

Watford 1-0 West Brom: Troy Deeney hits winner to pile pressure on beleaguered Baggies boss Alan Pardew

Deeney hit the only goal of the game on the second half – and Pardew looks set for sack

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By Mike Walters Sports Writer
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Troy Deeney celebrates scoring the winner (Image: Henry Browne)

Alan Pardew can leave the engine running after West Brom's sixth consecutive defeat all but condemned him to the axe – and Albion to the drop.

Watford skipper Troy Deeney – who was heavily linked with a move to The Hawthorns in January transfer window – sent Pardew closer to the edge with a 77th minute winner at Vicarage Road.

The Hornets had lost to both Crystal Palace and Swansea when they were bottom of the table in December, and their home record against teams towards the drop zone had been shocking.

But they gave Pardew an object lesson in grinding out wins towards safety here – and winning football matches is an art the Baggies manager mislaid some time ago.

Deeney slots home to earn Watford all three points (Image: Henry Browne)

That's just seven wins in his last 51 Premier League games for Pardew now. Relegation is not an accident waiting to happen for West Brom – it was signposted when they appointed him.

More than 200 supporters from the 1st Battalion Brooms and Shovels reported for duty at first light to clear the pitch, walkways and approaches of snow – and before the end, there no shortage of volunteers among Albion fans to shovel it all back.

During a lukewarm first half, the fire brigade stepped in with extinguishers after an electronic advertising board started billowing smoke in front of the Sir Elton John Stand, but the game did not catch fire as readily.

And some of us yearned for Pugh, Pugh, Barney McGrew, Cuthbert, Dibble and Grubb, from the parish of Trumpton, to demonstrate the virtues of co-ordinated teamwork instead of this wastefulness.

Apart from Grzergorz Krychowiak and Roberto Pereyra having shots blocked, there was a dearth of meaningful goalmouth action until Daryl Janmaat was thwarted by former Watford keeper Ben Foster's outstretched foot seven minutes before the break.

It livened up after the restart - it could hardly be more insipid. Richarlison was narrowly off-target with an overhead kick from Abdoulaye Doucoure's knock-down, and Kieran Gibbs cleared Watford sub Stefano Okaka's low shot off the line.

Alan Pardew is facing the sack (Image: Alex Morton)

But West Brom missed a glorious chance to draw first blood as the unmarked Salomon Rondon headed dreadfully wide from Gibbs' right footed cross.

The absence of a clinical goalscorer has been an obvious shortcoming for Albion all season, and never was it better demonstrated in one squandered chance.

And they were made to pay for it dearly when another Hornets sub, Will Hughes, sent Deeney clear to beat Foster expertly for his sixth goal of the season.

On balance of play, it was harsh on the visitors - but as Watford fans serenaded Pardew with the chorus of the damned, *You're Getting Sacked In The Morning*, it was instructive that 2,000 travelling disciples from the Black Country joined in.

What on earth Albion are doing down there, guarding the wooden spoon, is anyone's guess.

Somewhere along the line, the infectious boing-boing has been replaced by a funereal glug-glug at the Hawthorns.

If the Baggies were circling the plughole when Tony Pulis – never relegated as a manager, never revered for his playing style – was in charge, they are disappearing down the gurgler under Pardew.

WATFORD - WEST BROM

HT 0-0

77' Troy Deeney



Watford 1 West Brom 0: Relegation beckons for Baggies... and the sack surely awaits Alan Pardew

Alan Pardew is facing the sack CREDIT: REUTERS

By **Sam Dean**, VICARAGE ROAD
3 MARCH 2018

Match Summary

Watford 1 – 0 West Bromwich Albion

English Premier League

03/03/2018 15:00

Referee: Paul Tierney Venue: Vicarage Road Attendance: 20,022

77' Troy Deeney

When your strikers are spurning clear chances, your defenders are ushering opposition attackers towards goal and your own fans are singing about your imminent sacking, it is probably time to hold your hands up and accept that your time may be up.

Such is life for Alan Pardew, whose struggling West Bromwich Albion side finally managed to put up a serious fight, and even produced a commendable performance between their match-defining

mistakes, but still ended up with their fifth consecutive Premier League defeat. It is a rare occurrence indeed for West Brom to produce a showing with this much to admire, but the final outcome here was agonisingly familiar.

