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Remember these late wins at AP?



Late goals for Wycombe at AP

WITH the return of fans to stadia this season, Wanderers have returned to doing something they were so good at before the pandemic, scoring late winners at Adams Park.

The games against Morecambe and Crewe this month have both been won at the death by the Chairboys, who made a habit of ending home matches in this way during the promotion seasons of both 2017/18 and 2019/20.

The never-say-die attitude of Gareth Ainsworth and his players means they've been able to salvage points from nowhere, even when Wycombe haven't played at their best.

As Wigan, Sunderland and Rotherham are likely to be around the 90-point mark come May, Wanderers will need every boost they can get, so any more last-gasp deciders at Adams Park would be more than welcome.

Ryan Tafazolli's winner against Crewe on Saturday wasn't the first time Wycombe have snatched it in the final moments against the Railwaymen, with a late turnaround courtesy of Michael Harriman and Nathan Tyson really sparking the 17-18 season into life.

Arguably the most famous moment in that campaign came when ten-man Wycombe trailed Carlisle 3-2 in the 92nd minute of the League Two meeting, needing a win to remain 2nd in the table with several teams hot on their heels.

Paris Cowan-Hall grabbed an equaliser, before Marcus Bean's first goal for the club sparked delirious scenes behind the goal.

After winning promotion, Wanderers ended the following season 17th in League One, but despite that, the Adams Park faithful were treated to more late theatre.

Craig Mackail-Smith completed a comeback from two down to beat Scunthorpe, and Cowan-Hall was involved again in a 3-2 defeat of Doncaster where Wanderers' three goals all came in the final 15 minutes.

Although the 19/20 season was ended abruptly because of the pandemic, Wycombe still squeezed in three more memorable last-minute victories on the way to the historic promotion to the Championship.

After falling to a 3-1 deficit against Southend, a brace from Scott Kashket and a goal from Anthony Stewart helped preserve the Chairboys' unbeaten start to the campaign.

Wanderers leave it late again at home

By James Richings

RYAN Tafazolli scored a brace which included an injury-time winner as Wycombe Wanderers defeated Crewe Alexandra 2-1 at Adams Park.

The centre-back had given the Chairboys the lead on the stroke of half-time before Tom Lowery equalised for the visitors - but, in the sixth minute of added time, Tafazolli scored his fourth of the campaign to make it eight league wins in a row at home for Wanderers.

The away side had the game first chance as Chris Long got the ball from an Anthony Stewart mistake just outside of the box, and after wriggling his way into the penalty area, the 26-year-old unleashed a thunderbolt of a shot but David Stockdale was on hand to block the effort.

Seconds later, Wanderers responded as they had their first chance, but Sam Vokes' header from a Josh Scowen cross went just over the bar.

This started a wave of attempts from the home side as Brandon Hanlan went close but was denied by Will Jaaskelainen, before a Joe Jacobson corner flashed past the goal.

Crewe's free-flowing football is a complete contrast to their league position, as they caused Wycombe problems at both ends of the pitch.

Billy Sass-Davies produced a stunning block to deny Hanlan and Rio Adebisi's incredible volley was matched by a world-class stop by Stockdale moments before half-time.

But it was the home side that took the lead as a Jacobson corner was cleared by the Crewe backline, but it fell to an on-rushing Curtis Thompson.

The midfielder tried his luck from range and his effort took a huge deflection off Tafazolli.

The ricochet wrong-footed Jaaskelainen and Wanderers went into the break ahead.

The chances kept on coming for Wycombe and an incredible piece of play saw Wanderers have three attempts in a matter of seconds at the start of the second period.



Ryan Tafazolli scored a brace as Wycombe left it late to defeat Crewe 2-1 at Adams Park on October 23 (PA)

Firstly, Thompson's shot hit the inside of the post, the rebound fell to Vokes but his shot was saved and from that effort, Hanlan's attempt was scrambled away off the line. The pendulum had now swung and Crewe were hanging on.

