

THIS could be the weekend when all the trials and tribulations of a turbulent season are lost in a blaze of glory for Wycombe manager Paul Bence.

Just seven months ago the Blues boss admitted having sleepless nights about his side's lack of form while chants of 're-sign' rang out loud from the terraces.

But on Saturday and Monday he will lead Wanderers into the two-leg Hitachi League Cup final against Farnborough Town hoping to complete a quite remarkable transformation.

Those troubled days are almost forgotten as Bence's Blues stand on the threshold of a stunning double.

### Respected

Victory over Croydon last night (Thursday) would have booked their promotion to the Gola League.

And success over First Division Farnborough will bring Wycombe their first ever League Cup triumph — and make Bence one of the most respected managers in non-league football.

"If I had to choose between winning the League Cup and getting into the Gola League I would settle for promotion anyway," explained a jubilant Bence after Tuesday's victory over Harrow.

"But while there is the chance of going for the double we will give it everything.

"If we don't beat Croydon then we don't deserve to get into the Gola League. It is as simple as that."

Bence appealed to Wycombe fans to help lift Blues in both legs of what he predicted will be "a thrilling final."

"Farnborough play a similar style of football to us so it should be a very close affair," he stated.

Bence has watched them several times, most recently when they crushed Chesham United 3-0.

"They have always impressed me," he said. "They are a compact, extremely disciplined side who are prepared move the ball around intelligently rather than just whack it forward."

Farnborough have already stunned Hayes, Wokingham and Premier Division cham-

pions Sutton United en route to the final.

"We know what they can do so there is no danger of under-estimating them," revealed Bence.

"Their two danger men are Keith Morris, a striker who has scored a lot of goals, and Tommy Jones who plays out wide."

Brian Broome, released by the the Wycombe manager earlier this season, will be out to prove a point with new club Farnborough.

"I have never been one for adopting a different approach for important matches," added Bence.

I will just tell the lads to go out and continue performing as they have over the past months."

The Wanderers manager pointed out that because Farnborough have already clinched Division 1 they will have been able to rest players last night (Thursday) in their final league match of the season at Woking.

"They will be fresher than us on Saturday and that can obviously make a difference," added the Wycombe boss.

"But our away record has been extremely good so we have no fears about travelling to Farnborough on Saturday.

"And, unlike the last two seasons, we have the advantage of being home for the second leg."

Wycombe of course have something of a Hitachi hoodoo to break.

In the past two seasons they have lost finals against Sutton.

*Glory days  
beckon for  
Bence!*