



Wycombe Wanderers Website Match Report

Wanderers defeated league leaders Ipswich Town with a gritty, resilient 1-0 victory at Adams Park on Saturday afternoon.

Brandon Hanlan was the match-winner, twisting and turning his way through the Tractor Boys' defence to convert from close range before half-time, and Max Stryjek and his defence performed heroics in the second half to keep Ipswich at bay.

Gareth Ainsworth made one enforced change to the side that drew at Lincoln seven days earlier, with Jason McCarthy returning to the side as captain as Ryan Tafazolli missed out through illness, prompting Jack Grimmer to slot into the middle of defence.

The game went ahead with no glitches despite snowy and icy conditions in the build-up, with the grounds team working wonders to keep the playing surface and stadium pathways at a high standard.

The first chance fell to Wycombe inside 10 minutes, as Garath McCleary drifted into the box on the left and delivered a low ball which reached McCarthy at the back post, but the right-back's first-time effort was blocked en route to goal.

Ipswich's first opportunity fell to Freddie Ladapo, who blasted over from 20 yards just before the midway point of the first half, as the visitors grew more into the game without testing Max Stryjek in the home goal.

His first save came when the Blues were temporarily reduced to ten men, with Josh Scowen needing treatment on a head injury, and the man he would've been marking – Samy Morsy – marched uncontested towards the box before squaring it for Conor Chaplin, who directed his low effort straight at the Pole in the goal.

Stryjek darted from his goal to deny Kayden Jackson an opportunity down the left and it just as it looked like Ipswich were the team on top, Wanderers hit them with a sucker-punch, breaking the deadlock in superb fashion.

David Wheeler laid it off for Brandon Hanlan with his back to goal, five or 10 yards outside the corner of the area, but with a deft touch, drop of the shoulder and quick dart of pace, the no.18 was into the areas, beating his men and nudging the ball past the keeper to give Wycombe the lead.

Conor Chaplin was denied an immediate equaliser when his curled effort was blocked by Jordan Obita, and the Chairboys will have been more than satisfied with their advantage at the interval.

The Tractor Boys started the second half on top, with Leif Davis curling a free-kick into the grateful arms of Stryjek before Cameron Burgess headed just wide from Cameron Humphrey's inviting cross.

Then Chaplin shot straight at Stryjek from the edge of the box with his final chance before he was replaced by Sone Aluko on 64 minutes, with Kyle Edwards and Lee Evans also coming on for Jackson and Humphreys.

Edwards was thwarted by Josh Scowen's outstretched boot, while there was brief respite at the other end when Garath McCleary flashed a half-chance over the bar when the ball bounced up kindly for him.

Dominic Gape returned to the team for his 200th appearance, with Sam Vokes also entering the field as Mehmeti and Hanlan made way, and both played a vital role in shoring up the defence for the final 10 minutes.

Ipswich had two chances in half-time, firstly when Ladapo's shot looped up dangerously and needed to be clawed away by Stryjek, before the keeper then held Wes Burns' low drive from the corner of the area.

That was that, and the Blues were able to celebrate a superb home win to take into the festive period.