Relegation beckons for the Baggies, eight points adrift at the foot of the table, and the sack surely awaits for Pardew, even if it may not quite arrive in time for the morning, as all four stands of Vicarage Road had sung after Troy Deeney's late goal.

The Watford winner, scored after West Brom's defence had comically laid waste to their own offside trap, was enough to undo all of the visiting side's hard work on an afternoon in which they created enough opportunities to win the game three times over.

Troy Deeney scores for Watford CREDIT: PA

Salomon Rondon was the main culprit for the wasted openings, while Jonny Evans struck the post in the second half. Perhaps a fit Daniel Sturridge would have done better, but Pardew can only speculate and Sturridge, ruled out with a hamstring injury, could only watch from afar.

Either way, the unfortunate truth remains that West Brom have not been good enough, particularly going forward, and Pardew has not been good enough at the helm. In 15 Premier League matches, he has guided this side to just one victory.

It is a pitiful return, and the opprobrium that poured down from the away end at the final whistle was strong enough to suggest that Pardew's hopes of rebuilding a relationship with the supporters are as distant as West Brom's hopes of survival.

The same, however, cannot be said for his players. The anger in the dressing room after last week's defeat by Huddersfield had raised doubts over whether they would continue to back their manager, but they certainly played for him here.

“Today was a committed performance,” said Pardew. “Unfortunately for us, we have come out the wrong side. We can’t be frustrated with any of the performances today.

“We were a team that was not exposed in any way really. Watford had a couple of moments and we defended them very well. But we need to score goals and that has been a problem for us all season. Unfortunately, that has let us down today.”

Rondon will take the majority of the criticism for his wastefulness, with one second-half header proving to be a particularly pivotal miss.

He showed industry and power, but not enough class. His profligacy contrasted with the assured finishing of Deeney, who almost joined West Brom in January but has refocused and was able to follow up his strike against Everton last week with another winner.

Six points in two games have sent Watford into ninth, and all those fears of being dragged into the relegation zone have washed away since the arrival of Javi Gracia. “I think today we have many positives,” the Watford manager said. “One of them is Troy scored again. I am very happy with him.”

Jonny Evans sees his shot at goal bounce off the post CREDIT: GETTY IMAGES

The visitors began the game with energy and drive. A weaving run from Jay Rodriguez left Watford's Daryl Janmaat floundering after just four minutes, with the ball eventually falling to Grzegorz Krychowiak in the penalty box. Only a block from Adrian Mariappa prevented Krychowiak's shot from ripping into the top corner.

For a while, that was it. In truth, the next biggest threat in a patchy first half appeared to be a rogue advertising board that had caught fire, sending smoke billowing across Vicarage Road. A flurry of firemen and stewards sprung to action, but it provided a nice distraction, for a while, for the visiting supporters.

After the break, Rondon went close three times in three minutes before Evans hooked a bouncing effort against the base of the post. Then came the biggest chance, as Gibbs crossed for the striker, who could only miscue his header wide.

Watford were hardly fluid, but the chance they needed arrived when substitute Will Hughes sent Deeney clear with no defenders in sight.

As Pardew watched from the cold, the ball seemed to hang tantalisingly in the air before his misery was compounded.



Watford 1-0 West Brom: Alan Pardew on the brink of losing his job after skipper Troy Deeney scores on his 300th league appearance for the Hornets

- Alan Pardew is on the brink of losing his job as West Brom manager after Troy Deeney scores a late winner
- Jay Rodriguez came close to breaking the deadlock with a close-range header only for Daryl Janmaat to block
- Second-half substitute Stefano Okaka had his effort cleared off the line by Baggies left-back Kieran Gibbs
- Fire fighters attended an incident pitchside after an advertising board caught fire in an uneventful first half
- The defeat keeps West Brom rooted to the bottom of the table while Watford win third league game in a row

By [LAURIE WHITWELL FOR MAILONLINE](#)

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When the obituary is written on this most desperate campaign for West Bromwich Albion, the section on self-inflicted wounds will be lengthy.

Time and again West Brom have done damage to themselves and it was the case once more at Vicarage Road in what will probably prove Alan Pardew's final game.

