

Gareth: "So many positives to build on"

Blues boss previews Oxford United.



Gareth Ainsworth is hoping to build on the positives from recent displays as the Chairboys prepare to welcome Oxford United to Adams Park this weekend.

Wanderers come up against their M40 neighbours for the first time in over two years and will be looking to register their first league win at home this campaign, with a large crowd expected in HP12 on Saturday afternoon.

Ainsworth's side go into the fixture on the back of a narrow 3-2 defeat at Charlton Athletic last weekend, in a game which could have gone either way. Speaking to the press on Thursday morning, the gaffer felt there was much to take from that display ahead of the visit of the U's.

"Watching the videos of the Charlton game back with the boys we know there are things to work on but so many positives to build on as well," he said.

"We went to the Valley and competed and then some against a team who a lot of people fancy to be in the play-offs or higher.

"I'm really proud that we are competing, we are certainly not getting turned over and there are teams who come up against Wycombe who fear us which is great.

"I'm hoping on Saturday that those are the traits that Oxford are showing because if we keep on playing the way we are, I am confident that we will pick up plenty of points this season."

A crowd of over 6,000 is likely to be in attendance on Saturday with just under 5,500 tickets sold as of Thursday morning.

A carnival atmosphere is expected from both sides with a sold out away end in the Lords Builders Merchants Stand, and Ainsworth, who paid tribute to the magnificent support his side have received so far this campaign, wants the Blues to offer up a performance fit the occasion.

"Days when the home end at Adams Park is rocking are why you get in to football.

“Last weekend the Wycombe fans travelled in their numbers are backed us throughout and I’ve got nothing but respect and admiration for our supporters.

“We are sat at a precarious end of the table but myself, the staff and the players will be doing all we can to achieve the goal of solidifying our position in this league and I just want to thank the fans for their continued support, it doesn’t go unnoticed and we hope to do your singing justice on the pitch.”

The strength in depth of the squad has been tested inside the first six weeks of the season with a hefty 10 games played in that time, but after going five undefeated in all competitions prior to the trip to the Valley, it is a test that they have passed with flying colours ahead of another busy schedule of league and cup action on the horizon.

With that in mind whilst not giving any clues away as to his selection this weekend, the boss said he is looking forward to soon having a full strength squad to choose from.

“Team selection is always something I keep very close to my chest, but all I will say is that we are getting very close to having maximum fitness across the board which is brilliant for me.

“Everyone wants to play, they all value game time and obviously I can’t give that to every player all the time.

“With many Saturday-Tuesday games coming up it’s going to be a time to utilize the strength of the squad and I’m hoping the boys will be patient and take their chance when it is given to them.

“I’m confident that whatever team I put on Saturday will be good enough to get the win that we want.”