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SPORT



SPORT: Chesham United 1-1 Wycombe Wanderers

Positive displays in first friendly match



All of Wycombe's players were made up of trialists as a Wanderers XI drew away at Chesham United on Friday, July 9. The Meadow was packed with around 500 fans, with Chairboys boss Gareth Ainsworth also in attendance. It was Wanderers' first friendly this summer

PREPARATIONS for the new season are well underway and Wanderers fans got the chance to see a Chairboys side in action for the first time in 2021 last Friday.

It was a team of development squad trialists who took a 1-1 draw from Southern League Premier Division club Chesham United, with a couple of players catching the eye.

There wasn't too much quality on show at The Meadow, and you suspect a few of the trialists will be leaving Wycombe as quickly as they arrived.

However, some of the young Wanderers could be in with a chance of signing permanently with the development squad for the upcoming League One campaign.

The goalscorer, Ethan Dekel-Daks, has spent his youth career at Nottingham Forest and looks like a capable attacking midfielder who can go past his man with ease.

He was arguably Wycombe's best player on the night and scored a

By Jamie Cameron

lovely curled effort to level the game.

At only 19, Dekel-Daks could be a player that Sam Grace and the coaching staff look to develop into a first-teamer in the years to come.

Gabriel Rogers was also believed to have been in the eleven after leaving Yeovil Town.

He made seven appearances for the Glovers in the National League last season.

The midfielder was also nominated for FA Cup Player of Round One after netting a last-gasp extra-time winner at Bromley.

Former Royal Grammar School pupil Jack Wakely has been training with the first team for a couple of weeks and is a tall centre-back capable of progressing the ball and playing a pass.

He spent around five years in the youth setup at Chelsea, with his only senior experience coming at

Basingstoke Town.

Wakely ended the most recent season at Brighton & Hove Albion, where the 20-year-old made nine appearances for the Seagulls in Premier League 2.

Eighteen-year-old Lyall Booth was also in action last week and has plenty of pedigree at youth level after captaining Aberdeen U18s.

He took the young Dons to a Hampden Park cup final last season.

Goalkeeper Tyla Dickinson is also suggested to be on trial with the Chairboys and left QPR earlier in the summer.

Eitel Goueth was part of the successful Slough Town-affiliated Academy23 during the 2020/21 campaign, but despite playing for the Chairboys against Chesham, it's believed that he has been let go.

That's part and parcel of the pre-season process for the development squad, with each game seeing the batch of trialists eventually whittled down to just a select few to start the season.

After bidding their time in the early stages, Wycombe are really getting going in the market now with a constant stream of both first-team and development squad trialists appearing at the training ground and in matches.

The team who take to the field in the next 'B team' fixture will likely be significantly different to the one that drew with Chesham, but there looks to be some talent there that can be moulded into future Wanderers stars.

In the match on July 9, Chesham took the lead through one of their trialists in the 40th minute before Wanderers equalised on the stroke of half-time.

The match was enjoyed by a crowd of around 500 fans with Wanderers captain Matt Bloomfield, along with B Team manager Sam Grace, taking the reigns in the dug out.

Wycombe's League One season will start on Saturday, August 7, at home against Accrington Stanley before having three straight away matches.



Ainsworth and Kaikai

Sullay signs for Wycombe

THE PACY WINGER IS THE LATEST PLAYER TO SIGN FOR THE CHAIRBOYS

WYCOMBE Wanderers have confirmed the signing of former Crystal Palace winger Sullay Kaikai.

The 25-year-old joins the Chairboys on a two-year deal following his release from Blackpool this summer, after he helped the Tangerines achieve promotion to the Championship.

The Sierra Leone international joins Josh Scowen and Oliver Pendlebury as the club's latest recruits for the season ahead.

Manager Gareth Ainsworth said: "Sullay is a fantastic talent and exactly the type of player who will get fans off their seats."

"He's always impressed me when I've seen him play and his experience with Blackpool last year, where he was a regular in a promotion-winning team, makes him an ideal character to bring into our squad."

KaiKai's move to Adams Park comes in what has been a busy week for the club, as several of their loan players from last season have now found new teams for the up-and-coming campaign.

These include the likes of Dennis Adeniran.

Adeniran, who joined the Chairboys on loan from Everton last season, has signed a permanent contract with League One rivals Sheffield Wednesday, following his release from the Toffees this summer.

He played 22 times for Wanderers during the 2020/21 campaign.

Admiral Musku, who also enjoyed a positive loan spell at the club, has signed for Championship side Luton Town.

The Zimbabwean joined Wycombe in January on loan from the Leicester, and scored three times in 17 matches for the Chairboys.

He joins the Hatters for an undisclosed fee from the current FA Cup holders.

Finally, goalkeeper Curtis Anderson, who has yet to make a first-team appearance for Wycombe, has signed on loan for Eastbourne Borough who play their trade in the National League South, making his debut a day after he joined in a friendly match.