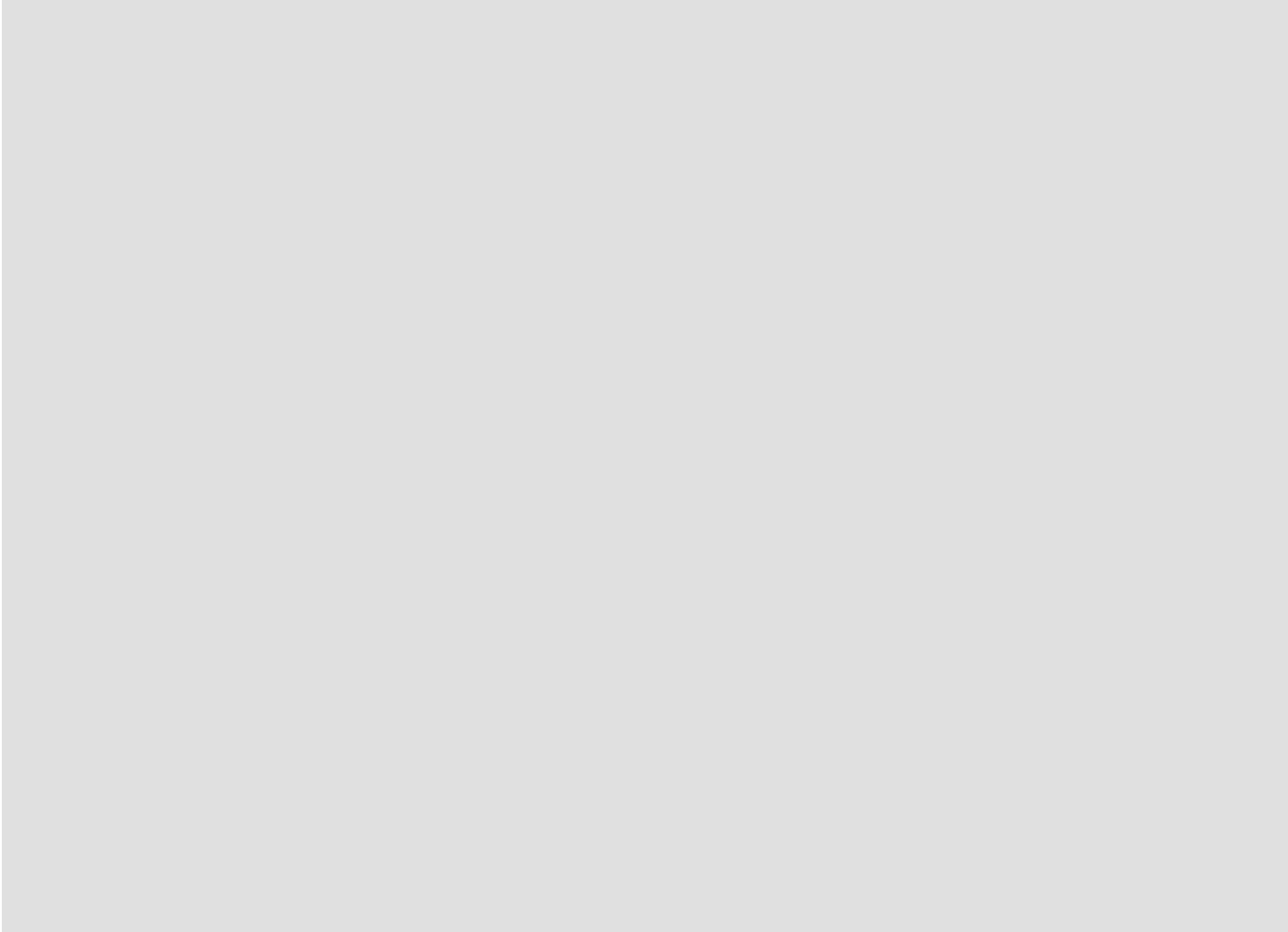

A week on from the furious dressing room scenes that followed defeat to Huddersfield, Pardew's side showed fight on the pitch. They were the better team.

