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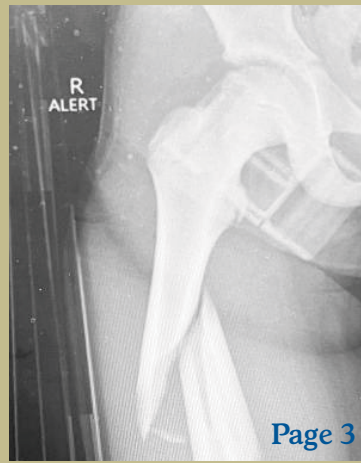
Friday, September 29, 2023

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SPORT

Sunday League round-up as 100 goals hit

104 strikes in fact rattled the nets across Buckinghamshire as the High Wycombe Sunday Football Combination entered its third game week.

Two games across the Leagues saw an astonishing 10 goals scored. In Division One, Denham United handed a 7-3 beat down to Maidenhead Rangers. Messrs George Wakefield and Tristan Ward hit braces, whilst Josh Williams, Matt Gingell and Harry Fulbrook got in on the act for the home side. And in Division 3, Mill Lane returned to Derehams Lane in successive weeks to thrash sorry Wanderers FC 1-9, to gain their first 3 points of the season.

Division One

Bucks Pumas move up to second in the table after securing three points at Hedsor against Wycombe Athletic to maintain their unbeaten start. AFC Wycombe condemned All Trades to back-to-back defeats, winning 5-1 with Devonte Johnson hitting a stunning 4 goal salvo. Beaconsfield Town Community lost out 1-5 at home to Craig Wright's Great Brittan XI who saw Brandon Myers receive a straight red card, their second red card in 3 League games.

FC Lions recorded a solid 0-4 away win against a gutsy Downley Albion side with James Przybylak scoring twice, either side of Ross Shearer & Mark Slatter efforts. Hazlemere Sports continued their fine start to the season, recording a comfortable 3-0 home win against Lane End to remain the only Division One side with a perfect record. AFC Liberal continued their struggles as they succumbed to defeat at home to Joshua Draper's Loudwater United side, 2-4. Harlem Hale scored a brace, alongside strikes from Keith Taziwa & substitute Aiden Roberts.

Division Two

HCA Dons must wonder what they have got to do to get a win, having drawn each of their opening three games! The latest game saw them score 4 goals away to Bucks Buffalos and still shared the points in a 4-4 draw! FC Beaconsfield recorded a smash and grab 1-0 win at home to Lane End Reserves. White Hart FC won 1-3 away to FC Riverside, with Harry Eyre scoring, alongside a brace from Jack Corden. Italia Unita beat Hazlemere Sports Wanderers 5-2 at Magnolia Park to record their first 3 points of the campaign. Paul Nicholls & Stephen Eddowes recorded consolation efforts for HSW. Stokenchurch poured more misery on winless Denham United XXII, as they stole all 3 points with an impressive 3-1 home victory, summer signing & former Marlow Swan man, Alfie Eccle scored for DUXXII. FC Burnham Village beat rock-bottom Wycombe Sports 1-2 to move up to 8th in the standings.

Division Three

Andy Chalk's Holmer Green Rangers sit pretty at the top of the table, as they beat winless Hambleton SSC 5-0 at Watchet Lane. Fred Nicholls scored

Ravizzoli becomes a new Chairboy



Franco Ravizzoli has joined Wycombe from Milton Keynes following his exit from the north Bucks side during the summer Image: NQ

WYCOMBE Wanderers goalkeeper Franco Ravizzoli has revealed he is 'happy to be at the club' following his exit from Milton Keynes this summer.

The Argentine joined the Chairboys as a free agent after he departed the club's Buckinghamshire rivals in June.

He made his debut in Wanderers' 1-0 victory over the Crystal Palace U21s in the EFL Trophy, his first competitive appearance since November last year.

In an exclusive chat with the Free Press, he said: "I'm loving it."

"Everyone has been very kind from the staff to my new teammates so I'm happy to be here."

"When I had the chance to come here, it was a no-brainer."

"I know they are a big and important club in the division and Sergio Torres, who is my friend, told me many good things about Wycombe."

"He spoke about the club really well to the people who work here and the fanbase so I know I wanted to come."

"It took longer than expected but we had it done and I'm excited."

On his debut against the young Eagles side, he added: "It's been so long since my last game that I can't remember when it was, I think it was in the FA Cup last season."

"It was good and a nice feeling."

James Richings

"I really enjoyed it as I thought we were a solid team and we showed we can create chances and we defended well."

"Personally, I felt comfortable with and without the ball so I'm happy to be here."

Despite arriving at the club as a second choice, Ravizzoli has made it his aim to try and become Wycombe's number one.

