



## Wycombe Wanderers Website Match Report

**Goals from Joe Low and Garath McCleary helped the Blues on their way to a fantastic, well-deserved 2-1 win at the Memorial Stadium on Saturday.**

Ex-Bristol City man Low nodded home Luke Leahy's free-kick in the first half, before McCleary's classy finish from Brandon Hanlan's assist looked to have secured the points, before Harvey Vale's effort set up a tense finale.

Matt Bloomfield made two changes to the side that started in the 0-0 draw with Burton seven days earlier, with Chris Forino replacing the injured Jack Grimmer in defence, while Killian Phillips came in for Freddie Potts in the middle.

Josh Scowen captained the team, with Jason McCarthy included in the 18 for the first time this season after injury, taking a place on the bench.

It was a slow start to the game, with a strong breeze causing havoc with aerial passes, while neither side could find a cutting edge with a passing game either. Rovers had the first effort, seeing George Friend's first-time effort from 20 yards blocked, before Jevani Brown miscued a shot into the building site behind one goal.

The breakthrough came at the other end and – wearing the red and white of his former club Bristol City – Joe Low headed home from former Pirate Luke Leahy's well-measured free-kick following a foul on the wing.

He was booked for his celebration, and attentions quickly shifted to his defensive duties, as he, Forino and Ryan Tafazolli stood firm against the hosts' efforts to find a way back before the interval.

Brown went closest, firing over and striking the outside of the post from a tight angle, but it was Low's header that separated the sides at half-time.

The hosts came out strongly in the second period, and almost levelled while Wycombe were down to ten men with Ryan Tafazolli needing treatment pitchside, but Forino pulled out an excellent intervention to deny Scott Sinclair a simple tap-in at the back post from a cross.

Tafazolli was unable to continue, so Richard Keogh came on, and Garath McCleary followed him off the bench as Killian Phillips also made way.

Leahy came close to making it 2-0, unleashing a superb first-time volley that needed to be smartly tipped over by Matthew Cox, and four minutes later Leahy's daisy-cutter at the end of a sparkling move needed to be tipped behind by the keeper.

It was McCleary's turn to threaten next, striking low after Leahy's cross was nodded into his path, but the Pirates defence blocked it to safety.

Rovers made a triple substitution on 64 minutes, introducing Lamare Bogarde, Josh Grant and John Marquis from the bench, but Blues were forced into a change when Dale Taylor left the field on a stretcher following a collision with James Wilson, who was booked. Brandon Hanlan took his place, while Freddie Potts also came on with Vokes making way.

Hanlan was straight into the action, firing into the side netting from a tight angle, and he then drilled low at the keeper's legs from a similar position moments later.

Wycombe needed to make these chances count, and they did with 15 minutes remaining, when they won the ball back in midfield and broke at pace, with Hanlan slipping in McCleary for a slick finish past Cox.

Rovers made two more changes, bringing on Harvey Vale and Antony Evans, while Wanderers introduced Jason McCarthy for his first appearance of the season, as Harry Boyes departed.

The hosts then halved the deficit with seven minutes of normal time remaining, when Brown got the better of a tussle with Vincent-Young and slipped in Tristan Crama, whose low cross was turned home by Vale.

There were to be 10 minutes of injury time after the 90 were up, and there an audible gasp as a clear-cut chance opened up for Rovers six minutes in, only for Joe Low to produce an incredible block to preserve the win.

Get in!