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PASSING OF ROCK LEGEND WHO CALLED BUCKS HOME

Ozzy Osbourne made a home in Jordans with wife Sharon and their family. Main picture, auctioning off items from their homes in 2007. Images: PA Wire

- AIR AMBULANCE SENT TO OZZY MANSION
- POP ROYALTY PAYS TRIBUTE TO ICON

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Man killed on M40 'selfless and caring'



Grieving relatives issue tributes as police make five crash arrests

THE heartbroken family of a High Wycombe man who died in a crash on the M40 have paid tribute to his "ever-thoughtful presence".

Relatives of Naweed Hussain, 27, called him "the most selfless, caring, and wholeheartedly kind person you could ever imagine".

Naweed died in the early hours of July 12, after the Black VW Golf he was driving was

By Isabella Harris

involved in a crash with a blue Mercedes AMG C250 near Beaconsfield.

The incident took place at 1.15am, close to Junction 2 on the northbound carriageway.

Following the crash, five arrests were made by police.

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MYSTERY OF DAMAGED RED LION'S OWNERSHIP

NEW PARKING RESTRICTIONS IN CLAMPDOWN: PAGE 7

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THE BEAST IS BACK ON TV

Wanderers legend to appear on Channel 4



A group shot of all recruits lined up on beach (Channel 4)

WYCOMBE Wanderers legend Adebayo Akinfenwa has been named in the upcoming series of a popular reality TV show.

The 43-year-old, who scored 61 goals in 250 games for the Chairboys between 2016 and 2022, will appear in the 2025 edition of the Celebrity SAS: Who Dares Wins on Channel 4.

The Beast will be one of 14 famous faces who will be put through their paces as they will emulate the training that Special Forces must complete before going into the field.

Airing across eight one-hour episodes, the seventh series can be streamed or watched live every Sunday and Monday from 9 pm on Channel 4, starting on 3 August.

Speaking on why he wanted to go on the show, Akinfenwa, who also played for AFC Wimbledon, Gillingham, Northampton Town, Swansea City and Millwall, to name just a few, said: "I've asked myself time and time again -

am I built for the Special Forces?

"One of the reasons why I'm doing this is to find out.

"I would like to think that, put me in most situations, most environments, I'll be able to put my best foot forward, get out of my comfort zone, hit my responsibilities and do what I need to do.

"I think that's what I want to get out of taking part in this course."

Billy Billingham MBE, who is one of the Chief Instructors for SAS, said: "This course is not an attendance course, the bar is set high and will not waiver.

"Every recruit is a volunteer who chose to step into our arena.

"Although many will start, very few will finish, and even fewer will pass.

"This is not for the weak-minded or faint-hearted."

HOME COUNTIES

Cricket falls foul of weather

Stoke Green remain bottom of Division One of the Home Counties Cricket League following their five-wicket defeat to Banbury.

In a weekend of fixtures decimated by the weather, it was the only fixture which reached a conclusion as table-topping High Wycombe's clash with Aston Rowant was cancelled.

Stoke Green were all out for 186, Chetan Sharma celebrating a half-century with 51 and Munir Ur Rehman Tanzil reaching 49.

Hosts Banbury were given a revised target of 187 from 40 overs and won with two overs to spare.

Looking to cut the gap from the bottom, they travel Aston Rowant on Saturday while High Wycombe, who have a 33-point lead over second-place Finchampstead, travel to their nearest rivals.

*In Division Two, Chesham and Falkland remain in the bottom three after their match was abandoned.

Bicester and North Oxford sit 40 points adrift of Chesham at the foot of the table, while Falkland sit just one point above them.

Chesham won the toss and elected to field, Falkland setting a target of 151. However, the match was abandoned before the hosts could bat.

Chesham travel to Datchet on Saturday.

FOOTBALL

Windsor FC withdraw from playing matches

Windsor FC have withdrawn from the Combined Counties League just days before the new season kicks off.

The Jacks played their football out of Beaconsfield Town's Holloways Park and were in the Combined Counties Division One.

The club explain that "this decision is part of a strategic shift, as they focus their efforts and resources on an ambitious new ground development project. This initiative is intended to strengthen the club's long-term foundations and support future growth and sustainability."

The league said Windsor's withdrawal will cause some disruption to the fixtures list and a revised schedule will be released shortly."

