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Racist abuse via Instagram



Jordan Obita in action (PA)

WYCOMBE leftwing-back Jordan Obita was subjected to online racist abuse following the Chairboys' 2-0 win over Milton Keynes in their first-leg play-off semi-final on May 5.

The 28-year-old, who was playing his 50th game of the campaign in the victory over Wanderers' Buckinghamshire rivals, received the abuse on Instagram via a private message.

In a brief statement, Wycombe Wanderers said on May 6: "Chairboys have reported a disgraceful message sent to Jordan Obita on Instagram, and the relevant authorities will be following up and contacting the player directly to offer support."

"Discrimination of any form will not be tolerated."

A tweet from Thames Valley Police's football account followed on to say: "We are aware of the disgusting tweet sent to a @wvfcofficial player where he has been racially abused."

"We're currently working with partners to further the investigation and bring the offender to justice."

Boss on fans after semi-final

WYCOMBE Wanderers manager has thanked every Chairboys fan following their play-off win over MK.

Troy Parrott's first-half header in the second leg gave Milton Keynes a 1-0 win on the day, but, the side from north Buckinghamshire fell to a 2-1 defeat on aggregate following Thursday's 2-0 win at Adams Park.

Speaking after the match, Ainsworth said: "I'm so happy for the fans."

"They were split up with MK having their 'sporting advantage' of whatever they called it, and in reality, I think putting them up there made the acoustics better."

"Them being near the roof made them louder, they didn't stop singing throughout the entire game."

"I was so pleased to go over there and say 'thank you!'"

How the Chairboys crushed MK's dream

By James Richings

A day at Wembley for Wycombe Wanderers awaits as they will face Sunderland in the 2022 League One play-off final.

Gareth Ainsworth's men have defied the odds AGAIN to earn themselves an appearance at the home of English Football, following a 2-1 aggregate win over Milton Keynes.

Gareth Ainsworth's men lost 1-0 in the second leg on May 8 at Stadium: MK thanks to a Troy Parrott header, but headers from Sam Vokes and Ryan Tafazolli from the first leg three days earlier ensued another date at Wembley has been booked in the Wanderers diary.

The hosts needed a strong performance to have a chance of getting into the Wembley showpiece on May 21, and it's fair to say that they dominated the opening half.

The first four minutes saw Scott Twine, Hiram Boateng and Parrott all work well to put the Wanderers backline on the backfoot, and with just 60 seconds on the clock, MK nearly took the lead as Harry Darling hit the crossbar with a looping header.

Liam Manning's men were in control as they bossed the Wycombe half and on 15 minutes, they had several glorious chances to get themselves back in the tie.

First, Theo Corbeau, who came into their starting line-up from Thursday's match, forced David Stockdale into a low save.

Seconds later, Twine, who got the winner for MK against Wycombe back in January at Adams Park, saw his shot from inside the box go just wide.

Twine, who was recently named the League One Player of the Season continued to pepper the Wanderers defence with shots as Wycombe were on the ropes, so it was no shock that they took lead.

With 26 minutes played, MK finally found a way past through and it was Parrott who gave the north



Sam Vokes (centre) and David Wheeler (left) celebrate at the full-time whistle as Wycombe defeated MK to earn a place in the League One play-off final. The latter played for MK in 2019 (PA)

Buckinghamshire side some hope.

Boateng's lofted cross found the man on loan from Tottenham, and the 20-year-old, who got the winner against the Chairboys in September with a penalty, looped his header from six-yards over a stranded David Stockdale.

It was his 11th of the season for club and country, and his first in four games.

Wycombe were poor and couldn't get

to grips with MK's power and pace as they needed half-time.

The goal gave MK life, as Twine saw another one of his free-kicks go wide whilst Parrott saw his shot miss the target.

The second period began as the first ended with MK controlling the match.

Joe Jacobson produced an incredible block to deny Parrott's goal-bound shot

and seconds later, Stockdale was on hand to save from Corbeau.

On 67 minutes, Wanderers finally had an effort, as the ball fell kindly to Dom Gape, but his half-volley from 20-yards flew just past Jamie Cumming's goal.

And that's how it finished.

MK might have won the battle on the day, but Wycombe won the war with a place at Wembley being the prize.



Gareth Ainsworth revealed the new look on Sky Sports ahead of Wycombe's

Manager rocks new do for play-off ties

A couple of years ago during Wycombe's successful League One play-off campaign, Wanderers manager Gareth Ainsworth was spotted donning his famous red cowboy boots.

The footwear turned into a lucky charm as the Chairboys defeated Fleetwood Town 4-1 in the first leg, drew 2-2 in the second to book their place into the final, which was against their M40 rivals in Oxford United.

The Adams Park outfit would go

onto defeat the Ox's in the Wembley show piece in July 2020 to go on and book a place in the second tier of English football.

So, what about the play-offs for 2022?

