

Bucks Free Press

Friday, August 20, 2021

Covering Wycombe, South Bucks, Chilterns and Aylesbury since 1856

£1.20



TEACHER TOM

Celebrity chef's cooking masterclass for summer school food club - Page 19

'HEALER' JAILED FOR SEX ABUSE

Disgraced 63-year-old 'spiritual healer' left vulnerable victims haunted by sick crimes

FULL STORY: Page 5



NEWS

Crowds to return for Pride march



Page 3

NEWS

Upset as pub faces closure



Page 4

INSIDE • Murder probe latest news • Tributes to tragic man • Thames Water court battle • 16-page TV

SUMMER GUIDANCE DAYS

Buckinghamshire College Group
To find out more, visit buckscollegigroup.ac.uk

MEGA SALE

60% OFF
thousands of mattresses

The Home of a Great Night's Sleep

HURRY! LAST FEW DAYS

dormeo

Briants
Fencing, Garden Machinery & Forestry Supplies
www.briantsltd.co.uk - 01844 343663

STIHL HONDA HAYTER
POWER EQUIPMENT

SUPPLIERS OF FENCING & GARDEN MACHINERY

READY, STEADY, MOW

Stay Safe! You can order our products for local delivery online at www.briantsltd.co.uk or call 01844 343663

SPORT

Stocko named in all star XI

THE GOALKEEPER BECAME THE CLUB'S NUMBER ONE IN FEBRUARY

WYCOMBE Wanderers goalkeeper David Stockdale has been named in the Carabao Cup's Team of the Round.

The 35-year-old, who is in his third spell at the club, saved three penalties and scored a spot-kick in the Chairboys' shootout win against Exeter City in first round at James Park.

Wanderers won the tie 4-3 on penalties after it finished 0-0 after 90 minutes.

It was Stockdale's first appearance in this competition for two years and following the victory, it means the former Premier League keeper has now kept three clean sheets in his last four matches, going back to last season.

Up next for Wycombe in this competition is an away trip to Stevenage.

The tie will be played the week commencing August 23.

To date, Stockdale has played 439 games since making his debut for York City in the 2002/03 season.

Over the last 19 seasons, he has represented 15 clubs and has played in the Premier League for Fulham between 2008 and 2014 - making 21 top-flight appearances.

Trio in EFL TOTW

THE PLAYERS WERE RECOGNISED FOR THEIR PERFORMANCES

WYCOMBE midfielder Olly Pendlebury has earned himself a spot in the EFL Team of the Week.

The 19-year-old, who joined this summer on a free transfer from Reading, scored twice in Wanderers' 3-1 victory away at Cheltenham Town on August 14 - his first goals in only his second league appearance of his career.

Both of his strikes were scored in from just outside the box in front of the Wanderers fans, with the ex-Royal also making an appearance in the League One Team of the Week, alongside his teammates in Joe Jacobson and Sam Vokes.

The latter scored his first goal for the club in the victory, which was his first strike in league football since July 4, 2020, when he bagged the first in a 4-1 win for Stoke against Barnsley.

SPORT: Lincoln up next for Gareth Ainsworth's men

Can the Chairboys keep up their good start to the season



Wycombe will be returning to Adams Park on August 21 after three consecutive away games (PA)

WE may only be heading into the back end of August, but Wycombe Wanderers have shown that they mean business in their quest for Championship football.

Since the season began on August 7, the Chairboys have defeated Accrington Stanley and Cheltenham Town in the league, have knocked out Exeter City in the Carabao Cup, and picked up an unlikely draw against former Premier League giants Wigan Athletic in the space of 10 days.

Not bad for a side that had to wait 10 matches into the previous season to pick up their first victory.

It's still early days, but it seems that following on from their Championship journey of 2020/21, manager Gareth Ainsworth is keen to keep this dream alive, as Wanderers are now unbeaten in their last six matches - a run that began on May 1 following a 1-0 home victory against Bournemouth.

We also mustn't forget that the Chairboys were unbeaten in their five pre-season friendlies, which included a 1-0 win over the FA Cup winners Leicester City at Adams Park.

Yes, three of these fixtures did consist entirely of trialists, but the fact that the club signed players such as Olly Pendlebury, Jack Wakely, Tjay de Barr, Tyla Dickinson, Max Ram, and keeper Adam Przybek, who all played in the games against Chesham United, Aylesbury United and Hanwell Town respectively, it shows that Wanderers' good start to the season is the result of good planning and preparation from Ainsworth, his staff and the board.