WATER-SKIING

Bucks youngster off to the Championships in Canada

Seven British waterskiers will compete at the 2025 World Under-21 Waterski Championships in Canada next week.

The squad consists of four young men and three young women. Six of them will make up the team with one competing as a wildcard.

The competition begins on Thursday, July 31 and ends on Sunday, August 3. It will be held at Predator Bay Water Ski Club on Lakes of Kastynstone in Calgary, Alberta.

The Championships follow a successful European Youth Championships for GB in Spain, from which the team of Under 14s and Under 17s returned home with three gold, one silver and two bronze medals.

The Under 21 Squad:

Tom Parkin (20) from Scarborough, North Yorkshire. Tom is studying Business Management at the University of Lincoln. He will compete in slalom, tricks and jump.

Will Shanahan (20) from Worthing, West Sussex. Will is

studying Geography and Natural Hazards at Coventry. He will compete in slalom, tricks and jump.

Noah Pollard (19) from King's Lynn, Norfolk. Noah is studying on a waterski scholarship at the University of Louisiana Monroe in the USA. He will compete in slalom, tricks and jump.

Harley Coster (15) from Camberley, Surrey. Harley is a student at Collingwood College in Camberley. He will compete in slalom, tricks and jump.

Lilli Deste (20) from Great Missenden, Buckinghamshire. Lilli is studying Civil Engineering at the University of Nottingham. She will compete in slalom, tricks and jump.

Molly Lee (21) from Putney, London. Molly is studying Marine Biology at Portsmouth University. She will compete in slalom and tricks.

Jessie Schute (21) from Haslemere, Surrey. Jessie is competing in slalom only as a wildcard.

The World Championships take place every two years.



Lilli Deste slaloming in 2024. Photo Chris Yates

Bucks battle weather to defeat Suffolk

Despite losing nearly a day-and-a-half to the weather, Bucks pulled off an unlikely victory in their opening National Counties Championship Eastern Division 1 match against Suffolk at Bury St Edmunds on Tuesday, writes Michael Knox.

With so much time lost, it needed some enterprising plays from the captains, which included the forfeiture of an innings, to produce a result.

In the end Bucks won by 119 runs with more than an hour to spare.

After choosing to bat first, Bucks strug-

gled in their much-interrupted first innings which did not end until the third morning of the match, having made 230-9 from their 90 overs.

Cameron Parsons, who was to play a major in the Bucks victory, top-scored with 44 as the last two wickets added 88 runs. Max Uttley, Ed Horsley and Ryan Friend also topped 30.

To get the game moving, Suffolk immediately forfeited their first innings and then delivered some generous bowling as Bucks rattled up 45-0 dec from 3.3 overs in

their second innings. Billy Dodds was the main beneficiary scoring 42 not out from 15 balls.

As a result of these tactics, Suffolk were set 276 for victory in around 80 overs.

The home batsmen never really got going against Bucks' excellent attack, although at 127-4, they looked like securing the draw.

But their last six wickets fell for 29 runs in 16 overs to leave them all out for 156 in 67.1 overs, before the start of the last hour.

The excellent Parsons led the way with

4-41 from 19 overs, but received excellent support from Archie Dodds, Conner Haddow and Uttley, who wrapped up the victory when he dismissed Suffolk's top-scorer Alex Oxley for 45.

Bucks, who took 18 points from the game to Suffolk's four, play their next Championship game against Cambridgeshire at Chesham from August 10-12.

In the meantime, the team travel to play Northants in a showcase 40-over game at Wantage Road this Sunday, starting at 11am.

Sport

BOWLS

Captain's beat the President's at Marlow

The annual President versus Captain match was played at Marlow on Saturday, August 19 in very warm, humid conditions, with one downpour which paused the game for 10 mins. The result was a win for the Captains team 116-73 with the top rink for Captain by Roy Fabry with Suzanne Bell and Bob Perrin (30-8) this included a run of seven consecutive winning ends.

Winning team for the President was won by Steve Tight with Jo Perry and Peter Burgess (18-13)

although this was decided on a countback of the number of winning ends - 10; Tricia Best's rink won 19-13 with only nine winning ends!

The Marlow Men's Bucks Cup team played their quarter final of the Plate the next day against Amersham. Marlow struggled for the first seven ends, (down 20-31) but rallied over the rest of the match to win on three rinks with one rink drawn (77-54).

