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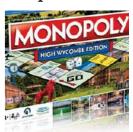


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SPORT

in the FA Cup

WYCOMBE Wanderers manager Gareth Ainsworth admitted that his side 'didn't turn up' as the Chairboys were eliminated from the FA Cup following a 2-0 home defeat against League Two Walsall.

Strikes from Jacob Maddox and Isaac Hutchinson sent the Saddlers through into the second round in front of a hugely empty Adams Park, as less than 3,000 spectators watched the Buckinghamshire team crash out of the competition at the first hurdle for the fourth time in five seasons.

The Chairbovs primarily resorted to long-range shots that didn't really threaten Owen Evans in the opposition goal, and with Brandon Hanlan having a penalty saved by the keeper, it was a day to forget for Ainsworth's

Ainsworth said: "I thought we lacked a little bit of fight, a bit of desire.

"I'm gutted because it wasn't a great occasion, it wasn't a big turnout but we have got to make sure that we are better than the teams that are below us, especially in terms of divisions.

"We've got good players but we just didn't turn up and I'll look for the reasons why.

"We had a few changes to the team, a couple of players got an opportunity and I have got to make sure that we get back to that team that beat Peterborough and won away at Oxford."

Striker moves out on loan

WYCOMBE Wanderers have confirmed that development team striker Antoine Makoli has joined Buckinghamshire neighbours Chesham United on a short-term long team.

Makoli, 18, went straight into the

Generals' squad for their Southern League Premier Division South match against Swindon Supermarine on Saturday, November 5.

Given the number 11 shirt, he was handed his first start of the season, but was substituted just before the hour mark for Jack Connors.

He then missed the matchday squad for their next match, which was against Aylesbury United in the Berks and Bucks Cup on November 8

Chesham won the first round tie

The youngster joined Wanderers as a free agent this summer and was an unused substitute in the Chairboys' EFL trophy matches against Tottenham Hotspur Under 21s and Stevenage.

Flaccid showing Ainsworth slams Cup performance



Gareth Ainsworth spoke on his side's 2-0 home loss against Walsall in the

WYCOMBE Wanderers manager Gareth Ainsworth has reflected on his side's 2-0 home defeat against Walsall in the first round of the FA Cup. The Saddlers came to Adams

Park without a win in their last nine away games in all competitions and had suffered a 12-game winless run between August and October.

However, the League Two team visited Buckinghamshire and played the Chairboys off the park with Jacob Maddox and Isaac Hutchinson getting the goals for the Midlands team.

The result means that after enduring a long run without a victory. Walsall are now unbeaten in four which includes winning the last three.

Wanderers on the other hand have failed to win any of their last five home games, and with Maddox's strike coming from a corner, Wycombe have now conceded five goals from set pieces in their last four fix-

Additionally, it was also the first time since March that Wycombe had failed to score at Adams Park (excluding the 0-0 draw against Spurs' U21s in the Football League Trophy back in August).

Ainsworth said: "They are a Walsall side that we knew would be counterattacking as well as being a set-piece team.

'Walsall stepped on us at the start, they scored from a corner and the second goal went

By James Richings

straight through us.
"It looked like nobody was ready to stop that but the second goal put us out of the game.

"That really killed us because when you're a goal down you've always got a chance.

"But they're big and strong they came through the back of us, and we have got to make sure that we are better than what we were today [Novem-

ber 5].
"We know that we could do it, it's just about finding that magic formula we had only a few weeks ago.

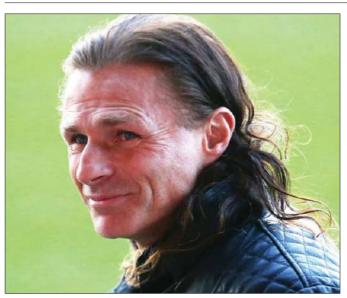
"I made a lot of changes in the second half, early enough for them to make an impact but it just didn't happen and we need to pick the bones out of it quickly and get ready for Forest Green Rovers next week in the league."

On conceding from another set piece, Ainsworth concluded: "Ultimately, I take responsibility for it.

"I have got to make sure that when we defend set pieces, we're better than what we have been in the last few games.

Out of the 22 meetings between Wycombe and Walsall, the Midlands team have won 11

of those fixtures. Wycombe aim to get back to winning ways this weekend when they face the Green Army on November 12.



Wycombe boss Gareth Ainsworth spoke about Walsall's fans that visited Adams Park on November 5 in the FA Cup (PA)

Walsall's fans were 'loud' at Adams Park

WYCOMBE Wanderers boss Gareth Ainsworth has praised the Walsall supporters that made the trip to Adams Park in the club's FA Cup match on November 5.

Only 2,319 fans were inside the stadium as the Saddlers knocked the Chairboys out of the competition with a comfortable 2-0 win in South Buckinghamshire.

Out of those who attended the match, 520 spectators got behind Michael Flynn's side as they made their presence known

And their constant singing worked as Walsall eliminated Wanderers out of the cup at the first hurdle for a second straight season.

