



Wycombe Wanderers Website

Match Report

10-man Wycombe secure their first win in twelve in a drama-filled bout at Adams Park, writes Darcie Panayiotou.

Wycombe Wanderers rung in the New Year with a huge three points over Bristol Rovers, securing their first win in twelve games.

Ryan Tafazolli, Sam Vokes and Luke Leahy made their way to the scoresheet as the Chairboys make it five wins in their past five encounters against the Pirates, despite the late drama of two Chris Martin goals in stoppage time.

Wycombe kickstarted 2024 with a dominating first half display, looking dangerous in the final third. The Chairboys orchestrated several convincing chances to take the lead within the first 45 minutes, with Kieran Sadlier and Ryan Tafazolli looking keen to get the opener early on.

Tafazolli's first attempt to gain Wycombe the lead in the 13th minute followed him being on the receiving end of a beautiful corner taken by Sadlier from the left, with a superb header from the back post resulting in a goal line clearance from Bristol's keeper to maintain the even scoreline.

Despite his first attempt being shut down by Bristol, Tafazolli converted his next opportunity in the 29th minute in an identical position to his earlier chance. A stunning cross from Luke Leahy on the left wing met Tafazolli's head on the back post, as his touch flew across the keeper and into the net.

As the Chairboys looked to preserve their lead heading into half time, Joe Low made a vital interception to a run-on goal by Chris Martin to keep the Blues ahead going into the final 45.

Eager to double the deficit, early chances were orchestrated by Dale Taylor, Josh Scowen, David Wheeler and Freddie Potts, who has recently returned from injury, with numerous attempts coming within the opening 15 minutes of the half, however they failed to hit the back of the net. A strong start to the half was met with a tough hit for Wycombe in the 61st minute as they dropped down to ten men as captain Josh Scowen, was shown a straight red for a foul against Sam Finley.

Despite the set-back, the Chairboys' determination to maintain their advantage manifested in two quick fire goals from Sam Vokes and Luke Leahy to triple their first half lead within two minutes. David Wheeler executed a stunning solo-attack on goal, and though his shot was saved by Rovers' keeper, the subsequent corner set up the play leading to the Blues' second. A close-range, right-footed shot by Sam Vokes netted in the bottom left corner, sending the Blues up 2-0 in the 77th minute, assisted by opening scorer, Tafazolli.

Looking to capitalise on the momentum of their second goal, a quick-footed Freddie Potts regained possession of the ball in Wycombe's final-third, laying it off to Leahy who rounded the keeper and slotted it in from six yards.

An outstanding defensive performance in goal from Max Stryjek throughout the second half kept the visitors at bay, as he got a hand to two huge chances for the Pirates to keep Wycombe ahead.

A dramatic twist in stoppage time saw Chris Martin hit back for the Pirates with two goals in six minutes, inducing an anxiety provoking atmosphere at Adams Park. A nervy second half finished with the visitors having one final shot at goal, which hit the right post and was sent out of play. A wave of relief hit as the final whistle secured the Chairboys' well-deserved 3-2 win at home, ending their winless drought.

With a win under their belts in 2024, and the three points sending Wycombe up to 16th in the table, the Chairboys set their sights on their upcoming away league fixture to Burton on Saturday 6th January.