Marlow Ladies played their quarter final of the Trundell Cup on the same

day against Waddesdon, but were up against a very strong team and lost on both rinks Marlow 26, Waddesdon 42. Top rink for Marlow was skipped by Ann White playing with Annie Mindry and Mags Shelley.

In the County Men's Singles Jack Eliot met his match in the semi final and was disappointed to bow out of the competition.

Ann White, playing with Fliss Rees in the National over 60s pairs, won their final game in the Bucks County section and will now play a Middlesex pair.



Marlow Bowls Club, President's v Captain's.

FOOTBALL

Bucks sport stars head to Reading for Q&A

Goalscoring legend Kerry Dixon and former MK Dons manager Martin Allen are among the ex players and managers who will be stepping in as guest managers for Sunday League sides next season.

Dixon's goals for Reading earned him a move to Chelsea, where his goalscoring prowess saw him win eight caps for England. He began his career at Chesham United, which saw him earn a move to Elm Park in 1980 via Dunstable.

Allen, who was born in Reading and played for QPR, West Ham, Portsmouth and Southend, still lives in Berkshire.

He was Alan Pardew's assistant at the Madejski Stadium, before going on to manage Barnet, Brentford, MK Dons, Leicester City, Cheltenham Town, Notts County, Gillingham, Eastleigh and Chesterfield.

While in Bucks with MK Dons, between 2006 and 2007, he lost in the League Two play-off semi-finals before joining Leicester.

And you might just get a glimpse of the pair at a Sunday League game near you next season.

That's because Dixon and Allen are among a crop of ex players and managers who will be acting as guest managers for local park sides in the coming months.

Dixon, who is third on the list of all time leading goalscorers for Chelsea, behind Frank Lampard and Bobby Tambling, now conducts stadium tours at Stamford Bridge.

And Dixon and Allen are just two of the former players and managers who are being booked for Q&As and other events by Reading-based football speakers agency Event Speakers.

The Event Speakers line up includes Peter Beardsley, Stan Collymore, Pat Nevin, Paul Parker, Alan Smith, Matt Jarvis, Ian Bishop and Conor Washington.

For any Saturday or Sunday League sides who book Dixon or Allen as their guest manager, they will also stay behind after the game for a Q&A - to talk about the game and look back on their playing and managerial days.

"It's great to still be involved at Chelsea and I really enjoy the Q&As for fans of my former clubs," said Dixon, who is the special guest for a Q&A event at the Purple Turtle on February 8.

"I'm also looking forward to being a guest manager for any Saturday and Sunday parks teams that are interested in having me along to manage a game for them next season.

"Hopefully I can also give the strikers a few tips about goalscoring as well."

If you are interested in booking Dixon, Allen or another former player or manager for an event, or as a guest manager for your Saturday or Sunday League team, you can send a WhatsApp or text message to 07842 627548, or visit the Event Speakers website for more information: <https://eventspeakers1871.wixsite.com/event-speakers>

FOOTBALL

Bucks-born player died in accident at his pool

By Charlotte Coles

FORMER Oxford United player George Baldock died in an accident in his own swimming pool with no drugs or alcohol in his system, an inquest found.

The 31-year-old Greece international had been living in Athens after recently signing for Panathinaikos when he died on October 9 last year.

He spent the majority of his career playing as a defender for MK Dons and Sheffield United, having been born in Buckinghamshire, and had played a club fixture just three days prior to the incident.

Baldock was on loan from MK Dons at Oxford United for a season and a half from February 2015 until the end of the 2015/2016 season, after which he was named in the League 2 PFA Team of the Year.

He and his brother, fellow footballer Sam Baldock who played for the likes of Reading, West Ham United and Brighton and Hove Albion, were born and raised in Buckingham.

An inquest into Mr Baldock's death at Milton Keynes Coroner's Court on Wednesday confirmed his medical cause of death as drowning.

His family had previously said in a statement that Baldock had "tragically drowned" whilst swimming in the pool at his home.

An investigation by Greek police after the incident also found no evidence of criminal activity.

Mr Baldock was discovered in the swimming pool at his address, in the Glyfada district of Athens, on October 9 and attempts at resuscitation were unsuccessful, the inquest heard.

