

Thursday 20th
April 2023

PRESS HIGHLIGHTS

All the news from Roundwood ahead of this weekend's match action against Bristol City



Matt Taylor

On coming back twice to draw with Burnley...

“It was a big effort on the pitch and in the stands. It was a good night for the football club. We went toe-to-toe with the best team in the league by a distance and the performance was really pleasing.

“We had to withstand the usual pressure we do when we play against the top teams, but we had an extra spice and bit in our game and that showed with the result.

“We've done it better in recent weeks and months, starting with the Swansea equaliser and then to come back against West Brom.

“We knew it was in there, it just needs that little bit of belief. That is why set-pieces are so important, because it gives you a chance to threaten the opposition box and put in a quality delivery.

“It is so important, especially at this time of the year, you do need a little bit of luck sometimes, but it certainly made us feel better about ourselves at half time.

“The second half was one moment of quality from a very good player on the opposition team, but then we didn't panic. We stayed controlled and got back in the game quickly”



Matt Taylor

On Robbie Hemfrey's league debut...

“It was a strange half time team talk. There was no panic, we were just trying to understand whether Josh could continue.

“It was obvious he couldn't take goal kicks, as much as he tried with his left foot, but that wasn't realistic for the second half.

“We had to find out if he could explode off that side and it soon became apparent that he couldn't do that, so Robbie had to come in.

“I said to the press after the game, it was probably good for him that he didn't have the time to think about it.

“He had a save to make within the first few minutes of the game and he performed admirably. He did what he had to do and fair play to Robbie for stepping in when needed and to the rest of the team for giving him the protection he needed.

“Hopefully he enjoyed it. There won't be many times someone has made their debut in such circumstances, with the quality of opposition and 2,500 Burnley fans giving you stick behind the opposition goal!”

Last Meeting
Rotherham 1-3 Bristol City

Saturday 12th December

The first game back following the World Cup break ended in disappointment for the Millers, who lost 3-1 to the Robins on home soil.

Last Five Results
Bristol City

D W D L L

Robins book Championship place

Bristol City are one of three teams who are mathematically assured of a place in the Sky Bet Championship for the 2023/24 campaign, alongside Birmingham City and Hull City.

Matt Taylor

On the goalkeeping situation...

“We need everyone, Robbie is a prime example of that. He probably wasn't expecting to play. He'd been behind Viktor and Josh all season.

“Every single member of this playing squad has to be ready at any stage. We've seen how the squad has had to be utilised in recent weeks, let alone months and that will continue in the next four games.

“We have to find a way to function as a team and not disrupt our own rhythm too much, but everyone is showing what they are made of.

“Josh has gone for a scan today, we'll assess that groin injury but it doesn't look good right now. It's not even two weeks since Viktor's injury, he's had an injection and seen a specialist since then.

“We're waiting for a medical assessment on both goalkeepers, we need that for the emergency loan and it gives us time to assess where Viktor is at in the next 24 to 48 hours but they are both serious injuries. We're working towards the best solution for Saturday and that might well be adding another player to the squad.

“We're really struggling to find a goalkeeper available with professional experience. We know what the situation is at the moment with other clubs and the pressure on themselves so no one is willing to let valuable members of the squad out at this time.

“We're grateful to anyone who has given us feedback or communication in relation to that, Rob Scott and Scott Brown are working so hard. We've identified so many, but the availability is becoming a stumbling block at the moment.”



Matt Taylor on...

Ben Wiles return

“His recovery is testament to Ben and how hard he's worked. When he had the initial diagnosis and surgery on the back of it, a lot of people thought his season might be over.

“He's worked so, so hard and it tells you a lot about the lad. He's worked hard behind the scenes in difficult circumstances and he's got himself closer and closer.

“He's still not quite at the point where he can get a substantial amount of minutes, he needs to get to match speed still, but it was great to get him back on the pitch.

“It was one of them games where we felt we needed to give the place a lift and he certainly gave us that.

“He didn't touch the ball in terms of the equaliser, but you could tell by the fans' reaction when he came on that they've missed him just as much as we have.”

Bristol City...

They'll have wanted to have been closer to the Play-off picture, but I think it will suit them being able to play without 'pressure' as such. They've been a little up and down of late, but one thing they do have is some fantastic players.

They have some really good youngsters and it is a fantastic time to play them ahead of next season.

Taylor on pre-Robins team news...

“Jordan Hugill was sore and rough on Tuesday. He was feverish before the game and we've asked ourselves whether we should have started him but we needed our leading striker on the pitch.

“His mobility wasn't quite there, he's been in bed the last couple of days to try and prevent the illness from spreading.

“There's always bits and pieces going round, it might not be in Jordan's case but we wanted to protect him and the group as well. We've been speaking to him and he seems to have been going in the right direction but the knee is still a bit of an issue. We'll give him every chance we possibly can.

“Tyler has been out with the physio in a controlled environment today. His recent weeks have followed a similar pattern in terms of playing some part in a game and having a bit-part training week.

“We hope Tyler is fit because he's been an outstanding addition and when he has played, he's shown his qualities. We've had players step into the fold on Tuesday and we'll need them to do that again, regardless of Tyler's situation.

“Ollie has been a bit sort from the weekend and he's trying to recover from that. It shows where he's at right now, because match action seems to aggravate the injury.”