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SPORT

Another win for the women

THE Chairgirls' secured a nerve-racking, last minute win against Penn & Tylers Green Ladies to see them progress to the next round of the Berks and Bucks County Cup.

A resilient first half from both teams saw neither side unable to produce an opener. The visitors' defensive, low block play found Wycombe struggling to break through in the box to convert their attack before half time.

Despite the half ending goalless, the Chairgirls produced two strong chances in the first 45. Close to the 30-minute mark, a cross from Wycombe's Emma Newberry was caught by Amy Leach, whose strike sent the ball inches past the left post. Only minutes later, player of the match, Katie Riddington, produced the most compelling chance of the first half as her close-range shot was met by Penn goalkeeper to be sent over the crossbar and out for a corner.

Penn's attacking play throughout the first half was controlled by Wycombe's defence, with keeper, Emily Strange saving the visitors early attempts to keep the scoreline even.

Penn opened the second half with a strong attack, with an 18-yard shot looping over Wycombe keeper within the first minute. Despite the tough start to the 2nd 45, the Chairgirls maintained an aggressive and attacking mindset which set them up for multiple chances to equalize.

Katie Riddington, who composed Wycombe's strongest chance in the first half, produced an opportunity for an equalizer in the 60th minute following her strike inside the box finding the arms of Penn's goalkeeper.

The Chairgirls consistent pressing of attack and possession in hope of levelling out the scoreline paid off in the 72nd minute following the link up of Maddi Armstrong and Honor Cantrell. Maddi Armstrong cut inside Penn's defence with a cross which met Cantrell whose powerful strike sent it in at the back post.

As Wycombe looked to take the lead in the closing minutes, "exceptional" youth team player, Ammara Qureshi stepped up with two convincing chances. Her solo attack and shot, and later left-footed strike from outside the box were both subsequently met by the keeper to maintain the scoreline.

Penn looked close to going ahead of Wycombe in the first minutes of injury time with shots from a corner posing a threat to the Chairgirls. Wycombe goalie, Chelsea Coles, who was brought on following injury to starting keeper, Emily Strange, got a fist to Penn's initial shot before closing down their deflative strike.

With the match in the final minute and looking sure to go to penalties, Wycombe were awarded a free-kick offering a final opportunity to claim the win. Taken by Captain, Bobby Lynch, her cross into the box found fell to the feet of Maddi Armstrong whose tap in secured the victory.

GB achievement for 22-year-old



Charlie Adams has recently been picked for the GB Under 22s Wheelchair Basketball team

AN INSPIRING wheelchair basketball player will be playing for the GB Under 22's team showing the world what he is capable of.

Charlie Adams, 19, from High Wycombe has recently been picked for the GB Under 22s Wheelchair Basketball team and wants to raise awareness of Bone and Joint Awareness week.

Charlie was born with Arthrogryposis and Scoliosis of the spine. Arthrogryposis means that joints are in a permanently fixed position, so Charlie's wrists have a small amount of rotation and his ankles cannot rotate at all.

Scoliosis is characterised by a sideways curvature of the spine, which can cause pain, particularly as people get older.

Amid Bone and Joint Action Week Charlie shares his story and celebrates joining the GB Under 22s Wheelchair Basketball team.

Bone and Joint Action Week aims to draw attention to bone and joint disorders, including arthritis, back pain, and trauma.

Charlie and his family are keen to raise awareness of Arthrogryposis and to showcase what people with disabilities can do when they have access to the right equipment.

Charlie uses a wheelchair for everyday mobility and he has had three sets of spinal rods to correct the curvature of his spine. His older brother, Jonathan, has the same condition and helps his brother to overcome his anxiety surrounding medical appointments and operations. Their sister, Leanna, has just started becoming involved in their medical appointments.

Charlie started playing wheelchair

By Chloe Owens

basketball when he was about 6 years old. He and his siblings often play in tournaments together.

