



Wycombe Wanderers Website

Match Report

Wycombe Wanderers Carabao Cup run comes to an end after a dramatic penalty shootout against Premier League side Fulham at Adams Park, writes Will Beaman.

Cauley Woodrow set the Chairboys off to the dream start after firing low and hard into the bottom corner from 25 yards out just three minutes in.

Josh King headed past the tough resolve of Will Norris from a corner moments after the restart, eventually sending the game to a penalty shootout.

Will Norris' penalty saving heroics gave the Chairboys a lifeline in the shootout to send it to sudden death but an eventual winning penalty from centre-half Issa Diop sent Wycombe out of the Carabao Cup.

Michael Duff made two changes to the side that put three past Huddersfield on the weekend. Jamie Mullins returned to the XI in place of Alex Lowry at the heart of midfield whilst Anders Hagelskjaer replaced Dan Harvie down the left side of the Chairboys' defence.

Duff's side looked to take the game to the Premier League outfit from the off. A square ball from Ewan Henderson forced Fulham defender Jorge Cuenca react early on, deflecting the ball narrowly wide of his own goal from a fizzing cross.

Having already caused problems for Marco Silva's side in the opening moments, Wycombe looked to take advantage of their fast start. Three minutes in, Woodrow picked up the ball around 25 yards out and fired the ball low and hard into the bottom-left corner to put the Blues ahead against his former side.

Despite The Chairboys' strong start to the game, Fulham began to take the game to Wycombe as the half grew on. The Cottagers first chance half of the half came 15 minutes in when Raul Jimenez could only head into the hands of Will Norris from an Adama Traore cross.

In typical fashion, the Spanish winger looked to cause problems for the Wycombe defence down the right-hand side. 20 minutes in, Traore shifted the ball onto his favoured right-foot and fired towards goal, forcing Taylor Allen to slide in and block the goal-bound effort.

The Premier League side fashioned two chances in quick succession around the 30-minute mark. Cairney almost capitalised on poor defending from the Chairboys but fired just wide of Norris' goal. King, who looked dangerous in the Fulham midfield, looked to curl one into the bottom corner having cut inside but couldn't quite find the back of the net.

As they did at the start of the first-half, Duff's side looked to put the pressure on early into the second-period. A long-throw fell kindly to the feet of Sam Bell, who cut inside and fired a powerful effort narrowly wide of Lecomte's goal.

But the visitors would shortly cancel out the Chairboys' advantage when King popped up at the near post to head Kevin's in-swinging corner past Norris and into the back of the net.

Corners had clearly been rehearsed by the Visitors prior to the evening's fixture. Silva's side came close to adding to their opening goal twice from set-pieces just five minutes after their equaliser. Cairney tested Norris from the edge of the area before Jimenez fired wide on the volley minutes later.

Looking lively down the left-flank, Brazilian winger Kevin looked desperate to score his first Fulham goal since signing for the club in the summer, forcing Norris to make multiple saves during the second period.

The final proceedings proved tough on the nerves of Wycombe supporters with Fulham looking to avoid a potential penalty shootout. Having beat the offside trap, Kevin once again tested Norris' resolve with a driven effort towards goal but the 32-year-old held strong to parry away to safety.

Substitute Donnell Mcneilly came close to sending the Terrace into raptures early into added time. The Ball fell kindly to the Nottingham Forest loanee on the edge of the area, who's powerful effort flew narrowly wide of Lecomte's goal.

Still looking desperate for a goal in the dying minutes, Fulham's closest chance of the game came with just seconds remaining of added time. After a brief scramble in the area, Kevin was on hand to fire towards goal, beating Norris but forcing a goal line clearance out of Hagelskjaer.

After a hard-fought defensive effort from Duff's side, the Carabao Cup Round of 16 tie would be settled by spot kicks.

Lecomte set the tone from the off in the shootout, getting down low to deny Henderson's opening effort. After eight converted penalties between the two sides, Ryan Sessegnon had the chance to win it for the Cottagers, but Norris was on hand to deny the full-back and send the shootout to sudden death.

Norris and Lecomte stole the limelight once more, denying Johan Kusi-Asare and Fred Onyedinma respectively to send the shootout to another round of sudden death.

But after Donnell Mcneilly forced yet another save out of Lecomte, French centre-back made no mistake to fire his effort into the top corner and send Wycombe out of the Carabao Cup.

Next up for the Chairboys more Cup action, this time in the Emirates FA Cup when Plymouth Argyle visit Adams Park at 3pm on Saturday.