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Boss happy with defence

WYCOMBE Wanderers boss Gareth Ainsworth believes the defensive display his side produced helped the Chairboys get their point away at Oxford United.

In a tightly-fought derby at the Kassam Stadium, the Blues headed back down the M40 with a clean sheet, following the 0-0 in Oxfordshire, in which Anthony Stewart and Ryan Tafazolli, along with Jack Grimmer, Jordan Obita, Joe Jacobson and David Stockdale threw their bodies on the line.

It was the first meeting between the two sides since the League One play-off final last July, and the result means Wycombe have picked up their first point away at Oxford since November 2014.

He said: "Overall, I am pleased.

"The last three times we have come here we have been on the losing side, and after Sunderland from two weeks ago, I thought it was important to stop the losing run and we have done that.

"We had some good chances and I thought we were the better side by far.

"We were trying to frustrate their passing game and with our fans getting behind us, I thought it was awesome.

"In the second half, with the home fans and with the wind against us, they really gave a good go of it.

"They had a lot of the possession, but they didn't really get past our final line which I am really proud of as Stocko, JJ, Jack, Anthony and Taf were brilliant."

Another win for the U18s in a local derby



It was a win for the Under 18s

THE Wycombe Wanderers Women U18 squad enjoyed another great performance as they defeated the AFT Reading side 4-1 in Lane End.

Seven days after smashing Sandhurst 13-0, The Chairgirl supporters were in full force on September 12, as the squad were fired up.

The first half was a tight affair which saw Molly Carter score twice for Wycombe, but both of her strikes were ruled out for offside. Both sides went in 0-0 at the break.

Whatever was said at half-time worked as Wanderers went 1-0 up in the opening moments of the second period through Jorja-Louise Bray, who smashed in an effort from outside the box that looped over the goalkeeper, before AFT equalised minutes later.

Despite their set back, Wycombe continued to persevere as Bray's cross was met with a well-timed header by Jess Fuller who put Wanderers 2-1 up, before Char Hill wrapped up the win with a stunning free-kick.

It was then 4-1 as one of the subs got onto the score sheet to seal the win for the Chairgirls.

Ainsworth on Robinson after draw

WYCOMBE boss Gareth Ainsworth praised Oxford boss Karl Robinson.

The two faced each other for the first time since the League One Play-Off Final last year, which Wanderers won.

It meant the Chairboys were promoted to the Championship for the first time in their history.

And following the 0-0 draw at the Kassam Stadium last week, the boss said: "Karl has got a good team.

"He is a good manager and I am sure they'll be up and around the top at the end of the season, which makes this a better point for me."

It was the fourth 0-0 draw between the two sides and the first at Oxford since 1999.



Gareth Ainsworth was talking after the 0-0 away draw at Oxford United on September 11 (PA)

Wycombe earn draw away at the Kassam



It was Wycombe's first point away at the Kassam in seven years and it was also their first away league clean sheet of the season

WYCOMBE will go back to Adams Park with a hard-earned point as they drew 0-0 against Oxford United at a rocking Kassam Stadium.

Over 9,000 fans attended the fixture with Wanderers bringing 1,500 supporters along the M40, as the Blues secured their first point away in Oxford for seven years (November 2014).

The Chairboys were on the backfoot in the opening stages as the home side dominated possession, and in the first six minutes, they had the game's inaugural chance but Alex Gorrin's header from a corner went wide of David Stockdale's goal.

Oxford continued to put the pressure on Wycombe as Anthony Forde then tested Stockdale from range, before Karl Robinson's men had a huge appeal for a penalty, as Mark Sykes was bundled over in the box, but the referee, Christopher Sarginson, waved away the protest.

Wycombe just couldn't get going and every time they went forward, United found a way to get the ball back and on 17 minutes, Cameron Brannagan, who was named the club's Player of the Month for August, scuffed his effort from 12-yards.

Then, at the flick of the switch, Wanderers woke up and finally started to attack.

Just before the midway point of the first half, a huge goal mouth scramble occurred in the Oxford penalty area and the ball was pinballing around.

Brandan Hanlan, on what was his league debut, along with Ryan Tafazolli and Sam Vokes all had attempts blocked or saved by Oxford keeper Jack Stevens, and despite not offering much up until that point, Gareth Ainsworth's men might have found themselves unlucky

By James Richings

to not go ahead following the scramble.

However, the best chance of the match fell to Vokes just before 30 minutes, but his half-volley from 10-yards was brilliantly saved by Stevens.

As the first half continued, tackles were flying in and both sides defended well as the two sides went in at half-time goalless.

The second period saw Wycombe rarely test Stevens in the Oxford goal, as the best chances of the half went to the home side.

Gavin Whyte and Brannagan each both had chances to give United the lead, but, their long-range strikes were denied brilliantly by Stockdale inside the first 15 minutes of the second half.