Charlie's mum, Elizabeth Taplin, said, "Charlie has made new friends in his club, Aces. When they get into their wheelchair and play the sport, everyone is the same no matter their disability."

To continue progressing his game, Charlie needed a new wheelchair, which would have cost the family £3,728.70.

The family approached the children's charity Variety, who provide practical help to disabled and disadvantaged children.

The charity provides grants for wheelchairs, specialist equipment, experiences on their Variety Great Days Out programme, and fully accessible transport for SEND schools and non-profit organisations in the form of their famous Sunshine Coaches.

When reflecting on the difference the new wheelchair has made, Elizabeth said, "The new sports wheelchair was made to measure, which has made such a difference to Charlie playing wheelchair basketball.

"The chair is lighter, which makes him faster on court. It has improved his game and he is a lot happier in it. He cleans it and maintains it to make sure it's the best standard possible.

"It has improved his life as he can play a sport which he loves. He has been picked for the GB under 22s wheelchair basketball team.

"He had three friendly games and they won all three. We are so proud of him!"



Golfers lift the trophy Image: Susanna Mitterer

Success for Bucks County Ladies Golf

BUCKS County Ladies Golf Team won the Women's County Finals at Kings Lynn Golf Club.

The Team of 10 girls and young women, aged 14 to 26, represented golf clubs from Beaconsfield, Woburn, Eylesborough, Buckingham, Harewood Downs, Abbey Hill and Buckinghamshire.

They qualified for the 9th year running for the Women's County Finals after playing September 22 to 24.

County Captain, Susanna Mitterer and County Coach, Tony Bowers are especially proud that in the 67th year

history of this National Championship, Bucks put their name on the trophy for the first time in the same year as the Buckinghamshire County Ladies Golf Association celebrates its Centenary birthday.

Playing against five other counties including Lincolnshire, Yorkshire, Essex, Sussex and Dorset in round robin matches, the Bucks Team remained unbeaten, winning the Championship with a day still to spare and a record 10 points.



Jordan Willis played nine times for Wycombe before getting released in the summer Image: PA

New club for Willis

FORMER Wycombe Wanderers defender Jordan Willis has found himself a new club.

The 29-year-old, who spent the second half of last season with the Chairboys, has penned a short-term contract with Northampton Town.

He joins as a free agent with his deal expiring in January next year.

During his very brief spell at Adams Park between February and June 2023, the ex-Coventry City and Sunderland centre back played nine times and was the final signing of the Gareth Ainsworth era.

His arrival to Buckinghamshire was unveiled just 10 days before the former manager departed the club for Queens Park Rangers.

Willis would then go on score in Matt Bloomfield's first game in charge of Wycombe away at Shrewsbury Town later that, but unfortunately for him, it would be an own goal in a 2-0 loss.

Overall, he started twice and came on as a substitute seven times whilst at Wanderers.

He began his career with Coventry City before joining Sunderland in 2019.

Alan Parry's Previews: Facing the Posh away



Can Wanderers win again?

WYCOMBE face the biggest test of their season so far when they take on three of the top six teams in their division in the space of just seven days, beginning with the trip to Peterborough United on Saturday, October 21.

Following the clash with Darren Ferguson's side, currently fourth in League One, Wanderers host sixth-placed Bolton Wanderers at Adams Park on Tuesday, October 24, before the short trip to local rivals Oxford United-second in the table before this weekend on Saturday, October 28.

It's a trio of fixtures that will give an indication of Wycombe's chances of challenging for a play-off place this season, and fortunately Matt Bloomfield's men are in good form.

They have won six of their last nine league games, the only defeats coming in tough away games at Charlton Athletic and Portsmouth, two matches they could easily have drawn.

The postponement of last week's home game with Cheltenham Town due to international call ups came at the perfect time. It gave Bloomfield and his players a much-needed break after a punishing schedule of fixtures in August and September.

