

Bucks Free Press

Friday, February 28, 2025

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CCTV upgrade to target crime hotspots

FULL STORY: PAGE 4



hotspots

£868k investment will produce clearer image

CCTV is being upgraded across Buckinghamshire as part of an £868,000 investment, it can be reported.

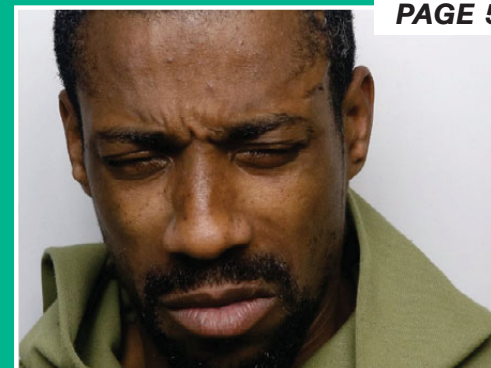
The first of the new cameras have been installed in High Wy-

By **Charlie Smith**

combe and are now live, Buckinghamshire Council said.

Installation will continue across other parts of the county.

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MAN JAILED FOR GUN OFFENCE

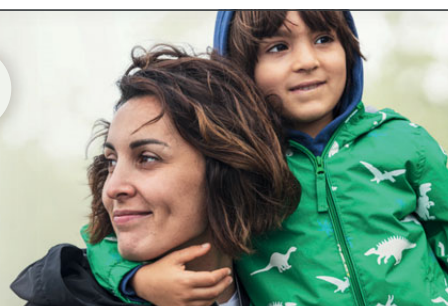
MAN SPENT COVID FUNDS ON DRUGS: P7

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Ireland legends are set to retire



Peter O'Mahony, right, and Conor Murray

IRELAND trio Cian Healy, Peter O'Mahony and Conor Murray have announced they will end their international careers following the conclusion of this year's Guinness Six Nations.

Leinster prop Healy, Ireland's most-capped player with 136 appearances, and Munster flanker O'Mahony will retire from professional rugby at the end of the current season.

Scrum-half Murray is set to pursue a playing opportunity abroad following the conclusion of his Munster contract in July.

Ireland top the Six Nations table with three wins from three as they chase an unprecedented third successive championship title. Simon Easterby's side host title rivals France on Saturday, March 8 before finishing the tournament a week later away to Italy.

Healy, O'Mahony and Murray announced the news in a joint video posted on the Irish Rugby Football Union's X account.

"Hi everyone, we've got some news to share: this will be our last Six Nations in green," they said.

The veteran trio have each won five Six Nations titles, including Grand Slams in 2018 and 2023.

O'Mahony captained Ireland to last year's triumph. The 35-year-old made his international debut against Italy in 2012 and has 112 caps.

Healy, 37, surpassed Brian O'Driscoll as Ireland's most-capped player in November, having made his Test debut in 2009.

Murray is level with former captain Rory Best as Ireland's joint fourth most-capped player after making 124 appearances since 2011.



World Club Challenge winner Liam Marshall is among the Wigan stars heading to Las Vegas this weekend

Super League looks to break USA

SUPER League's starring role in Las Vegas this weekend could be the first of many under ambitious plans to establish a foothold for the sport in North America.

Wigan will face Warrington at the Allegiant Stadium tomorrow on a bill that also includes two games from the Australian NRL, and a women's international between England and Australia.

Thousands of British fans are set to boost an expected crowd of over 45,000.

Talks are also set to take place about salvaging the World Club Challenge – which was not contested this year after being won by St Helens in 2023 and Wigan in 2024 – and potentially making that part of the Las Vegas weekend.

Rugby League Commercial

managing director Rhodri Jones told the PA news agency: "In a perfect world we'd have been able to play the World Club Challenge this week in Las Vegas.

"It will certainly be a topic of conversation this week, if we are able to manufacture that in terms of the calendar going forward, and also in terms of whether it fits into Las Vegas 2026."

Van Dijk: No room for complacency

By PA sport reporter

Press Association

VIRGIL van Dijk will reinforce to the dressing room there is no room for complacency after rejecting suggestions Liverpool's title quest was "almost there".

A 2-0 win over Newcastle, coupled with Arsenal's draw at Nottingham Forest, opened up a 13-point lead at the top and Opta now rate their chances of winning a first Premier League in five years at 98.7 per cent.