Well, the stylish 48-year-old has revealed he has new lucky charm.

Speaking to Sky Sports ahead of the first leg win over Milton Keynes on May 5 at Adams Park, Ainsworth said: "Back when we went on our poor run in February when we dropped down to eighth, Garath

McCleary and Anthony Stewart have both got lovely dreadlock hairdos.

"They then asked me that if we were to make the play-offs, would I get the dreads, and I said OK.

"I haven't gone full dread, as I can't dread this as it's been going on for too long.

"So what I've done is, I've got a couple of platies and that's me meeting them halfway!

"I'll keep these on during the play-offs, and they keep to their bargain which is to play good!"



Manning on 'tough' loss

MILTON Keynes boss Liam Manning has revealed he was left feeling 'frustrated and disappointed', after his side missed out on a place in the League One play-off final.

MK lost 2-1 on aggregate to Wycombe Wanderers despite defeating the Chairboys 1-0 in the second leg at Stadium: MK.

However, the 2-0 loss at Adams Park three days before the return match proved to be the hammer blow in their quest to play Championship football.

The defeat means that with 89 points, MK have picked up the second most amount of points in a Third Division/League One season without gaining promotion to the second tier.

The most number of points

accumulated without going up was 90 by Sheffield United in 2012.

He told the MK press after the match: "It's a double hit in terms of having two disappointments, but that's life sometimes and that's the game too.

"You have to suck it up and come out tougher on the other side.

"We'll do that as a club, staff and a group of players.

"It hurts tonight but we'll channel it and be better in the future.

"We're frustrated and disappointed obviously, but I also have a sense of pride in how the players applied themselves. It's a tough one to take.

"Over the course of the two legs, we created more and better chances than them."

The Beast on MK win for Wycombe



Celebrations in MK (PA)

ADEBAYO Akinfenwa's swansong of his 20-year career will take place at the home of English football.

Saturday, May 21 will see Wycombe Wanderers take on Sunderland in the 2022 League One play-off final at Wembley Stadium, after the Chairboys defeated Milton Keynes 2-1 on aggregate over two semi-final matches.

Mad celebrations were seen at Stadium: MK as a 1-0 win for the side north of the county wasn't enough to earn their place in the showpiece in two weeks' time.

Leading the celebrations on the MK pitch was, of course, Akinfenwa, who will be 40-years-old when the League One play-off final takes place, as his milestone birthday will be on May 10.

He said: "This club unapologetically, allows you to be yourself. We stick together, there are no egos and this is the beautiful game. We've got one more hurdle to jump, and there will be nothing better than to leave this club getting promoted to the Championship."

In his six years at Wycombe, Akinfenwa has finished as the club's top-scorer in four of those campaigns.

Couhigs on play-off push to the second tier

WYCOMBE Wanderers co-owner Missy Couhig has described the club's promotion push to the Championship as 'incredibly exciting', ahead of their Wembley visit on May 21.

The Chairboys will face Sunderland in the League One play-off final for a place in the Championship. Speaking exclusively to the Bucks Free Press, Missy Couhig said: "This is so incredibly exciting. I could not be happier.

"I would never have dreamed a couple of years ago that would be here twice having to miss it the first time, but now we're experiencing it live and this is amazing.

"We trust in Wycombe, we trust in Gareth and the guys and it's going to happen.

"I can feel it."

A day to remember for every Wanderer



Around 2,200 Wycombe fans travelled up to Stadium: MK for the League One play-off semi-final second leg on May 8 (PA)

WYCOMBE Wanderers manager Gareth Ainsworth has praised every single player in his squad, after the Chairboys reached their second League One play-off final in three seasons.

The Adams Park club defeated Milton Keynes 2-1 on aggregate and made it through to the Wembley showpiece on May 21, despite losing to Liam Manning's men 1-0 in the second leg at Stadium: MK, thanks to a Tory Parrott header.

The north Buckinghamshire outfit were by far the better team, but every Wanderers player from keeper David Stockdale, to Sam Vokes up front, defended for their lives as they faced 29 attempts on goal.

Speaking after the match, Ainsworth said: "Don't put any of the credit down to me because I just said 'can you do this please, boys? Can you sit and deny the space from behind?'"

"They did, and they did it unbelievably well and I am so, so proud of these boys tonight.

"They were fantastic.

"I can't wait to go to Wembley.

"It's going to be brilliant.

"Today is up there as one of the best games we've had this season.

The boss also singled out Joe Jacobson who produced an incredible tackle to deny Parrott what looked like a certain goal with the score at 1-0.

Ainsworth continued: "It was incredible.

"For someone who is 35-years-

By James Richings

old and people were saying he was written off, for him to put that block in was amazing."

Throughout the contest, it seemed inevitable that MK were going to get themselves back into the tie with the amount of efforts they conjured up.

And even though most Wycombe fans were holding their breath, the boss admitted that he didn't feel pressure when Milton Keynes dominated large parts of the match.