So, what next for the Chairboys?

Well, they face Lincoln City at home this weekend, which will end

By James Richings

a run of three straight away games in which Wanderers have clocked over 800 miles between August 7 and August 17.

Going into the match against the Imps, Wycombe are unbeaten in their last five outings against Michael Appleton's men, winning twice and drawing three times.

In fact, the last time Wanderers lost to Lincoln was in March 2009 - a 1-0 defeat at Sincil Bank but in a season that Wycombe gained promotion.

But in recent years, this fixture will be remembered for Joe Jacobson's unique hat-trick, which was scored on Saturday, September 7, 2019.

In what would be the year that he would get the most important goal in Wycombe's history, as he scored the winner in the League One play-off against Oxford United to send Wanderers into the Championship, Jacobson scored a hat-trick of set pieces against the Imps, which included TWO corners.

The first was a free-kick, the second was a corner that was deflected in off Michael Bostwick, and the third was from another corner that flew in over Lincoln keeper Josh Vickers.

However, it was an anxious wait for the Welshman, as it wasn't confirmed for another two days that his deflected set piece was officially credited as his goal.

Will we see another hat-trick this weekend? Who knows, but with the Wanderers fans back in full voice, it should be a cracking game.

My prediction: Wycombe Wanderers 3-2 Lincoln City

SPORT: Pendlebury ran the show against Cheltenham



Pendlebury will hope that his good form will see him start against Lincoln on August 21 at Adams Park

Youngster on his two goals

OLLY Pendlebury praised his teammates after Wycombe defeated Cheltenham Town 3-1 at the Johnny-Rocks Stadium.

The 19-year-old, who only made his second league appearance of his career in the victory, scored twice as Wanderers made it two wins out of two, and keep their unbeaten league record going.

These were also his first goals as a professional footballer, with both strikes coming from outside the box and in front of the Wycombe fans.

He said: "It's great especially in front of the fans, it's great to have them back.

"I'm happy for the boys as well because of the work we put in at the training ground, it's good it doesn't go unnoticed.

"I'm so happy to score two goals and the teams to win."

Sam Vokes also joined in the summer with the 31-year-old leaving Championship club Stoke City to sign an initial one-year deal.

Manager Gareth Ainsworth was in full praise for his squad after the game but paid special tribute to the striker who scored his first goal for the club.

He said: "Sam Vokes led the line superbly well, he deserved his goal."

SPORT: Cheltenham Town 1-3 Wycombe Wanderers

Pendlebury at the double

TWO second-half goals from 19-year-old Olly Pendlebury earned Wycombe a 3-1 win at Cheltenham Town on Saturday.

Sam Vokes' first goal for the Chairboys had given Wanderers an early lead, but after the hosts came back into the game, Andy Williams levelled.

A stop-start spell of play after half-time was followed by a wonderful effort from Pendlebury to make it 2-1, before the former Reading youngster did it again a few minutes later.

With both strikes from outside the box, it's a fantastic start to Pendlebury's Wycombe career and one that helps his team record back-to-back wins to start the League One season.

Gareth Ainsworth made a couple of enforced changes to the side that beat Accrington in the opening game, with Sullay Kaikai replacing Jason McCarthy at right wing-back, and Anis Mehmeti coming in for Daryl Horgan.

In front of a near 4,000 crowd at Whaddon Road, with 800 away fans,

the game began with an opportunity for Jordan Obita, but his free header from inside the area went over.

Vokes broke the deadlock after 15 minutes, nodding home at the far post from Joe Jacobson's excellent corner.

The Robins had grown into the game as the half went on, and levelled via Williams, the veteran heading in Callum Wright's pinpoint centre.

The first of two lengthy injury stoppages came on 68 minutes, and Wycombe reacted by far the better, as a flowing move saw Kaikai's short ball to Pendlebury curled into the top corner beautifully.

Five minutes later, the away end was sent into raptures once again as the Robins defence cleared it straight to the summer signing, whose low shot was placed perfectly.

Wycombe saw the game out comfortably to earn another three points on a day when they looked under severe threat at times, but a couple of moments of magic proved the difference.

Point gained against Wigan

UNBEATEN START CONTINUES BUT DRAW ENDS 100 PER CENT RECORD

WYCOMBE took a point from the trip to Wigan Athletic thanks to a late header from Anthony Stewart.

