

KIDDERMINSTER NEXT

Wycombe now

two hurdles

from Wembley

FOLLOWING Wycombe Wanderers' memorable victory over Bishop Auckland on Saturday, even the most hardened supporters must have given a moment's thought to the prospect of a Wembley final this season.

The manner of Wanderers' 4-1 destruction of their famous Northern League opponents, which takes them into the FA Trophy quarter-finals for the first time, suggests that this could be their year for glory.

Cup fever is rife in Wycombe, following news that the Blues will be away to Kidderminster Harriers of the Southern League in the fourth round on Saturday, March 20.

Following the replay defeats of Sutton and Slough this week, Wycombe and holders Bishops Stortford, who are away to Altrincham, are left to carry the Isthmian League banner.

Unmarked

Wycombe's victory over the Bishops was a special occasion. With members of the Blues' 1957 Amateur Cup final side, watching over them, the current side seemed inspired and tore the northerners' defence to shreds, especially in the first half.

Terry Glynn, with his 26th competitive goal of the

season, gave them the lead after ten minutes and when Anton Vircavs stormed in unmarked to head the second from Ken Wilson's corner in the 33rd minute, it seemed plain sailing.

But the Bishops, who had not conceded a goal in three previous matches in the competition, fought back in the 71st minute when Fred Hissett drove a low shot past Gary Lester.

Steve Long, whose form this season has been a revelation scotched the recovery with two brilliantly taken goals in the 78th and 83rd minutes.

First he nipped in at the near post to flick home Wilson's cross from the right and then fired clinically past goalkeeper Phil Owers with his left foot after the visitors' defence had been torn apart.

The only black marks for Wycombe on a day of drama,

were the bookings collected for George Borg (dissent) and Terry Glynn (high tackle).

Suspensions

This pair plus Long have now all received three cautions this season and face probable suspensions. Manager Mike Keen is praying that these bans do not clash with future Trophy ties.

He will need a full strength side for the visit to Kidderminster, who are placed fifth in the Midland Division of the Southern League, with games in hand on those above them.

They are the surprise packet of the quarter-finals, having disposed of Leek Town, Barrow (after a second replay), and Blyth Spartans before their shock 4-3 success over Dagenham on Saturday.

The winning score in an eventful match was an own goal by Dagenham midfielder Ronnie Howell.

The Harriers, thus drawn at home for the fifth successive round, are player-managed by John Chambers, who played for Aston Villa as a teenager and later played for Southend.

Now 31, he has been with the club for five years and took over the dual role three seasons ago.

Their best known player, however, is former Manchester United defender Steve James, who played 129 games for the Old Trafford club in the early 1970s. He has also represented York City.

Other men to note are defender Paul Nicholls, once of Bradford City and Crewe, Wayne Secker, who gained a Trophy winners medal with Stafford Rangers three seasons ago, and former Bristol City striker Martin Gavin, who scored two of the goals that beat Dagenham.

Blues' boss Mike Keen admitted that he knew little about Kidderminster. "But we must be wary of any team that can beat Blyth and Dagenham," he said.

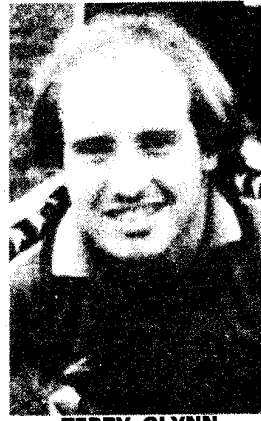
Keen, who plans to watch them in the next fortnight, added: "They obviously know their own patch and play well there. It's going to be difficult."

If Wycombe do manage to get past Kidderminster then they would qualify for the two legged semi-finals. So they are now just two hurdles from Wembley.



STEVE LONG

... three bookings



TERRY GLYNN

... opened scoring