

# Fuller Flavour

Karl Fuller column...



## Big Owls win sets up Town for a thrilling end to season

**Y**ou know when I said that we have bouncebackability in abundance – what a result and a performance to match on Saturday.

If ever there was a way to silence the doubters straight away, that was it. Those fans of other clubs who insist we will fall away, especially after a rare defeat, will need to hide away again for another week.

A total of 80 league goals after 38 games is just nonsensical. And how many of those have now been pure poetry in motion to watch?

The first of our six goals typified 'McKenna ball' once again. It is only when the ball hits the net, and you watch replays endlessly that you can fully appreciate them.

So often, we build out from the back and create openings. It is just the norm to watch. When such moves result in goals as our first, and you can count as many as 18 passes, you realise that we are such a clever football team.

Our goal of the season will probably be Wes Burns' individual effort against Coventry. But if it were for a team goal, we could have about 50 to choose from.

Speaking of Burns, what a blow it would be if his hamstring injury is as bad as say George Hirst's was.

To lose Wes for the rest of the season ought to be a concern. But would it? Whoever plays cannot do too much wrong at present. Still, I have everything crossed that it is not as bad as it appears.

How poor were Sheffield Wednesday? I thought that with a recent upturn in form, we could be in for a difficult afternoon.

We have had some hard battles with them at Portman Road in recent years. Just over a year ago, they were seven points clear of us in League One and some of their fans said we were out of the promotion race.

How contrasting our trajectories

have been. Credit to those of their fans that stayed to the very end and applauded their players off the pitch.

Meanwhile, there was another sweet moment for us Fullers for this game.

My son had two friends visiting from Sweden.

In the past, I have dreaded any of us bringing friends to Portman Road for the first time. Such an experience has probably put them off football for life.

There used to be a concoction of defeats, poor performances, subdued atmospheres, and a wondering of what all the fuss was about.

When I was introduced to Edvin and Villy, I asked them where they lived in Sweden. They told me that they originated from Helsingborg.

That was music to my ears as we then chatted about my visit there in 2001 for Town's UEFA Cup game. Harry's Bar is still going strong, for those that remember that!

They had been in England for a few days and were at Anfield on Thursday night to watch Liverpool beat Sparta Prague 6-1.

I wondered how their first experience of Portman Road could beat that. A 6-0 win just about ensured that happened.

Not only was I so proud of our result and performance for myself, but for our Swedish visitors too.

When asked how the two experiences compared, they said that being at Ipswich felt more intimate.

The celebrations of the goals felt different too.

Overall, they felt a deep sense of community at Portman Road, whereas Anfield had a lot more tourists, including themselves of course.

Well, Edvin and Villy, you are more than welcome back to Portman Road anytime.

In fact, with results like



Ipswich Town thumped Sheffield Wednesday 6-0 on Saturday. Inset, Omari Hutchinson Image: STEVE WALLER

Saturday, I think you should come back sooner rather than later.

And this is what we now get from Kieran McKenna's troops, at Portman Road especially. A team that puts on a performance worth watching, goals galore, and substitutes that just keep us powering on in games.

How good was Omari Hutchinson? These times, our manager, Omari, and so many other players. None of these will last forever. We really must appreciate what we have right now.

The international break has come at a suitable time. The players have a couple of weeks to recharge their batteries.

Then we will be back for a momentous run-in. Eight big games. Where they lead us could be special. I cannot wait.



Leif Davis and Ali Al-Hamadi enjoy Saturday's win Image: STEVE WALLER