



Wycombe Wanderers Website Match Report

Beryly Lubala buried a late penalty to ensure local bragging rights for the Blues in a memorable 2-1 victory against Reading at the Select Car Leasing Stadium.

Nigel Lonwijk opened the scoring in acrobatic style as the Blues bossed the opening half, but the Royals came roaring back in the second period and earned their leveller through Sam Smith's header.

Chem Campbell was tripped in the box as the clock neared 90 and Lubala stepped up to do the honours, sparking wild scenes in the away end.

Next up for Wycombe is a double-header of home games against Wigan and Northampton at Adams Park next week.

Matt Bloomfield made two changes to the side that started in the 4-2 defeat to Barnsley seven days earlier, with Nigel Lonwijk and Freddie Potts coming in for Joe Low and Dale Taylor.

A very evenly-matched opening to the game yielded little by way of goalmouth action, though Beryly Lubala did well to pick out Kieran Sadlier in the Royals' box, though the Irishman couldn't steer his effort on target as he turned to meet it.

And then the Blues cranked up the pressure, spending large periods in the Royals' half, and deserved their breakthrough, given to them by a stunning acrobatic effort from Nigel Lonwijk. Freddie Potts crossed the ball into a good area, Lubala rose highest to nod it down and the Dutch defender left the ground to convert on the turn.

Potts sent an effort narrowly over the bar shortly after from Luke Leahy's free-kick, and Kieran Sadlier's shot deflected narrowly wide from Garath McCleary's clever pass.

The absence of a second goal gave the Royals something to cling to as they gradually improved, with their first effort coming on the half-hour mark, but Franco Ravizzoli was equal to Kelvin Ehibhathiomhan's low effort after the youngster cut in from the left.

Then it was the turn of Reading keeper David Button to be called into action, tipping away Lubala's cross-shot from a tight angle after McCleary robbed the Royals high up the pitch.

McCleary then was afforded acres of space down the right but his pass to Sadlier down the middle was well intercepted by the onrushing Button, and the same pair combined when Josh Scowen and Matt Butcher combined to create the chance, with Sadlier dragging wide first-time from McCleary's cross.

They were almost punished for profligacy when Femi Azeez cut in and drilled a powerful low effort on target, but Ravizzoli held well with Smith ready to pounce on any rebound.

There was still time for one more mix-up in the Reading backline but again Wycombe couldn't capitalise, as Ravizzoli's long punt was allowed to reach Lubala in the six-yard box, but Scowen's shot from the edge of the box was deflected over after he received the lay-off.

Reading made a double change at half-time and it gave them the impetus they wanted, hitting the post two minutes into the second half as Tyler Bindon headed Charlie Savage's floated cross goalwards.

The game became an end-to-end spectacle as Wanderers' 3-on-3 counter-attack broke down in the Reading box before Ryan Tafazolli bravely blocked Lewis Wing's strike for a corner.

Bindon headed over from a Wing cross before Wycombe needed a change to stem the flow of Royals attacks, and Sam Vokes came on up top as Sadlier made way on 65 minutes.

Reading came again, with Sam Smith coming off best in a battle with Lonwijk before being denied as Ravizzoli stood strong to block his shot.

But Smith had his goal eventually on 74 minutes, heading home from a left-wing cross after a short corner was well worked, setting up a grandstand final quarter of an hour.

It was tense, but Wycombe kept their cool and regained the lead as the clock edged towards 90. Substitute Chem Campbell jinked into the area and cut back, having his feet swept away by a rash challenge from Clinton Mola and the referee had no choice but to point to the spot.

Beryly Lubala stepped up to the challenge, and belted the ball down the middle to spark exuberant celebrations in the away end, earning a yellow card.

There were seven minutes of injury time, and there were hearts in mouths in the final moments as two Reading corners caused danger, one bobbling past the post and the other being eventually pounced on by Ravizzoli before the referee called time to enable the celebrations to begin.