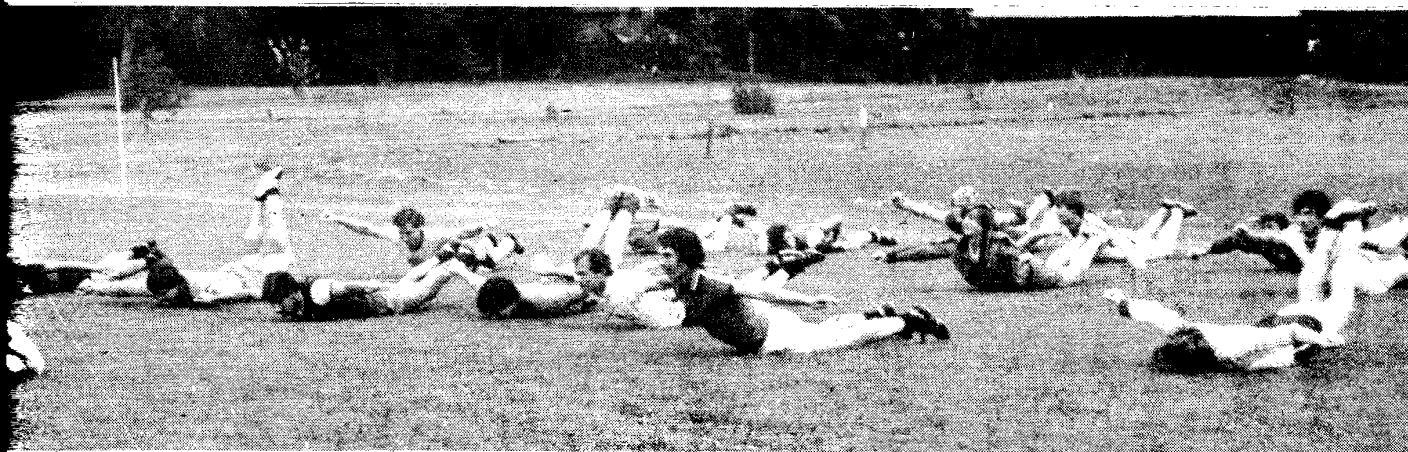




for Wycombe Wanderers at Bisham Abbey. But they are not pretending to be aircraft — it's just one of the fitness sessions devised by Alan Phillips.



Bobby Davies lead the way as up with a training run.

HOLIFIELD RETIRES!

MICK Holifield, a Wycombe Wanderers regular for the past ten years has retired from all football — at the age of 32.

Business pressures — he has been made manager of an estate agents in Thame — have caused this exciting mid-field player to leave Loakes Park after a long and successful career with the club.

Indeed, this season Wanderers were due to give him and Paul Biraseye a joint testimonial in recognition of their service to the club.

However that could not persuade Holifield to continue playing. "Last year I took over a new job and I was finding it increasingly difficult to find enough time for football, especially as I had to work Saturday mornings," he explained.

"I want to make it clear that I'm not going anywhere else, although I may occasionally have a Sunday knock-about. Retirement has nothing to do with my fitness either. I was fully fit last season."

Marry

Holifield explained that a testimonial itself was not a good enough reason for playing, although he appreciated the idea behind it.

Another influencing factor is that he is to marry at the end of next month. He told Wanderers of his decision to retire during their post-season tour to Portugal.

Holifield, who joined from Oxford City in 1971, was one

sided mid-field players in the Isthmian League and earned recognition by being picked for the England Amateur squad.

A member of the team that performed heroics in the epic cup ties with Middlesbrough — he played the first match with his wrist in plaster — Holifield scored many spectacular goals with his exceptional pace and ball control.

He had always kept relatively free from injury, so it came as a severe blow when he had to miss much of the 1979/80 season with a pelvic problem.

But he made a successful recovery and played a full part in Wycombe's excellent

season just finished. It always used to be said that when he played well, Wycombe played well.

New signing

Now it will be up to the rest of the squad to play well without him. They have already started intensive pre-season training under the new management team of Mike Keen, Keith Mead and Alan Phillips.

The one major new contract signing is young central defender Anton Vircaus, who played for the Reserves during the latter half of last season.

Aged 20, of Latvian descent, Vircaus has impressed

many good judges. At 6ft 1½ins, he is strong in the air and will be an asset in both goalmouths. He can score goals as well as save them.

Among those training at Bisham Abbey last week were former Marlow and Maidenhead forwards Steve Thorne and Billy Hubbick and the young Holmer Green pair of Andy Longstaff and Andy Harman.

Missing from the session were Terry Glynn and George Borg, both of whom are in America. Glynn will be back for the start of the season, but Borg, who is playing for Carolina Lightning, will not return until the end of September.



Wycombe's new management team. Manager Mike Keen is flanked by Reserve