



Wycombe Wanderers Website Match Report

Wycombe were edged out in a narrow 1-0 defeat to Stevenage after going close to snatching a point with 10 men following Max Stryjek's second-half red card.

Blues dominated the first 20 minutes but fell behind to Carl Piergianni's strike, and Stryjek saw red for a foul on Jordan Roberts after the interval.

However, the visitors rallied late on and were denied two possible penalties before going close through Matt Butcher and Luke Leahy in stoppage time.

They meet Cheltenham Town at Adams Park on Tuesday night.

Matt Bloomfield made eight changes to his side in light of an absorbing battle on a heavy pitch at Bradford on Wednesday, with Nigel Lonwijk and Gideon Kodua being handed first starts while Kieran Sadlier returned from illness and Richard Kone led the front line of attack.

The fresh legs enabled Wanderers to begin on the front foot and they were the dominant force in the first 10 minutes, with the pace of Kodua, Richard Kone and Kieran Sadlier causing all sorts of problems, with Kodua turning the first real chance onto the top of the bar from Matt Butcher's disguised cross.

Then Ryan Tafazolli headed onto the outside of the post from Luke Leahy's deep corner after Kodua had done well to earn another set-piece, and Sadlier's cutback in a dangerous area couldn't quite find a blue shirt as the visitors continued to dominate.

But Stevenage changed shape to tighten up and, soon after almost being a gifted the lead through Lonwijk and Max Stryjek's mix-up at the back, Carl Piergianni stroked them ahead through a crowd of bodies from just inside the area.

Then came another blow as Kane Vincent-Young pulled up injured, requiring a change as Leahy moved to left-back and Josh Scowen entered the midfield, while Joe Low also come on for Lonwijk on the half hour mark.

Wanderers almost levelled when Kodua turned Butcher's wayward strike on target, forcing a good save from Taye Ashby-Hammond, before Stryjek was called into action to tip Jake Forster-Caskey's instinctive volley behind.

Kane Hemmings headed a free-kick wastefully over in first-half stoppage time with the final chance of the first 45, with Wycombe knowing they were well in the game but again were rueing missed opportunities.

And worse was to come soon after the interval when Jordan Roberts raced onto a ball over the top and was fouled just outside the area by Max Stryjek, who was shown a straight red card. Franco Ravizzoli came off the bench to take up the gloves as Kodua made way, and Forster-Caskey sent the free-kick over the bar.

Stevenage were now in control of the game, and Ravizzoli did well to deny Kane Hemmings just after Sam Vokes and David Wheeler had stepped off the bench to replace Lubala and Kone.

Terence Vancooten missed a sitter of a header from close range from a corner on 71 minutes, with the 10 men of Wycombe just needing to hang in there and hope for a change of fortune in attack.

They threw everything at Stevenage late on, prompting Boro's keeper to pick up a yellow card for time-wasting while strong penalty shouts for a handball and holding on were waved away by Darren Drysdale.

Matt Butcher curled narrowly over and Luke Leahy's last-gasp goalbound strike was blocked as Stevenage clung on for all three points.