

Bence's reaction to F.A. Cup draw:

'COLCHESTER WILL HATE IT'

WYCOMBE manager Paul Bence allowed himself a smile this week as he guessed Colchester's reaction to the FA Cup first round draw.

"They'll hate it," he claimed. "When I was a professional the one we loathed was drawing a non-league club away from home in the Cup.

"I know for certain Colchester won't be looking forward to coming here on November 16."

But while the Fourth Division high fliers may have reservations about their visit to Loakes Park, Bence admitted he is excited about the cup tie.

"I am delighted by the draw and we will be fired up on the day," he promised.

"We are the underdogs so we have nothing to lose.

"But Colchester's reputation as a professional club, will be on the line."

As an ex-pro with Brentford, Torquay, Reading and Brighton, Bence has bitter memories of facing non-league sides.

"I remember losing to Yeovil in the first round of the cup in the early seventies and it was horrible," he recalled.

"The chance of getting a good hiding here will be on the minds of the Colchester lads."

Bence admits he knows nothing about the present Colchester side which occupies second place in the Fourth Division.

"Both Alan Gane and myself will watch them closely so we are well prepared," he revealed.

Homework

"I will probably see them play Rochdale at home next Friday."

The Wanderers manager knows he will have to do his homework to avoid defeat or a replay at Colchester's Layer Road ground.

"Obviously I want to finish it at Loakes Park because our chances would be very slim away from home," he stressed.

Since arriving at Wycombe last year Bence has often

been reminded of the club's proud tradition of rising to the big occasions.

Now he wants to carve out his own piece of Cup glory for the club.

"It is important for Wycombe to do well and I see no reason why we can't beat Colchester and get to the second round," he said.

"One of my ambitions is to fill this ground.

"We won't do that against Colchester but if we can get a run going — who knows?

"I'm glad we have got a League club in the first round because it might stir some interest in the town.

"It would have been awful if we had drawn Enfield away."

Bence will be heartened that Colchester are struggling to maintain their form after having their best ever start in the Fourth Division.

After drawing two home games, they lost leadership of the League when Northampton ended their unbeaten home record with a 2-0 victory on Saturday.

Manager Cyril Lea, former assistant to Bobby Robson while at Ipswich Town, is beset by injuries problems.

His reaction to the draw was to cry "Don't bother me

with the FA Cup now — I have enough problems as it is.

"Wait until November 16 and then ask me."

Among their major injury worries are striker Keith Bowen and central defender Keith Day.

Bowen, who has eight goals this season, is now in hospital after a car accident last week while Day, who signed from Vauxhall-Opel League Aveley, faces a shoulder operation.

The inspiration of the present Colchester side is ex-Manchester United and Chelsea star Stewart Houson, now a central defender.

And Tony Adcock, top scorer for the past two seasons, already tops the Fourth Division goal chart with nine.

The U's are no strangers to blazing the FA Cup trail.

In 1971 they toppled Don Revie's all-conquering Leeds United in the fifth round.

Defeats

Bence turns his attention back to the Gola League tomorrow (Saturday) for the visit of bottom club Barrow.

The Loakes Park chief is confident Wycombe can improve their league position against a side with an



**F.A. Cup
latest**

abysmal away record of six successive defeats.

Barrow, who held Wanderers to a 1-1 draw earlier this season, are expected to bring in new full-back Brian Kettle.

Kettle, who had a brief spell at Liverpool, is on a month's loan from Runcorn.

Blues central defender Dave Burgess will be fit tomorrow despite a recurring leg injury.

Burgess was rested in Wanderers 4-2 victory over Borough Road College in a closed doors friendly at Loakes Park on Tuesday night.

Neal Stanley made a serious bid for a first team place by grabbing a hat-trick while Declan Link scored the other.