The hosts had dominated the game and could easily have been more than one ahead, but Stewart struck late to preserve the Chairboys' unbeaten start to the season.

It had been Callum Lang who put the Latics ahead, curling home after a free-kick wasn't cleared properly.

Wycombe were disappointing in truth, but stopped the flow of Wigan chances after a change in shape, and the late goal stole an undeserved point.

Gareth Ainsworth named an unchanged side to the one that beat Cheltenham, with two-goal hero Olly Pendlebury keeping his place ahead of Curtis Thompson.

Wigan came flying out the blocks, Will Keane skewing a side-footed effort over and Tendayi Darikwa putting a guilt-edged chance wide from close range.

After surviving those scares, Wanderers got a foothold in the game with efforts from Garath McCleary and Anis Mehmeti comfortably saved by Ben Amos.

Charlie Wyke, who scored 26 League One goals for Sunderland last season, headed over from six yards, before Keane had a goal disallowed for offside to send Wigan into half-time feeling disappointed at the goalless scoreline.

They did break the deadlock almost immediately after the restart as former Shrewsbury and Motherwell man Lang fired home from 12 yards.

Wycombe then brought on Thompson and Daryl Horgan as part of a change in system which saw Sullay Kaikai move further forward and a centre-back pairing of Stewart and Joe Jacobson.

It brought Wanderers into the game more as Sam Vokes had a couple of half chances from high balls into the box.

Keane then hit the bar for the Latics as the hosts threatened to seal all three points. However, it was Wanderers who left the north-west by far the happier, with Kaikai's corner nodded in off the upright to give the 337 travelling fans a reward for making the long journey. The games don't get any easier for Wycombe as they welcome last season's play-off runners-up, Lincoln, to Adams Park on Saturday.

Wanderers team: Stockdale; Kaikai, Grimmer, Stewart, Jacobson, Obita; Pendlebury (Thompson), Scowen, Mehmeti (Horgan); McCleary, Vokes (Akinfenwa)



Following Olly Pendlebury's impressive double against the Robins, will he be in the starting line-up at home against Lincoln? (PA)

SPORT: Cheltenham Town 1-3 Wycombe Wanderers

Praise pours in for David Stockdale after league win

WYCOMBE Wanderers manager Gareth Ainsworth has revealed that goalkeeper David Stockdale played in the 3-1 victory against Cheltenham Town with a 'nasty' hand injury.

The former Fulham, Leicester City, Birmingham City and Brighton & Hove Albion shot-stopper produced some stunning saves in the win at the Johnny-Rocks Stadium on August 14, as Sam Vokes and a double from Olly Pendlebury gave the Chairboys an impressive win over Michael Duff's men.

The win put them on top of the League One table with a 100 per cent record from their first two games of the season.

At the time, Burton Albion, Sunderland and Portsmouth were also on six points respectively, but Wycombe sat top due to scoring more goals than the other three clubs.

Ainsworth said: "David Stockdale for me is playing some of the best football of his career, and I include getting promoted to the Premier League [Hull City in 2012/13 and Brighton & Hove Albion in 2017/18].

"He's vital for what we're doing at the moment.

"That catch at the end just took all the pressure off everything and that's with a hand injury which is, believe me, quite a nasty one, which we will have to check out.

By James Richings

"But I am really pleased."

He also sang the praises of Pendlebury, who scored his first goals as a professional footballer in the win in Gloucestershire.

Both strikes were scored in front of the travelling Wanderers fans, as he enjoys his run in the first team.

Ainsworth continued: "First of all, I have got to credit, Rob, Pete and Missy Couhig and Andrew Howard as they've allowed us to start this development squad.

"There is no 'B Team', as there is no 'B', because you're in a team - a development team and a first team.

"If you're in that development team, then you have got to develop and with Olly, he was pencilled in to be in the development team, just like Anis Mehmeti was last season.

"But with injuries to the likes of Dom Gape and Curtis Thompson who are your season pros, along with David Wheeler, Olly has taken his chance.

"I think he has got plenty to learn about the game still, and the under 23s is a world away from where he is, but technically, he is a fantastic player.

"I have also got to give credit to Sam Grace as he has come in and found some real diamonds for us."