Most observers agree the race is over, as even if the Gunners win all their remaining games, one of which is Anfield's penultimate league match in May, Arne Slot's side would have to lose three and draw at least one of their final 10 fixtures for the situation to be reversed.

Supporters are certainly convinced as they sang loudly about winning the league during

the win over Newcastle on Wednesday, but Van Dijk is keen to maintain a level head.

"They can sing whatever they want. We definitely enjoy the atmosphere. We have to deal with that," he said.

"There is no 'almost there'. There are 10 more games to go for us and nothing is decided yet. Until it gets decided we don't get carried away whatsoever.

"I'm going to be the boring guy in that sense because I'm going to say 'onto the next, keep calm'.

"You have to enjoy winning games but not for too long as you play almost every three days.

"We have put ourselves in a very good position but it doesn't mean that anything is done, I keep reminding players and also the outside world –

you guys in the media – that there is no time and space for complacency.

"The message (before Newcastle) was we had to show what we are all about because after a very good win against Man City to drop points or have a bad performance would mean the performance against City doesn't stand for anything."

They have only one league match in March, but should they continue to have a 13-point lead they would win the title with four games to spare, at home to Tottenham on April 26, although if they were to win their next three and Arsenal lost four in a row that would be brought forward to the first week of April.



Hamilton sets the early pace



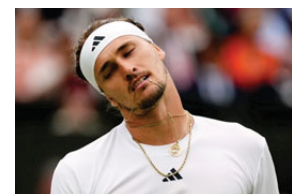
LEWIS Hamilton ended a session as a Ferrari driver on top for the first time after he set the early pace on the second day of testing in Bahrain yesterday.

The seven-time world champion saw off former Mercedes team-mate George Russell by four tenths with the quickest lap of the test so far. Williams' Carlos Sainz finished third.

Hamilton will be encouraged by his day's work ahead of his bid to land a record eighth world championship.

Hamilton's team-mate Charles Leclerc, who took over from the Briton yesterday afternoon, said: "The car has been feeling good. Everybody is hiding their own performance, but the feeling is good and we didn't have any surprises."

Zverev loses to teen Tien



ALEXANDER Zverev's hopes of overtaking Jannik Sinner as world number one were dealt a blow by a second-round loss to teenager Learner Tien at the Mexican Open on Wednesday.

German Zverev is best-placed to take advantage of Sinner's three-month doping ban, with the Italian not eligible to return to the tour until May.

He is more than 3,000 points behind, but the 500 available for the winner in Acapulco would have given him a solid boost. However, Zverev fell 6-3 6-4 to 19-year-old American Tien, who has built on his breakthrough run to the fourth round of the Australian Open last month.

Since reaching his third grand slam final in Melbourne, where he lost to Sinner, Zverev has failed to make it beyond the quarter-finals at any event.

FOOTBALL

Windsor FC drop points late on twice



Windsor

WINDSOR FC have been right out of luck in their last two games, conceding a goal in stoppage time on both occasions.

They were beaten 2-1 at home by Deportivo Galicia last Friday with substitute Pedram Pishdar grabbing the winner with a deflected effort in added on time. Troy Williams had equalised in the 79th minute after Naim Mejdoubi had given the visitors a 10th-minute lead.

This looked like a home banker, with the visitors fast running out of games to move away from the other relegation candidates, having played 9 more games than their closest rivals, London Samurai Rovers.

Then on Tuesday, the Holloways Park men drew 1-1 with play-off chasing

Hillingdon Borough. Jamil Yusuf put them ahead on the stroke of half-time, heading home Avta Akhsiasvili's cross.

For long periods in the first half, Hillingdon were confined to half chances on the break as Windsor, with pace to burn in all areas of

Yusef had what looked to be a good goal disallowed for offside before Clayton Afonso equalised in the fourth minute of stoppage time to strike yet another late blow.

Windsor sit 18th in the Combined Counties Division One table, but 11 points above the relegation zone. They are away to Westside this Saturday and next Tuesday (4th) travel to Bedford for an Esoteric Recordings Division One Cup.

FOOTBALL

Chairboy marks 600 games

WYCOMBE Wanderers favourite Garath McCleary, still going strong at the age of 37, hit his landmark 600th league career appearance in Saturday's 1-1 draw at Crawley Town.