Troy Deeney scores a late winner on his 300th league appearance after besting Ben Foster in a one-on-one situation

The English striker smartly lobbed the ball over the Baggies keeper to send the Watford supporters into a frenzy on Saturday

Watford captain Troy Deeney celebrates with his team-mates after scoring a second-half winner against West Brom

The defeat could spell the end of Alan Pardew's reign as Baggies boss as they remain rooted to the bottom of the table



Yet undermining that were two moments of poor quality at either end that decided this result. Served a chance on a silver platter, Salomon Rondon missed horribly. Then a midfield mix-up and dreadful defensive line conspired to let Troy Deeney score the decisive goal.

The identity of Watford's scorer only added salt to gaping wounds. West Brom have pursued Deeney for three consecutive transfer windows and here he was celebrating against them.

Once again Albion supporters told Pardew he was getting 'sacked in the morning' but the anger had subsided into acceptance by the time of the final whistle. To a man West Brom's players went over to applaud the travelling support and it was returned with warmth.

No point spitting feathers when the landing will be bumpy enough. The Championship beckons. Premier League safety is now eight points away and, with nine games left, confirmation of relegation is only a matter of time.

The West Brom players look dejected after conceding the late winner after Deeney went through on goal alone

West Brom midfielder Jake Livermore rips his shirt in frustration as the Baggies lose again in the Premier League

So too, it seems, is the departure of Pardew. Owner Guochuan Lai and chief executive Mark Jenkins reviewed his position last Sunday and decided one more defeat would probably leave little alternative.

Pardew hoped that despite a sixth consecutive defeat the performance might see him stay longer and the board will also consider whether a suitable long-term manager can be attracted now, or if a caretaker coach would suffice.

'It's about West Brom, it's not about me,' Pardew said. 'And if the consequences are that I lose my job then that will be what it is.'

'All I can hope is what was on that surface today, a commitment from the players. We know it's very tough. A win can change the dynamic. But when you look at our goal ratio you question that.' West Brom could hardly have played any worse than last weekend but even so their first half here provided encouragement.

Chris Brunt's strong opinions aired in the Hawthorns dressing room had clearly got Pardew thinking and he switched from his favoured 4-4-2 to a fluid 4-3-3 formation.

Richarlison came close with a stunning overhead kick but the Brazilian put his effort narrowly wide of the goal

Chris Brunt reacts after a poor performance sees the his side stay at the foot of the Premier League table after their 1-0 defeat

Left back Kieran Gibbs clears Stefano Okaka's effort off the line to keep the score goalless in the second half at Vicarage Road

Brunt was restored to the starting line-up in a sign Pardew does hold grudges and also as a challenge to the Northern Irishman to back up his words with actions.

Brunt did walk the walk though, once again seizing the mantle as West Brom's most creative player.

There was one through ball to Salomon Rondon that deserved better, while on the stroke of half-time Brunt hit the roof of the net with a dipping free-kick.

But for all the visitors' control it was Watford who crafted the better chance of the opening half. Roberto Pereyra burst through midfield in the 38th minute and played in Daryl Janmaat on the overlap. The Watford right-back timed a neat finish that was heading for the bottom corner until Ben Foster stuck out a toe for a great save. Sebastian Prodl then headed over from a Jose Holebas corner.

Shortly after the break West Brom finally tested Orestis Karnezis. Salomon Rondon snapped his team's first shot on target in the 50th minute and soon after he was put through by Jay Rodriguez.

Rondon powered into the area and hit a firm drive but Karnezis moved his feet well to save. From the corner Jonny Evans gained possession in space but his attempt from a tight angle was kept out by a combination of Karnezis and post. Watford broke and Richarlison went close with an overhead kick.

West Brom striker Salomon Rondon has his head in his hands after failing to put his side 1-0 up with a good effort

West Brom captain Jonny Evans stretches to keep the ball in play as both sides looked to break the deadlock

Then came an example of one reason why West Brom are in this predicament. Rondon should be a striker getting double digits in the Premier League but too often suspect finishing undoes his creditable build-up work.

He was presented a simple opportunity to put his side ahead when Kieran Gibbs picked him out with a fine cross but from eight yards out, totally unchallenged, he miscued badly wide.

