

HALF WAY AT HOME, WYCOMBE

WYCOMBE WANDERERS
will have completed half their

Isthmian League programme scheduled for Loakes Park by about 4.40 p.m. tomorrow.

It seems incredible, but it is to be remembered that there have been few Cup, or representative games interfering with their progress, and absolutely no Premier Floodlight League matches either.

Indeed, while this competition is already underway in every section, Wycombe have made an abortive effort to start their fixtures—a try foiled by a cup replay involving Slough last

month. The game with local rivals Marlow scheduled for next week is also put back. Instead the Blues will be on Isthmian duty at Woking.

Of the 19 competitive matches played to date—17 League, one F.A. Cup, and the Champions v. the Rest of the League match—only Wanderers' captain John Delaney, Larry Pritchard and Robb Williams have appeared in every one. Ted Powell however was forced by business commitments to make only a second half appearance against the Rest, and played in the other 18.

Leading goalscorer, despite missing the first three matches while with Hayes, is Keith Searle with 10 goals in 16 games in answer to charges of lack of effort levelled by the Church Road club.

While last season's top striker —by one goal—Tony Horseman in equal third place with Trevor Waughman on six, in second, with eight goals to his credit is set piece specialist Delaney.

He again proves himself the freest scoring centre half in the amateur games with four penalties and four headed goals. First line keeper John Maskell has let through only three in 16 League appearances, and two in the Cup clash at Maidenhead.

He could soon become the only man playing regular football to claim a lack of match practice.

WANDERERS DATA

	PL	SU	SN	GS
Keith Searle	16	0	0	10
John Delaney	19	0	0	8
Trevor Waughman	18	0	0	6
Tony Horseman	15	2	0	6
Larry Pritchard	19	0	0	5
Robb Williams	19	0	0	3
Paul Birdseye	18	0	0	3
Johnny Hutchinson	18	0	0	2
Mick Hollifield	4	3	0	2
Bernie Bremer	3	5	1	0
Ted Powell	18	1	0	0
Julian Lacey	14	0	0	0
Chris Austin	4	0	0	0
Geoff Anthony	2	1	0	0
Ian Rundle	1	3	4	0
Vince Faulkner	1	0	0	0
Bobby Marcham	1	0	0	0
Own goals				1
Goalkeepers				
John Maskell	17	0	0	5
Kevin O'Brien	2	0	0	5

(Key: PL—played; SU—sub used; SN—sub not used; GS—goals scored.)

This record includes 19 competitive matches—17 Isthmian League, 1 F.A. Cup, 1 representative versus Rest of the League.

Penalty goals: Delaney 4, Horseman 1.

Question of consistency

WHILE on the subject of Wanderers' form to date, now seems as good a time as any to comment on a piece written in the club notes of Wycombe's match programme last Saturday, writes 'Onlooker'.

After referring to wins at Kingstonian and Hitchin, the notes go on . . . "As a result of this match (Kingstonian) we note that we have been labelled as 'inconsistent' in a subsequent press report. We are inclined to take this as pretty harsh judgement in the light of our present record, and we would consider that we compare favourably in this respect with most clubs at our level."

Well, to quote as accurately as memory allows, Abraham Lincoln: "I do not agree with what this man is saying, but I'll defend with my life his right to say it."

READ ON

I do however trust that other readers of the Kingstonian match report in the 'Mid-Week Free Press' issue of October 13, read past the headline — 'Inconsistency, the Wanderers' big headache.' For the report itself, went on to expand the theme. The offending words began . . .

"Wanderers' pounding

headache as league leaders would seem to be inconsistency and the uncertainty it develops. An aggregate of 41-5 in 15 games mocks such a statement, especially with only four points dropped to date."

It then continued to quote figures to show exactly how erratic their scoring and general form had been.

Since that match report was written, Wycombe have played twice more, beginning slowly before picking up against Hitchin, and on Saturday, starting incredibly well only to cool down considerably against Walthamstow.

DON'T OVERLOOK

Wanderers are top of the Isthmian League and deservedly so even if it is by only a narrow margin. But, if, as presumably they are, they are setting their sights on the Amateur Cup this year, they cannot afford the kind of below par performance which saw them lose in the F.A. Cup at Maidenhead — or the two failures in successive Amateur Cup quarter finals

against St. Albans and Skelmersdale.

It would also be unwise to overlook the poor display at Kingstonian. Against one of the top clubs, with more strength in every department than K's can muster, Wycombe would not have been worth both, or possibly any points. And, every point counts when a title is at stake.

If consistency alone is winning then, with the squad they have, Wycombe should be and are one of the most consistent clubs in the league. To have dropped only four points in 17 league games is no mean achievement.

But the standards Wanderers have set themselves in the last three years exceed those of most other clubs. Presumably they wish to keep abreast of these standards. If so, they have not always succeeded. Hence the claim of inconsistency.

Their football has been excellent, but it has also been disorganised at times — this is not a damning criticism, merely a factual observation.

So, further than to add that, by setting themselves such a high standard, Wycombe must expect to be judged accordingly, I need not go on. Except to reflect upon how lucky Wanderers' supporters are that the club's standards are so high. It can't be bad, can it?