

# News Shopper Sport

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## Chiefs edge Super Bowl

THE Kansas City Chiefs came back impressively in the second half of the Super Bowl to beat the Philadelphia Eagles 38-35 in a game for the ages.

The Chiefs' offense struggled early on but their renowned defence kept making big plays to shut down the Eagles, for whom Jalen Hurts

produced three rushing touchdowns and a passing touchdown.

But Kansas quarterback Patrick Mahomes (above, No.15) was also outstanding, as he went 21 of 27 for 182 yards through the air and claimed three touchdowns as his team was victorious at State Farm Stadium in Phoenix, Arizona.

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## Takeover update

THE Charlton Athletic takeover saga rages on as the two parties tell very different stories.

It looked as though Charlton owner Thomas Sandgaard had all but sold the club, but now the deal is off.

So, here's what we know so far. Sandgaard seemed to be willing to sell to a consortium led by Charlie Methven, who will be known by many as the former Sunderland director who appeared in Netflix's 'Sunderland Til I Die'. The reported fee for the sale was £8.5 million.

Further reports then suggested that the deal had progressed so far that a deposit worth between £850,000 and £1million had been paid to Sandgaard and the expectation was that the deal was imminent.

There was such high confidence a deal was done that the new owners had already put a team in place to run the club. Jim Rodwell was chief operating officer while Ed Warrick was finance director. Andy Scott and Dean Holden were named technical director and manager respectively.

All but Holden have now left the club following the breakdown of the agreement. The existing owner believes the manager will stay, but time will tell.

This is where the stories contrast. The Danish owner told South London Press: "There was some very specific terms that were very clear at the end of January and coming into February that they didn't comply with."

"Those were really the key items in the deal."

He even went as far as to criticise Methven and his business tactics.

From the alternative point of view, the consortium felt they were given an inadequate reason for the breakdown, and it is understood that the conditions of the deal were changed at the last minute. These terms referred to the stake which Sandgaard would keep.

When he agreed to sell the club, he did so on the condition that he would keep a ten per cent stake.

After the fall from grace under the previous owner, which has left the former Premier League club languishing in League One, fans will hope that a resolution can happen quickly.

The pressure on their owner to sell will now intensify. As for the consortium, they will continue to push for a deal, and if they cannot do a deal then they will take legal action according to The Athletic.

Fans will hope that a resolution can be found quickly due to fears that off-field distractions will harm the team.

The potential loss of their manager Dean Holden, who has turned the club around and moved them away from the relegation zone, will be a cause for great concern.

A 2-1 loss to 17th place Fleetwood on Saturday (February 11) did little to dissuade the feeling that off-field drama will hinder on-field progress.



Welling United had been unbeaten since Boxing Day

Picture: Dave Bullen

# Unbeaten run ends

By MARK DOIG

WELLING United's three-game unbeaten run was ended by defeat at in-form Oxford City.

Having not suffered a loss since Boxing Day, Oxford were always going to provide a tough assignment for the Wings and the Hoops extended that spell with an ultimately comfortable victory.

Ronan Kanuric made the first save of the match when doing well to tip over George Alexander's header from Taylor Maloney's free kick. Maloney delivered the corner to the far post, picking out Kodi Lyons-Foster, but he was unable to hit the target with his header.

Alexander then turned provider when he pulled back from the byline

and found Stefan Payne. His header was destined for the top corner before it was deflected over. Maloney's corner was half-cleared to Payne but his first time shot was blocked.

Miles Roberts made a comfortable low save from a long range shot by Lewis Coyle, and then another from Aaron Williams-Bushell shortly afterwards.

James Dunne collected a harsh yellow card which takes him to ten for the season and a two-game ban before Lewis Coyle had a shot beaten out by Roberts. After 32 minutes Oxford went ahead. Klaidi Lolos was given too much space and a shot from 20 yards found its way into the bottom corner under Roberts' dive.

Hopes that Welling had of getting back into the game were dashed when Oxford scored again immediately after the break. Josh Ashby sent Zac

McEachran away and he finished clinically inside the post.

Ade Azeze headed over from Maloney's cross before Welling had a chance to get back into the game. Payne was brought down in the area by Coyle and a penalty was awarded. Maloney stepped up but he didn't get it far enough into the corner and Kanuric made the save.

Oxford weren't troubled again and had chances to increase their lead. Roberts saved well from McEachran then Lolos fired well over. Lolos had another good chance set up by Ashby, and Roberts saved his side-footed effort when he shouldn't have been given a chance.

Coyle shot over then Roberts made a great save from a Josh Parker free kick. But Parker nonetheless extended his hot streak to scoring in six straight matches in stoppage time.

## Battle of the top two



Captains Fred Hutchison and Kaan Acun before the game

THIS week's match was between Wallington Tornados (Coral) and Wandle Thunder (Yellow). It was a battle between current first and second place with only goal difference separating the two teams, and a late goal by Lewis Holliman brought a 3-2 victory for the Tornados.

As expected, the match started frantically with both teams looking to assert themselves.

Plenty of tempting corners leading to half-chances but ultimately these were dealt with effectively by the defenders and goalkeepers.

A half-chance by Harry Phillips saw his shot go wide of the goal, before Tornados replied with a direct run from Jack Walton setting up Muhammad Saif who put his shot over the bar. That was to be his sighter as two minutes later Muhammad pounced on a defensive lapse and made no mistake in front of goal, slotting it to the goalkeeper's left putting Tornados 1-0 up.

Midway through the first half and Tornados had momentum with them; however Wandle Thunder were digging deep trying to take control of the mid-field battle.

Arian Singh made a bursting run from midfield but he couldn't wrap his foot around the ball enough to work the goalkeeper.

The second half started much like the first, with chances being limited until a bit of magic by Beau Lockwood saw her flick the ball up and cross into the area of uncertainty in between the goalkeeper and defender. Jack Walton was first to react, slotting the ball home.

Wandle Thunder's reaction was fantastic however - Luca Fernandez moved up into a more advanced position, and helped open up space for a through ball to Kaan Acun who made no mistake in front of goal. 2-1. Game on.

A free kick won by Harry Phillips and ruthlessly finished, top corner from 15 yards - you just don't stop those. 2-2.

With the game looking like it was going to end in a draw, Lewis Holliman showed close control on the edge of the box to calmly slot home the winner.

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