

PRESS HIGHLIGHTS

2nd May 2024

All the news from AESSEAL New York Stadium ahead of the final day of the 2023/24 campaign...



Steve Evans

On trying put smiles on faces on the final day of a tough season...

"I think it is very important.

"I think you only get one opportunity to play your final game in front of your home supporters and I think these fans have had the toughest football season for many a time.

"It would be good to reward them with a similar performance to Birmingham in all honesty but with a goal or two to add to it.

"I think it's a long time since they've seen a goal in Rotherham colours and of course it's the last day where we as players and staff get the opportunity to go round at the end and thank the supporters for those that stay and show their appreciation.

"It's important than we do to them"



Steve Evans

On Viktor Johansson – a legend on and off the pitch...

"I think if Viktor is putting money behind the bar, I'll be there myself!

"I think Viktor has been a wonderful goalkeeper for the football club and everyone is aware of the huge interest in him.

"I'm aware of it because I'm getting phone calls from managers who want to get my opinion on him behind-the-scenes. They don't ask what he's like between the sticks because they see that.

"I'll have a chat with him today and see where he is. We'll see where it all lies but he's with us this season and whether he is next season remains to be seen.

"At the minute, I'm planning with him because he's not gone anywhere yet.

"Fans have bonds with players and managers or whatever it is because they recognise what they do, how hard they work and how much they fight for their football club.

"Viktor Johansson - whether I was the Millers manager or not - is a top class talent.

"More importantly, Viktor is a real good guy off the pitch.

"He's really professional, he's really humble and he's a little bit different to some players you find in the Championship that have aspirations.

"If any club triggers the clause and Viktor wants to move on he will go on a personal basis with my best wishes.

"I think you should aspire to play as high as you can but it isn't a foregone conclusion yet. Phoning up and asking myself or Rob Scott for our opinion on him - or indeed speaking to Paul Douglas or even our Chairman - doesn't mean that you're going to part with a lot of money to buy a player.

"We still have to wait and see if that gets triggered of course."



Last Meeting

Cardiff City 2 v 0 Rotherham United
Saturday 30th September 2023

Second half goals from Kion Etete and Perry Ng condemned the Millers to defeat last time the two sides met in South Wales.

A combative performance lacked a cutting edge for the visitors who returned to South Yorkshire with nothing to show for their efforts.

Recent form

Cardiff City

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The final countdown

A reminder that the entirety of the fixtures across the Sky Bet Championship on the final day will kick off in unison at 12:30pm.

Steve Evans

On the job at-hand in the summer in terms of players in and out...

"I don't think there is an 'overhaul' but there are a number of players as you're aware are out of contract.

"There's a number of players that have options to stay or go and I have to reflect on what it will need to challenge at the top end of League One.

"There will be an overhaul to a degree, but I think in fairness to our Chairman and Board, I need to sit down and make sure I've finalised that whole analysis both on the pitch and off it.

"I have to make sure that my Chairman is comfortable with the changes we're looking to reflect on.

"There is one or two that will play on Saturday that we are wondering 'do we keep him in the door or do we let them move onto something new' and these are discussions that will go right up until when the referee blows his whistle on Saturday."

"I'm not going to restart this relationship by telling lies to our supporters.

"I already know what the resources are for next season, I know what the budget is going to be and I know the type of players that I want to bring in.

"I know the players I want to keep - largely with the odd exception.

"Next season in League One will be really tough. Not only are the clubs coming up well-resourced like your Wrexhams, Stockports and Mansfields, the teams that will be getting relegated alongside ourselves will be strong."



Steve Evans

On whether there are likely to be any players returning to fitness for the game...

"There are one or two that are fighting to be there.

"Whether we can get them on the grass for two consecutive days leading up to that is the question.

"Former Cardiff player Sean Morrison comes into consideration of course if the big man can get there.

"Shane Ferguson is somebody that we're hoping to have on the grass and tomorrow and it's all about reaction.

"I'm sure we'll get them on the grass today but it will be about reaction. Do they come through the whole training session? Do they come through and say they've had no ill-effects? Other than that, it will be very much what we've had.

"The injuries that we've got when you look up at the board is never nice to look at but we are where we are.

"From our point of view, we'll lose one or two but we'll focus on the 11/14/15 players that come onto the pitch on Saturday and trying to beat a Cardiff side who can finish comfortably in the top half under a manager who has transformed them as a team."

Steve Evans

On whether he will be able to learn anything beyond what he already has in the final game of the season...

"I think in football every game is an opportunity to impress.

"You get an opportunity, especially when it is new people making those decisions. We're well-known to the Rotherham United supporters but we're not well-known to the playing staff.

"A lot of decisions are ones that I have already taken and noted down and discussed tentatively with the Chairman and we had a two hour meeting with Rob [Scott] this morning so our planning is way ahead.

"We will plan meticulously and we'll be good to go next week but until then players get a final opportunity to say 'I should be playing a part at the AESSEAL New York Stadium' and who wouldn't want to do that here."