

12th January
2024

PRESS HIGHLIGHTS

All the news from Roundwood ahead of
Saturday's hosting of Stoke City



Leam Richardson

On loan recalls for Lembikisa and Onyedinema...

"Firstly, I want to thank both Dexter and Fred for the time and the effort they put in during their time in a Rotherham shirt, I also want to thank their parent clubs for allowing us to take their players on loan.

"With Wolves, they called Dexter back with a view to excelling his pathway to whichever way they view fit with a team they feel is right for him, he's been a fantastic person during his time here and we wish him well.

"Fred has been really unlucky with the injuries that he's had during his time here, he's picked another one up which will keep him out for a number of weeks.

"Following a discussion between the player himself – which is the most important - and between the two clubs, we felt that it was the best decision for us.

"From our point of view, it frees that loan space up for us to potentially get someone else in who can help us in our situation.

"Every deal is different and taken on it's own merit. The circumstances can be very different, all the deals had been done before I walked into the building and I can only control what I can control. We'll move forwards the best we can."



Leam Richardson

On the transfer window...

On Peter Kioso...

"He's come back in and been welcomed back by myself, the staff and the players very well. We'll add him to the squad and the framework of what we're trying to build.

"I'll concentrate on Saturday's game, if you don't mind. I think we've spoken too much about our player and other people's comments.

"We aren't in control of any teams making offers for our players. We want to keep all our players and evolve."

"Rob (Head of Recruitment Scott) and the guys are trying desperately hard to add to the group. We need a certain quality of player to help us with the challenge we have ahead of us. I'm exactly the same as the supporters are, eager to get things done, to get bodies in the building.

"Many discussions have taken place. Fingers crossed we can bring people in sooner rather than later. As a coach or manager, you want bodies in and a really good number of players to work with. Sometimes it's out of your control. Other clubs have decisions to make.

"We're in a really competitive league and anyone who comes into this challenge can only find it beneficial for them. We're in the race with everybody else and we're doing our best to come to some conclusions."



Last Meeting

Stoke City 6-1 Rotherham United

Tuesday 29th August 2023

Recent form

Stoke City

DDWDD

Wolves loanee added to pack

The Potters completed the loan signing of Luke Cundle earlier in the week. The Wolves loanee will be well known to boss Steven Schumacher, with the pair working together at Plymouth.

Leam Richardson

On recent form and taking on Stoke City...

“I think you’ve got to look at what you’ve got available in your squad and harness their best attributes.

“The games that we’ve played and the output that the lads have given us have been fantastic and the performance levels have been very good both individually and collectively.

“They know the challenge and since I’ve stepped through the door they’ve stood up to every challenge I’ve set them. We’ll keep trying to raise that level of efficiency from ourselves and back into the games.”

“You expect the same from most Championship games, a really healthy challenge. Stoke have perhaps been in this league a little longer than they’d have liked.

“When you look at their squad, it is fantastic. They have some really good attacking threats with good players right across the pitch.

“They’ll come here and provide a really strong and healthy challenge for ourselves but it is one that we’re looking forward to and one we’ve prepared for. Hopefully we can go out there and get a positive result.”



Georgie Kelly

On having a full week on the training pitch to prepare for Stoke...

“It was very much needed and beneficial for us. The Christmas period – as it always is – was really hectic for us.

“Having so many games in succession doesn’t allow you much time on the training pitch.

“So, with that in mind, it has been great to get a few days out on the grass to work on a few different ideas and some tactical elements.

“Hopefully that will pay off when we play Stoke.

“I think as well, it has been important for the Gaffer to get some time with us on the training pitch, too, because he’s had barely any time since he first walked through the door.

“It’s one thing trying to get your ideas across off the training pitch but another thing completely when you actually get the time to do it.

“I think a lot of the lads have really enjoyed being out there and working with him. It has definitely been useful for us this week.”

Georgie Kelly

On recent form and the upcoming hosting of the Potters...

“Our performances over the festive period show that we’re moving in the right direction. To go three games unbeaten in the Championship for anyone is not an easy thing to do, so it’s a really good thing for us to achieve.

“We can take the positives from that going into another really tough game against Stoke. Our form all year has been really strong and we know what we can do on our own patch.

“We’ve always looked a threat, no matter who we’ve played so there won’t be any fear going into it, we’re all raring to go.”

