

THE MANAGER'S VIEW



Back to League objectives

After the drama and excitement of the F.A. Cup we return to the business of maintaining our challenge for Division Four honours with today's match against Reading.

With this match against an extremely consistent Reading side and then the visit to Colchester on Boxing Day the year could hardly end on a more testing note.

But I feel sure we shall give a good account of ourselves today and of course we go to Colchester next week with the added boost of having defeated them once recently at Layer Road in the F.A. Cup.

I was well satisfied with our showing in difficult conditions at Wycombe last weekend and feel once again that the big band of followers who accompanied the team played a significant part in the victory.

The cancellation of the special train was a blow to many supporters but it was pleasing to see that such a large number were able to travel by road to High

Wycombe to see the game.

With the draw brought forward to teatime on Saturday we did not have long to speculate over our third round opponents and I am delighted we have received our home draw.

Some people will say that the opposition could have been more attractive than Southend but I am pleased to be at home and feel we have an excellent change of progressing on our current form.

We must hope for a good display on January 5th and then keep our fingers crossed for a big-named club at London Road in the fourth round.

In closing may I extend the season's greetings to all our supporters and wish them happiness and success in 1974.



PETERBOROUGH UNITED FOOTBALL CLUB LTD.

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What the ref said. . .

AN interesting article appeared in this month's Rothmans Isthmian League bulletin concerning Wycombe Wanderers F.A. Cup game against Peterborough. Leicester referee John Hunting was in charge of that game and had this to say about the match:

Although Wycombe were beaten 3-1, I admired their general standard of play, and was completely amazed at the level of sportsmanship which they had achieved.

It made such a refreshing change from the hurly-burly of the Football League where you find that 50 per cent of your decisions are questioned, and you are continually trying to spot unfair practices being tried behind your back.

'Peterborough, by normal

League standards, were a well-behaved and sporting side, but they still tended to bicker about decisions. There was nothing like this from Wycombe. Every decision against them was accepted without a whisper. Only once in the 90 minutes did I have to penalise Wycombe for anything like a serious foul, and on that occasion the offending player ran straight over to me to apologise, and also apologised (genuinely) to the chap he had brought down.

'If this is what sponsored league football can achieve then I am all for it. I gather that this sporting approach is common to all teams in the competition. From a refereeing point of view, I can only say how lucky the regular Rothmans Isthmian referees are — they must really enjoy their matches.'

Mr. Hunting is a frequent lecturer at universities, schools and Referees' Societies in Leicestershire.