

Monday 2nd
October
2023

PRESS HIGHLIGHTS

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



Matt Taylor

Reflecting on defeat against Cardiff City...

"It was a strange game watching it back.

"We have to be honest and admit that there was a lack of quality in an attacking-sense from both games in the first hour.

"We set up to stifle as much as create and our away fixtures prior to that had led to us to go in that direction.

To fall behind just after the hour mark, with a goal which – from our point of view – was preventable, was disappointing.

"We chased it and had a few near misses but not enough to hurt the opposition and in the 90th minute, we suffered another sucker punch."

On a midweek fixture providing a winning opportunity...

"We feel a bit battered and bruised away from home at the moment.

"Our home performances so far this season have generally been good.

"Even in the Leicester defeat there were so many positives to take from it. We have tried so hard to replicate that form away from home but I think three out of our next four games are at home and that certainly puts us in a good position.

"We're up against a bright team who may be well-suited to playing away from home because they're so good on the break and the counter-attack.



Matt Taylor

Providing team news ahead of Robins' clash...

"Lee Peltier is getting closer, he has that 20 minutes under his belt now which is a positive for us, but we have to understand where he's at in terms of his body.

"We're really close on Cafu.

"It's three weeks today since his injury and we have to make a decision on that front.

"We'll make a decision in the next 24 to 48 hours on him.

"Grant Hall should be involved but we have another day of training to get through and hopefully we'll come through it with a clean bill of health.

"[Hakeem Odoffin] is out on the grass, he won't feature this week, but he'll be back midway through the international break.

"His second hamstring injury was serious enough to keep him out for three weeks, but it wasn't a major one.

"He'll be back after the international break.

He'll have surgery on Tuesday and when you have surgery on a muscle tear, it shows just how serious that is.

The surgeon will have more of an idea on the timeframe once they've repaired the damage, but for an injury that serious we're looking at a number of months.

It'll keep him out for a long period of time, we wish him all the best in that.



Last Meeting

Bristol City 2-1 Rotherham United

22nd April 2023

A late goal from Andreas Weimann handed all three points to the Robins, after Jordan Hugill's penalty had cancelled out Tommy Conway's opener.

Last Season's position

Bristol City

14th

Watertight

Bristol City will arrive in South Yorkshire with the fifth best defensive record in the second tier, with Nigel Pearson's men having shipped 10 goals in the opening nine fixtures.

Matt Taylor

On senior players nearing a return...

"We of course want to get our more experienced players back out on the grass, but it is also important for us to see how the players we have out there right now can effect it.

"The ones who have been a mainstay are the ones we need to improve first and foremost.

"We have to understand where we're at and that we need more from certain personal out on the pitch but the introduction of some of the more senior players will help with that.

"Their know-how is a big one and feeling comfortable in any game of football is very important.

"They've been through away fixtures too and understand how to quieten the crowd.

"The group who played the first hour did that, but we lacked a bit of quality going forward and we have to be honest about that.

"As I said, the first hour of the game was pleasing, but we have nothing to show for it unfortunately.

"Those players coming back will provide competition and add more flexibility to the squad.

On showing support to Josh Vickers...

"It's a small gesture of our affection for Josh and his family.

"We want to do more and everyone wants to do more for Josh - he is going through a terrible time and we're here to support him as best we can.

"Nobody here has any idea what he is going through.

"I only knew him for nine or 10 months but even in that brief time I came to know a bit about him and his partner and his family.

"It is such a sad time for Josh and all Laura's family and friends.

"We will show what we can show on Wednesday and hopefully put in a performance in relation to that to make sure he knows we're thinking about him."



Matt Taylor on

Away form...

"They start games so well.

"We watched them at home to Plymouth and they were 3-0 up after half an hour. Even in the Stoke game they were 2-0 up at the weekend and that game kind of flipped on its head in a few small moments.

"They have some real quality at the top end of the pitch. They're very aggressive with their width and how they use it with a little bit of know-how in there as well.

"I hope I'm not talking too much about the opposition because we have to focus on ourselves and implement our home-style performance.

"I think they've improved in certain areas. I think they've got better depth to the squad. People have to remember that they have such good young players that they are another season on. They have more experience and knowledge of the league.

"It's a strong squad but it has been for a number of years. Their style probably hasn't changed too much."

