

1st March
2024

PRESS HIGHLIGHTS

All the news from Roundwood ahead of Saturday's hosting of Sheffield Wednesday



Leam Richardson

On team news...

"We are 'fixing and mending' a little bit on the injury front. It is something that we're looking to rectify but the focus is mainly on the game tomorrow and the bodies that we do have available for it.

"Sam Clucas and Cameron Humphreys have both been a little 'up and down' this week, this is down to the amount of games. They are both touch and go for the weekend, we've had a few bumps and bruises this week but it's just something we have to overcome.

"Sam has a bit of bruising after kicking the bottom of someone's foot at QPR, it's a matter of monitoring him.

"Seb Revan picked up an injury after the Watford game and he's been assessed by ourselves and Aston Villa to determine the problem.

"I think it's more nerve related than anything and we're still in the process of determining what the problem is. We think he'll be out for the weekend.

"We've had so many players with long term injuries this year and I was very aware of that when I came in.

"When a player returns from a lengthy injury like Cam has, you have to manage them back for another period and that is something we've done.

"In Cameron's situation, we're crossing our fingers that it isn't as bad as we first feared and hopefully it was just down to the demands of the division following his return from a lengthy spell out and it's something he'll be able to come back from."



Leam Richardson

On taking on the Owls...

"I absolutely love derby games. It's important to know what it means to the fans and the club. Regardless of what position both sides are in, that all goes out the window tomorrow once the game kicks off.

"I'm still a football fan myself and I know how it feels to turn up and want your team to win and I expect that our fans will be full of voice tomorrow and hopefully we can give them a performance on the pitch.

"They've strengthened in the January window in key areas. They are playing a bit of a lopsided 3-4-3 with the onus on attacking certain areas, trying to control the game in the middle of the pitch with Barry [Bannan] and Will [Vaulks].

"They are very similar to most Championship teams and offer a certain quality of player, but it is up to us to impose ourselves on the game.

"We're more focused on ourselves, we want to make sure we win 99.9% of the battles when the first ball is kicked on Saturday.

"We know what a local derby brings, we know what threats they provide but we are also aware of what it takes to compete and be as controlled in our aggression as we can be in certain areas."

Last Meeting

Sheffield Wednesday 2 v 0 Rotherham

A Michael Smith double condemned the Millers to a 2-0 defeat in the South Yorkshire derby at Hillsborough on Sunday 29th October.

Recent form
Sheffield Wednesday

LWLWW

Bernard suspended

The Owls will be without defender Di'Shon Bernard for the visit to AESSEAL New York Stadium, after the defending picked up two yellow cards in last Saturday's win over Bristol City.

Viktor Johansson

On facing Wednesday in a South Yorkshire derby...

“It’s a brilliant game to play in, it’s going to be a big crowd and we know what it means to ourselves and the fans.

“We know we let ourselves down when we played at Hillsborough earlier in the season and we want to give back to the fans what they’ve given us all season. We’re all really excited to get the game going and we’ll be ready for it.

“I think the crowd will play a massive part for us, we all want to put things right from the last time we played them.

“These are the best type of games to play in. We really want to win and I think the fans feel that too.

“It would give us a massive momentum swing if we can get a good result and I know that everyone is up for the game.

“We had a good training session today, where we’ll look to implement a few things and now we’re just looking forward to the game.”



Viktor Johansson

On last weekend’s narrow defeat...

“It was a tough one to take, I felt like we deserved something from the game and if I’m being honest, I should have done better with the goals we conceded. We have a chance to put that right on Saturday now and I’m looking forward to that game.

“I want to be the person that everyone can rely on, so when you let yourself down a little bit it isn’t the best feeling. Like I said, you can’t really dwell on that too much. I had a couple of days where I looked back on it and reflected, but now I’m focused on putting it right.

“I think on Saturday the whole team did really well and we just need to emulate those type of performances whilst also turning them into results.

“QPR was a good example of the togetherness that we still have in the group – even though we had nothing to show from it – and I just think that if we can replicate that over a consistent basis our form will improve.

“We love playing football, every single one of us and we want to have good performances. We’ve been showing better signs of life, I just want us to keep building on that.”

Leam Richardson

On turning performances into results...

“The performance levels in the main have been strong, certainly for the situation we have been in. When I first arrived we only had around 70% of our players available, but you can choose to make excuses or move forward and try to get the best out of what we have.

“It’s crucial to be in this together and stay as positive as we possibly can. We know that Saturday is a really big game for the fans and the club. It’s something that we’re looking forward to.

“You want to be on the positive side of winning, you know what local games bring, they are for the fans and everyone involved in the football club.

“The message to the players is to make sure we give a really strong account of ourselves against a good team and our local rivals. We want to make sure that we come out on top.”