The wide-man made his name with hometown club Oxford City in non-league before going on to feature for Slough Town and Bromley.

It was not until January 2008 where he made his Football League bow, spending almost four years with Nottingham Forest and recording over 120 appearances.

Scoring nine goals in 2011/12, a season which saw Reading win the Championship, Brian McDermott brought the Jamaica international to Berkshire, along with close friend and Forest teammate Chris Gunter.

Earning a penalty on his debut, a 1-1 draw with Stoke City in 2012/13, the winger would go on to call the Royals home for eight full seasons.

Making 270 appearances for the club, almost entirely in the second tier apart from 31 Premier League matches, McCleary recorded some memorable goals for the club.

He has gone on to make over 200 appearances for the Chairboys.

ATHLETICS

Young athletes scheme

UP-AND-COMING athletes in Buckinghamshire are being given the chance to take their sporting careers to the next level with Everyone Active's Sporting Champions scheme.

Relaunching this month for the ninth consecutive year, the renowned programme empowers aspiring athletes to achieve their full potential through access to state-of-the-art training facilities and invaluable mentoring support from Olympians and Paralympians.

Since its inception in 2016, the scheme has elevated the sporting careers of more than 6,000 athletes by providing them with free access to Everyone Active's 240-plus leisure centres nationwide.

These include Chesham Leisure Centre, Chalfont Leisure Centre, Chilterns Lifestyle Centre – all run in partnership with Buckinghamshire Council.

Applications open on Tuesday 11 February 2025 and run until Tuesday 11 March 2025 via the Everyone Active Sporting Champions website: easportingchampions.com

FOOTBALL

Holmer suffer heavy defeat on the road at Yateley

HOLMER Green suffered a heavy 5-1 defeat at Yateley United in Combined Counties Division One on Saturday, writes John Anderson.

The Hampshire club had done very well to make the pitch playable. Holmer went two goals down early on to a side that plays very direct football, and The Greens never really came to terms with this style during the whole game.

The Greens allowed United to take the initiative early on and the game quickly slipped beyond them. After just five minutes a long ball was missed by one of the centre-backs catching the other off-guard, and Burke ran on to slip the ball past Sam Bell from 15 yards. That reverse was followed just four minutes later by a handball decision given against Esplund-Evans inches inside the area and almost over the goal-line. Burke converted the award. On 28 minutes, the home side's lead was increased again. Poor marking following yet another long ball allowed the ball in. Marking at the rear

post prevented an immediate shot, but the ball was able to be laid back to the poorly marked Cairns who fired it past Bell.

The Greens made two substitutions at the break, but didn't ever give Jeffrey Fordjour up front or any other attacker the sort of service given to Burke and Cairns for Yateley. Holmer went behind on 53 minutes. A low right-wing cross was being gathered by Bell, when an attacker ran into him. Despite the 'keeper being floored and not moving for some time, the Referee did not stop the game immediately and Burke was able to follow up and complete his hat-trick. The game was into stoppage time when a visiting defender was allowed to keep the ball in play near to the home dug-out. The chase toward goal ended when the attacker seemed to change direction and went down-penalty.

But there was still time for Aaron Bryan to score his second of the season at the other end. He took advantage of an accurate reverse pass from Harrison Holbrook to slip the ball in.



Holmer Green

Marlow Women miss out in narrow defeat

MARLOW Hockey Women 1sts travelled to Cheltenham to play Lansdown 1s.

Lansdown were more aggressive at the start and were able to turn the ball over on numerous occasions.

Marlow had glimmers of hope with great runs from Martha Goodridge in which the opposition could not keep up with her pace and had to foul to stop her.

Great defending performances from goalkeeper Alys Ramm and

defender Sophie Apletree kept Lansdown out until the second quarter. Lansdown's prolific goal scorer shot from the top of the circle with a bobbly ball which Ramm was not expecting and took the lead for the home team.

Marlow played much better in the second half and enjoyed more possession. Rachel Clarke started linking well with Goodridge and Beth Halbard to create attacking chances. Marlow also earned many attacking

penalty corners but were unable to convert any and the score remained 1-0.

The 2nds maintained their position at the top of the table with 2-0 win away at Milton Keynes.

After an unusually slow start, Marlow grew into the game and found their rhythm but remained alert to the opposition's speed on the counter. Milton Keynes had a goal disallowed and both keepers made saves in a goalless first half.

