

Slow starters

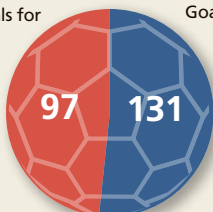
Tony Adams took Wycombe Wanderers down to the fourth tier during his 12 months in management so far, but other managers have recovered from disappointing first jobs. Arsène Wenger, Adams's highly successful manager at Arsenal, took Nancy down from the French top division in 1987 at the end of his three seasons at the club. Phil Brown, joint second in the Premier League with Hull City after leading them to promotion last season, was sacked by Derby County after seven months, having taken a team who had finished fourth in the Championship before he arrived and left them eighteenth in late January. Sir Bobby Robson overachieved with Ipswich Town for a decade and managed England, but in his first job he led Fulham to relegation after taking charge of a struggling team in mid-season

Making strides at the back

Portsmouth before Adams arrived as assistant manager in June 2006

85 league games

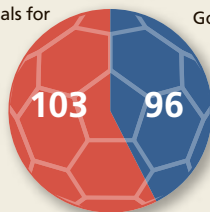
Goals for Goals against



Portsmouth after Adams joined

85 league games

Goals for Goals against

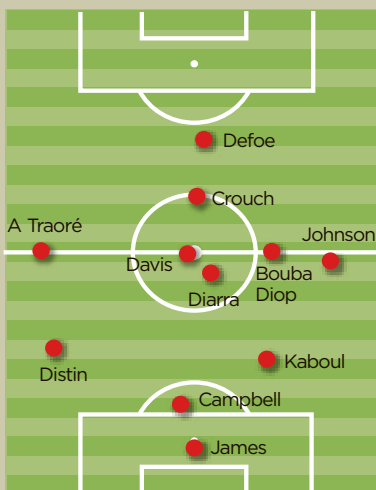


Although Adams insists that he has been more than a defence coach at Portsmouth, the team's rearguard appear to have advanced much more than their attack since the former England centre back arrived in the summer of 2006. While Portsmouth's record of goals scored in his 85 league games at the club is only a slight improvement on the previous 85 matches, their goals-conceded tally has been reduced markedly

Two options for new No 1



Portsmouth v Fulham, Sunday



Everton v Portsmouth, Aug 30

Whatever the input of Adams in the decision, Portsmouth are the only club to have started a Premier League match this season with three central defenders, doing so in the games away to Everton (won 3-0) and Manchester City (lost 6-0) and at home to Middlesbrough (won 2-1, but only after switching to 4-4-2 when 1-0 down at half-time). But Adams chose a 4-4-2 formation in his sole match as Portsmouth's caretaker manager against Fulham on Sunday

Past managers

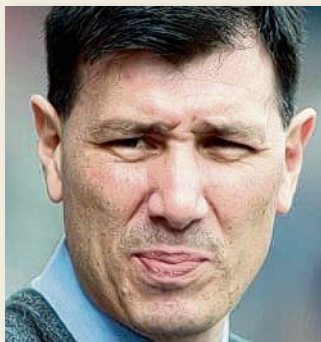
Four Wycombe Wanderers managers of the past 14 years have gone on to work in the top flight



Martin O'Neill
Leicester City, Aston Villa



John Gregory
Villa, Derby County



Lawrie Sanchez
Fulham



Tony Adams
Portsmouth