

6th November
2023

PRESS HIGHLIGHTS

All the news from Roundwood ahead of the midweek televised clash with Ipswich Town...



Matt Taylor

On facing Ipswich Town...

"We're playing against one of the best teams in the league, who are so strong and have been consistent throughout the course of the season so we have to respect that and be understanding of that but still back our way of playing at home.

"Our home performances continue to be our solid platform to survive on and we need to keep that going, certainly against a good team.

"I think if you wanted to see the strength of their squad you only have to look at the team they played against Fulham.

"It was a competitive game which we watched and they made 10 changes.

"That shows how strong that group is. There is competition for places and quality, with some know-how of the level.

"There's a lot to admire about what Ipswich have done so far this season, but we've got to back ourselves on our home patch and try and throw them off their attacking rhythm."



Matt Taylor

On Georgie Kelly and balancing his impact from the bench with the temptation to field him from the start...

"We're always trying to find the balance and that is based on what the game looks like, where the ball is and whether it is around the 18 yard box.

"There's nobody better when you are getting deliveries into dangerous areas than Georgie but he needs players around him of a certain ilk and quality.

"I've been pleased with his impact. He continues to make a big impact in that goalscoring return but we want to keep increasing that playing time and look at games in which we can utilise him from the start.

"He's certainly had a huge impact and his legend will continue to grow as long as he keeps performing the way I do.

"He knows as well as I do that there are a lot of areas that we can get him to improve in as well and he's working on the training pitch awfully hard."

"It's about where the game is at certain stages and where the ball is going to end up.

"We want him to be on the pitch when we're getting closer to the opposition goal and you have to give or take with certain moments in the game when you set up a team do a certain amount of supplying to that front line.

"I'm pleased with the options we've got. Jordan has been leading the line for us and Sam Nombe is waiting in the wings, Tom Eaves came on at the weekend.

"I suppose the consistency of availability will always be a question mark because he hasn't always been available consistently for a long period of time, but his body seems to be in the best condition I've seen it in."



Last Meeting

Ipswich Town 4 - 1 Rotherham United

Saturday 7th January 2023.

Matt Taylor's men travelled for Portman Road for an FA Cup third round tie. Cameron Humphreys got the host's noses in front before Conor Washington dispatched from the penalty spot to restore parity. However, three quick fire goals including two from the spot ensured the Tractor Boys a spot in the fourth round.

Recent League form

Ipswich Town

W W W W D

Life on the road...

Kieran McKenna's men are yet to be beaten on their travels this season, winning five and drawing two of their seven away outings.

Matt Taylor

On Fred Onyedinma, Lee Peltier and injuries...

"He's okay. He was a bit unwell last week but he got through the game.

"We took him off quite late on and his energy levels maybe weren't what they have been previously but he seems to have recovered pretty well."

On Lee Peltier...

"He trained today. He hasn't hit certain metrics or areas of speed which he needs to hit, so we'll make a decision on Pelts tomorrow."

On team news ahead of the Ipswich clash...

"Not much has changed.

"I suppose the good news is that there's nothing drastic from the weekend.

"So many times post-game there has been something to talk about or deal with which has left us with a player unavailable so that is probably one of the first times in a long time that the group got through the game.

"Everyone made an impact on the pitch and the subs certainly did.

"We might also have Jamie Lindsay back in some capacity as well."



Matt Taylor...

On the draw against Queens Park Rangers...

"It was a good point considering we were behind in the game.

"I was generally pleased with the performance, it wasn't spectacular in any way but it was solid at times.

"We didn't lack imagination but a little bit of quality in that final third against a well-organised team.

"But to show the spirit and character that we needed to get back in the game was pleasing as it was to be in the ascendancy for the last 10-15 minutes of the game."

On the club's home support...

"Our home support has been excellent this season, and generally, our home displays have given them something to shout about.

"We didn't have chance-after-chance at the weekend but we were certainly more than in the game.

"Generally our home support has been pretty strong, unfortunately away from home we haven't given our fans enough to shout about.

"We have no qualms about the support, but what we have to do is find a way of igniting them and getting them excited and engaged in the game, and I'm sure a televised game will do that."

Matt Taylor

Taylor on Sam Nombe's recent contribution...

"He's improving on a daily basis. He's getting up to speed and he's getting more confident.

"There is so much expectation when a player comes in and you have to hit the ground running.

"If that doesn't quite happen then you are almost playing catch up with your game and your belonging on the pitch.

"I thought Sam's introduction and burst of energy gave us a real release at the top end of the pitch alongside the other substitutions.

"It's pleasing that he's available to do that and he's very close to start.

"The way that we might see the game go tomorrow night, we might need an extra set of legs - and fresh ones - at the top end of the pitch.

"We're looking at all those options and we're pleased that Sam got that little cameo under his belt because it will have made him feel a lot better about himself."