Marlow's pressure eventually paid off when Olivia Xiao lifted in the loose ball at a corner and they were able to manage the game thereafter. Jazzy Elsdon fired a shot into the left corner to deservedly double the lead in the final move of the match.

Other results: 3rd team lost 1-0 to Slough 2s, 4s lost 3-0 to Wallingford 3 away, 5s lost 4-0 away to Sonning 3 away.

The 6s lost 2-0 to Windsor 3, and the 7s lost 5-2 to Sonning 5

Sport

HOCKEY

Marlow 1s earn good home victory

MARLOW Hockey men's 1st team went further ahead at the top of their league in beating Bournemouth at Pound Lane 2-0 and were helped by Trojans in second place losing away at Staines.

Bournemouth pressed Marlow hard in the first few minutes but Marlow then broke from defence with a fine passing move ending in a cross to Josh Covus perfectly placed to score the opening goal.

Approaching the end of the game Marlow were awarded one more penalty corner and this time

captain Sam North swept the ball into the roof of the net. It was hard going but Marlow had another three points and their 10th clean sheet of the season.

*The 2nd team were away to Milton Keynes 1sts and in a hard-fought match showing improved form after recent disappointments, they took the lead within the first two minutes. A well-executed break down the left from Ollie Harvey saw the ball played to Ollie Green in the middle who brilliantly drove to the right side of the D and found an eager Will

Strange on the back post for an easy tap-in.

Despite being under pressure, Milton Keynes were still in the game and the turning point came in the 26th minute when Milton Keynes scored an unexpected goal. The match concluded with a respectable 1-1 draw, a result that reflected the competitive nature of the encounter.

Other results:-

3rd team drew 2-2 with Phoenix Reading 1sts away, 4s beat Sonning 3 4-1, 5s beat Maidenhead 2 2-1, 6s beat Windsor 3 2-0 away



Josh Covus for Marlow 1s. Picture: Geoff Gray

FOOTBALL

League wins for Chesham United men and women

CHESHAM'S senior teams had three games this week as the men travelled to Hornchurch on Saturday and Hampton & Richmond on Tuesday night while the women's 1st team were on the road at Norwich City FC Women on Sunday.

First to Hornchurch and Chesham slid down to 16th in the table after this 2-1 defeat which means they have only taken one point from their last four games. Chesham took an early lead and somehow were still ahead with twelve minutes to go, but eventually the home side's pressure paid off with two goals in five minutes.

The home side made the stronger start but on 27 minutes a long cross-field ball found Connor Roberts on the right, and he set up Alex Lafleur who finished smartly to give Chesham the lead.

In the second half the home side took control of the game but didn't find a breakthrough until the 78th minute, when Charlie Pegrum crossed from the left and sub Tommy Wood headed in to level the scores. Two minutes later Callum Adebisi caught Darren McQueen as they both went for a bouncing ball in the centre circle, and Adebisi was shown a second yellow card.

Three minutes later McQueen fired in a shot that Dillon Addai parried but could not hold and Charlie Pegrum netted the loose ball. Chesham never looked like getting back into the game and deep into stoppage time Dillon Addai had to dive to his right to keep out another long-range effort. 2-1 on the night and a disappointing defeat.

On to Tuesday night then and another mid-week journey, this

By Andy Westlake

week to Hampton & Richmond. The game started positively for Chesham as Lachlan Byrd was judged to have blocked a shot on goal with his hand - a yellow card to Byrd and a penalty to Chesham which Lewis Rolfe converted. From there the game went in to a period where neither side could find a breakthrough with lots of play in the middle third of the pitch and half-time came with Chesham leading 0-1.

The second half provided chances for both sides and a period of play towards the end of the game when Chesham had 5 corners in a row but without finding the goal to extend the advantage. However, a stout defensive performance saw the visitors over the winning line and another important three points on the board. Chesham are now 14th in National League South, 14 clear of the drop and 13 points off the playoffs.

Finally, Chesham's women travelled to Norwich City Women FC to take on a team looking to go back to the top of the table with a win. Chesham held Norwich to a 2-2 draw at home so were hoping to take something from this game too. However a first half goal for the home side (Holly Kennard) was the difference on the day and despite playing some lovely football it was Norwich that took the points on the day. Chesham stay in 10th, 11 points clear of the danger zone with five games left to play.