They will go to Peterborough refreshed and full of confidence after beating their opponents home and away last season, scoring six goals in the process.

Meetings between the clubs have a history of being high-scoring encounters, with the last eleven league games between them averaging nearly five goals-per-game.

Wanderers lead the way in head-to-head clashes since they first met in a FA Cup tie fifty years ago when the Chairboys were still a non-league club. They lost that game, but have since beaten Peterborough twelve times, suffering only seven defeats.

Recent clashes have had added edge to them after Wycombe beat Peterborough to a play-off place thanks to the points-per-game rule in the Covid-hit 2019-20 season.

It led to loud complaints of injustice from Peterborough chairman Darragh MacAnthony, and disparaging remarks about Wycombe by local newspaper columnist Alan Swann.

If Bloomfield's men can take something from their trip to London Road, it would set them up perfectly for their toughest week of the season.

Chesham's FA Cup dream is still alive



Chesham's 3-1 win over Braintree was watched in front of 600 to 700 fans as they booked a place in the first round proper

CESHAM United have progressed into the first-round proper of the FA Cup for the first time in seven years after they dramatically defeated Braintree Town 3-1 after extra time.

Following on from Saturday's 0-0 draw in Essex against the National League South opposition, the Generals were buoyed with around 700 fans at the Meadow.

Despite dominating large periods of the first time, it was the away side that took the lead on 40 minutes through Aaron Blair, as his looping shot flew over the head of Zaki Oualah in the Chesham goal.

This didn't deter the south Buckinghamshire side, who were aiming to reach the first round proper of the competition for the first time since the 2016/17 season, when they would go onto face Peterborough United.

Chances went begging for Chesham who seemed to be heading for the exit, but in the 94th minute of the contest, Kieran Thomas Murphy's header from close range in front of the home fans gave United their equaliser.

The Meadow erupted, as Braintree, who sit eight places above and are in a league higher than Chesham, had their backs against the wall as they were stunned by the late goal.

Extra time soon followed and United continued with their dominance, as they took the lead on 95 minutes thanks to a low

By James Richings

and calm Lucas Sinclair finish.

It was what the team deserved, but their hard work was nearly thrown away because just seconds after taking the lead, Braintree were rewarded a penalty.

Sinclair, the hero just moments before took an age to clear his lines in the Chesham box, and clipped Will Davies.

Much to the annoyance of himself, the fans and his teammates, Sinclair immediately apologised to his teammates as he knew he took too long to make the clearance.

However, his blushes were sparred as Blair's poor spot-kick was easily gathered by Oualah, who got down low to his right.

Braintree pushed for an equaliser and were given a corner in the final seconds which goalkeeper Vincente Reyes went up for, but as the ball broke away from the Chesham box, the home side were on the counter attack.

A sea of claret and blue shirts bombed forward with the United fans screaming for someone to take a shot at the open goal.

In the end, it fell to substitute Zak Joseph who tapped in from 10-yards in the final seconds of the match.

Pandemonium followed as fans ran onto the pitch, selfies were taken and tears were shed.

The result means Chesham will face Maidstone of the National League in the next round.

SPORT



Wycombe Wanderers will take on Bradford City Image: PA

Wycombe Wanderers to play League Two opposition in the FA Cup

WYCOMBE Wanderers will play Bradford City in the first round of the FA Cup.

The Chairboys will travel to Valley Parade on the weekend of November 4/5 to face the Bantams, who won the world's oldest football competition back in 1911.

The previous occasion was in the 1996/97 season

at Adams Park when Wycombe lost 2-0.

Here is a full list of FA Cup fixtures involving teams from the Thames Valley:

Ebbsfleet United or SLOUGH TOWN vs Grimsby Town
OXFORD UNITED vs MAIDENHEAD UNITED
Bradford City vs WY-

COMBE WANDERERS READING vs MILTON KEYNES

Scarborough Athletic or OXFORD CITY vs Forest Green Rovers

CHESHAM UNITED vs Maidstone United
Cambridge United vs BRACKNELL TOWN

Since the 2019/20 season, Wanderers have only made

it beyond the first round on one occasion.