Gareth Ainsworth believes David Stockdale is playing some of the best football of his career since becoming the club's number one (PA)

SPORT

0963-2336



SPORT: Wigan Athletic 1-1 Wycombe Wanderers Mixed emotions for Stewart after draw



Anthony Stewart admitted that while he was happy to score Wanderers' equaliser against Wigan to rescue the Chairboys a point on August 17, he thought that Wycombe 'were off it' at the DW Stadium. It was the first time since April 24 that they had fallen behind in a match

By James Richings

DESPITE rescuing a point for Wycombe in their 1-1 draw against Wigan Athletic, centre back Anthony Stewart admitted that he was 'annoyed throughout the game'.

Wanderers fought back at the DW Stadium to continue their unbeaten start to the season, but were without doubt second best in the contest.

In what was their third consecutive away match in seven days, the hosts took the lead just after half-time thanks to a brilliant strike from Callum Lang.

It was his tenth goal of the calendar year and it was well-deserved based on the balance of play.

Wigan continued to knock on the Chairboys' door but couldn't find the second to wrap up the win, and this came back to bite the former Premier League side as Sullay Kaikai's corner was headed in by Stewart in front of the travelling Wanderers fans.

His goal was scored in the first minute of injury-time and it was

his first since bagging the equaliser against Watford in October last year, which was also in a 1-1 draw.

That game is best remembered as the day that the Chairboys picked up their first point in their inaugural season as a Championship side.

Speaking after the draw against Wigan, Stewart said: "It was amazing [to score the goal]."

"[But] to be fair, I was annoyed throughout the game as I thought that we were a bit off it today [Tuesday, August 17], and it was tough, but it was a pleasure to score the goal.

"It was great to see so many of them [fans] turn up.

"It was a pleasure to score in front of them and that was for the fans that travelled up."

And when asked if he aims to score on Saturday against Lincoln, he said: "I'd rather a clean sheet than a goal."

The goal means Stewart has scored in every season he has represented Wanderers apart from one - his first campaign in the Wycombe first team which was in 2011/12, where he played four games between January and April 2012.

He started all four matches and even played alongside Gareth Ainsworth (who was registered as a player), in three of the fixtures.

The draw against the Latics means Wanderers have now equalled their best ever start to a League One season - taking seven points from a possible nine - and even though they have dropped down from first to third, the performances have shown that Wycombe mean business as they plan a return to the Championship.

On the other hand, the draw against Wigan means Wanderers are now winless in five against the Greater Manchester side.

Their last victory over the Blue and Whites came in September 2001, when Andy Rammell got the winner

at Adams Park.

Overall, the two sides have played each other 17 times with Wanderers winning twice, Wigan 10 times, and with there being five draws.

The two sides will next face up in February.

The trip to the north of the country was the conclusion of three straight trips on the road for Wanderers but they are back at home as on August 21 when they will take on Lincoln City at Adams Park, before hitting the road again.

Gareth Ainsworth's men will travel to Stevenage in the Carabao Cup before heading to the north east to face Sunderland at the Stadium of Light.

Wanderers will then finish the month at home to the Aston Villa U23s in the Football League Trophy on August 31.

In September, the Chairboys have two relatively short trips on the road as they'll visit Oxford and MK Dons at the Kassam Stadium and at Stadium: MK respectively.



The DW Stadium. Photo by PA

Chairboys continue good run

IT HAS BEEN A VERY GOOD START OF THE SEASON FOR THE ADAMS PARK SIDE

WYCOMBE boss Gareth Ainsworth has admitted that he was 'happy' with his side's performance against Wigan Athletic, as they drew 1-1 at the DW Stadium on Tuesday night [August 17].

After Callum Lang gave the Latics the lead on 47 minutes with a fine finish, Anthony Stewart scored an injury-time header to rescue Wanderers a point.

It was Wanderers' first point against Wigan since February 2002, and although the draw ended the club's 100 per cent winning start to the season and halted their four-match winning run which dates back to last season, the Chairboys are now unbeaten in six matches in all competitions which dates back to May 1 this year.

Speaking after the match at the DW Stadium, Ainsworth said: "It's a good point against a good side.

"They had the better chances in the first half but we limited them in the second half.

"Away from home, seven points from nine, a battling performance, I'm happy.

"I have to credit Richard Dobson; he mentioned our change of shape at half-time and it worked.

"Curtis Thompson stopped Will Keane's influence really well.

"That allowed Josh Scowen to go forward.

"We want to be dominant but sometimes we have to adapt and take what we can."

Wycombe and Wigan have played each other 17 times in all competitions since their first match back in 1993, with Wanderers only winning two of those fixtures.

Up next is a home match against Lincoln City on August 21.

It will kick-off at 3pm.