Next up Chesham's men host Truro City on Saturday (3pm) and the women travel to AFC Sudbury on Sunday.



Chesham POTM Mel Porter defending another Norwich attack in the FAWNL.

DARTS

PRDL
Latest
Results and
Scores

Results from games played Thursday, February 20th in the PRDDL (Sponsored by Terry's Badges)

Div 1 (Sponsored By
Avocet Construction)

Bradmoor Farm Warriors 1-10 The Crown Royals
Chinnor Pavilion A 7-4 Whiteleaf Cross B
Chinnor Pavilion D 9-2 Bradmoor Farm A
Thame Snooker Club 5-6 The Honey Bee
The Bull A 4-7 Rivets
The Crown Jacks 3-8 Bledlow Village Cricket Club A
Weavers 7-4 Chinnor Pavilion B

Div 2 (Sponsored By
Wessex Landscapes
& Brickwork)

The Bell 5-6 The Three Horseshoes
Bledlow Village Cricket Club B 4-7 Bay 19
Bradmoor Farm B 9-2 Golden Cross
Chinnor Pavilion C 0-11 Aylesbury Vale FC
The Black Horse 5-6 Bradmoor Farm D
The Plough 2-9 New Zealand
Wendover RBL 6-5 Chinnor Pavilion E

'Luxury of players available' - Dodds on Berry's absence

WYCOMBE Wanderers head coach Mike Dodds has provided an update on striker James Berry.

The 24-year-old joined the Chairboys for an undisclosed fee during the January Transfer Window from League Two Chesterfield, but hasn't made the match-day squads for the seven games since his arrival.

These were against Northampton Town (0-0), Barnsley (2-1 win), Cambridge United (1-1), Crawley Town (1-1), Bristol Rovers (2-0 win) and Wigan Athletic (0-0) in the league, and Preston North End (0-0) in the FA Cup respectively.

Prior to his move down south, he had scored 10 goals in 28 matches in all competitions this season.

Berry was also one of 15 new players to arrive at Adams Park last month (this includes the re-signing of Caleb Taylor on loan from West Bromwich Albion).

Speaking after the 0-0 draw against Wigan Athletic on February 22, Dodds said: "He's not injured.

"We've got a luxury of players available to us and he's come into a football club that is not struggling or is in midtable.

"He's come into a team fighting for promotion and it's not just him.

"You've got the likes of Adam Reach, Anders [Hagelskjær] and Magnus [Westergaard] so it's not just James Berry, but I can understand it's frustrating for the boys but it is what it is.



James Berry (pictured in action for Chesterfield in March 2024) has yet to make his Wycombe debut

"It is one of the biggest headaches I've got and the boys just need to roll their sleeves up and be better than the players in front of them."

One of the new faces expected to feature in the stalemate versus the Latics was right back Fin Back.

The former Nottingham Forest man made his debut in the midweek victory against Bristol Rovers.

However, he missed out

on the Wigan match, with Jasper Pattenden making his first appearance in two months following a hamstring injury.

Dodds continued: "It is great to have Jasper back.

"He's been training for a few weeks now and we knew he would be fit and ready.

"Fin picked up an injury on Tuesday and Declan [Skura] hadn't done anything wrong [to be dropped] but he's more of

a centre half.

"The injury isn't too serious with Fin, but we'll have to wait and see.

"He's being assessed by the medical team at the moment."

Finally, Dodds has confirmed that striker Richard Kone will play some part in next week's top-of-the-table clash at Birmingham City.

The Ivorian played his first game in just under a month, coming on as a sec-

ond-half substitute in the draw against Wigan.

The head coach concluded: "Rich is one of the top scorers in the league so when you take a player of that quality out, it will be a big miss.

"Him being back is a huge plus.

"He got some minutes and he'll get some minutes next weekend too and we'll be building him up between now and the end of the season."

FOOTBALL

Dodds left frustrated by goalless home draw

WYCOMBE Wanderers head coach Mike Dodds has admitted he was 'frustrated' as his side drew 0-0 against mid-table Wigan Athletic at Adams Park.

In a game of limited chances, Fred Onyedimma, Josh Scowen and Caleb Taylor had the Chairboys' best attempts, as Sam Tickle was left not having to do much in the Latics goal.

