

23rd October
2023

PRESS HIGHLIGHTS

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



Matt Taylor

On Ipswich Town postponement...

"Friday turned into a difficult evening in terms of what to do with the players once the game had been called off.

"Some of them were in the stadium and some of them were on their way to the ground and some had just set off from home.

"We thought the right thing to do was to get them all home safely, considering the weather and the risk of it continuing to escalate.

"We'd planned to be in on Saturday morning for a recovery day, which actually turned into quite a hard-working day for us.

"The players were as disappointed as everyone else that the game had been called off. We wanted to play on Friday, we'd spent a long time preparing for it.

"You're disappointed whenever you don't get to play any game, but especially against a high-flying team like Ipswich.

"The players trained really well on Friday and I think that is because they had that little bit left in them after preparing for the game.

"They probably had a lot of pent-up energy and aggression in them, so they actually trained really well. So we had a really good session on Saturday and attentions quickly turned to Wednesday's game."



Matt Taylor

On Coventry City...

"They are such a strong team at this level and did unbelievably well last season to get to where they did.

"They then lost two of the best players in the league when they sold Gus Hamer and Viktor Gyokeres, which is obviously a big loss for any team to overcome.

"They've reinvested the money very well, but once you lose two players of that ilk, it is always going to take time to adjust. They are going through that process at the moment to a certain extent.

"They were very unlucky not to get something out of that game on Saturday. They should've been ahead - and ahead early. That has probably been a pattern of their season so far, they should've picked up more points than they have.

"They'll be looking to put that right this week, but we know when we're at home that we're capable of competing with anyone.

"They are defensively strong and they've carried that one. They are hard to score past and have invested in some good quality as well.

"As a team, they are probably still finding their feet, but it is very early on in the season and I'm sure as the season progresses, Coventry will be where they need to be."



Last Meeting

Rotherham United 0-2 Coventry

18th February 2023

Second half goals from Viktor Gyokeres and Jamie Allen handed the Sky Blues a three-point haul at AESSEAL New York Stadium.

Last Season's position

Coventry City

5th

On the up

Since returning as manager, Mark Robins has improved Coventry City's league position in each campaign he's managed, taking the Sky Blues from League Two to the Championship Play-offs.

Matt Taylor

On Arvin Appiah...

“He’s getting to where he needs to be. He was a little bit ‘cold’ when we first signed him, in terms of having little game time and no pre-season under his belt.

“That was probably evidenced in his first couple of games for us, but since then he’s been a real threat off the bench.

“He’s been one of our most creative players, he made the goal against Bristol City and had been involved in some really positive moments from the bench.

“I don’t want to give my team away on Friday night, but he was someone that was really close to a start against Ipswich.

“He gave himself that chance because of how he’d been performing. There are still aspects of his game that we want to improve on, but he may have something that may be missing in terms of his one v one ability and his ability to beat a man.

“He’ll see it as a big opportunity because he can play in the position that Andre has vacated. Sam Clucas can play there as well, as can most of our midfield players.

“We can also look at a change of shape. It is a shame for Andre, but as we’ve alluded to, it gives someone else an opportunity to step up.”



Matt Taylor on

A season-ending injury for Andre Green...

“Unfortunately he has ruptured his Achilles. He will have surgery this week, but that is a season-ending injury I’m afraid.

“That will keep him out for nine to 12 months. It rules him out for this season and probably the start of the next one which is a real shame.

“There was no one near one, which is always the worst kind of injuries to see and for Andre to experience.

He’d just been finding his feet, starting to perform well and to where his game needed to be. Hopefully we can support him through the surgery and what is going to be a long rehab.”



On Team News...

“It doesn’t look like Grant Hall is going to be available, but I’m not going to rule him fully out yet. He’s had a bit of an injury setback and we’ve given him a jab, so hopefully that’ll get his injury moving in the right direction.

“Viktor’s experience and circumstances were the most difficult, for him and his family. He’d had the high of getting his first international cap and then the experience he went through was tough.

“He only got back late on the Thursday afternoon, so didn’t have much training time. Hopefully he’s been able to put what he went through behind him and we’ll help him through that.

“In terms of Ciaran McGuckin, he’s come back in great shape. He scored two goals and got a lot of minutes under his belt.

“Dexter had two games and played 90 minutes in one of them, he’s come back in good shape injury-wise, like the other two have.”