

Onlooker's Diary:

Record Breaker?

WYCOMBE Wanderers are preparing for a bumper crowd for their F.A. Cup game with the semi-professional Southern League club, Chelmsford City, at Loakes Park to-morrow. Given a fine day, it's well on the cards they believe, that the ground record of nearly 17,000 may be broken.

All available coaches in the Chelmsford area, and a special train, will bring several thousand City supporters.

Chelmsford are being given 25 per cent. of the stand accommodation and "A" and "B" blocks will be reserved entirely for their supporters. No tickets are being issued. For this game, too, admission charge will be increased to 1s.

It is 18 years since Wycombe became F.A. Cup divisional champions to reach the fourth qualifying round. In 1932 they were defeated by Gillingham, after a replay.

But Chelmsford should not present so formidable opposition now as Gillingham offered then. They are in the same class as Headington United, Oxfordshire's only professional club, whom Slough Town defeated this year.

Attack Weakened

I should feel more confident of Wycombe's chances if they could field their strongest team. But injuries are still handicapping the team.

News of Comben is not so good. He is having massage treatment for his leg injury but it may be Christmas before he's completely fit again. Ken Butler, too, is far from fit yet.

Mikrut, of course, is not eligible for this game, and the selectors' problem of choosing a leader for the attack has been complicated by Peter Birdseye's departure for Aylesbury United.

Jackson On The Wing!

Frank Westley had been chosen to lead the forwards, with McCullum on the left wing, but there was another blow to Wycombe hopes yesterday when it was made known that Westley would not be fit for to-morrow.

At an emergency meeting of selectors it was decided to switch McCullum from the wing to lead the attack again and to introduce on the wing, wait for it! George Jackson.

Wycombe are an unpredictable side. I shall not be surprised to see them get through British Railways on the other hand apparently favour the chances of a draw. All arrangements have been made, I understand, for a special train for the replay next Wednesday!

He Knows The Answer!

With Comben out again, Birdseye departed for pastures new, and Tommy Reynolds returned to his native Wales without appearing even once in the premier side, Wycombe Wanderers are left without a single natural centre-forward of first team calibre, and once again the spotlight wavers uncertainly round to the burly Henrik Mikrut, whose enigmatic smile indicates that he knows the answer.

Mikrut was affording the team moral support again on Saturday giving his stock answer now to innumerable enquiries: "When are we going to see you again?"

When I put the question to him after the game he replied: "I am back

soon. I score plenty goals Loakes Park, eh?"

He will be up for selection, I understand, when the selectors meet next Monday.

The Pole will have to play two games with reserve sides now in order to qualify for the first team under Isthmian League rules. He'll need a week or two, in any case, to find his feet.

Honour For Gearing

Congratulations to Fred Gearing on his selection for the F.A. XI to play Cambridge University at Cambridge on November 30.

Gearing's recognition is overdue. It may well be a step towards an amateur international cap.

Against Cambridge, he will be in distinguished company. He'll be playing in front of the Arsenal right-back, Laurie Scott.

County Stars

It will be a busy week for Gearing. He is due to play, the day before, for Berks and Bucks in a Southern Counties Amateur Championship game against Surrey at Woking.

With him will be club colleagues Chris Lodge and George Jackson. The team is largely the same as that which defeated Kent at Reading recently—C. Lodge (Wycombe), V. Moore (Slough), G. Jackson (Wycombe), F. Gearing (Wycombe), L. Brown (Slough), J. Moring (Maidenhead), A. Dean (Chesham), J. Tomlin (Maidenhead), R. Clements (Slough Town), H. C. Morley (Wolverton), M. Baker (Reading Police).

Decker's Departure

Otto Decker, whose hearty, youthful enthusiasm at half-back, has enthused many a Wycombe game, will manage only a few more games for the Wanderers.

He is due to leave on November 28.

to rejoin his family in America. He has proved an excellent clubman and an acquisition to the Wanderers.

Birdseye Moves

Peter Birdseye, who signed for Aylesbury United last week, made his first appearance for Aylesbury first eleven on Saturday against Huntley and Palmer's at Reading.

He figured at inside-right, partnering the former Polish international Bruno Habowski, with another former Wycombe player, Tony Chubb, at centre-forward. Aylesbury were defeated 2-1.

Promising Talent

Wycombe Wanderers are still sifting promising talent in the "A" team "nursery."

With Peter Ford already promoted to the reserve ranks, Wycombe are giving a trial to-morrow to a 20-years-old London centre-forward, E. W. Roles, who has been recommended by the club coach, Bill Brown.

Two youngsters who showed good form on Saturday were B. Squires, a talented left-half from R.A.F. Bomber Command, who is on Bolton Wanderers' books, and H. Howlett, an inside-left from Thame. Both are being given another trial to-morrow.

TURNER'S MEET MASTERS

Wycombe Reserves Advance

Wycombe Wanderers Reserves had one of their hardest games of the season against Turners (High Wycombe) in the Berks and Bucks Intermediate Cup competition on Saturday.

After being 2-1 down at half-time, they recovered well to win 3-2.

Turner's were always dangerous in sweeping, combined attacks, with George Pyle, their centre-forward, leading Otto Decker a merry dance. Williams, however, was in brilliant form in goal.

Wycombe had more of the play in the second half, with Gordon White often getting the better of Johnny Brooks, ex-Wanderer.

The Wanderers' goals were scored by Kelloway, Blamey and Baldwin.

Wycombe Wanderers "A" beat Tuftnell Park-Edmonton "A" 2-1, H. Howlett and H. Mikrut scoring.

SOUVENIR FOR DECKER

Wycombe Wanderers' players and committee men are to make a farewell presentation to Otto Decker before he leaves for America on November 29.