

Thursday 9th
February 2023

PRESS HIGHLIGHTS

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



Matt Taylor

On recent performances...

"We've been pleased with the performances and the subsequent upturn in form. We had a boost in the first game and that has continued through to Watford and Sheffield United.

"We played three good teams and came away with a good points return, which is always important."

"It stands us in good stead ahead of this three game week, which is going to be imperative."



Matt Taylor

On defensive resilience...

"We've looked harder to beat in all areas, whether that be set-pieces or one-v-one battles, we look a more resolute team.

"But also, it is probably in relation to how the players are feeling about themselves. It is not just in an attacking sense where you need confidence. You have to have the belief to defend your backline and the goal.

"Generally the whole team have performed well in that regard. That is the foundation that we want to build off, we want it to continue until the end of the season.

"We want to have that desire to keep the ball out of our net and keep the threat at the top end of the pitch too."

Matt Taylor

On the formation change...



"There are a number of factors. Firstly, the run we'd been on and also the players we had available to us.

"I think after the Blackburn game, I mentioned that it was the first time we'd had Shane Ferguson and Chieco available at the same time.

"That gave us the opportunity to change shape, as well as the introduction of the January additions.

"We still have the option and the flexibility to play a back three, something which we'll utilise at certain stages throughout the season.

"We wanted a simple restart a few weeks ago and thankfully that has resulted in performances and points.

"Shane was unlucky not to start against Sheffield United. He'd scored two in two against two good sides.

"I think that shows the strength we have in the squad at the moment, where someone was performing well and the flexibility that we need to move forward.

"Shane is someone who we are looking forward to keeping fit, he's shown some really good form and fitness of late."

Last Meeting

Millers 3 v 0 Blackpool

Tuesday 14th September 2022

Goals from Chiedozie Ogbene, Wes Harding and Georgie Kelly helped the Millers to a convincing win over the Seaside.

Last Five Results

Blackpool

W L L L D

Matt Taylor

On having the option to change shape in-game

The boss talks tactical flexibility...

"We want to be able to change in-game, depending how the opposition are performing.

"Of course, we've performed well of late, so you don't want to tinker too much with the formation or who is in the team, but as we progress through this season we know we'll have to react as the games and season goes on.

"None more so than a three game week, where we'll need to inject energy at different times in different areas of the pitch.

"Obviously Saturday is a big game to start with, but Tuesday will come around quickly."

On Bailey Wright...

"He's been doing okay. It was such a strange injury, there was obviously no malice from the Sheffield United player, but it knocked him clean out.

"He's come through the testing and concussion protocol. If he comes through today - and I'm confident he has - he can train with the team tomorrow.

"Then we've got to make a sensible decision going into the weekend. The last thing we want to do is put him at risk.

"We're pleased there doesn't seem to be any long-standing issues with Bailey, but we need to be so careful with head injuries."



Bailey Wright leaves the field after sustaining a head injury.



Domingos Quina on the training pitch at Roundwood following his loan move from Watford.

Matt Taylor

On Domingos Quina's availability...

"He's had his week's training and performed well in relation to that, getting used to the climate, the pitches and getting back into English football again.

"We're looking forward to seeing him making an impact next week, whether that be Saturday, Tuesday or the Saturday after.

"He's available and raring to go, but as I've just mentioned, we have a three game week.

"There's a lot of games and minutes left for him to impact, we're excited to see what he can do and I'm sure that the fans are as well."

On debuts for Coventry and Hugill...

"They were tired! It was a physical game at the weekend, anyone who was there can testify to that.

"We've still got to be careful with Jordan and we need to continue to ease him into it.

"I was really pleased with Conor Coventry, I think a lot of the work he did went unnoticed.

"He's a better footballer than he got the opportunity to show against Sheffield United and I'm sure we'll see him get the chance to show that moving forwards.

"He was so responsible out of possession, it was a fantastic debut."

On Team News...

"We've got a few knocks, which were picked up at the weekend and during this week. We'll have to assess them going into this Saturday.

"With a three game week we need to make sure they are available. In terms of the rest of the squad, Tom Eaves and Georgie Kelly have almost got through a full week's work.

"It's important we get them both available."

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Press Highlights

Forever Together.
Forever Proud.



Matt Taylor

On facing Blackpool...

"It is irrelevant where teams are in the table, everyone is desperate for points, none more so than Blackpool.

"I was at their game on Tuesday and I was really impressed by the connection between the team and the fans. We have to be at our best and put in a display that says we're tough away from home.

"The team needs to function in a certain way, as it has been doing but we are under no illusions how tough it will be. We want to reward the fans with a good performance and I'm sure they'll have a better weekend if we can win the game.

"The connection seems to be growing with ourselves and the fanbase. I think they are excited about what we can achieve.

"The performances and new signings have given them a boost of late and we're going to need them more than ever. We appreciate their support so much, they go above and beyond for us. Football is not a cheap game to watch in any way and we really do appreciate their support."