And despite having 12 shots, only three were on target as Wanderers lacked that final bit of quality.

For Wigan, they defended brilliantly with Jenson Weir and Will Aimson being at the heart of nearly every block and clearance.

Wycombe remain second on 64 points, six points behind Birmingham City who have two games in hand.

For the Latics, they sit 16th, four points clear of the drop.

Speaking at full-time, Dodds said: "I am frustrated in terms of the scoreline, but the performance was very dominant and controlled.

"We needed that moment but it never came unlike Tuesday night [against Bristol Rovers].

"The longer the game went on, as they came with a gameplan to frustrate us, they gained hope whilst we became a bit more desperate in terms of our play.

"That won't be the first game I will be involved in that will be frustrating, and today was just one of those days.

"We accept it, get the point and move on.

"We just needed a little bit of luck for the ball to bounce in the right moments but it never did.

"We'll dust ourselves down and go again for Birmingham."

Since taking over from Matt Bloomfield at the start of February, Dodds has won one of his four games in charge, drawing three.

Wanderers have also kept three clean sheets in that time, and are unbeaten in nine matches in all competitions.

For Wigan, a point and a clean sheet against the side who have scored the most goals in League One this season was a big coup for Shaun Maloney's team, as they edge closer away from the drop.

It is also the first time in their history that they had failed to score in two consecutive matches against the Chairboys.

FOOTBALL

Wycombe share the points with Wigan

WYCOMBE Wanderers missed the chance to close the gap on league leaders Birmingham City as they drew 0-0 at home to Wigan Athletic.

The home side started the better of the two as they nearly took the lead inside the opening five minutes.

First, Caleb Taylor, who has yet to score at Adams Park this season, prodded from close range but had his attempt brilliantly tipped over by Sam Tickle.

Moments later, Josh Scowen's half-volley skimmed the top of the crossbar.

The Chairboys continued to look good on the ball and created several 'nearly' moments, but struggled to get into the final third.

For Wigan, their best chance fell to the feet of Owen Dale whose shot was easily saved by Will Norris.

The second half was similar to the first as Wycombe enjoyed possession but couldn't break down the Wigan backline.

Cameron Humphreys' fierce drive was denied by Tickle, whilst Jow Low and Garath McCleary saw their attempts go wide of the mark.

After a very lacklustre 85 minutes, the last five became end-to-end.

The return of star striker Richard Kone gave the home crowd a big boost, as he and Fred Onyedimma both went close in the final few moments, whilst for the Latics, Ronan Darcy saw his shot get saved by Norris.

Wanderers have now drawn four of the last five games, but, are unbeaten in their last nine in all competitions.

Attendance: 5,445 (446 away).



Cameron Humphreys battles for the ball. Image: PA

SPORT

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Two Wycombe fan favourites find new clubs



David Wheeler (left) and Scott Kashket (right). Image: PA

TWO members of Wycombe Wanderers' Championship-promoting winning squad of 2020 have found themselves new clubs.

David Wheeler, who spent five-and-a-half years at Adams Park between the summer of 2019 to January of this year, has penned a short-term deal with fellow League One outfit, Shrewsbury Town.

The Shrews are currently managed by Chairboys legend Gareth Ainsworth, and have ex-Adams Park personnel such as Dom Gape, Jamal Blackman and Arron Pierre respectively.

He joined the Shropshire-based team earlier this week on a free transfer following his exit from Wycombe at the start of February.

His time in South Bucks saw the utility player make 209 appearances in the light and dark blue, scoring 19 times and contributing 13 assists.

He will wear the number seven shirt at Shrewsbury, just like he wore at Wanderers. He said: "I'm chuffed to be here - it's great to team up with Gaz, Dobbo and Watesy and Dom Gape is here as well. It feels like a home from home already."

Another from the class of 2020 is Scott Kashket.

The 28-year-old striker, who scored Wycombe's first-ever goal in the Championship, has penned a deal with National League South side Welling United.

He spent five years at Adams Park between 2016 and 2021, scoring 31 times in 129 games.

This included making 10 league goals in 21 league games during the 2016/17 season.

However, since he left Wanderers four years ago, he had underwhelming

stints at Crewe Alexandra (2021/22), Gillingham (2022/23) and Sutton United (2023/24).

He then had a brief spell at Non League Hornchurch at the start of this campaign.

