

23rd February
2024

PRESS HIGHLIGHTS

All the news from Roundwood ahead of the weekend's trip to Queens Park Rangers



Leam Richardson

On his Ipswich reflections...

"You don't really want plaudits for playing well and not getting a result, you want them for doing both, don't you?"

"I was disappointed for the lads and the effort that they put in, especially coming back from the deficit that we were up against."

"To show a performance like that certainly deserved a positive result. They are the fine margins that we need to tip in our favour. It's those that we've been trying to work on since we've been in the building with a real concentration on the performance levels to then try and get the results."

"I think since I've been in the building the performance levels have been at a standard whereby we've just possibly fallen short for one reason or another."

"It's a mentality and the habits that we need to instill to make sure that when those games are in that framework that they fall our side and fall on the positive side."

"It's more of the same in terms of belief and performance levels."



Leam Richardson

On his continued desire to make an impact on the division...

"I think it is a minimum. In the first meeting we said we could either roll over and travel around the country not giving a good account of ourselves, or make a fist of it and if somebody can find a single reason not to do that, then I'm all ears."

"The players are still really hungry and want to compete and the challenges are there for all to see."

"We certainly want to wear the shirt with pride. We want to build and we want to evolve and we'll do that by being positive."

"It's easy to be negative in certain situations. I knew what I was coming into and I don't think there is any mileage in anybody whether it be press, fans, players or staff being negative."

"You've got to have your best foot forward and in three months' time you want to be in a better place. In six and then 18 months you want to be in a real strong place as a football club. That started in mid-December when I came in."

On facing Queens Park Rangers...

"They've got good players, haven't they? They've got a squad of really talented individuals so it will be a really good game for us."

"Again, if we can start the game as we finished on Tuesday and give those performance levels that we have done of late, fingers crossed we can get a positive result."

"I've heard a little bit about that [the away record] since I've been in. We're all part of it now. I don't shy away from it or palm it onto other people."

"It's easy to blame people or make excuses but we're massively part of it so we'll work terrifically hard to prepare properly and travel down and give a really strong performance."



Last Meeting

Rotherham 1- 1 Queens Park Rangers
Saturday 4th November 2023

Substitute Georgie Kelly rescued a point for the Millers with 20 minutes remaining, cancelling out Ilias Chair's 50th minute opener.

Recent form

Queens Park Rangers

D W D L W

A tough nut to crack

The R's have lost just one of their last six league outings, winning three of them.

Notable results include their recent triumphs over Bristol City and Blackburn Rovers.

Leam Richardson

On his relationship with the Chairman and progress behind-the-scenes...

"I had a good meeting with the Chairman the other day.

"This is a football club that fundamentally needs pushing forward with some change and environmental and structural things implementing if we want to sustain as a Championship club.

"I'm a large part of that I take pride in doing that within clubs.

"In the last couple of weeks, I've certainly been really excited.

"You look at the last three games, from Hull to Watford to Ipswich, and we possibly could have won or drawn all three.

"If we can be good in both boxes at certain restarts and set plays you could find yourself higher up the division. We aren't at this moment and what we need to do is be really mindful of what we are and who we are and how we're going to move forward.

"There is a core group there of youthful players who can run and fight for the club and there's a good few senior players within that.

"There are quite a few buzzwords in football about philosophies and formations and everything else but they're only words unless you implement something.

"I have made my views quite clear early on and I've had a right good few weeks to look around at the football club. It's been frustrating sometimes but it's something that we're mindful of and we want to move forward.

"It's something that the Chairman is very receptive of and understanding and I'm sure very willing. If we are working together in that same frame of mind with that same determination as the Chairman, Rob [Scott] and Paul [Douglas] certainly have, we'll work together as leaders of the football club to move it forward and be a sustainable Championship football club hopefully."



Tom Eaves

On his desire to be a regular in the starting XI between now and the end of the season...

"I think it was my second league start of the season, so I was delighted to be on the pitch.

"I'm delighted to be starting games because I do think that I'm a different animal when I'm on from the off as opposed to coming on for the last 10 minutes.

"Any player will tell you how difficult it is coming on, no matter what you do and how you prepare. It's so different coming onto the pitch. It's up to me to stay in the right mindset at all times.

"Ultimately, I want to start games and hopefully I can perform and do that between now and the end of the season.

"I think that is the standard up there, isn't it - especially if you're in a 'two' - you've really got to occupy their defence and press from the front and I think that me and Jord [Hugill] did that well the other day, as did Chaz [Wyke] and Sam [Nombe] when they came on as well.

"We've got four really good forwards at the club, all with a stake and we all want to play games. It's difficult for the manager and the competition is healthy."

Tom Eaves

On building on a good team display at Ipswich...

"I felt that the performance levels were really good. We did have a shaky 10 minutes but other than that I felt as though we dominated large parts of the game and were incredibly unlucky not to come away with anything from it.

"I don't think we've stopped believing at any point, but again, it was a really encouraging display from us and it's hopefully something that we can take into the game at QPR tomorrow.

"We'll prepare right, we'll travel down there and we'll try and keep those performance levels as high as they were on Tuesday night.

"If we can all win our individuals battles and collectively put in a performance, that is what we have to do first and foremost. The results will hopefully come on the back of that."

