

Anton misses finale as tension mounts

WYCOMBE go into the finishing straight of their Servowarm Isthmian League title race without their big and aggressive centre-half Anton Vircaus.

The defender collapsed after the side's hard earned 2-0 win in the heat at Woking on Saturday and is not expected to play again for ten days.

He was rushed to a Chertsey hospital with blood poisoning caused by an abscess on his leg. He suffered a similar complaint last season when he missed two months after an operation.

This time he was released from hospital on Tuesday, with the warning that he should not play for at least a week. So he will miss the last two Premier Division games at Leatherhead tomorrow (Saturday) and at home to Barking on Tuesday.

Wycombe's success over Woking, gained by second half goals from Mark Hill and Bob Dell (penalty), was their eighth successive one in the league —

but it failed to shake off the three contenders.

Three teams can still catch the Blues, even if Mike Keen's men achieve their possible maximum of 87 points. Incidentally this is eight fewer than when Wycombe pipped Enfield on goal difference in 1975.

If Wycombe do not falter, Hayes must win their five remaining matches (all-away) and Leytonstone and Ilford their last six (four away).

Harrow Borough could afford to lose just one of their last nine matches to lift the title but with their mind preoccupied on Wembley following their F.A. Trophy semi-final 2-0 first leg lead at Telford, they may not be too bothered about the league.

Apart from Vircaus Wycombe have a clean bill of health at present, so competition for places is intense.

Last year's leading scorer Terry Glynn cannot even get into the side while even Steve Long is not assured of his

place, especially as the run-in has been all about hard running and commitment rather than individual skill.

Mr Keen's priority is to win the league but he was disappointed by Hitachi Cup first leg defeat by Sutton.

Unlucky

"They are a very big side and played much better than they had in our two previous encounters. They blotted us out in midfield and put away one of their small number of chances.

"A draw would have been about right, although we can still win at Sutton," said Keen who thought that George Borg was unlucky to be booked.

Wycombe will fill the gap between the last league match on Tuesday and the Hitachi second leg, with a short competitive trip to Italy.

A party of 20, including 15 players, leaves Heathrow next Friday to take part in the two match Gigi Peronace Cup in Italy.

The Blues and Southern

League Chelmsford City are representing England in this successor to the Anglo Italian Cup.

On Saturday April 23 Wycombe will meet host club Cosenza, while Chelmsford play Padua. The two winners and two losers will meet two days later to decide the destination of the cup. Wycombe arrive back on Tuesday.

SERVOWARM ISTHMIAN LEAGUE PREMIER DIVISION (Up to April 12)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Wycombe	40	25	6	9	74	45	81
Hayes	37	22	7	8	57	33	73
Leytonstone	36	21	7	8	59	31	70
Harrow	33	19	6	8	70	46	63
Dulwich	39	17	12	10	57	51	63
Slough	37	10	12	9	63	32	60
Croydon	39	17	8	14	64	51	59
Sutton	35	16	8	11	55	57	56
Tooting	35	16	8	11	56	47	56
Hendon	39	17	4	18	66	61	55
Stortford	36	15	8	13	54	48	53
Barking	36	14	10	12	43	44	52
Billerica	35	14	9	12	47	42	51
Carshalton	37	14	6	17	51	53	48
Staines	40	12	11	17	60	74	47
Wokingham	36	12	8	16	31	42	44
Walthamstow	40	11	11	18	44	61	44
Bognor	32	12	6	14	33	40	42
Hitchin	39	11	7	21	46	72	40
Bromley	35	9	11	15	38	43	38
Woking	38	6	5	28	27	74	20
Leatherhead	35	4	4	30	33	110	16