However just seconds later, the away side nearly got their goal as Gomes' cross/shot found its way to goal, but, Stockdale again was there to produce an

incredible stop.

It looked like Crewe were going back up to Cheshire empty-handed but substitute Tom Lowery, who had been serenaded by the away fans throughout, scored with 13 minutes left to put visiting side level.

After Crewe got into the Wycombe box, Lowery's effort was saved by Stockdale but the rebound found the sub, who slotted home from close range.

Wycombe threw the kitchen sink in the final few moments as Hanlan, McCarthy, Obita, and Stewart all tried their luck, but thanks to some last-ditch defending and brilliant stops by Jaaskelainen, it stayed at 1-1.

Then, with seconds to go, Obita's cross was flicked in by Tafazolli who looped the ball over the goalkeeper to seal three points for Wanderers.



Wycombe Wanderers boss Gareth Ainsworth was happy after the win (PA)

Boss on the late win over Crewe Alexandra

WYCOMBE Wanderers' manager has shared his thoughts on his side's dramatic late win over Crewe Alexandra.

The Chairboys defeated one of the league's basement teams 2-1 at Adams Park with Ryan Tafazolli scoring a brace, which included a 96th minute flick that flew over a scrambling Will Jaaskelainen.

This now means the centre back has scored four goals in his last six matches for the Chairboys, and it is the second

time this month that Wanderers have left it late to win all three points.

The win was similar to the victory over Morecambe at the start of the month, as Wanderers again left it late to take all three points at Adams Park.

In that finale, the final score finished 4-3, which also saw Tafazolli scored in.

Speaking after the match, Ainsworth said: "Don't leave early!

"I said it after Morecambe, and I hope everyone heeded my warning.

"I am not going to dismiss Crewe as they had chances and David Stockdale made a brilliant save in the first-half, and he almost kept their goal out, but, you have got to credit Crewe. "They defended well and really broke the game up in the second half."

Up next is Fleetwood on Saturday.



Gareth Ainsworth was honest after his side's win over Crewe on Saturday, October 23 (PA)

'Typical Wycombe'

THE 'typical Wycombe' tag has got Gareth Ainsworth talking, as the boss shared his views on Wanderers' win over Crewe Alexandra on October 23.

Speaking to the press after the victory, he said: "I was really proud of them, and what I am really pleased with is the composure the boys had around the box. It wasn't 'get your shot off at all costs because we need to score', it was 'let's work this, let's take that extra pass at times' and Dobbo has worked hard on that in training, and it has been something we have been trying to improve with the players that we brought in over the last couple of

seasons.

"The players we have got I think are capable of doing this, and the set up for the goal was very composed. Everyone might say it's 'typical Wycombe' with long throws and set pieces when we get the ball forward, and you can keep thinking that but that's your downfall.

"We play some really good stuff and how we didn't add to our tally is a mystery."

The win has put Wanderers back into the top two of the League One table after they briefly dropped out of the automatic promotion places following their 0-0 draw at Rotherham United.

'Positive signs' after late Crewe victory



Gareth Ainsworth (PA)

DESPITE Wycombe's late win last weekend over Crewe, Wanderers boss Gareth Ainsworth was shocked that his side didn't score more goals against the League One strugglers.

A Ryan Tafazolli volley gave the home side all three points in the 2-1 win, which saw Will Jaaskelainen save many efforts from all the pitch.

However, a win is a win and Wycombe are now back into top two of the League One table – joint top with Plymouth Argyle on 30 points.

Argyle have got a superior goal difference to the Chairboys as they have scored four more goals to Gareth Ainsworth's men, but have conceded the same amount of strikes.

Wanderers are also two points clear of Wigan and Sunderland, but both sides have a game in hand over Wycombe.