Kasket joins Welling having played for the club on loan from Leyton Orient during the 2015/16 term, where he featured seven times.

Collectively, the two players featured 64 times between them during Wycombe's promotion year to the Championship in 2019/20, with both fan favourites scoring four goals each.

Dodds confident on clash with table toppers

WYCOMBE Wanderers head coach Mike Dodds said his side 'fancy their chances' as they prepare to take on Birmingham City in a top-of-the-table League One clash.

The Chairboys, who sit second, travel to St Andrew's to face the former Premier League outfit, who are currently first, nine points clear of Wanderers and have a game in hand.

They have only lost twice in the league all season, but the Adams Park outfit have scored the most goals out of any team in the division with 58.

Additionally, in the four games that Dodds has taken charge of since replacing Matt Bloomfield at the start of the month, the club have kept three clean sheets.

Speaking ahead of this weekend's encounter, Dodds, who spent over 10 years with Birmingham as a coach, in which he helped nature the careers of many players which include Jude and Jobe Bellingham, said: "I think it will be a good occasion for everyone.

"In terms of my background with the football club, that will bear no weight as it is a Saturday game we want to win and that will be the only focus.

"If players need motivation for this type of game then I'd probably suggest they are not a Wycombe or Birmingham type player and I mean that respectively.

"Their fans will make it loud and intimidating for us without a doubt, but I am looking forward to it as these are the games that you want to be involved in.

"Birmingham will fancy their chances as they are at home but I fancy our chances.

"I've been working here for three weeks and from what I have seen, I can't see why we can't be successful this year.

James Richings

james.richings@newsquest.co.uk

"The players conduct themselves well, they leave everything out on the pitch and in all four games so far, I can't question the effort.

"When you have that as your foundation you give yourselves a good chance, but we know it will be a tough game but we'll make it difficult for them."

The fixture is expected to be one of the highest-attended games in the division this season, as both clubs sold out their allocated tickets.

This means around 2,000 Wycombe fans will make the journey up from South Bucks to the Midlands for the Saturday lunchtime kick-off.

It will be the first time they will visit St Andrew's since a League Cup match in September 2000, which ended in a 1-0 victory for the Blues.

Their previous visit to the Second City was in November 2020, which resulted in a 2-1 victory for the Chairboys.

It was their first-ever win at the stadium and their first away from home in the Championship.

However, due to the coronavirus pandemic, no fans were permitted to attend due to lockdown.

He added: "I have been told that it is a sell-out which is great as these are the types of games you want to be involved in whether you're a coach or a player.

"This is a game that everyone wants to be a part of as you want to get to a level to be a part of, and we are going in to show just how good we are."

The match will kick-off at 12.30pm.



Mike Dodds has taken charge of four Wycombe games, keeping three clean sheets in that time Image: Owen Humphreys/PA

Updated prediction on final league place

AN updated supercomputer has predicted where Wycombe Wanderers will finish in the league this season.

Back in October, Grosvenor Casinos suggested that the Chairboys would end the campaign on 80 points in seventh place, missing out on the play-offs by a single point.

At the time, they said Birmingham City would win the league on goal difference with Huddersfield Town finishing second - both on 91 points.

The play-offs would consist of Lincoln City, Charlton Athletic, Bolton Wanderers and Stockport County respectively.

This was conducted a few days after Wycombe had beaten Crawley Town 1-0 at home, to secure their fifth win in seven matches.

Since then, Wanderers have taken the league by storm as they went on an incredible 19-game unbeaten run, in which they sat top of the table for nearly two months.

They have also picked up 17 points from their last 30 available since New Year's Day, winning four, drawing five and losing one of their last 10 games, but they have now dropped to second, six points behind Birmingham who they play next.

So, what do CasinoHawks, separate from Grosvenor Casinos, think will happen between now and May?

They think Wycombe will finish the season on 93 points in second place, whilst Brum will be crowned championships with a staggering 108 points.

The play-offs would consist of Charlton Athletic, Leyton Orient, Barnsley and Wrexham, whilst Peterborough United, Shrewsbury Town, Cambridge United and Burton Albion will face relegation.

They also believe, based on the supercomputer's prediction, that Charlton will win the play-off final 1-0 against Orient.

Wycombe currently sit second in the table with 64 points, one point off their total for the whole of last season.