gareth Ainsworth in a wide midfield berth since returning to Adams Park for a second loan spell in the summer, capitalised on his advanced position to give Wanderers a first-half lead when he struck a first-time right-footed shot inside keeper Adam Bartlett's near post.

Having seen his side pegged back shortly before the interval, Harriman then scored what was to be the winner with a fine curling effort from outside the penalty area. He admitted it may have taken a deflection but no matter.

"I'd have been happy to score one but to score two is even greater feeling for me," Harriman said afterwards. "I could have had a couple more in the first half maybe but a happy day."

The player was quick to praise his manager for the faith he has shown in him to operate in midfield.

Harriman said. "He's told me I can play there and he's given me the be-



Off the scoring mark in a Blues shirt: Michael Harriman scored twice on Saturday to fire Wycombe to the points against Hartlepool.
Picture: ANITA ROSS MARSHALL

lief to play there so thanks to him for sending me out otherwise I wouldn't have scored. But I've been enjoying it and at the moment I think I'm just playing off the confidence of having a few good games. Confidence is playing a massive factor."

Given the small size of the squad at his disposal, Ainsworth again stressed the importance of having "multi-positional" players to call on and said of Wycombe's two-goal hero after the game: "Harry can play

right-back superbly well and he's got this right wing position.

"He probably needs to learn how to finish a bit more on that side, but we can't take anything away from him. He scored two great goals today and I thought he took up some good positions. Once they do that you can work on the final product but he's a great player.

"I saw him at Luton last year against us and I thought he could do a job on the wing. He's not always go-

ing to be there (in that position) but, when asked, Michael Harriman will be there for you and that's the type of players we have.

"Ryan Sellers – everyone thought he was a left-back for the last five years. I think he's a left winger, I think he's a forward player and I think Ryan will cause problems going forward as well when he gets his chance. So multi-position is important but I do have these little slots for these players."

Blooms hailed a real pro

MANAGER PRAISES BLOOMFIELD'S 'STATURE' AS HE AWAITS HIS TURN

MATT Bloomfield is the only outfield member of the Wanderers squad not to have had any game time this season but boss Gareth Ainsworth says he has been a key player in the club's unbeaten start to the league season.

The manager said: "When you are not playing it's the worst thing in the world in football and sure Matt is frustrated.

"But he will be the first one off the bench to cheer a goal or he will be in the dressing room before a game still getting the lads going as much as he would if he were playing.

"That's the stature of the man and Wycombe are lucky to have someone like him.

"Matt is the ultimate professional.

"After games he is doing extra running and extra weights.

"He goes that extra bit for you and I know when I do stick Matt Bloomfield in he will be ready because that's the type of character he is.

"Of course he's upset not to be playing – everyone is. But Blooms is a knowledgeable guy.

"He sees the big picture not the small one."

Winter lends a hand

LEADING SPORTS JOURNALIST JOINS BLUES DEVELOPMENT DAY

WANDERERS players have been making the headlines on their own this season so it was something of a surprise to see top sports journalist Henry Winter join them for 'training' last week.

The top sports scribe was drafted in to help out at one of the club's 12 Development Days where the players are taken off the training field and into a different environment.

Manager Gareth Ainsworth said: "It was an excellent day. It was all about personal development away from football which, in my opinion, helps on the pitch as well. Henry Winter came in to work with the boys which was fantastic and we also had some exercises where the boys get to know each other better and communicate with each other better."

WANDERERS: Ainsworth to make late Pierre call Defender needs fitness assessed after qualifier



First international experiences: Aaron Pierre

AARON Pierre won his second international cap for Grenada on Wednesday but could not prevent them going down to a 3-0 defeat in Haiti in their World Cup Qualifier, losing 6-1 on aggregate.

The Blues defender, who made his international bow last Friday in the 3-1 first-leg loss in Grenada, landed back in England yesterday and Wanderers boss Gareth Ainsworth will assess his fitness before tomorrow's home clash with Plymouth.

Ainsworth said: "He is back but he's played two games in a week and had a lot of travelling so it is one for us to assess as a management team. I wouldn't risk him to play in one game

if it meant possibly losing him for five. If he needs an extra day's rest, he gets it."

Ainsworth says his centre half is riding the crest of a wave after his first call-up to the Caribbean island he qualifies for through his parents.

He said: "I've been texting him and he's buzzing. International recognition is fantastic for any player. I think Aaron has been told he's rated very highly in Grenada and I'm sure it won't be his last cap.

"That's probably bad news for me though. I want him to play in the competitive games like World Cup qualifiers but friendlies, I'm not so sure about. We can't have him flying

halfway around the world for a friendly so we might have to have a little chat about that. We'll sit down and get a plan that works best for Wycombe Wanderers and best for Aaron."

Ainsworth is convinced Pierre has the mentality to cope with coming straight off the international stage and back into the bread and butter of League Two.

He said: "He will feel pride and rightly so because he's an international now and that's a very proud thing for him and his family but I'm sure he won't come back thinking he's anything special because he's had an international cap."