The onslaught of Yellow attacks continued as Anthony Sykes' cross/shot on 65 minutes was blocked off the line by Anthony Stewart, but apart from that, it was really a midfield battle.

Daryl Horgan, who came on for the debutant Hanlan, had an effort go wide in the latter stages of the game, whilst Adebayo Akinfenwa, who too come on, but for Sam Vokes, saw his late header go just over.

Overall, it is a good point on the road for Wycombe as there were many positives to take away.

The result means Wanderers have kept their first away clean sheet of the season, Hanlan worked his socks off on his league debut, and the partnership of Stewart and Tafazolli was faultless.

On the other hand, that's three games without a win for Gareth Ainsworth's men.

Charlton is up next for Wycombe.

SPORT

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Ainsworth pleased with clean sheet



Wycombe boss Gareth Ainsworth was happy with the way his side played away at Oxford last Saturday afternoon at the Kassam Stadium (PA)

By James Richings

WYCOMBE manager Gareth Ainsworth was pleased with his new signing, Brandan Hanlan, following his recent move to the club.

Hanlan, who joined the Chairboys from Bristol Rovers at the back end of August, made his league debut for the Blues in the 0-0 draw away at Oxford United on September 11.

And whilst the striker didn't get on the scoresheet, the 24-year-old linked up well with Sam Vokes and Garath McCleary whenever Wanderers countered at the Kassam Stadium.

He started the game in Oxfordshire but was replaced after 71 minutes for Daryl Horgan.

The boss said: "I think he is still getting fitness into his game.

"He's not had a pre-season as he's only played one game for Bristol Rovers and a half, and I think a start for him today might have come out of the blue, but, I thought he would work with Sam Vokes quite well, and when he stopped his runs and his gambles, I thought we needed to change.

"But overall, I'm pleased as we have got a good squad and we are looking forward to seeing what we can do next week."

The boss was also pleased with the Wanderers fans, as around 1,500 had made the journey across the border to watch the stalemate at the Kassam, which was a feisty affair.

Despite there only being five bookings in the match [four of them going to United's players], tackles were coming in thick and fast.

Some players were seen squaring

up to each other, whilst others were seen arguing, but, the point was secured as the Chairboys kept their first away league clean sheet of the season.

Ainsworth continued: "Having the fans back is brilliant as it gives me a shiver down my spine.

"To hear them sing was great and we've got a great following.

"This is a great place to come to, but their support was special and I think the Wycombe fans will be a lot happier than the Oxford fans, as we're away from home and we got a clean sheet.

"Also, Anthony and Ryan were both brilliant today.

"There were not many lapses in concentration, not many mistakes, I thought the referee made some inconsistent decisions, as there was one where Curtis Thompson was dragged to the floor [in injury time] and if they

were to have scored from that, that would have killed us.

"But being a ref is not an easy job, but they let a lot go as they did in the Euros so I think we need to get used to that.

"The defence take the plaudits but I thought Garath was great, Jordan negated Oxford going forward and Hanlan is still getting up to speed but looked good.

"Overall, I am pleased.

"We've got different styles of playing and today was about soaking it up and counter attacking.

"The best thing about the boys is that if I say anything, they will get behind me 100 per cent and if it goes wrong, it is my fault as I have asked them to do something."

Up next for Wycombe is Charlton at home.



The Etihad Stadium (PA)

ESPN+ to show the City game

WYCOMBE fans that won't be able to watch the Carabao Cup tie against Manchester City have been offered a lifeline.

The fixture, which will take place on September 21, will not be shown on British TV, with the match also not being picked up by an iFollow stream. This means that the only way you could watch the fixture is by purchasing a ticket.

However, it has since been revealed that ESPN+, which can only be broadcasted from the USA, will air the match when it kicks off.

According to worldsoccertalk.com, the publication said: "For the 2021/22 season, ESPN+ will be streaming games from every round of the competition.

"Matches are typically available live on select Tuesdays and Wednesdays at 2:45pm ET when the competition is being played."

It will kick-off at 7.45pm (UK time), with the club also confirming that tickets for the fixture are now on general sale.

Championship inspiration

WYCOMBE boss Gareth Ainsworth has revealed that the 0-0 draw against Oxford was modelled off the Birmingham vs Derby game.

The Blues defeated the Rams the night before despite having less possession, and the gaffer used that as inspiration for the draw at the Kassam on September 11.

He said: "It was an all-round good defensive performance, but when we did get the ball and have chances, we didn't get take them.

"We watched the Birmingham vs Derby game and Derby had 67 per cent possession but lost 2-0, and in a way we tried to model that today [from Birmingham], as we used counter-attacks but it didn't quite work as we were quite short.

"However, I am proud of the fans as they were awesome."