Jacob Maddox and Isaac Hutchinson got the goals for the

Speaking on the Walsall fans, Ainsworth said: "I thought the Walsall fans were very loud today and got right behind their team.

"You could hear them all game and I think Walsall gave them something to shout about and sometimes, my players have to get this place going and create their own atmosphere."

Gareth Ainsworth spent one month at Walsall during the 2002/03 season, where he played five times, scored one goal, and got red carded once.

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SPORT



Adam Przybek joined Walsall from Wycombe Wanderers on a free transfer in the summer after spending one season at Adams Park(Walsall FC)

Przybek is released

EX-WYCOMBE goalkeeper Adam Przybek left Walsall just three days before the two clubs played one another in the FA Cup.

The 22-year-old had only been at the Midlands team for four-and-half months following his release from the Chairboys last season.

His time with the League Two outfit saw him play one competitive match for the club, which was in a 1-0 home defeat against the West Ham United Under 21s in the Football League Trophy back in August.

He was an unused substitute for the first seven league games and two EFL Cup matches this campaign, but hasn't appeared in a matchday squad since September 3 after picking up an undisclosed injury.

Head Coach Michael Flynn said: "We've mutually agreed for Adam to move on, and we wish him all the best in getting right and being available to go and hopefully play somewhere in January.

"We've thought long and hard about it.

"It allows Adam to refresh and get going for January and it allows us to then bring somebody in if Owen [Evans] does go down but hopefully, he doesn't."

During his only season at Adams Park in 2021/22, Przybek played seven competitive games and kept two clean sheets. Those shutouts came in the Berks and Bucks matches against Long Crendon and Ascot United respectively.

Alan Parry's Previews: Preparing to hit the road



Gareth Ainsworth (PA)

THE saying goes that there is 'no place like home', but Wycombe will be relieved that their next two games are away from Adams Park with back-to-back trips to Gloucestershire to face Forest Green Rovers and Cheltenham Town.

With below par performances by the team, low attendances, and a subdued atmosphere in the stands, Adams Park is fast losing its reputation as a fortress where visiting teams feared to tread.

The recent run of four successive home games produced a miserable return of just two points in League One and defeat against lower division opposition in the First Round of the FA Cup.

But are things as bad as they seem?

With a record of W3 D3 L3, Wanderers currently sit mid-way in the table for league points gained at home.

Only six teams have scored more goals on home soil while nine teams have conceded more.

However, there is no doubt that the mood at Adams Park has been very flat in recent weeks, and Wycombe fans are known for creating a better atmosphere when the team is playing away.

With confidence at a low ebb, the players will need all the help they can get when they take on Forest Green Rovers at the splendidly named Fully Charged New Lawn Stadium on Saturday, November 12.

Under their eccentric chairman Dale Vince, Rovers are unique.

Vince introduced eco-friendly features to their stadium including solar panels, an organic pitch, vegetarian food, and a playing kit made from recycled materials.

FIFA describes them as the 'greenest team in the world' but their success has come from winning football matches.

They were promoted to the EFL in 2017 and spent five seasons in League Two before lifting the title last season.

They have struggled in League One and are currently one place off the bottom with just three wins from 17 games.

Wycombe have won all three previous meetings between the clubs, and if they can maintain that record on Saturday it will help to lift the doom and gloom of recent

FA Cup frustration as Wanderers exit



Wycombe have now not won their last five home games, losing two and drawing three since they defeated Peterborough 3-1 on October 15

WYCOMBE Wanderers have been eliminated from the FA Cup in the first round after falling to a 2-0 home defeat against League Two Walsall.

Sam Vokes had the first chance of the tie as his thunderbolt from 20-yards was tipped over by Owen Evans, and from the resulting corner, Ryan Tafazolli bundled his attempt wide.

This was as good as it got for the Chairboys as Walsall took the match at the scruff of its neck.

Aiden White, Jacob Maddox, and Isaac Hutchinson all forced Max Stryjek into three brilliant stops, as Michael Flynn's side put Gareth Ainsworth's team on the back foot

Tom Knowles also fired over before Maddox had the game's best chance.

On 26 minutes, he managed to find himself clean through with Stryjek only to beat, but the Polish shot-stopper made himself big and denied the former Chelsea and Southampton man his second of the season.

Liam Gordon nearly got himself on the scoresheet just after the half-hour mark, but he incredibly fired high and wide from six yards with the goal at his mercy following a fantastic low cross from Maddox.

But Walsall didn't have to wait long to find the goal that they deserved, and it came from Maddox, who was causing the Wanderers backline endless problems.

With four minutes left of the opening period, White's deep cor-

By James Richings

ner was brilliantly smashed in by the 24-year-old on the volley, for his second of the season

his second of the season.

The goal was also the fifth Wycombe had conceded from a corner kick in the last four home games.

Wanderers needed to improve in the second half and they were given a glorious opportunity to equalise.