Janmaat did superbly to nip in front of Rodriguez when diving to meet Matt Phillips' threatening cross two yards out and from there Watford began to gain an advantage.

Gibbs sensed danger brilliantly to clear off the line when Stefano Okaka twisted and shot after the ball fell his way at a corner.

But in the 77th minute West Brom conspired once again to be their own worst enemies. Krychowiak and Brunt dallied and Will Hughes capitalised to seize possession.

Watford boss Javi Garcia gives instructions to Andre Carrillo as Watford struggle to break down the Baggies in the first half

All too suddenly West Brom were sliced wide open. Just one pass was all it took. Hughes played in Deeney and Evans, realising he was too far away to run for an intercept, tried to step up for offside.

But the flag stayed down and Deeney had ample time. One on one with Foster, his finish from 20 yards was unerring, straight into the roof of the net.

It has been a turbulent season for Deeney but this was a second winner in successive weeks. 'I don't know what happened in the past, I don't want to know,' said Javi Gracia. 'I see him working every day and scoring important goals.'

Pardew sent on Oliver Burke, James McClean, and Sam Field in a final roll of the dice and even pushed Craig Dawson up front as a makeshift striker. But as the long balls rained forward, the writing on the wall became clearer. For West Brom and Pardew, the end is nigh.

In a largely uneventful first half, the most exciting action was off the pitch after an LED advertising board started to smoke

Fire fighters were called to attend to the incident at Vicarage Road as the two Premier League sides played on

The fire fighters were able to deal with the electrical fire quickly on Saturday as Watford and West Brom played on



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SAT 03 MAR 2018 PREMIER LEAGUE

Watford 1 0 West Bromwich Albion

Deeney (77') FT

By Matt Davis

3 March 2018 | Premier League | 337

Troy Deeney scored in his 300th league appearance for Watford - he also scored on his 50th, 100th, 150th, 200th and 250th for the club

West Brom boss Alan Pardew has admitted his job is on the line after a 1-0 defeat by Watford saw his side slump to their fifth successive league defeat and stay rooted to the bottom of the Premier League.

Troy Deeney profited from a West Brom mistake, as Grzegorz Krychowiak gave away the ball in midfield and Will Hughes played in the Watford captain, who coolly clipped the ball over Ben Foster in the 77th minute.

Moments earlier Kieran Gibbs had cleared Stefano Okaka's close-range shot off the line.

Pardew's side are now eight points from safety, with just one league win since August.

"If the consequences from this defeat are that I lose my job then that will be what it is," said Pardew, who succeeded Tony Pulis on 29 November.

The former Crystal Palace boss has won just eight points since his appointment and there were reports that defeat at Vicarage Road would bring to an end his time with the Baggies after 18 games.

Pardew added: "It has turned into a personal situation, but this is about West Brom and not about me.

Scores, Results and Fixtures

SATURDAY 3 MARCH 2018

Burnley 2 1 Everton
FT

Leicester 2 1 Bournemouth
FT

Southampton 0 0 Stoke
FT

Swansea 4 1 West Ham
FT

Tottenham 2 1 Huddersfield
FT

Watford 1 0 West Brom
FT

Liverpool 2 0 Newcastle
FT

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"I have got no message to the board. I don't think it is anything to do with that.

"I am employed to be the manager of this football team and I try to put out a side that I think has got a chance of delivering the win.

"All I can hope, and what I think was on the surface today, was a commitment from the players to address the situation. Unfortunately for us we came out on the wrong side of it."

Meanwhile, Watford move into the top half of the table into ninth and continue their good progress under Javi Gracia

- **Premier League relegation: who will go down?**

Clouds gather for Pardew

Watford 1-0 West Brom: One mistake cost West Brom defeat - Alan Pardew

Reports of a dressing room bust-up were the latest negative headlines to come out of the Hawthorns this week.

Baggies midfielder Chris Brunt had reportedly rowed with Pardew and his team-mates after the defeat by Huddersfield Town, while the Albion head coach was given the dreaded vote of confidence by the owners.

Pardew responded by starting Northern Ireland international Brunt as he made two changes, with Jake Livermore making his first league start since 2 January.

The first half was short on chances for either side, with Grzegorz Krychowiak's close range volley blocked, while Ben Foster did well to get an outstretched foot to Daryl Janmaat's shot on 38 minutes.

