

Reliving past glories

A CROWD of 90,000 watched the last competitive meeting between Wycombe Wanderers and Bishop Auckland. That, of course, was the 1957 FA Amateur Cup final, a day that Blues fans will never forget.

Level 1-1 at half-time thanks to a Frank Smith goal, Wanderers went down 3-1 but still received a tumultuous Civic Reception when they returned to the town. So the Isthmian League club has had to wait 25 years for revenge.

That Cup final ended a remarkable sequence of battles between the two clubs over the previous ten years. In all they met four times with the 'Bishops' winning them all.

Unlucky

The first encounter was the Amateur Cup quarter-final in 1947/8, when the Blues were hammered 6-2 after a long journey north.

Barkus and McCallum were their scorers.

Then two years later 33,000 plus many television viewers saw the northerners scrape home 2-1 in a semi-final at Brentford. Way scored for Wycombe, who considered they were unlucky to give away the decisive penalty.

They met again in the semi-finals in 1954/55 at Doncaster, where 24,800 saw Bishop Auckland win by the only goal of the match. Malcolm Hunt, father of current striker Andy, could not play in that match because of injury.

Then came the 1957 final when the brilliant Bishops completed a hat-trick of Amateur Cup successes.

The present side, of course, cannot compare although they have shown great character to reach this stage with away wins against Morecambe, Frickley and Cheshire League side Chorley. They have yet to

concede a goal in this year's FA Trophy.

They are unbeaten in the Drybroughs Northern League since November but because of a bad start are still only placed third, a position they filled at the end of the season.

Managed by Brian Newton, who played in a friendly at Loakes Park for Willington, Bishops possess five players with Football League experience, including ex-Darlington 'keeper Paul Owers.

Sutton lose

They lost 1-0 in the second round of the FA Cup to Carlisle. All is set for a battle royal at Loakes Park on February 27.

Meanwhile, Blues manager is concentrating on closing the gap on Isthmian League leaders Sutton, who lost 3-0 at Carshalton on Tuesday.

Wycombe, now nine points behind with three

games in hand, travel to Walthamstow Avenue tomorrow (Saturday) aiming for a win.

Wycombe will play their Berks and Bucks Senior Cup semi-final tie at home to Milton Keynes on Tuesday, February 23. The Hitachi Cup quarter final match at Carshalton will now be played on March 2.

BERGER ISTHMIAN LEAGUE PREMIER DIVISION

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Sutton	27	16	7	4	52	30	55
Wycombe	24	13	7	4	40	25	48
Leytonstone	23	13	4	6	43	27	43
Staines	23	12	6	5	39	25	42
Slough	27	10	12	5	41	29	42
Woking	27	11	8	8	44	35	41
Walthamstow	26	12	5	9	47	39	41
Tooting	26	11	8	9	41	35	39
Croydon	25	11	5	9	42	32	38
Hayes	28	9	9	10	38	36	36
Hendon	23	9	8	6	32	28	36
Stortford	26	11	2	13	37	42	35
Harrow	25	9	7	9	48	43	34
Hitchin	26	9	7	10	35	44	34
Barking	28	7	9	12	31	41	30
Bromley	29	9	3	17	42	62	30
Leath'head	26	7	8	11	30	39	29
Billericay	24	6	10	8	28	28	28
Harlow	25	7	11	11	30	39	28
Carshalton	26	7	5	14	34	60	26
Dulwich	25	7	4	14	26	46	25
Boreham Wd	29	4	9	16	30	45	21