A post-mortem examination found no drugs or alcohol in his system and that he had a very

large heart "that would have meant that he was susceptible to heart arrhythmias", where the heart beats too fast, too slowly or irregularly.

Senior coroner for Milton Keynes Tom Osborne concluded Mr Baldock's death was an accident.

Tributes were paid across the country in the days after Mr Baldock's death, including by his former clubs and at a Nations League match between England and Greece at Wembley where the stadium held a period of silence and both teams wore black armbands.

In a statement released at the time, Mr Baldock's family said: "George, you were the most special father, fiancé, son, brother, uncle, friend, team-mate and person."

"Your enthusiasm and infectious personality brought so much love to those that were fortunate enough to know you and those that adored you from the stands."

"We will forever cherish the special memories we have of you and you will continue to live on in your beautiful son."

Mr Baldock was due to fly home the following day to celebrate his son's first birthday, his family said.

In a post on social media at the time, Oxford United, where his brother James is a club doctor, said: "Oxford United Football Club is deeply saddened to learn of the passing of former player, George Baldock, aged 31."

"The sincere condolences of everyone associated with the club are extended to James, Sam, his family, and friends."



Bucks-born George Baldock enjoyed a successful career in the EFL and Premier League. Picture: PA

'I'm enjoying it' - Allen on his time at Wycombe so far

NEW Wycombe Wanderers signing Taylor Allen has revealed he is 'enjoying' his time at the club so far, following his recent move from Walsall.

The 25-year-old had a stellar 2024/25 season with the Saddlers last year, as he scored 11 goals in 57 games in all competitions despite playing as a centre back.

After Walsall missed out on promotion to League One in May, many EFL outfits came calling for Allen, with Wanderers eventually winning the race to secure his signature.

And after he provided the assist for Richard Kone in the 1-1 pre-season draw against Barnet on July 22, he spoke to the Free Press and BBC 3 Counties Radio about his first few weeks in South Buckinghamshire.

He said: "It's been tough as we have been put through our paces, but it has been enjoyable meeting the lads - I'm enjoying it so far.

"We had a good week in Loughborough [earlier in the summer] getting to know each other off the pitch, and from the moment I walked in, we knew what the gaffer wants, so it's been good.

"We're coming along nicely now as we're getting to know each other both on and off the pitch, so the relationships are working.

"Now, it's about incorporating that into our game."

Last year at Walsall, Allen was predominantly played in a back three but could also play on the flanks.

This was seen in the draw against Barnet as his cross from the left-hand side put Wycombe ahead early in the



Taylor Allen celebrates after scoring for Walsall. Image: Cody Froggatt/PA

first half.

Speaking on his different positions, he added: "I tend to play in a back three, and I like to step in and try to affect the game going forward as well as defending.

"Throughout my career, I have played in a few positions,

and today [against Barnet], the gaffer wanted me to impact the back line whilst going forward.

"It worked as I put in the cross for Rich [Kone], who scored, but it's all about learning.

"Every footballer wants to

play at the highest level they can.

"I am 25 now, so I wanted to make that next step after a year-and-a-half of playing a lot of football, so I want to carry that on with Wycombe.

Finally, after getting double digits last year, when asked

about his goal target for the new campaign, Taylor concluded: "I didn't set a target last year - it was just about playing the games and seeing what came about during those moments.

"I want to do my best for the team."

FOOTBALL

Kone bags a brace in 3-0 victory

WYCOMBE Wanderers beat Cheltenham Town 3-0 in their penultimate pre-season friendly, with a brace from Richard Kone and a goal from a trialist wrapping up a comfortable victory for Mike Dodds' men.

The match got underway in Gloucestershire with the Adams Park outfit in their new light and dark blue, and the Robins sporting their brand new away strip.

Wanderers started lively, with Kone and Fin Back making dangerous runs forward, whilst Armando Quitirna forced the first corner of the match.

Young Ryan Cole then won the ball back high up the pitch with a great piece of pressure, forcing another corner.

Caolon Boyd-Munce's delivery was too deep but was recycled into the box, allowing Ewan Henderson to test Joe Day from range.

Quitirna was integral to everything his team did in the opening 20 minutes, looking extremely lively and causing the Cheltenham defence plenty of issues, which eventually led to their opener.

A delightful ball from James Berry carved open the Robins' defence, allowing Kone in one-on-one. The Ivorian coolly slotted past Day, to score the second goal of Wycombe's pre-season.