He continued: "How we haven't scored more means you have got to give the Crewe defence credit, and it was one of those moments near the end there when you hadn't been at your maximum, we weren't as brilliant as we had been, but we still get the win, are positive signs for a side that want to achieve this year."

A fixture that seems to have lots of drama



Wycombe Wanderers will take on Fleetwood Town at Highbury Stadium on Saturday – their first visit to the ground since July 2020 (PA)

WYCOMBE Wanderers are preparing themselves for another long away trip this weekend, as they take on Fleetwood Town on Saturday.

The Chairboys take on the Lancashire side off the back of a brilliant home win against Crewe Alexandra – their eighth in a row at Adams Park in the league.

Couple with an unbeaten run of six matches since their 1-0 away loss at MK Dons at the end of September, Wanderers are enjoying the dizzy heights of the League One table, as they sit in second place – join top with Plymouth Argyle.

The only thing separating the Chairboys and the Green Army are four more goals the latter have scored, and with their opponents this weekend being in the bottom four of the table, this could be a perfect opportunity for Gareth Ainsworth's men to continue with their promotion-push.

It will only be the 12th time the two sides would have face each other but in those previous matches, there has been no limit in drama and excitement.

Four of those fixtures took place in the 2019/20 when the Chairboys achieved promotion to the Championship.

In the domestic meetings, Fleetwood and Wycombe played out a 1-1 draw at Highbury Stadium in August 2019, with Paddy Madden scoring an injury-time equaliser to rescue a point for Joey Barton's men.

Madden would be the scourge of Wanderers once again in the return match in February 2020, as his goal gave the Cod Army all three points at Adams Park, despite the away side going down to 10 men following Ched Evans' red card. However, it was in the play-offs when things got tasty.

In the first league match at Highbury

By James Richings

Stadium, one day before lockdown restrictions were lifted in the UK, Fleetwood and Wycombe played an extraordinary game.

A minute into the match and Wanderers took the lead through Nnamdi Oforborh's stunning volley, before Ched Evans equalised with a penalty two minutes later.

If that wasn't a quick enough start, Wycombe scored again after five minutes through a Joe Jacobson corner.

It was already 2-1 inside seven minutes.

Things started to get even more remarkable as the homeside went down to 10 men following Lewie Coyle's straight red card for a horrific challenge on Jacobson on 33 minutes inside the penalty area.

The terrible tackle gave Wanderers the chance to increase their lead but Jacobson missed the initial spot-kick.

However, this didn't stop Wycombe as they did get their third on the stroke of half-time, thanks to a David Wheeler volley. Alex Samuel gave Wycombe their third moments into the second half to make it 4-1, before Madden, was shown two yellow cards in quick succession.

The first was for a dive, with the second being for dissent.

The astonishing battle in the North West was written in the stars for Wycombe to do the unimaginable, as three days later, a 2-2 draw at Adams Park cemented their place in the 2020 League One Play-Off final, and we all know what happened there.

My prediction: Fleetwood Town 0-2 Wycombe Wanderers

Record could be broken at home?

WYCOMBE Wanderers are on course to beat a 20-year-old attendance record when they face Ipswich Town on November 2.

The club have confirmed that their opponents have sold out their allocation, meaning around 1,800 Tractor Boys are expected to make the trip from Suffolk to Buckinghamshire.

This comes after the original date for this fixture was postponed in September due to Wanderers having several players away on international duty.

The current record attendance for a midweek match at Adams Park is 9,250, when the Chairboys took on Reading in February 2002.

Despite the house on the verge of being full, Wanderers lost 2-0 with Jamie Cureton and Darius Henderson getting the goals in the second half.

SPORT

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Plaudits for both Taf and Stockdale



Ryan Tafazolli (left) scored twice for Wycombe in the game against Crewe whilst David Stockdale produced two stunning saves (PA)

By James Richings

DAVID Stockdale and Ryan Tafazolli were praised by manager Gareth Ainsworth after the two put in a brilliant performance in Wycombe's 2-1 against Crewe Alexandra at Adams Park on Saturday (October 23).