Sullay Kaikai tricked his way into the box and won the Chairboys a penalty, however, Brandon Hanlan's spot-kick was pushed away by Evans. The missed penalty summed

The missed penaity summed up Wycombo's afternoon as they struggled to offer any real threat at the Walsall goal, and on 62 minutes, the tie was over.

Maddox was once again involved

in the Saddler's attack as his low cross evaded everyone in the home box, and there was Hutchinson to smash home from close range in front of the visiting fans.

It was his third of the season and his third in the last seven matches.

This means Wycombe have failed to win any of their last five home games.

They also haven't won a FA Cup tie in the first round since 2017/18, and they have done that at home since 2006/07.

Up next for the Chairboys is Forest Green Rovers away on November 12

Attendance: 2,319 (520 away)

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The midfielder hasn't played since September 13 (PA)

Josh Scowen 'close' to returning as Wanderers fall short in the FA Cup

WYCOMBE Wanderers boss Gareth Ainsworth has revealed that Josh Scowen is 'very close to returning to full fitness following his recent injury issues.

The 29-year-old midfielder hasn't featured for the Chairboys since the 1-0 home victory against Accrington Stanley on September 13 and has missed the last 12 matches in all com-

In those fixtures where he hasn't played, Wanderers have won three, drawn three, and lost six.

Those defeats were against Derby County, Stevenage, Sheffield Wednesday, Plymouth Argyle, Cambridge United, and Walsall respectively.

When asked about the positives in Wanderers' 2-0 home defeat against Walsall in the FA

Cup on November 5, in which midfield this season. the Chairboys were second best, Ainsworth said: "Ryan Tafazolli, Sullay Kaikai, and Tjay De Barr all got minutes, Anis Mehmeti came on and looked very exciting and Josh

Scowen is very close to coming back as well which is great. "Josh has been training outside on the pitches and it's unfortunate that we have lost our

"Lewis Wing, Nick Freeman and David Wheeler have all tried to fill in that role and Lewis is probably our only natural midfielder at the moment.

"The squad will be getting very competitive and I am sure there will be some disappointed players, but that's football as I need to put my best team out there to win the points."

Hoping to put things 'right'

Ainsworth revealed that his players need to 'get back to some fundamentals' as they aim to return to winning ways.

The Chairboys take on Forest Green Rovers on November 12 after failing to win any of their last five consecutive home matches.

This run included three draws against Peterborough United in the Football League Trophy, Morecambe and Port Vale in the league, coupled with two defeats against Cambridge United and Walsall respectively.
The latter was in the FA Cup.

Wanderers have also conceded five goals from set pieces in their last four games, and Ainsworth hopes to put things 'right' in the West Country this weekend.

Speaking to the press on November 10, he said: "We have got to get back to some fundamentals and I'm asking the boys for a top performance on Saturday because we owe that to each other and to Rob and Pete [Couhig] who are backing us.

There have been some results that have turned the

league upside down.
"Look at Derby vs Morecambe [on November 1].

Gareth: "It's a strong league, and we know expectation is high around here because of what we've all achieved in the last few years. We have to manage that and not get carried away with a couple of wins or a couple of defeats. It's a 46-game season and we'll

By James Richings

keep our focus."

"We didn't pick up full points against Morecambe and everyone thought it was a disaster, but Derby went on to draw with them as well.

"So Morecambe could actually be better than what people think.

"The [home] games that we have played in, I thought we were worthy of the win against Morecambe and Cambridge and it was unbelievable that we lost to Cambridge.

"The chances that we created were very good and it's been the results that have gone against us.
"I am always about the per-

formance, I have always said that, and they have been ok.
"Port Vale was a battle as it

was, in a way, your old school League Two game and that was one that we stood up to.

"However, Walsall was poor and we have got to put that to bed and put that right.

When asked if playing away after four straight home games resulting in zero wins was the perfect tonic for Wycombe, Ainsworth responded: "I would have been happy at home this weekend as I would like to put things right.

"But going away is nice as we travel well together with the boys and I think the big thing now is to get all the play ers fit.

"That will be key." The match will kick off at 3pm.



Wanderers have not won in their last four games since October 22 (PA)



Wanderers' Jason McCarthy (PA)

McCarthy: 'I love it here'

WYCOMBE right-back Jason McCarthy has revealed that he was nursing an injury during Wanderers' play-off push at the back end of last season.

The 26-year-old played the final 16 games of the 2021/22 campaign and completed 90 minutes in 13 of those games.

However, it has since been confirmed that the former Southampton man was not fully fit towards the final stages of the season but admits he is 'pleased' in how he is playing and feeling.

He has so far featured in 15 matches for the Chairboys in all competitions after missing the start of the season through

He said: "Personally, I'm pleased with how things are going at the moment this season.

"It was a frustrating start with the injury and a lot of people don't know but I was kind of injured "But I am pleased with how things are going for me and I'm happy to do my bit for the team whether it's at right-back or right-wing back.

"I love it here and I'm taking it game by game."

McCarthy has so far played 178 games for the Chairboys which includes 81 appearances since re-signing for the club for a fourth time in August 2020.