

THE BEAST IS WAITING IN HIS LAIR



By **Stuart Hammonds**

WREXHAM defender Mark Creighton will deliver a Racecourse Ground rallying cry tomorrow to tell his team-mates what they will miss out on if they fail to make it to Wembley.

The giant centre-half, known as 'Beast' to all Dragons, played for Kidderminster in the 2007 FA Trophy final – the first competitive game to be played at the rebuilt national stadium – and won the 2010 play-off final there with Oxford.

Now he will try to inspire the second-leg comeback that failed to materialise last year, when Wrexham trailed Luton by three goals at the halfway stage.

Creighton told *The MLP*: "All season we've put the effort in, but finishing second in the league with 98 points means nothing. Now is the crucial time.

"I will tell the boys that Wembley is the best place to play in the world. It's every boy's dream. If you want to be a footballer, then you want to play at Wembley.

"Fortunately I have played there twice, and some of the lads haven't. Even Glenn Little's not played at Wembley, and at 35 years of age and having played in the Premier League, he's chomping at the bit. He wants to get there so bad – all of them do.

"It's such an incentive. It's the home of football and whoever does get there can be proud that they've made it that far, so we don't want to have any regrets."

Creighton also called on Wrexham's fans – just under a thousand of whom sang all night at Kenilworth Road – to



NEW HERO: Luton striker Andre Gray scored again

roar them on in the return in north Wales.

"It's a massive advantage being at home in the second leg, especially with our fans," said Creighton. "They are pretty similar to the Oxford fans. They turn out in their numbers and they make a lot of noise, and let's be honest, we owe them.

"When we weren't getting paid in the summer, I couldn't put food in my baby son Kai's mouth. They raised the money, they fed my boy and I hope to repay them back at a packed, partisan Racecourse."

Belief

Manager Andy Morrell insists the Dragons have nothing to fear, having already beaten Luton at home this season.

He said: "It's got to give us massive belief because we beat them 2-0 at home in the league, so why can't we do it again? But if we show up how we did here in the first half, it's game over."

Wrexham are likely to have veteran midfielder winger Little available again after a calf injury, while top scorer Jake Speight should also return after a bout of tonsillitis left him too weak to travel to Bedfordshire on Thursday, according to Morrell.

Hatters boss Paul Buckle has fit-again striker Amari Morgan-Smith, who had fired ten goals in the early part of the campaign before suffering hamstring trouble, to call on

after his sub's appearance on Thursday.

Their new striking hero Andre Gray, meanwhile, will be hoping to add to his six-goal in ten game haul since former boss Gary Brabin agreed to pay Blue Square Bet North Hinckley £30,000 a week before he was sacked.

"A couple of months ago I was playing in front of 200 people at places like Workington," said Gray. "Now I'm playing in front of 9,000 here and then Monday will become the biggest game I've ever played in.

"These are the kind of occasions I came here for; the whole play-offs and the chance to play at Wembley.

"Monday is a massive game, but it's only half-time."

Gray also paid tribute to strike partner and first leg man-of-the-match Stuart Fleetwood, who scored his fifth goal of Buckle's month-long reign and looks to be rediscovering the form that made him the Conference's top scorer in 2007-08.

"The whole team has been great in providing me with goals," said the ex-Shrewsbury youngster. "Fleets set me up for the latest, and it was good to return the compliment for the second. He was brilliant."



INSPIRATION: Wrexham's Mark Creighton