

Thursday  
28<sup>th</sup>  
September  
2023

# PRESS HIGHLIGHTS

All the news from Roundwood ahead of the weekend's hosting of Cardiff City.



Matt Taylor

## On the makeshift backline against Preston...

"It was a makeshift back three, with Cohen and Dexter either side of Tyler and it was actually Tyler's best 45 minutes this season.

"Dexter and Cohen really stood up to it, too.

"There are good legs in that backline and that is certainly a positives. These are players that can play in various positions and we trust them."

Matt Taylor

## On the prospect of injured players returning to face the Bluebirds...

"I've thought about putting the boots back on but we are only a game away from Grant Hall being available, two away from Sean Morrison being available and Lee Peltier is back on Saturday.

"Cafu and Grant Hall will travel this weekend and we'll make a decision on Saturday morning.

"We don't want to put them at risk but we want them to be a part of the squad this weekend. Lee Peltier is back in contention."



Matt Taylor

## On his impending touchline ban...

"I don't know what it will be like because I've never been banned! I know it will be different in terms of not being stood on the touchline and not allowed to enter the 'arena' so to speak.

"I'll be in Director's Box watching the game from afar, but with the ability to communicate things to the bench during the match.

"I'll be able to speak to the players before, during and after the game too, so the only difference is that I won't be stood down at the side of the pitch.

"You do your preparations throughout the week, so matchdays are just about a reminder to the player and those final messages.

"There won't be too many changes this weekend, the only difference will be having an earpiece down to the bench. I don't think it'll have much of an impact on the players.

"In a strange way, I'm looking forward to seeing us from high up. You'll be able to see the space opening up better than what you would when you're on the touchline.

"It will probably give me a better tactical view of the game. Despite all that, it is Championship football at the end of the day and first and foremost, we'll have to compete.

"I'll be reminding the players of that before I go upstairs, but I'm looking forward to seeing the shapes of the two teams and where the space is."

### Last Meeting

Rotherham 1 - 2 Cardiff City

27<sup>th</sup> April 2023

Goals from Kion Etete and a late winner from Cedric Kipre ensured Cardiff ran out 2-1 winners at AESSEAL New York Stadium, cancelling out Chiedozie Ogbene's equalizer.

### Last Season's position

Cardiff City

21<sup>st</sup>

### Three on the spin

The Bluebirds head into Saturday's match off the back of three successive victories in the league.

Matt Taylor

## Cameron Humphreys injury...

"It's a bad injury and I think everyone who witnessed it will have been expecting that. It's a tear and a big one unfortunately.

"It has happened near his tendon and we're just weighing up whether he will need surgery, but if we're honest, it is likely that he will.

"The timeframe doesn't alter with or without surgery, but it does highlight how severe the injury is.

"Luck was not on our side with that one and we send our best wishes to Cam and we'll support him throughout his recovery.

"When you have the injuries that we have, it unfortunately puts pressure on stress on the ones that are available.

"It's interesting because last night at the Blackburn game I was speaking to an international manager and he told me that every single one of his players that play in the Championship have been struggling physically.

"It is pretty clear that at any level players pick up injuries because of the load and the way that the system is with an amount of games in quick succession and we've fallen victims of that this time around."

"Lee Peltier played 30+ games for us last season and he was outstanding but what he stands for more than anything is his on field personality.

"He is aggressive, quick to the ball and in the face of the opposition. It is something I think we need more of and something that I know our supporters appreciate.

"I want to see us with a frontfoot mentality and no fear of failure and Lee is certainly someone that brings that. Grant Hall is a class act at the back, along with a bit of size and we all know where Cafu is with his game. We've got other experienced campaigners on their way back too."



Matt Taylor on

## Away form...

"We're looking at different ways we can solve our away form, because we have to be honest about it - the away form has been a problem.

"Last year we picked up some important results on the road and we know that our home form is something that is strong, so we have to improve our away form.

"Even in the four away games this season, there have been parts of the games where we've felt we've been in a good position, but they've got away from us.

"We just have to get a better understanding that teams are going to put us under pressure at times and we have to stay in the game.

"We'll get our spell in a game and I want us to do that when we're level or ahead."

## On Cardiff City...

"They are much improved and have a different dynamic.

I went to the game last night against Blackburn Rovers in the cup.

It's sod's law to an extent that they made 10 changes and it shows the strength of their squad.

"Cardiff have a very fluid frontline and have a lot of quality elsewhere on the pitch. They are a team to admire from afar, but we have to take the game to them."

