

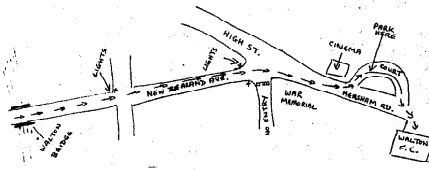
A DETOUR ON THE ROAD TO WEMBLEY?



KEIRON SOMERS
... aerial striker

ANTICIPATING a crowd of about 4,000 at Stompond Lane tomorrow, local police at Walton have arranged special parking facilities for coaches at Esher and Walton Court, Elm Grove, Hersham Road tomorrow.

One recommended route for Wycombe followers tomorrow is through Slough, Wraysbury and then Staines, where the way is signposted. Once in Walton, drivers should drive through the town and head out on the Hersham Road (A.244). Stompond Lane is about half a mile down on the right. (See diagram).



A diagram showing the route to Walton's ground through Walton.



DAVE BASSETT
... international

WYCOMBE WANDERERS this week approached tomorrow's formidable Amateur Cup third round trip to Stompond Lane, with three England men, a top striker, and an experienced defender, all racing time to be fit.

The Wednesday bulletin read: Tony Horseman and Ian Rundle — both received shin injuries at Walthamstow, but the bruising had not yet come out, and both were rated 50-50 for tomorrow.

Larry Pritchard — much depended as to how his ankle trouble responded to treatment.

Micky Mellows and Derek Gamblin — back in training but "Thursday will tell."

There is good news of two players unlikely to figure in tomorrow's match, though. Deputy goalkeeper, Brian Ede has recovered from the bout of flu which hit him early this week.

And full-back Paul Birdseye is ready for a return to action after being hurt in the first round tie at Aveley on January 15. The full extent of that injury — a hairline fracture of a leg bone — was not realised until some time afterwards.

SAME AGAIN?

If the entire squad passes fit, Wycombe's line-up could well resemble that which defeated Spennymoor 2-1 in round two on January 29 — Maskell; Rundle, Delaney, Powell, Bullock; Williams, Pritchard, Hutchinson; Mellows, Searle, Horseman. Sub: Waughman.

To that list of probables,

however, must be added Derek Gamblin, who constitutes Rundle's major rival at right-back. Meanwhile, Waughman played in Mellows' absence at Walthamstow last week, after scoring twice against Clapton a fortnight ago.

In that match, an experiment — the significance of which may possibly become clearer tomorrow — was made, involving Waughman on the wing. John Hutchinson dropped to substitute to allow Mellows into a midfield role.

Hutchinson's recent lack of form must be a major cause for concern to Wycombe. There

was little evidence then that Mellows' midfield contribution rates as highly as his role as a striker, but the former Reading amateur was less than fully fit due to throat trouble.

Wycombe manager, Brian Lee, awaited a series of fitness reports last night. But, should the news be bad, he has both Chris Austin in defence and Mick Holifield up front, both of whom are patiently awaiting their chance to re-establish claims to regular first team spots.

TEMPTED

Although Walton team boss, Alan Batsford will not decide on his final line-up until late, he must be tempted to stick to the side that gained a tremendous 3-0 away win at Enfield on Saturday.

Yet he may still want to find a place for skipper Dave Bassett, who missed the trip to Southbury Road after playing for England against Eire at Loakes Park last Friday.

He might also decide to revert from a 4-4-2 to a 4-3-3 formation which would mean a place for striker Brian Langfield, Walton's substitute last week.

Midfield star, Chris Gedney, came through the Enfield match with no after effects from his recent thigh injury. In fact, all 14 of Walton's first team squad are fit for selection.

The Swans will be hoping to maintain their recent record, in which they are unbeaten since December 14, conceding only two goals in their last five matches.

MANAGER'S THOUGHTS

Said manager, Batsford: "Our performance at Enfield was the best I have seen from us away to a top class side since I took over five years ago."

"There is no doubt about the size of the task that faces us against Wycombe. They are an excellent side with a number of potential match winners in their line-up."

"But I still think we have the ability to go through to meet Hayes in the quarter finals."

It would be a persuasive man indeed who could coax any such prediction from Wycombe's manager. Having seen the game at Enfield last Saturday, he is well aware Walton have a lot to offer.

Any team which can plant three goals without reply past

Enfield at Southbury Road, needs careful handling.

They have height in attack with six footers, Keiron Somers and Roger Connell to make sure of a busy afternoon for Wanderers' heading genius, John Delaney at centre-half. Their defence boasts one of the best records in this season's Isthmian League.

But Wycombe possess strength in depth in every department, and, injury problems permitting, will present just as formidable a proposition to their hosts — if not more so!

The facts and the signs point to a close, physical clash, with perhaps a scarcity of goals. But, although they will be going for a first time decision at Stompond Lane, Wycombe could feel well pleased and optimistic if they took the Swans to a replay at Loakes Park.

WANDERERS STARS IN RACE FOR CUP FITNESS