

Wednesday
18th October
2023

PRESS HIGHLIGHTS

All the news from Roundwood ahead of Friday's hosting of Ipswich Town.



Matt Taylor

On bouncing back from Bristol City heartbreak...

"We felt so low after the end of that Bristol City game, we can only say it was unfortunate but of our own doing.

"That last ten or 15 minutes with Cohen's injury, their goal, an equaliser followed by Tyler's injury, and finally their winning goal.

"To do that in front of the watching nation was as painful as it can be, but I know it's more painful for the players who'd given everything that night.

"They'll need to do the same again in that sense and be positive in terms of their approach to the game and hopefully impress a few people watching."



On using the spare time during the international break...

"During the break, we would obviously look back on the first eleven games or so, including a couple of cup games.

"We spot some similar patterns that are apparent, some we need to improve on pretty quickly, and some areas we're pleased with - but we need a better output.

"The biggest output is goals, clean sheets and points.

"There's less travelling in the next couple of weeks, which we're pleased about.

"Even the Sheffield Wednesday game is a local one for us, so before we get to Watford, we've got three out of four games at home and a local derby in there too - it's something to really look forward to."

Matt Taylor

On facing off against a high-flying Ipswich Town...

"They've taken the league by storm. They've scored so many goals.

"They're the leading goal scorers in the league thanks to their free flowing, attacking football.

"It's been impressive to see their development as a group of players from League One going into the Championship.

"They were always such a big club for League One, let alone Championship level.

"We know what to expect from them on Friday.

"We have to stifle their rhythm and their flow, force them into a difficult game of football and make sure we pack a punch as well."



Last Meeting

Ipswich Town 4-1 Rotherham United
7th January 2023

The Millers bowed out of the FA Cup in the third round to an efficient Ipswich Town side. Goals from Cameron Humphreys, Conor Chaplin, Freddie Ladapo, and Wes Burns sealed the victory at Portman Road.

Last Season's position

Ipswich Town

2nd

(In League One)

Goals for fun

Ipswich Town will arrive at the AESSEAL New York Stadium unbeaten away from home, holding the accolade of being the division's highest scorers. McKenna's men have found the net 25 times in just 11 league outings so far.

Matt Taylor

Provides an injury round-up...

“Sean [Morrison] and Hakeem [Odoffin] have been back training all this week, as we had expected, really.

“We got through that initial period of rehab, recovery and training time in an individual capacity, but they've been with the team this week which has been a real boost.

“We've missed them both in different ways.

“They're both big men, physical specimens, Haks has generally, apart from a little bit of this season, has been very durable.

“We're always able to rely on that durability and what he's brought with his goals as well.

“Then Sean, he's the club captain and club captain for a reason.

“We have to be patient with both of them in terms of their sharpness.

“That's understandable, but we need them pretty quickly.

“Jamie is back out on the grass, finally.

“What a period it's been for him, what with the initial diagnosis and then the time frame given in relation to that.

“Tendon injuries are so, so difficult, made more difficult for us by the fact that he took a little bit longer than we expected.

“He kind of 'broke down' at a certain point of his recovery, but finally he's pain free.

“He's got no issues at the moment in that Achilles area, but he's going at a low-level speed and intensity, so that will start ramping up in the next week or so.

“He's another player we've missed.

“Probably one who goes under the radar, but we've missed him greatly. Not just his game and his tenacity, but his personality as well.

“He's one name who, for the last nine games of last season, during our biggest games and most pressurised games, was first on the team sheet.

“That's a reflection of where he was going into this season.

“Now we're looking forward to what impact he can have.”



On Ciaran McGuckin’s international goal scoring...

“A header from a corner, getting across the bodies and attacking the near post - we can't take credit for that, let's be honest, but full credit to Ciaran.

“It's been a really positive couple of games for himself.

“He's as frustrated as I am that we've not been able to get him a suitable loan to go out and fine tune those skills, because we can see a player there for the first team in the future.

“For him to get that international recognition alongside goals on top of it is brilliant, hopefully people start taking note of that.

“His second goal was a penalty - a cool, calm finish.

“I actually spoke to their manager yesterday and he spoke really highly of him, so it'll be interesting to see how he develops in the next few months, either with ourselves or out on loan.”

Matt Taylor

On Viktor Johansson’s international experience...

“We feel it's long overdue.

“He's had to bide his time for an opportunity at international level.

“He's been part of the setup now for a number of months, but to get on the pitch and to get his first cap, that's huge for Viktor, huge for the club, and huge for his family.

“It's a great and deserved piece of recognition for his performances.

“From what we can gather and from the feedback we've had, his performances in training with Sweden have been outstanding.

“However, there's such a contrast between the high that came with the first international fixture where he gained his first cap and then obviously the tragedy in Belgium.

“He's certainly gone through the mill in the last week or so

“We hope he gets back in the next 24 hours in an okay place both mentally and physically.”

Matt Taylor

On Dexter Lembikisa's Jamaica experience...

“I think he's enjoyed his time with the Reggae Boyz, as they're known.

“He got 45 minutes in the first game and then a full 90 minutes afterwards.

“It's important that his fatigue levels are low enough, where they need to be.

“He's gone through an incredible 10 to 11 game period and probably played more than what we'd have imagined when he first came to the football club.

“He's done really well for us, I have to say.

“We've been really pleased with Dexter, but for any 19 year old playing Championship football with the amount of games and minutes he's played so far, it's bound to put a real stress on the body.

“The previous international break, due to a bit of a foot problem, we're able to offload him a little bit.

“We've not been able to do it this time around, but he's got the joy of the success of international football instead, so what he's gaining experience wise both with ourselves and at international level is fantastic for him.”