The 26-year-old has only featured 10 competitive games since the start of the 2021/22 season, and hopes he can showcase his talents to the Adams Park faithful on a regular basis.

He concluded: "Every player wants to play but now I just need to work hard."

"I know Max has been doing well recently and I'll do what I need to do to try and help him, but eventually, my aim is to be number one and play as many games as possible."

"That's the aim for every player."

He will wear the number 25 shirt for Wycombe.



Young Ralph celebrates finishing first in the race in Northampton

Wycombe racer finishes first to go on TV show

A seven-year-old kart racer from High Wycombe who is due to appear in an Amazon Prime documentary next year has recently won a national championship.

Ralph Martin, who will be included in the 'Driven Dreams' series which looks at the next generation of young drivers, needed to achieve second place at the Whilton Mill Kart circuit in Northampton to secure the title.

During the first two heats, the seven-year-old was in control until adverse weather conditions, as well as being knocked off the track by a

teammate made the race a tad hairy for the Wycombe youngster.

However, he managed to regain his composure and earned a podium place to secure the title.

His dad, Stu, said: "It's been an incredible season in what is Ralph's first full season of karting."

Ralph is currently looking for sponsorships so for more information, email kirstyr20@hotmail.co.uk.

Additionally, you can follow him on Instagram (Ralphracing.32)

Potts praise after goal

WYCOMBE Wanderers manager was full of praise for West Ham starlet Freddie Potts following his first professional goal during Wycombe's defeat to Charlton Athletic.

Bloomfield spoke about the maturity of his number 19, following his equaliser in the second half. "Freddie's going to be a top player, he plays with a maturity about him that biases his tender years."

The West Ham loanee scored a second half equaliser for Wycombe at The Valley, before Charlton took the ascendancy and scored two late goals to seal

the win.

"We believe he's going to the very top, and we're really fortunate to have him as part of what we're doing" said a despondent Matt Bloomfield when asked about the midfielder.

Potts' superb strike ten minutes into the second half got Wycombe back on level terms at 1-1, before a number of good Wycombe chances went begging in the second half.

The 20 year-old has played eight games for Wanderers so far in the 2023/24 season on loan from West Ham.

Parry's Preview: A special place



Wycombe Wanderers logo

THE name of Wycombe's next opponents Carlisle United, who visit Adams Park on Saturday, September 30, will forever have a special place in the club's history.

Thirty years ago, on August 14, 1993, the Chairboys made the long journey to Cumbria for their first ever game in the Football League after more than a hundred years as a non-league club.

On a memorable afternoon at Carlisle's Brunton Park ground, 1,500 Wycombe fans saw their team go a goal behind before drawing level through an own goal just before half time.

In the second half, Steve Guppy had the honour of becoming the first Wycombe player to score in the Football League when he gave the Blues a 2-1 lead, and although Carlisle made it 2-2, Wanderers went on to earn their first point in the professional ranks.

It was the first of four meetings with the Cumbrian club in that historic season, Wycombe winning 2-0 in the return fixture at Adams Park and going on to finish fourth in Division Three.

That brought them up against Carlisle again in the playoffs, the Chairboys triumphing 4-1 on aggregate to reach the Wembley final against Preston North End and another memorable victory which saw them earn promotion at the first attempt.

Incredibly, no fewer than eight of the clubs Wycombe faced in that first campaign in Division Three are no longer members of what is now known as the EFL.

Torquay, Chesterfield, Rochdale, Scunthorpe, Bury, Scarborough, Hereford and Darlington have all dropped out of the League, while Wycombe have gone from strength to strength.

There are promising signs that this season could also be successful. They have lost just once in their last six games in League One, and although the defeat at Charlton Athletic was a setback, the performance was encouraging and deserved a better outcome.

Matt Bloomfield's new look team is starting to gel, and they are only three points behind the playoff places having played a game fewer than most of the clubs above them. Plenty of reasons to be optimistic!



Freddie Potts played 75 minutes in Wycombe's 0-0 draw against Cardiff on July 29 (Image: NQ)

Matt Bloomfield on Charlton defeat



Matt Bloomfield

WYCOMBE boss Matt Bloomfield was in good spirits despite Wanderers' 3-1 league at Charlton Athletic on Saturday.

The defeat at The Valley was Wycombe's third of the season, ending a five game unbeaten run in the process.

Freddie Potts' first goal for the club wasn't enough for Wycombe, as too late goals from the home side did the damage despite a spirited and attacking display from the away side.

Speaking to the media after the final whistle, Bloomfield said [before the equaliser] "we were the ones in the ascendancy, and we created so many opportunities to go and get the second goal".