Both sides improved after the break and Salomon Rondon had a couple of chances, the best of which saw Orestis Karnezis comfortably save his shot on 51 minutes, while Jonny Evans also hit the outside the post.

The visitors had defended resolutely in a tight game, until Deeney's winner undid all their hard work.

The statistics after the defeat are damning:

- West Brom are now on their worst league run since January 2011, when they last lost five in a row.
- They have just three wins in 38 league matches dating back to March last year.

- Won just one of their last 27 Premier League games (W1 D11 L15).
- Since Pardew took over they have won eight points - the fewest in the league in that time.
- They have also scored the fewest goals in that time (10).

West Brom have nine games to save themselves, with three of their next four fixtures at home. However, their run-in includes tough games against Liverpool, Tottenham and Manchester United.

“We have got nine games left and there are still a lot of points to play for,” added Pardew. “A win can change the dynamic, but when you look at our win and goal ration you question that.”

Watford close in on safety

Watford 1-0 West Brom: Hornets still not safe - Gracia

It was another solid display by Watford under Gracia with the Hornets winning all three of their Premier League home games under the Spaniard.

Since Gracia took over at Vicarage Road, they have won three out of five Premier League games and taken 10 points.

With 36 points, they are nine points from the bottom three and are closing in on safety for the third successive season.

One negative was Richarlison's reaction to being substituted for Okaka in the 54th minute following a frustrating display.

Man of the match - Troy Deeney

Troy Deeney took his goal with aplomb, the Watford captain scoring in successive matches for the first time since March 2017

'One mistake proved costly' – what they said

West Ham manager Alan Pardew: "It was a really tight game. I feel for the players because we made one mistake in the game and it has been costly.

"We could definitely do with a break. The players gave me everything today and I cannot ask for more than that.

"It is tough but it isn't about me it about West Brom and it is tough for the fans and the players.

"We won't give up the fight, we will keep going until we get something. It is tough to stand in front of players and say you haven't really done much wrong today. Mistakes happen in football.

"It is just a shame, I think the fans who travelled today would have seen we did everything. Last week we let ourselves down. Next week we have to show the fans a little more of what we showed today."

Watford boss Javi Gracia: "I don't waste my time thinking about that [being safe from relegation]. I am only focused on the next match and the next three points. I think this is the best mentality for the team.

"I am happy at this moment but only focused on the next match."

What's next?

Watford's next fixture is a Premier League trip to Arsenal on 11 March (13:30 GMT). West Brom are in action a day earlier on Saturday, 10 March, as they host Leicester City at The Hawthorns (15:00 GMT).

[Line-ups](#)

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Watford West Brom

Possession

Shots

Shots on Target

Corners

Fouls

> Troy Deeney is mobbed by Watford team-mates after scoring the goal that took his team up to ninth in the table

Another defeat leaves manager's grip on job looking tenuous and West Brom eight points from last safe spot after Deeney strike

Pardew closer to the exit



1 0
Watford West Brom

Deeney 77

51%	Possession	49%
3	Shots on Target	2
15	Total Attempts	9

Alan Pardew did not hang around. As soon as the final whistle blew he headed down the tunnel. Out of sight but, as far as the West Brom supporters here were concerned, not out of mind. "Alan Pardew, get out of our club," they chanted having bellowed "You're getting sacked in the morning" at the manager shortly after Troy Deeney had struck. The atmosphere was toxic and, for Pardew, the end feels increasingly near.

The 56-year-old arrived here with his job on the line and it is hard to see him still being in charge by the time Leicester arrive at The Hawthorns on Saturday. It is now one win in 15 Premier League games since he succeeded Tony Pulis in November with this the first time West Brom have suffered five successive league defeats since January 2011.

They are stranded further in last place – eight points from safety with nine fixtures remaining – and after everything else that has happened, most notably the squad's eventful jaunt to Barcelona and Chris Brunt's row with Pardew following last week's 2-1 loss to Huddersfield, change may be best for all involved.

