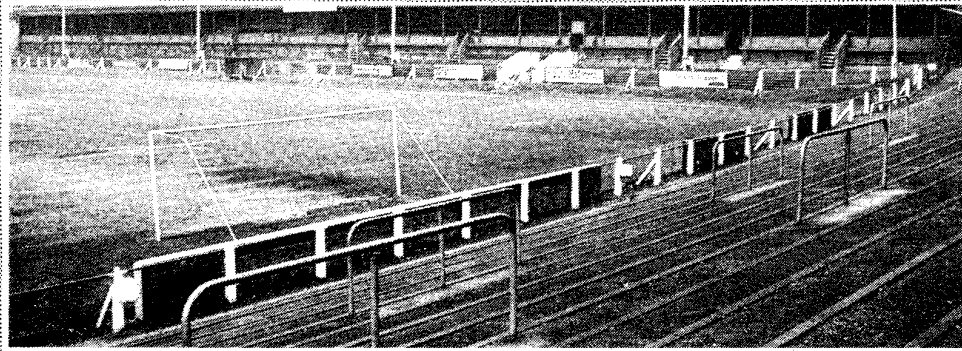


IT'S UPHILL FOR THE CUP



COLCHESTER United boss Cyril Lea is getting his act together for the FA Cup first round confrontation with little Wycombe Wanderers ... and he's all ready for the infamous sloping pitch at Loakes Park.

"I've heard a lot about the sloping pitch, although I haven't actually seen it myself yet," said Cyril who went all the way to Wembley when he

was coach at Ipswich.

"I've been in touch with some players and the manager at Chelmsford who have been to Wycombe, and I'll certainly be sending someone down to have a look at the side and their pitch within the next week or so.

"All players have had a game or two on a sloping pitch at some stage in their career and there's even a slight slope on our own pitch, so hopefully it won't be too much of a problem.

Lift

"I'm definitely not underestimating Wycombe and I realise it's going to be a tough game for us but hopefully it'll be a good one.

"Wycombe have done wonders to reach the first round proper. It's great to see a non-league club doing so well.

"Cup ties always lift the supporters as well as the players so we should bring a good following with us to Wycombe."

Veteran striker Roger Osborne, who



scored with winning goal in the 1978 cup final for Ipswich, will be in the Colchester side travelling to Loakes Park on November 16.

Cyril said: "Roger is one of our older and more experienced players and it's nice for him to be on the Cup trail again. His experience will be invaluable.



DANGER MAN: Keith Bowen, who forms a lethal striking partnership with Tony Adcock, is one of Colchester's danger men. He scored 18 goals last season after moving from Brentford