

IT is hardly surprising that SUTTON UNITED manager Barrie Williams keeps faith with the team that thrashed Wycombe Wanderers in the FA Trophy for this Saturday's Berger Isthmian League Premier Division trip to Hayes (3).

Fifth-place United must regard anything less than three points as a failure as they must string together several wins now if they are to overhaul leaders Slough who have games in hand on them. But Sutton have still to play Slough twice — so anything could still happen.

United won the first league clash 4-0 at Gander Green Lane in September. Hayes, a mid-

TOP TRIO

UNITED had three players in the FA XI to meet the AFA at Imber Court last night (Wednesday). They were defenders Tony Rains and Steve Rogers and forward Micky Joyce.

table side, won 3-0 at Leatherhead on Saturday and with just four draws from their first 30 league matches are clearly a side who either win or lose.

Williams' only doubt is over the substitute's spot which will either be filled by Micky Stephens or, if he is given a run out with the reserves, Phil Brindle or Keith Jones will be 12th man.

Sutton received reward for their excellent Trophy result with a home tie against Bedford Town in the third round on February 21, a draw which Williams called "smashing."

"Of course, it's wrong to say there are any weak sides in this competition, but we appear to have got one of the easier clubs and it's good to see the big guns drawn against each other. We're just delighted to get a home draw."

But Bedford, who are placed third in the Southern League Midland Division and with games in hand have an excellent chance of winning the division title and have the third best record in the Trophy.

They reached the semi-final in 1975 and have reached the quarter-finals four times. The

two sides have never met before.

Sutton's boss was hoping to clinch the free transfer this week of Wycombe Wanderers' Tony Price. The 25 year old left winger has been unable to hold down a regular first team place at Loakes Park since he was sent off in an FA Cup tie earlier this season.

He has been in and out of the Wycombe team since joining them seven years ago. He won a Blue at Oxford University where he gained a degree, has represented England amateur under-18s and had a short spell with Leicester City Reserves.

The 5ft 9in winger, who has just secured a job in South London, watched Saturday's clash at Gander Green Lane.

Price would enhance United's first team squad and if he gets a first team chance might form an effective foil to exciting young teenage winger Ray Sunnucks on the other flank who is slowly recapturing the form which attracted a host of Football League scouts.

Only problem for United is that Price will be unavailable for a week this month as he is going on a seminar.

CARSHALTON ATHLETIC continue their

escapology act in the Premier Division without the services of suspended midfielder Gavin Fraser when they face Wycombe Wanderers at Colston Avenue on Saturday (3.00).

Fraser, a signing from Sutton, began a 28-day suspension on Monday after being sent off twice this season. Tommy Sims is likely to replace him at midfield as he is one of the most versatile players in the side.

Said Robins manager Tony Elkins-Green: "Sims is one of the most useful players in the team as he can play almost anywhere. I think he will settle down rather well in midfield."

Barring injuries against Boxtle (yesterday), Elkins-Green expects to name this line-up against Wycombe: Lightfoot, Maurice, Clarke, Bangs, Pinchen, Sims, Mason, Bartley, Dennis, Ives, Greenhalgh.