

Wednesday
26th April 2023

PRESS HIGHLIGHTS

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



Matt Taylor

On keeping the focus in-house in the survival scrap

"We need to do exactly that.

"We were so close on Saturday barring a fingertip, a post, a possible penalty decision we might have come away with the three points that we needed to feel more comfortable about our current position.

"As it was we came away with nothing but not too much changed barring QPR picking up points.

"It is one of those situations where everybody else could talk about the scenarios, the situations and teams playing each other and potential goals going in but we also can't control that and we never have been able to.

"We can control our performances and the way we approach the game and that is certainly something that we are concentrating on going into a massive game of football tomorrow night.

"If that doesn't go our way then we have another two massive games of football after that."



Matt Taylor

On team news ahead of battle with Bluebirds...

"I think we've lost one or two and Tyler [Blackett] is struggling with that hamstring injury which has hampered him now for a number of weeks even when he has been a part of the action.

"There were a couple of players really struggling through that game.

"Cam Humphreys had a recurrence of that knee issue and Jordan Hugill has been under the weather alongside his knee issue as well.

"Pelts had been withdrawn in the game previously, so there are a few bodies that are certainly aching.

"The big positive I suppose is Ollie Rathbone got through some game time and hasn't reacted as badly as he has done previously. That is a big moment for what we feel for ourselves and Ollie in relation to the pain he's been in.

"It's a shame what has happened to him in the last six to eight weeks in terms of the injury limiting his game time, let alone his training time.

"The bodies are what they are and it's the same across the board. It's the same with a lot of clubs it's just a shame that we're at a little bit of a low in certain areas."

Last Meeting

Cardiff City 1 v 0 Rotherham United

Saturday 29th October, 2022

An underperforming Cardiff City side were coming off the back of three straight league defeats. Despite this, Mark Hudson's men performed admirably. Loanee Jaden Philogene's looping effort was the difference.

Last Five Results

Cardiff City

W L L W D

Wintle is coming...

The Bluebirds' skipper has been ever-present this campaign, making an appearance in every single one of Cardiff's 43 league outings. He's notched 2 goals and 3 assists from deep in midfield.

Matt Taylor

On the opening 45’ before the abandonment...

“We learned a little bit – and a little bit about ourselves because that was a tough day.

“Regardless of the end abandonment, that first 45 minutes was uncomfortable and you give credit to the opposition, they played well in that first half.

“We weren't quite where we needed to be and we couldn't cover the space.

“It put into context of what Cardiff have got at their disposal and we can't allow that to happen again, but also we were a little bit nervy and edgy that day, for whatever reason.



“Sometimes games and opposition can turn you into that.

“We’ve got to nullify that and make sure we're our own best version.

“We know what that looks like. Certainly in our home games, we've seen it.

“We've felt it. Our fans have seen and felt it as well.

“We'll be looking to replicate that on Thursday night, but understanding that the eyes of the world will be watching us.”



Taylor on facing a side also fighting for their place in the league...

“It’s a big part of football.

“Even more so with the league position of both clubs.

“They are a slightly different profile of club to ourselves.

“We know that and we understand that a lot will be made in terms of publicity on the back of the abandoned fixture.

“It was such a strange sequence of events.

“I've not seen rain like that for an awful long time and obviously the pitch struggled on the back of it.

“With the TV cameras there as well, it's an exciting time and a game you want to be involved in as a player.

“This is a moment to stand up and be counted and to earn hero status.”



Matt Taylor

On goalkeeping department...

Viktor Johansson...

"It's a surprise how well he got through the game.

"Obviously there is an issue there. We didn't have to force the issue but we had to make a decision on Thursday/Friday in terms of an emergency loan or getting Viktor on that pitch.

"He performed really well and there were no real ill-effects in relation to that shoulder injury but obviously there was a serious nature with that two-and-a-half weeks ago.

"We're not out of the woods yet but it has allowed Viktor a bit more training and recovery time and hopefully he'll be in a better physical state moving into Thursday."

Josh Vickers...

"It was to be expected really. Anybody who comes off in the level of discomfort that Josh did in that first half against Burnley would suggest a significant injury there.

"There's a significant tear in his groin and not one which requires surgery, but it is a six-week job.

"That rules him out until the end of the season but gives him a bit of clarity in relation to what he needs to do for next season."