

9th November
2023

PRESS HIGHLIGHTS

All the news from Roundwood ahead of the weekend's trip to Vicarage Road.



Matt Taylor

Reflecting on a draw with Ipswich Town...

"You can go into that for any game and nitpick certain moments.

"Everyone could sense where the danger was on that free kick.

"We've covered it with the group, and that's the responsibility of the staff as well - to see the danger and release yourself from your natural or asked position.

"Our marking players were on top of our zonal players and all sat tight around Viktor.

"The player who had the most amount of time was on the edge of the box, in a dangerous position. We'll certainly take responsibility that.

"We just needed a better understanding of what's required at each moment in the game.

"My only frustration in that second half was the lead up to their second goal; we had the opportunity to put the ball in the box but we didn't.

"When we did so during that second half period, we looked threatening and we have done in other games recently too.

"Game management, I think everyone calls it, they're the buzz words.

"What the players put into the game is so, so important. They put in a performance at the required level and got some reward.



Matt Taylor

On the fitness of Jamie Lindsay and Grant Hall...

"You heard the fans reaction when Jamie got up to warm-up.

"One of the biggest cheers of the night was when he ran down the touchline.

"He probably ran a little bit faster than he should have done, because the plan was always to involve him in a non-playing capacity.

"To a certain extent we'll look to do the same this weekend, but he's had another couple of days training.

"He could be involved this weekend, and then there's a period of almost ten days where we can really push him to more limits or new limits and get him game ready.

"Once he is back in that capacity, like so many of our players, managing him and using him and working with him in certain moments of the game will be so important.

"He's not been available since our first pre-season game, it seems so long ago.

"I'm pleased for Jamie and his family more than anyone because he's been low, naturally, because he loves football and he loves the club.

"This weekend is probably a little bit too soon for Grant.

"If it was the last game of the season, I'm sure he'd put himself forward.

"With what he's been through previously, he probably needs the next ten days to get fully up to speed and get some training time, and game-related aspects under his belt.

"It's great to have him out there on a daily basis and not doing part sessions.

"That's always a frustrating time as a manager; where they're almost there, but you can't use them.

"It's like seeing a sweet in front of you, but you can't quite eat it just yet.

"You've got to wait a little bit longer, but you still know it'll taste really, really nice further down the line.

"So that's a strange way to describe Grant Hall, but I think it's a fair assessment."



Last Meeting

Watford 1 - 1 Rotherham
Saturday 21st January 2023

Shane Ferguson's 20th minute strike after a bright Millers start rocked the hosts, who had to wait until the second half to respond through Joel Ferreira. The battle continued into the dying embers of the game but a victor could not be decided as it finished 1-1.

Recent form

Watford

D W W D D

Hornets nest starting to buzz!

Watford's form has improved notably as of late. Wins over Sheffield Wednesday and Swansea have been coupled by clean sheets, while the spoils have been shared with Cardiff, Millwall and Huddersfield.

Matt Taylor

On Sam Nombe's first goal in Millers colours...

"He hasn't quite been ready previously, and the way the team was set up to play, it hasn't allowed him to be ready.

"People forget he started a couple of other games, but starting games where you don't get the service or when you're competing with defenders outnumbering him and jumping all over him.

"But, when you're allowed to run like he did on Tuesday, disrupt and just be a constant pest, it was a perfect game for him and the goal changes the way people see him and the way he feels about himself.

"He's got to keep on putting himself forward.

"His personality has started to show through recently, and it's probably the first time Rotherham fans and some lads in the squad have seen his personality, one which I've seen for a long time now.

"It's infectious and it's all in, it's all action.

"He's not perfect, but he gets the fans going, so hopefully we'll see more of that.

"There's no better feeling in football than scoring a goal, no better feeling.

"That's a selfish thing to say, but that's the greatest feeling you have as a professional footballer.

"When you put the ball in the back of the net and it's your moment, you own it and it's partly down to your team-mates.

"That's a special feeling and centre forwards are judged on that.

"The outside world will always judge you on your goals per minute ratio.

"They'll always ask 'are they performing in front of goal?'.

"They look like they're scoring goals.

"The fact that it was early and a good goal for Sam, plus Fred's part in it, gave him a boost.

"I want them to bottle up the good feelings they've had recently.

"We've got now options of partnerships and pairings of 2 or 3.

"Sam has actually shown he can play on the outside the pitch as well as central.

"I'm pleased with the group we've got there."



Matt Taylor...

On facing an in-form Watford...

"They're a strong home team, a strong squad, an incredibly tough team to prepare for, as is every team at Championship level.

"They've got players across the board who can hurt you individually.

"A very strong, athletic, dynamic team who move the ball well.

"It always seems a quick surface at Watford despite the conditions, always seems quite tight in terms of how quickly it moves and how quickly the players get on top of you.

"We have to relish that atmosphere and find a way of putting in a performance.

"We're actually looking to compete away from home, we did it at Southampton.

"We need to do it for longer this weekend and hopefully we'll have points to return.

"Getting a first away win there would be huge because every time we go away from home, the same questions come, the same discussion points, the same feeling that players have.

"The earlier that happens, the better for everyone.

"The response from going behind against QPR and the late goal against Ipswich, the character was shown and the skill levels were shown."

Matt Taylor

On competition up top...

"The players are in a good state of mind and feeling good about themselves.

"We know where we feel Georgie is in terms of his impact and what he can do in the games, and he showed that the other night.

"He played a part in the lead up to Christ's equaliser, so it's important they keep on battling out.

"Tom Eaves as well, all fighting for the same thing; an opportunity to start and to perform.

"Football, as I always say, is a very easy game for myself as manager.

"If you play well, you've got a very good chance to start in the next game and from that, stay in the team.

"It's a performance based life we lead and it was good to see Sam [Nombe] perform on Tuesday.

"They're all pushing.

"I want them to keep on pushing each other on a daily basis out on the training pitch, and for whoever is selected to then give it absolutely everything."

