

16<sup>th</sup> February  
2024

# PRESS HIGHLIGHTS

All the news from Roundwood ahead of  
Saturday's hosting of Watford



Leam Richardson

## ***On the long-term challenge...***

"I think we've got to make decisions that are right for the football club at the time. It was made clear to me before I arrived the challenges that were ahead and how we wanted to evolve the football club.

"It is my pressure to take that challenge on and to make sure every decision that is made - whether that is the environment, the culture or the staff - is the right one for us.

"A really good indication of the future is the past and I feel like that every time I've left a football club, I've done so leaving it in a better place than when I found it and hopefully, Rotherham will be no different."



Leam Richardson

## ***On a narrow midweek defeat to Hull...***

"We want to be proactive and give a good account of ourselves in every game that we play. I think we started the game really well and had a couple of really good chances to go 2-0 up which I think would've been vital to help us grow into the game.

"Unfortunately the first goal really knocked us but we're going into another challenge now against another really good team and it's another chance to get some points on the board."

Leam Richardson

## ***On Watford...***

"Watford have been a really strong Premier League team very recently and carry some really good individual talent within their squad, not just in the starting 11.

"We think that we can impose ourselves on the game like we did on Tuesday in large parts - and many other games since I've been here - we just need that confidence to not only go 1-0 up but go 2-0 up and really take the game to them.

"I never shirk away from any challenge, we've just played the likes of Southampton and Leeds who have been in really good form. Watford have been on a bit of a difficult run of late, but they are still a good team and every challenge in the Championship is a really good one.

"The fans are obviously a big bonus for us at our place and they'll give us that boost and energy to try and get a result. We're expecting a really tough game, but it's one we're looking forward to."



### **Last Meeting**

Watford 5 v 0 Rotherham 11/11/23

The reverse fixture would ultimately cost former boss Matt Taylor his job as his side were blown away by the Hornets in Hertfordshire. A Mileta Rajovic double and goals from Edo Kayembe, Tom Ince and Matheus Martins sealed the win.

### **Recent form**

Watford

**D L L L L**

### **Hornets carrying sting to mixed effect**

Watford fans have endured a rollercoaster of emotions this season, particularly since the turn of the year! They didn't witness their side taste defeat once in January, but are yet to see a win in the current calendar month.

Ollie Rathbone

## ***On taking the positives out of Tuesday night into Saturday's clash against Watford...***

"It was obviously really disappointing in the way that it ended. I think it's important that we try and focus on the positives, especially from the first half and the beginning of the second.

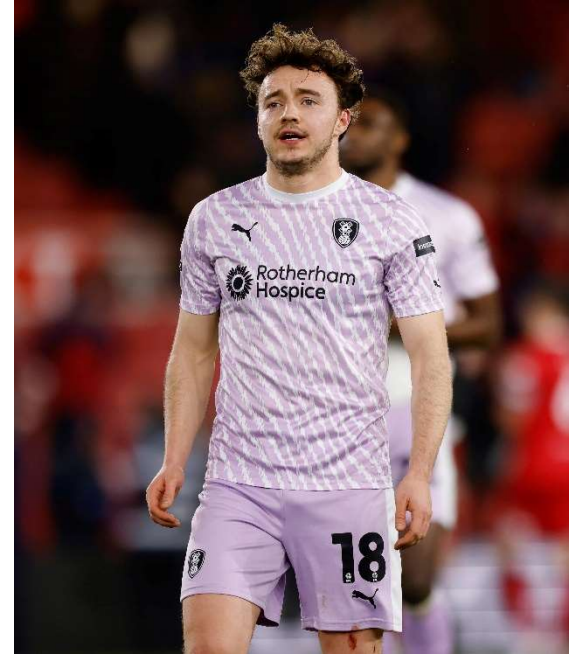
"I think we created quite a lot of chances and on another day the result might have been different.

"We have had a difficult run playing against some of the bigger teams in the division and this weekend will be no different.

"They've [Watford] got a lot of well-known players who have played in the Premier League but I know they've had a tough run of results and hopefully we can capitalise on that and take the game to them.

"I think it's important that we keep trying to remember who we are and keep trying to put teams who come here under as much pressure as possible.

"If teams do get a result when they come here, they should at least know that they've had to work hard for it, but with that said, I'm confident that we can get a positive result this weekend."



Ollie Rathbone

## ***On the current picture at the foot of the Sky Bet Championship table...***

"I think most players just look at the next game, but we're not stupid, we know the situation that we're in and that it isn't looking good.

"Leading up to the weekend we have to just concentrate on ourselves and make sure that we all put 100% in - which we have done all season - and hope that we start to get a little bit of luck.

"We'll guarantee that fighting spirit until the 4th of May."

