



Wycombe Wanderers Website

Match Report

Wycombe secured their place in the knockout stages of the Vertu Trophy with a 3-0 victory over Gillingham in the final group stage fixture at the MEMS Priestfield Stadium on Tuesday night.

Goals from Alex Lowry, debutant Jack Matton and Bradley Fink were enough to seal the eighth win in Michael Duff's 12th game in charge in a winner-takes-all battle, with Wanderers finishing runners-up in the group behind Colchester.

Duff handed a senior debut to Jack Matton in defence while Stuart Moore featured in goal for the first time in Wycombe colours, coming up against a Gills side led by former Wycombe assistant Richard Dobson as manager Gareth Ainsworth watched from the stands having spent a period of time away from the club following heart surgery.

Junior Quitirna made a bright start for the men in yellow, seeing an early shot blocked before a wicked cross was beaten away just ahead of Bradley Fink, and his assist then brought about the opening goal as the winger collected Matton's forward pass and then fed Alex Lowry, who fired low past the keeper.

The scorer and provider combined again soon after with some tricky attacking play which resulted in Quitirna volleying just over after Lowry's chance was blocked, before Stuart Moore was called into action for the first time, keeping out Marcus Wyllie's low strike with his legs.

Donnell McNeilly hit the target from the edge of the box at the other end but was denied by Taite Holtam's save, and then Bradley Fink's low effort was deflected wide for a corner before Quitirna's chance from a tight angle was saved soon after.

Chances kept coming, with McNeilly thwarted by Holtam with a powerful strike, but there were no further goals as the Blues carried their one-goal lead into the break.

The home side made two changes at the interval and saw Aaron Rowe strike the post early in the second half, before Fink was denied in the box after racing onto a through-ball.

James Tilley and Niall Huggins made their respective returns from injury, coming off the bench for McNeilly and Fin Back on the hour-mark, and within seconds of them entering the field it was 2-0, with Matton scoring a debut goal by tapping home Caolan Boyd-Munce's inviting cross from close range.

Quitirna shot wide as Tilley's low cross landed at the back post, and Dan Casey and Mekhi Savage came on for Matton and Lowry on 74 minutes.

The win was sealed 10 minutes later when a smart move freed up space for Tilley to pick out Fink with a cross, and the Swiss striker headed home with aplomb.

Cam Stones replaced Fink soon after, and Quitirna nearly whipped home a sumptuous fourth from range, before Stan Sargent came close to a consolation with a low strike which fizzed past the far post.

Travis Akomeah fired over for the hosts in stoppage time and that was that as Wycombe moved into the knockout stages, for which the draw for the next round takes place on Thursday.