Just a couple of minutes later, Michael Flynn's side almost levelled.

A deflected shot from Ethon Archer cannoned off a Wanderers defender, beating Shamal George but rattling the frame of the Blues' net.

Sadly, Quitirna had to be withdrawn for Jaiden Bartolo after he picked up a knock. The Guinea-Bissau international walked off the pitch, which was a reassuring sign.

Play was then stopped as a Cheltenham supporter was knocked unconscious by a clearance. Medics attended to the supporter who was treated pitchside whilst the game continued, and the fan's condition was stabilised.

Moments later, Kone bagged his brace. A wonderful ball over the top by Back found Henderson free on the right flank with Kone in support. He squared it to the 22-year-old, who rolled it home into an empty net.

Daniel Harvie made his long-awaited return to action in the second half. His first minutes since suffering a season-ending injury against Birmingham City in early March.

Dodds' men then smashed the woodwork through the newest addition Jamie Mullins, after some great work by Alex Lowry opened up a shooting opportunity for the former Brighton prodigy.

A trialist then got his goal to seal the victory at the death when Taylor Allen's cross was prodded home by the number 37.

FOOTBALL

Ex-Wanderers defender joins non-league club

A former Wycombe Wanderers defender has managed to find himself a new club following his release from an EFL outfit.

Aaron Pierre, who spent three-and-a-bit seasons with the Chairboys between 2014 and 2017, has signed for Non League Eastleigh after he departed from Shrewsbury Town this summer.

The Grenadian international left Shropshire after the Salops' relegation to League Two, and has opted to move down south to join the National League team, who will compete in the division for the 12th consecutive season.

Speaking on his move, Pierre said: "I spoke to the manager [Kelvin Davis] for a good few weeks and got really good vibes from him and good communication in terms of what we're trying to do as a club.

"I want to make sure I give [the fans] 110 per cent and make sure we perform as well as we can throughout the season.

I want them to see that I came here because I see the vision of where the club is trying to go."

The centre back joined Wanderers on loan from Brentford during the 2013/14 season and scored one goal in eight games.

He would then sign permanently that summer and would feature, in total, 149 times for Wycombe, scoring 10 times.

He left in the summer of 2017 for Northampton Town before joining Shrewsbury two years later.

After departing the club for the first time in 2022, he had a forgettable 2022/23 season where he played a total of just 14 times for Sutton United and AFC Wimbledon in League Two, before rejoining Shrewsbury in 2023.

And for four months last season, he reunited with ex-Chairboys boss Gareth Ainsworth, who managed Shrewsbury between November 2024 and March 2025.



Aaron Pierre spent three-and-a-bit years with Wycombe

SPORT

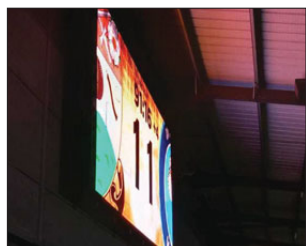
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Draw in final pre-season game against League Two outfit



Wycombe drew 1-1

WYCOMBE Wanderers ended their pre-season campaign with a respectable 1-1 draw against League Two.

The Chairboys looked good going forward and could have found themselves one up inside the opening 10 minutes.

Mikki van Sas' throw-in found Kone, who managed to brilliantly pick out the on-rushing Ewan Henderson.

The ex-Celtic man found himself one-on-one with Barnet's trialist goalkeeper, and it looked like the Adams Park side were going to take the end, but the shot-stopper got down low to brilliantly deny

the Scotsman.

However, Wycombe didn't have to wait too long to go ahead as they took the lead on eight minutes.

Taylor Allen's cross found Kone, who swept it in – his third goal in two matches this pre-season, following his brace against Cheltenham Town on Saturday afternoon.

Wanderers looked relentless going forward as Kone again went close but was thwarted by the goalkeeper on two occasions.

Down the other end, van Sas was called into action on two occasions.

The first was to deny Ryan Glover's close-range shot before he tipped Joe Hugill's looping attempt onto the post.

Barnet looked dangerous going forward, but the backline of Jack Grimmer, Declan Skura, Alex Hartridge and Allen kept them at bay.

In the midfield, Henderson, along with fellow new signing Caolan Boyd-Munce, did well to anchor the middle of the park, as this allowed Alex Lowry and Fred Onyedimma to venture forward.