That, ultimately, is a decision for West Brom's owner, Guochuan Lai, and it is a decision he will have to make after Pardew once again made it clear that he will not resign. He accepted losing his job was a potential consequence of the team's slump but there was more defiance than deflation from the former Crystal Palace manager following a display which he described as committed and a huge improvement on the one his players delivered seven days ago.

Pardew was correct. While West Brom may have enjoyed less possession than Watford and created fewer chances, they were arguably the better side. Having been told by Brunt during that dressing-room row that 4-4-2 did not work, Pardew started the Northern Irishman in a 4-1-4-1 formation through which the visitors displayed admirable organisation, resilience and dedication.

Operating as a left-sided central midfielder, Brunt was their best performer but there were other notable displays from those in blue and white. Ahmed Hegazi was solid at the back while Jake Livermore and Grzegorz Krychowiak worked hard to close down Watford's midfielders. Out wide, meanwhile, Matt Phillips and Jay Rodriguez were a constant threat, while up front Salomón Rondón worked hard in an isolated role.

Ultimately, however, it is Rondón who may have the biggest regrets regarding West Brom's failure to secure at least a point. The Venezuelan spurned a number of chances to score, none more glaring than the header from Kieran Gibb's cross on 54 minutes that he sent wide of the post from a close-range, unmarked position.

It felt like a big moment and even more so after the final whistle, with Pardew not only ruing his side's lack of ruthlessness but also the moment on 71 minutes when Daryl Janmaat and Rodriguez collided as the latter attempted to meet Phillip's cross.

Pardew was adamant Janmaat, who he briefly worked with at Newcastle, had fouled Rodriguez and, therefore, the referee, Paul Tierney, should have awarded his side a penalty.

It was not to be and soon after Watford struck. Krychowiak lost possession to Will Hughes in midfield who played a quick through

"Manager defiant
'This is about West Brom, not me'

Alan Pardew has accepted his job as the West Brom manager is on the line following the 1-0 loss to Watford but has insisted he can still save the team from seemingly inevitable relegation.

It is now one win in 15 Premier League games for Pardew since he succeeded Tony Pulis in November with Albion having suffered five straight league defeats. They are bottom, eight points from safety and look increasingly doomed.

As does Pardew, who was nevertheless defiant here and made it clear that he expects to be in charge when Leicester visit The Hawthorns on Saturday.

"People turn this into a personal situation, but this is about West Brom, not me," he said. "If the consequences are that I lose my job that is what it is. I just hope what we saw today will be enough,

"In terms of difference in performance this week from last week, it was a he improvement. Today was a committed performance and unfortunately we have come out the wrong side.

"We have nine games to play and there are still a lot of points to play for. If we get a w in that can change the synamic, but when you look at our win and goals ratio you question that. So we have to try and have to get that win."

There was sympathy from forPardew from Javi Garcia after he oversaw a third successful home win as Watford manager and one that lfts the team to ninth. "I respect Alan PArdeu and wish him the best for the future," said the Sapniard.

Sachin Nakrani

Pass to Deeney. The striker ran clear of West Brom's backline and, having kept his cool, curled the ball past the onrushing Ben Foster into the back of the net for his second winning goal in tow games here.

Pardew described the goal as West Brom's one mistake of a bitterly cold afternoon and it was certainly a cruel moment for the visitors given Watford had produced little threat before Deeney's finish, with a shot from Stefano Okaka on 75 minutes that Gibbs cleared off the line the best they had offered.

No that the home supporters cared. Having roared with delight in response to a goal that lifts them up to ninth, they turned their attention to the opposition manager. It soon spread to the away end and all Pardew could do was stand motionless and look on. His suffering may soon be over.

Watford

4-2-3-1

Karnezis; Janmaat; Prödl, Mariappa,
Holebas (Britos 90); Dououré, Capoue; 87);
Okaka 54); Deeney

Subs not used: Gomes, Gray, Lukebakio,
Zeegelaar

West Brom

4-1-4-1

Foster; Dawson, Hegazi, Evans, Gibbs; Livermore (Field
Phillips, Krychowiak (McClellan 81), Brunt, Carrillo (Hughes 66), Pereyra, Richarlison
Rodriguez (Burke 87); Rondón

Subs not used: Myhill, Nyom, Yacob, McAuley

Referee Paul Tierney **Attendance** 20,022