



In demand? Evans says he was approached by Notts County.

Evans: 'Luton defeat will end play-off ambitions'

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Football

REDS' star men Charlie Ademenio and Glenn Wilson are battling against the clock to be ready for what manager Steve Evans has labelled the biggest league game in the club's history.

Both the Reds' top scorer Ademenio and the club's longest serving player Wilson missed the 2-0 defeat at Wrexham on Saturday - Crawley's first defeat in eight Conference matches - and both are regarded as 50/50 for this Saturday's cracker at the Broadfield Stadium.

Ademenio failed a pre-match fitness test with a tweaked hamstring and he was particularly missed as Evans' men played some of their best football of the season but paid the price for failing to hit the back of the net. With the 21-year-old having netted eight goals in his last nine games Reds fans will be crossing their fingers in the hope that he makes Saturday's lineup against fourth-placed Luton.

Evans in particular is relishing the occasion and believes anything other than all three points will signal the end of their play-off dreams for another season.

He said: "In all of this club's entire 100 and something year history this is the biggest club to come here and it should be a fantastic match.

"They were in the Championship just four years ago and we are playing them on Saturday. It's a huge game and we know that we need to win to keep our play-off hopes alive and anything else would probably be the end of it."

On the subject of his two struggling players Evans commented: "I'm hoping Charlie Ademenio and Glenn Wilson will be available. It will be a late call on both of them but they are desperate to play."

Luton are sure to bring a big contingent of support to the Broadfield and Evans feels his side's chances of causing an upset will be greatly increased by Reds fans making their pres-

ence felt and getting behind their side.

"I think football people and supporters in the town will realise just how big this is and what a great opportunity to bring the family along to what should be a fantastic spectacle," he said.

"Luton will have huge support and we need the people of the town to turn out on Saturday. The atmosphere has already started building and everyone in the town is buzzing."

Meanwhile League Two Notts County ended speculation that Evans was on their managerial hit-list by announcing the appointment of Steve Cotteril for the rest of the campaign on their club website on Tuesday.

Reports had surfaced linking the Reds boss with the cash-strapped club at the end of last week and according to Evans he was offered the job on a temporary basis.

He said: "I had a long conversation with (Notts' chief executive) Jim Rodwell on Sunday and he was looking for someone to take over until the summer.

"I said I wanted to stay here and said put someone else in charge and if you are still interested in the summer they can come back and we'll talk about it."

No one at Notts County were available to comment on this at the time of going to press. Rodwell played for Boston United when Evans took the club into the Football League in 2002 and subsequently became the club's director of football and chairman, and the two have continued their close relationship.

Crawley Town's operations director Alan Williams has also moved to assure fans that the club is not in financial danger.

Reds have been given four weeks to settle an undisclosed debt to the taxman at the High Court but Williams insisted this had been resolved. "The winding-up order relates to a debt which no longer exists," he said.

The club also said it expects to be completely debt free by the end of the season.