

21st
December
2023

PRESS HIGHLIGHTS

All the news from Roundwood ahead of the weekend's trip to Leicester City



Leam Richardson

On his Plymouth Argyle reflections...

"I'm not one to get emotionally carried away after games. I think it is important to educate yourself and be really mindful of what the game and performance levels look like.

"Having only been in charge a few days, I think what we delivered was 90% there. There were two individual errors that may have had an impact on the result game, but overall there were some good things.

"I think fighting for the end is a given and that's not got anything to do with me being in the building or anything like that.

"There are choices in many things that you do, whether that be recovery runs, sprints or your work ethic, but as a professional athlete you don't have that choice, it's something you have to do.

"We had that in abundance against Plymouth on Saturday and hopefully we'll have more of that to come moving forwards.

"It was pleasing to get a couple of goals, we went 1-0 up and I think after that Jordan Hugill is his own biggest critic because it is a great chance for himself to score.

"But with the work ethic he has, he creates plenty of other chances for the team, he created the opening goal for us for example.

"You want your strikers to be brave enough to get themselves into good areas to score and Jordan did that.

"I felt like that team created some really good chances throughout the game. Obviously, when you go down to 10 men you get fewer opportunities, but even with that we still had opportunities.

"Their staff were very complimentary after the game about how competitive we were and I think on reflection we should have had a result."



Leam Richardson

On the injury situation at present...

"The lads who are training and available at the moment are doing absolutely everything for us at the minute and I'm sure they'll be up for each challenge.

"The festive period is great for the fans and we've got some really exciting games coming up ourselves.

"Hopefully we can give a really good account of ourselves during this time, re-energise, regroup and go again every time.

"Ideally you would like the games more spread out in order to get some more time on the training ground but at the same time you're very conscious of the bodies that you do have and don't want to lose anymore.

"With the games coming up we need to make sure we maintain our energy levels so there is a balance to be had and it is important for the lads to be drilled in what we want. I'm sure in the medium to long-term, we'll see the benefits."

"I'm still getting to know people on the training, names and everything else. The week on the training pitch comes after a long trip down to Plymouth, so again, you're conscious of trying to reenergise the group and nurse a couple of bumps and bruises.

"I think where we are in terms of injuries, we are assessing it daily. Do we want to put pressure on certain groups and departments? Yes, but you're always mindful that these lads are professional athletes, so when we do get them back, we want to ensure that they are ready.

"We've obviously got Daniel suspended for the game at Leicester and we do have a couple carrying some knocks, so we'll have to see how they are.

"We have to be mindful of the strengths and weaknesses of the opposition and what league we're in, as well as the selection of players that we have available to go out and achieve this goals and that will be something we assess on a game-to-game basis.

Last Meeting

Rotherham 1 v 2 Leicester City
Saturday 27th August 2023

Kasey McAteer's brace earned Leicester a hard fought victory over the Millers at AESSEAL New York Stadium. The Millers had looked on course for a deserved point when Fred Onyedimma equalised in the second half, but the youngster struck to win it with six minutes remaining.

Recent form

Leicester City

D W W W W

Fantastic Foxes!

Leicester are 13 points clear of third-placed Leeds United, having picked up 55 points of a possible 66, the highest amount at this stage of a Championship season in two decades.

Leam Richardson

On Rob Kelly's arrival and Wayne Carlisle's departure...

"I think it goes without saying why we brought Rob Kelly to the club. You just have to look at his CV, he has a vast knowledge of the game from time at various clubs.

"On the training pitch as well he's really good, so he's a great addition for myself and a great addition for this football club.

"You always need strong staff around you. Wherever I've been, I've never been successful on my own, I've always had strong and renowned staff around me.

"The likes of Dan [Green] and Scott [Brown] fit that bill, it has been great to get to know them and I'm looking forward to working with them moving forward."

On Tom Eaves and the forward options...

"Tom has been a really good professional over a number of years, he represents himself and the club really well.

"You could really see what that goal meant to him as a person and a professional and you want more than that. You want them to always be looking to improve as people and professionals and be an important person within that group.

"Any competition for places at any club is vital. It is something that we maybe slightly lacking at the minute. We have too many injuries and have some bodies that we're really hoping to have back in the coming weeks."

On facing Leicester City...

"It's a challenge and you can either look at it two ways. You can either meet the challenge head on, enjoy it, relish it or the other side of the coin. We'll certainly be doing the latter and we'll be prepared for them.

"I think you've got to be comfortable in your own skin, however that may look. You've got a period where you know where you are and the expectation that you have. We'll be conscious of where we are and where want to be.

"You always want a foundation to build from, Saturday was that. Fingers crossed that we'll be able to continue with that."



Viktor Johansson...

On Leam Richardson's first 'full week'...

"It has been good, there's been a different voice to focus on new things. I think it has been a really positive week for all of us.

"I thought we played well at Plymouth and deserved something out of the game. It was disappointing to concede so late because I felt like we should've had a positive result.

"The morale is high here, we're a big family and we really do believe in each other. We got ourselves back into the game, even with 10 men and that's what we reaffirmed to each other afterwards.

"That is our minimum now, we run, we tackle, we have shots, we block shots and we all work for each other.

"It was good to see and I think we can take some confidence from that into the next game.

"He doesn't have to be on the pitch every minute of every game but when he's there, he adds another dimension to our play - it's something we felt we missed on Sunday, and other time away from home."

Viktor Johansson

On belief in the group and facing Leicester...

"It doesn't matter who you are, everyone is on the same page. The new Gaffer has come in and we all want to work hard for him, but for ourselves as well. We're all supporting each other, we're up for the challenge and it's a great environment to be in.

"I believe we can turn our fortunes around, 100%. We just need to focus on what we can do. The performances are starting to improve, we just need to get the points on the board to match them.

"It's the first time I've been back since leaving the club and obviously it'll be good to go back and see a few familiar faces, but that isn't my focus.

"We've got an important task ahead of us and we're all focusing on that. We played Leicester at home and did very well against them.

"We were unlucky not to get anything out of the game that day and we know we can push them close.

"We know that we're a good team with a lot of quality in the dressing room. We're not afraid of the challenge and we're looking forward to taking it on."