Referring back to that famous day at Torquay in 2014 which kept Wycombe's status in the Football League, the boss said: "That was the biggest piece of learning for me, ever.

"I'm never going to go back to that place.

"That was the most pressure I have ever had in my life.

"This [fighting for promotion] is not pressure.

"This is enjoyment, fun, something to achieve together and I am so, so proud of the boys.

"When we got a throwing in the far corner with a few seconds to go, I knew that might be it.

"We were not the best team, MK were, and they have got some fabulous players."

"I can't wait for the final."

In total, this will be Wycombe's third play-off final in seven years, as they have reached the last two in 2015, 2020 and now 2022 respectively.

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Wembley bound for Wycombe Wanderers



David Stockdale (right) (PA)

Stockdale on full-time relief in MK

WYCOMBE Wanderers goalkeeper David Stockdale has admitted that he didn't hear the full-time whistle in the Chairboys' play-off semi-final triumph over Milton Keynes.

Despite losing 1-0 on the night at Stadium: MK, Gareth Ainsworth's side defeated their Buckinghamshire rivals 2-1 on aggregate to book a place in the Wembley showpiece against Sunderland on May 21.

Yet amazingly, Stockdale, who was named the man of the match, wasn't aware that referee, Thomas Bramall, had brought the game to its conclusion.

He said: "When I looked up at the clock and it said 63 minutes, I was thinking it's going to be 12am by the time this is over! And I didn't even hear the full-time whistle go, and it wasn't until I saw all the lads go on the floor that I knew."

On the celebrations that took place at the end of the game, he continued: "It hasn't sunk in yet."

The best team over two legs

WYCOMBE manager Gareth Ainsworth has admitted that 'MK were the better team' in their League One play-off semi-final second leg fixture.

The north Buckinghamshire side had an incredible 29 shots on goal compared to Wanderers' two, however, only six of Milton Keynes' efforts were either saved by goalkeeper David Stockdale, or blocked by the Chairboys defence.

The 1-0 loss on the day saw Wycombe prevail into the League One play-off final with a 2-1 aggregate victory, where they will face Sunderland on May 21.

Ainsworth said: "As the game went on, I had about four different formations going through my head and we worked out this deep press and we need to give credit to the players because, they were saying about where the gaps were and where they were getting run at. This meant I needed to come up with a solution."

"So getting Dominic and Josh in front of the back four was key to stop Scott Twine as he is a fantastic player."

"I'm not going to stand here and say we were the better team."

"MK Dons were the better team, but over the two legs Wycombe were the better team."



A defeat never felt so good! Wycombe lost 1-0 to MK on May 8, but won 2-1 on aggregate to book a place in the League One play-off final (PA)

By James Richings

WYCOMBE Wanderers will play Sunderland in the 2022 League One play-off final at Wembley Stadium.

The showpiece at the home of English football was confirmed on May 6, before Lee Gregory levelled the tie at Hillsborough three days later.

Sunderland won the first leg 1-0 at the Stadium of Light thanks to a Ross Stewart goal on May 6, before Lee Gregory levelled the tie at Hillsborough three days later.

However, in the third of 10 minutes that were added on at the end of the match, Patrick Roberts, who has played in the Premier

League for Fulham, Manchester City and Norwich City, scored the decisive goal to send Alex Neil's men to Wembley.

The final will see Sunderland's second in the League One play-offs in four seasons, with it being Wycombe's third in three campaigns.

The match will also be the first-ever play-off final in the third tier that will see a club that were once crowned the champions of English football more than 100 years before the other entered the Football League.

Wycombe entered the 92 club in 1893, whilst Sunderland won the First Division title in 1891/92 – their first of six top-flight wins.

A look back at the previous battles

It will be the first time that the

two sides will meet in the final, with the previous six outings between Wycombe and Sunderland taking place in the regular League One season.

In those six matches, there have been three draws, two defeats and one Wycombe win.

The first two meetings were in the 2018/19 season which both ended in 1-1 draws.

The return fixture, in March 2019 at Adams Park, saw three players get shown a red card following a huge melee on the touchline.

In the end, Nathan Tyson and George Honeyman were sent off, whilst Marcus Bean received two yellows for two fouls.

The following season, a Darius Charles goal in October 2019 recorded Wanderers' first victory

over Sunderland, which is when he coined the 'Our House' phrase.

However, in the return fixture in January 2020, Wycombe were smashed 4-0 at the Stadium of Light, being 3-0 down inside 21 minutes.

Fast forward to this season and Sunderland easily defeated Wycombe 3-1 at the SoL, before a dramatic 3-3 draw was played out at AP in January this year.

Joe Jacobson got an injury-time equaliser that day and currently, Sunderland are yet to win at the home of Wycombe Wanderers.

Ticket information will come out in due course.

The match will take place on Saturday, May 21 at Wembley Stadium with the contest kicking-off at 3pm.