

Cheer us on! Manager Williams tells fans

WYCOMBE Wanderers' manager Andy Williams called for loud vocal support from the fans for tomorrow's crucial F.A. Trophy second round replay at Loakes Park tomorrow (Saturday).

A large crowd is expected for this second 'clash of the giants' and Mr Williams thinks that support from the terraces could swing the balance in Wycombe's favour.

"I hope the crowd will keep us going just like the Blyth fans did when their side were behind on Saturday," he said. "It will be a great help to us, if the crowd keep cheering."

Mr Williams is also quick to point out that the tie is very far

from over, as some fans felt after the 1-1 draw at Croft Park.

"We've achieved nothing yet. Blyth produce some of their best cup performances away from home. This year they drew at York before losing at home, and during last year's run, they won at Stoke and earned a draw at Wrexham before losing the replay at Newcastle.

"They might be more difficult to play against this time. But the advantage we have is that we'll have the fans cheering us on."

TOUGHER

Blyth certainly could prove tougher this time, as they were desperately short of match practice before the first match, where they felt they never got into their stride.

The much-heralded Blyth

forward line rarely threatened the Wycombe rearguard and the only goal came from midfield man Alan Walker, scoring for the first time this season. But Mr Williams still regards them as a threat.

Both clubs are likely to field the same line-ups. For Wycombe Keith Mead has recovered from his knock in the eye, while Paul Birdseye, who missed Tuesday's victory over Maidenhead with an abscess in his mouth, should be fit. Bobby Davies is still out with his knee injury.

Blyth had a doubt last week about midfielder Dave Varty, who injured his back. But he suffered no adverse effects after coming on as substitute and is certain to play.

Blues had an ideal warm-up for the 'big game' when they recovered their scoring touch

against Maidenhead, without suffering any further injuries. Meanwhile Blyth had to sit it out as their County Cup tie with Whitley Bay had to be called off because of a waterlogged pitch.

PITCH VITAL

Indeed the pitch could prove a vital factor as Blyth will take some time getting used to the Loakes Park slope, while the state of the ground after the recent foul weather could militate against stylish football. But the determination of both sides to win this time, should make it an exciting spectacle.

Extra time will be played if necessary. The last thing both clubs want is another replay, after the cost and worry they have already gone through to get this tie decided.