



## Wycombe Wanderers Website Match Report

**Blues were left to rue a below-par first-half display which left them too big a mountain to climb in a 2-1 defeat at Burton Albion on Saturday.**

Dale Taylor and Joe Powell fired the Brewers into a two-goal lead early on, but Matt Bloomfield's sides were given lifelines with the sending-off of Albion defender Deji Oshilaja and a missed penalty by Joe Jacobson before Tjay De Barr nodded home what proved to be a mere consolation.

Wycombe - with an unchanged starting XI - began well, carrying momentum from their excellent 2-0 win over Fleetwood in midweek, and Sam Vokes fired wide inside 15 seconds, Garath McCleary shot straight at Craig MacGillivray following Nick Freeman's clever pass, and Vokes cut in from the left and his effort deflected wide.

But the hosts always carried a threat, seeing Deji Oshilaja's header fly over following Tom Hamer's long throw, and they took the lead when Josh Walker's flick on gave Dale Taylor something to chase and he got the better of Chris Forino on the edge of the box before tucking home beyond Max Stryjek.

The goal put the Brewers into the ascendancy and they earned their second goal when Joe Powell curled home an exquisite effort after Jack Grimmer's clearance from a cross landed in his path.

Wanderers switched to a possession-based approach to try and stretch the hosts, not getting any joy from a resolute backline, and the better chances fell to the host when Charlie Kirk's chance was well blocked before John Brayford looped a header wide.

However, a potential turning point came on the stroke of half-time when referee Lee Swabey deemed Deji Oshilaja's challenge on Lewis Wing to be worthy of a red card, reducing the hosts to 10 men for the second half.

Burton set themselves up well, organising their shape to nullify the visitors' extra-man advantage, and they could have extended their lead when Brayford sent a header straight at Stryjek from Hamer's long throw.

Nick Freeman came close to halving the deficit with a left-footed drive which deflected onto the post from 20 yards, before the introduction of Josh Scowen and Tjay De Barr gave the Blues fresh impetus with 20 minutes remaining.

Scowen fired over with his first touch, and De Barr's first effort went just wide with a flicked header from Garath McCleary's cross.

Lewis Wing deflected Brayford's chance over before threatening at the other with a succession of long-range efforts, before the Blues won a penalty when Forino was bundled over by Jasper Moon, only for Joe Jacobson to sky the free-kick over the bar.

Forino headed a chance at the keeper and Wing continued to threaten from distance, before De Barr's maiden EFL goal arrived with a close-range header from McCleary's corner, but it was too little too late with the Brewers digging in to hold on for an important win in their battle for survival.