This was during the 2020/21 campaign when they were in the Championship, as they were given a bye into the third round of the competition.

Excluding this, Wanderers have fallen at the first hurdle in three of the last four years.

Preparing for Peterborough

WYCOMBE Wanderers manager Matt Bloomfield has praised Peterborough United boss Darren Ferguson ahead of Saturday's fixture.

It'll be the first time the two head coaches will meet in their respective dugouts with both sides being on great form.

The Chairboys have won eight of their last 12 games in all competitions, whilst Peterborough have only lost three of the opening 12 league fixtures.

Additionally, the Posh sit six points off the top two automatic places in fourth, whilst Wanderers are eighth.

Bloomfield told the press: "I've got so much respect for Darren as he's had a brilliant managerial career.

"He's had so much success at Peterborough as his team have a lot of continuity, they've added some fresh faces and they've recruited very well over the years.

"They'll be a top team to face and I love the way he sets his team up.

"They attack well as he's very attacking minded and we've seen that over the years.

"We can expect a side with good attacking threat, they like to play with the ball, they get the ball into the box, they've got Jonson Clark-Harris who is a huge goal threat and he's been like that for several years, they've got good dribblers, they dominate the ball and have experience.

"So we'll be aware of how tough it'll be on Saturday.

"But we've been playing well away from home in recent games too.

"I know we had the losses against Charlton and Portsmouth but there were many positives to take from them, and then, we had that very good afternoon at Fleetwood where

By James Richings

we played really well.

"For us, it's all about the performance, especially away from home and we want to do that again this Saturday."

The fixture has become somewhat of a grudge with Wanderers recently getting the upper hand over their Cambridgeshire-based counterparts.

After Wycombe pipped Peterborough to a play-off place in 2020 via the points-per-game system due to the Covid-19 pandemic (Wanderers were sitting outside the top six but were propelled to third, whilst the Posh dropped out), some individuals at London Road felt somewhat aggrieved by the decision.

And last season, the Chairboys completed the double over Peterborough with an aggregate score of 6-1, whilst also defeating the side in the EFL Trophy via a penalty shootout.

Bloomfield continued: "We believe in the group.

"Ideally, we weren't looking at calling the game off [last week] but Cheltenham had the right to do so which they did.

"We would have obviously wanted to keep up with the good work we've been doing as we wanted to strike that balance.

"Every now and again it's good to get that break and freshen up and we hope that it won't impact our performance.

"We had good momentum before the break but these things are part of football so we just need to try and alleviate those issues.

"I feel we've had good continuity so hopefully that'll put us in good stead."



Wycombe's last visit to P'borough saw them win 3-0 Image: PA



Jordan Ibe in 2011 Image: PA

Ibe lands move at Ebbsfleet

A former Wycombe Wanderers fan favourite has found himself a new club after being out of the game for nearly 18 months.

Jordan Ibe, who played 11 times for the Chairboys during the autumn and winter of 2011 when he was 15 and 16 years old, has joined Ebbsfleet United of the National League.

He was announced on the day the club took on Slough Town in the final FA Cup qualifying round.

A victory for either side would cement their place in the first round proper of the competition.

Speaking on his move, Ibe said: "I just want to get back out there, show people what I can do again and play football.

"I've worked hard to be in a position where I can focus on football and believe in myself and my ability to contribute on the pitch.

"Being back out there is where I love to be and where I'm most happy, but I needed to be healthy and prepared to give myself that chance.

"The way Ebbsfleet have helped me and put a process in place so I can be ready has been supportive.

"I came in and have had to back myself and prove I'm here to succeed to earn my chance.

"The gaffer and staff have built up my fitness to the point where I'm ready to go with a ball and I'm really pleased to be able to concentrate on my game while at the same time being really supported."