Tafazolli scored a brace which included a 96th minute winner in front of the terrace end, whilst Stockdale produced several saves to keep Wanderers in the game.

Two of the saves - one from a Rio Adebisi volley and a Madgar Gomes cross/shot - were tipped acrobatically away for corners when the away side were on top.

Both stops proved vital as Wycombe ended up snatching all three

points in a thriller in South Bucks.

Speaking after the game, the boss said of Stockdale: "David Stockdale is a Premier League/Championship keeper when he is at his best and there is no doubt about that.

"We are so lucky to have someone like that because Lee Harrison, the goalkeeper coach, works hard and David, mentally, has had to overcome a lot in his life and he is playing at his best.

"To have someone like that between the sticks to build on is fantastic and I want to say thank you to Stocko for being patient all those times he wasn't playing in the Championship.

"He then gets his chance, he took it and he deserves it.

"Proof of that today as he is a fantastic keeper."

And of Tafazolli, he added: "He is

very laid back, and sometimes I need to rile him up because he can be too laid up and casual.

"But, that's his game.

"He's very steady and he is very assured of the way he plays and I think he has been a fantastic player for us when he came in.

"If he and Uche [Ikpeazu] were fit at the start of last season, I think we would have survived in the Championship.

"But I won't do individuals here, as I feel obliged to name the other 18 as they have all played their part today."

Tafazolli joined Wycombe Wanderers in the summer of 2020 from Hull City and has scored six goals in 32 matches so far for the Chairboys.

Stockdale, who is in his third spell with Wycombe, has played 37 times for the club.

He became the club's number one in February of this year after Ryan Allsop, who is now at Derby County, was dropped from the team.

Overall, he has made 438 club appearances since making his debut 19 seasons ago for York City in the 2002/03 campaign.

Those matches include 39 of them for Fulham in the Premier League between 2008 and 2014.

Another notable clubs the shot-stopper has represented include Leicester City, Brighton & Hove Albion, Hull City, Ipswich Town, Rotherham United and Plymouth Argyle to name just a few.

So far this season, he has kept six clean sheets.

Wycombe will play Fleetwood this Saturday, October 30.



Adams Park

Home draw in friendly fixture

WYCOMBE Wanderers drew 1-1 with the Bournemouth Development Squad in a behind-closed-doors practice match at Adams Park this week.

The Chairboys, who play Fleetwood Town at the Highbury Stadium this Saturday, took the lead on October 26 through a trialist who scored after 47 minutes - before the Cherries equalised through two minutes later with Nathan Moriah-Welsh getting the goal.

The fixture gave several Wanderers players a chance to get some valuable minutes under their belt, as Jack Grimmer, Anis Mehmeti, Dominic Gape and David Wheeler all played in the friendly in South Buckinghamshire.

Development players such as Adam Pryzbek,, Tjay de Barr, Olly Pendlebury, Max Ram , Chris Forino and Connor Parsons also made an appearance.

Another accolade for Ryan Tafazolli

FOR the second time this season, Wycombe Wanderers defender Ryan Tafazolli has been included in an EFL Team of the Week.

The 30-year-old, who joined the club from Hull City last summer, scored twice in the Chairboys' 2-1 win over Crewe Alexandra which included a 96th minute winner at Adams Park.

The goal was flicked in by the defender from a Jordan Obita cross to secure Wanderers' eight consecutive league win at Adams Park.

Following the victory, Tafazolli has been included in both the EFL Team of the Week and League One Team of the Week.

It is the second time this season that he has been included in a TOTW, as Tafazolli was named in the all-star XI following the Chairboys' 2-1 win against Shrewsbury in September, in which he scored in.

It is the third match in a row between Wycombe and Crewe that Wanderers have snatched all three points in injury-time.

Tafazolli has scored four times in his last six games.