

Ten man Barnsley conceded a 95th-minute winner as they lost 2-1 having led at high-flying Wycombe Wanderers on Tuesday evening.

Jon Russell opened the scoring then the Reds survived a first half onslaught from the hosts.

Wycombe levelled with a penalty in the second half then Marc Roberts was sent off minutes later.

The Reds were the better side after the dismissal but conceded a heart-breaking winner.

It was a third straight loss, the longest such run in League One since 2015, and they fell down three places to ninth.

Donovan Pines replaced Conor McCarthy, Georgie Gent came in for the injured Neil Farrugia, Stephen Humphrys replaced Adam Phillips, who had been ill, and Jon Russell came in for Kelechi Nwakali. Pines played on the right of there back three while the Reds changed from 3-5-2 to 3-4-3 with Humphrys and Davis Keillor-Dunn either side of Max Watters.

Wycombe's Daniel Udoh almost scored on two minutes for the hosts, after Pines struggled to deal with a long ball, but shot over off balance from close range.

But Russell opened the scoring in the tenth minute with a 20-yard shot which took a big deflection into the bottom left corner. It came from a decent passing move which ended with Gent's cross being cleared to Russell.

Wycombe then dominated the rest of half with their tactic of playing high balls over the slow Barnsley back line, especially to the right where Pines was, creating many chances.

Ben Killip then made a fine one-on-one save with his legs to deny Cameron Humphreys after Richard Kone latched onto a long ball when two Barnsley defenders appeared to have been fouled.

Kone latched onto a ball over the top and, under close attention from Marc Roberts, his weak shot was easily saved.

Udoh then beat Killip to the ball in the box, possibly heading it out of goalkeeper's hands, but his shot from the right was blocked by Roberts. Killip clawed a corner out from under his crossbar and sprang to his right to impressively save from a Luke Leahy header.

Roberts and Pines both missed another long ball and Kone's shot from a tight angle on the left a few yards out was turned behind by Killip.

Russell almost scored a second totally against the run of play on 42 minutes when he brought down a long throw from Roberts and volleyed straight at the goalkeeper from close range.

Ex-Red Josh Scowen thought he should have had a penalty for a foul by Russell before Humphreys fired over just before half-time.

Barnsley began the second half well with Keillor-Dunn's shot blocked then Roberts hooking a corner over. Earl then volleyed a big chance wide when he reached Corey O'Keeffe's right-wing free-kick unmarked with the goal gaping.

Watters then limped off and was replaced by Phillips on 52 minutes, as Barnsley returned to 3-5-2.

Killip then superbly sprang to his right to keep out a powerful and high volley from Humphreys 15 yards out.

The equaliser eventually came from the penalty spot after Pines was judged to have fouled Fred Onyedinma in the six-yard six. Replays seemed to show he got the ball although Luca Connell had pulled him back. Kone beat Killip from the spot.

Minutes later, Roberts was sent off for a tackle on Kone on the left wing. He also appeared to get the ball but it was heavy tackle.

Substitute Bez Lubala saw a shot from a very tight angle on the right of the box pushed away by Killip on 82 minutes.

Phillips could have won it against the odds on 88 minutes but volleyed over a few yards out from an O'Keeffe cross amid calls for offside.

Connell then almost lobbed the goalkeeper from near halfway but it went just over.

The winner arrived for the hosts on 95 minutes when substitute Garath McCleary's right-wing cross was headed in by the unmarked Kone from close range.

## **Darrell Clarke**

Darrell Clarke admits 'the dressing room is very low' after a late 2-1 loss at Wycombe Wanderers but insists he will get Barnsley 'through the other side.'

The Reds took the lead through Jon Russell but conceded through a second half penalty then had Marc Roberts sent off before a 95th-minute winner.

Head coach Darrell Clarke told the Chronicle: "It is a really sloppy second goal. We're loose in possession then don't mark the guy in the box. Phillo (Adam Phillips) has missed a great chance and Luca (Connell) is unfortunate with a lob.

"We can't feel sorry for ourselves. We have to go again.

"It's hard to keep picking them up but it's my job. I have got through the other side of times like this many times as a manager and I will this time. I will make sure my players do. The changing room is very low but I will get them going."

Donovan Pines conceded the penalty then Roberts was sent off minutes later for a rash tackle. Clarke said: "I haven't looked at the clips. I thought we switched off from a throw and it looked a clumsy foul (for the penalty). It was strong tackle from Robbo who has apologised. I won't chuck players under the bus, we have to stick together.

"Robbo is honest and he's disappointed. He's held his hands up. I won't sacrifice him, I will deal with it in house."

Wycombe responded to falling behind by creating a series of chances. Clarke said: "We scored then they had a lot of long balls over the top, we weren't defending well enough and they caused us problems. We regrouped at half-time. We knew we would have to weather a storm because Wycombe have only lost one game at home all season.

"We defended well at times, the 'keeper has made a couple of good saves. Early (Josh Earl) missed a great chance, middle of the goal from a set piece - you have to take those chances and 2-0 gives you a massive chance."

Max Watters and Stephen Humphrys came off injured. Clarke said: "We will have to assess them. It's not ideal but we can't feel sorry for ourselves. Injuries are part and parcel. The lads need me. They will get my full support and we'll look to turn the corner on Saturday."

Losing two strikers could increase the need for new signings but Clarke would not comment on progress in the transfer window other than to say the club was continuing to work hard behind the scenes.

Phillips started the game on the bench. Clarke said: "He was ill last night with flu symptoms. He couldn't eat with the boys. He picked up a bit but I was never going to risk him for the full game."