The second period saw Wanderers make three changes as Will Norris replaced van Sas and Caolan Boyd-

Munce was substituted for Dan Harvie.

Just three minutes into the half, Wycombe were forced into another change as Henderson picked up an injury.

Trialist, former Arsenal youngster Michal Rosiak, came on and looked assured when on the ball.

He also nearly doubled the Chairboys' lead when he headed wide a Luke Leahy cross.

Kone again went close but his shot was saved by the keeper, before Lowry tried from range, only to be a whisker wide.

Wanderers boss wants 'two players in every position'

WYCOMBE Wanderers head coach has revealed that the club is 'still active' in the transfer window and that more players are expected to join in August.

The Chairboys have already signed nine new names this summer with Junior Quitirna, Taylor Allen, Bradley Fink, James Tilley, Dan Casey, Mikki van Sas, Caolan Boyd-Munce, Ewan Henderson and Jamie Allen all arriving at Adams Park in the close season.

However, with Boyd-Munce, Henderson and Declan Skura all going off injured in the recent 1-1 draw away at Barnet on July 22, Dodds was asked if he would be forced into the market.

Speaking at full-time, the head coach said: "Our business is not done yet as we want to keep progressing the football club.

"We've made many changes behind the scenes from a staffing perspective, where we have increased the staffing levels, and we need to do that with the players.

"They [the players] either have to come with us for the journey or we have to recruit those who do.

"We're still very much active in the transfer window."

On the injuries, he added: "Caolan had a head injury and he didn't feel well, so we didn't want to take the risk.

"Ewan is similar to that and should be precautionary, but with Dec, that seems more of an injury.

"We will have to see, but we are not overly concerned about it.

James Richings

james.richings@newsquest.co.uk

"We just need to be mindful, as we need to protect players in pre-season."

Wanderers will begin the league campaign away at Bradford City on August 2 before having their first home game of the season seven days later when they host Stockport County.

It is hoped that a handful of new faces will be signed by the time the 2025/26 league campaign starts, as Dodds looks to strengthen every position in the team.

He has also explained that rotations will be made during the year, and that there won't necessarily be a certain go-to starting 11.

He said: "I want two players in every position and as the season goes on I will be integrating the academy players, which will supplement the squad.

"This means we won't have a bulk like last year, as it will be more streamlined.

"We want competition and we want strong players in those positions.

"You'll see the intensity that we want as it is quite demanding.

"Two players for every position will mean rotation as we have 50-plus games, including the cups.

"If someone doesn't play [against Bradford on August 2], it doesn't mean they are out of my thinking.

"It means they will get their opportunity when their opportunity comes."



Mike Dodds (pictured in May) has revealed Wycombe remain 'active' in the transfer market. Image: Steven Paston

McCleary expected back soon from injury

WYCOMBE Wanderers head coach Mike Dodds has provided an update on winger Garath McCleary.

The 38-year-old, who will be going into his sixth season with the Adams Park team, hasn't featured in the Chairboys' pre-season friendlies this summer.

He signed a new deal with the club in May 2024 and triggered an automatic extension after playing a certain number of games during the previous campaign.

When asked about his absence, Dodds explained: "GMac got injured in the first couple of sessions [of pre-season].

"He's a couple of weeks away."

When asked about Bradley Fink and when the Swiss striker could appear in a Wanderers shirt, he added: "Bradley came in and he was slightly behind the rest of the group, and he's catching up.

"Hopefully he'll feature."

His comments came after the Chairboys drew 1-1 against League Two side Barnet in what was their final public pre-season friendly of the summer.

Instead of fielding two separate 11s in each half as he did in the non-competitive matches against Sutton United and Cheltenham Town on July 15 and 19, Dodds only named six substitutes, which included three academy players and a trialist.

The latter has since been confirmed as former Arsenal youngster Michal Rosiak.

Wycombe took the lead thanks to an early Richard Kone goal before Ryan Galvin equalised in the final 15 minutes.

Speaking on the performance, he said: "A tale of two halves.

"There were some bits I liked and others I didn't, but we're three weeks into process.

"In the first half, I was happy with the things we implemented, and in the second-half, I wasn't [happy] as we didn't do it.

"When you don't do the things that you want, the game turns into a basketball game.

"The structure is very important."