Brandon Hanlan missed a glorious chance to give Wycombe the lead on 75 minutes with the game tied at 1-1, but his effort was well saved by the Charlton 'keeper after excellent build up play from veteran Garath McCleary.

Wycombe were made to rue their missed chances late in the game. Slobodan Tedic, on loan to Charlton from Manchester City, came off the bench to score the decisive goal, just as he did at Adams Park for Barnsley last season.

The result was confirmed in second half added time, when Charlton winger Corey Blackett-Taylor drove into the box, beating three men in green and white, before firing past a stationary Max Stryjek.

By George Gutteridge

"I have to talk about my team, and I was so proud of them today" Bloomfield said when discussing Tedic's winning goal, adding "that's the second time he's done that to us" with a light smile.

"It's a real tough one to take" Bloomfield said, "because ultimately we deserved to get something out of the football match."

Miles Leaburn gave Charlton the lead midway through the first half, and Max Stryjek was a busy man in the Wycombe goal to ensure the Chairboys went into the half time break with something to chase in the second half.

Bloomfield felt his team were "slightly below par" in the first half, but was encouraged by how they reacted after the interval.

"Second half I thought we were the ones in the ascendancy, we showed incredible spirit, incredible quality and incredible willingness to go and play."

Wycombe's next game is against Carlisle United at Adams Park on Saturday 30th September, in the club's designated Family Day.

SPORT

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Martha Goodridge

Women's hockey team in the spotlight after emphatic win

Marlow women's first hockey team began their season with a splendid 7-0 victory against Southampton.

This thrilling match began with a flashing start, as Vic Allen narrowly missed an early opportunity to seize the lead.

Despite an early disruption when a player received a green card, the Marlow team was undeterred.

Martha Goodridge gave Marlow the lead with a goal in the 13th minute, before Helen Windsor widened this to 2-0 in the 27th minute.

The team fended off consequent attempts by Southampton with remarkable clarity, with newcomers Maddy Hill, Ellie Lane, and Evie White showing impressive composure.

Captain Beth Halbard scored just two minutes into the second half, and summer signer Lauren Hilditch expanded Marlow's lead to 4 goals.

Allen returned to mark her place in the match, scoring twice, in the 52nd and 61st minutes, respectively.

Goodridge, who ignited Marlow's lead, scored the final goal of the match crowning it a 7-0

triumph.

Elsewhere, Marlow's second team succumbed 4-0 to Reading3. The third squad triumphed over Wallingford 2 with a 2-0 win.

The fourth team suffered a tight 4-3 crumble to Banbury2, while both the fifth and sixth teams celebrated victories against Yateley2 and Wallingford4 respectively.

Bloomfield tells team to 'entertain'

WYCOMBE Wanderers boss Matt Bloomfield is calling on his side to entertain and get supporters on their feet for Saturday's clash with Carlisle United.

A first meeting at Adams Park since an incredible 4-3 win in 2018, in which Bloomfield opened the scoring, the Chairboys are expecting a bumper crowd with it being a dedicated 'Family Day.'

"We're really looking forward to welcoming all the families down to Adams Park," Bloomfield said. "We know we're in for tough afternoon against a well-organised Carlisle side, who had a really good year winning promotion last season and have had some real continuity coming into this season."

Previously on a four-game unbeaten run, and still yet to lose on home turf since the opening day, Wycombe will be looking to bounce back from last week's 3-1 defeat to Charlton Athletic at the Valley.

Despite not picking up the result they craved, Blooms was more than content with the performance and hopes to return to winning ways in front of a packed out Adams Park.

"We want to continue our recent performances, which have been really strong and something to be proud of," he said. "We didn't get the result we wanted at Charlton, but there were plenty of positives to take forward."

"We're going into Saturday's

By James Earnshaw

game looking for the three points. If you take your eye off the ball at any moment then you will fall short, and we have to stick to our principles, win our tackles, win our headers and get on the front foot. This club stands for hard work, togetherness and hunger, and if we do that and play the way we have been, then we'll always have a chance of winning games.

"As well as that, we want to be a team that entertains, and gets fans on their feet roaring the boys on. The supporters that went to Charlton were fantastic, and it's been the same story all season long, with fans coming together to inspire us. I'm told ticket sales are picking up really quickly and we're going to lots of fans on all four sides of the stadium, so we want to reward their support with a big performance and a big three points too."

Paul Simpson's U's have had a tough start to life back in the third tier, having won promotion from League Two last season.

Sitting down in 19th, the Cumbrians are without a win in their last four fixtures and sit just two points above the relegation zone.

Without an away victory to their name so far this campaign, they will be looking to buck that trend in Buckinghamshire tomorrow.



Freddie Potts celebrates with Luke Leahy after scoring in Charlton defeat