

Link set for sensational departure

DECLAN DROPS

A BOMBSHELL

SUPER-STRIKER Declan Link has sent shock waves through Wycombe Wanderers by announcing that he is leaving the club.

The brilliant young forward stunned Blues this week by revealing he has accepted a job in America.

Link will play only a handful of games before flying out on December 2 for a year.

The 21-year-old, who joined from Staines in July 1984, is Blues' top scorer this season with 13 goals.

Link has accepted a job as a cultural representative at the EPCOT Centre in Disneyworld. He dropped his bombshell after Wycombe's 1-1 draw with Barrow on Saturday — ironically just hours after being named player of the month.

Efforts by the club to keep the news quiet failed when the Bucks Free Press learned of his sensational departure this week.

Blues chairman Brian Lee finally confirmed that Link is leaving.

"Yes, Declan is going to America," said Lee.

"It is a massive blow to the club because there is no one who can take his place.

"I don't think many people will realise how seriously his loss could effect the team."

News

The news comes just a week before Blues' big FA Cup first round clash with Fourth Division Colchester.

"We wanted to keep the news quiet until after the Colchester game but that is now obviously not possible," said Lee.

"It brings unnecessary pressure on the players and manager."

Manager Paul Bence refused to discuss the startling revelation.

"I am not at liberty to discuss the situation," he said.

"The manager was very shocked," revealed Link.

"But he took it very realistically.

"I am not on contract so I can basically do what I want.

"I made enquiries about the job in the summer through my brother and have only just been offered it.

"I felt I needed a break so I jumped at the chance," added Link who

By Rolf Niven

has decided not to pursue a career in banking.

"Of course, I feel very sad at leaving the club at such an important stage of the season.

"But football is not everything in life and I have to look forward to the future."

Link expects to play in America's booming indoor league and hopes to resume his career with Wycombe when he returns.

"I have no intention of staying in the States longer than a year.

"If Wycombe Wanderers still want me I would love to come back."

Lee would also like to see the blond forward return.

"He is only going for a year so there is every chance he could return to Wycombe next year," said the Wanderers chairman.

"He has made a valuable contribution to the club and he goes with our blessing."

Link made an immediate impact at Loakes Park when he arrived with striking partner Simon Read.

Last season he was the Isthmian League's third highest scorer and a vital asset in Wycombe's rise to the Gola League.

A bustling forward, with an uncanny goal sense, Link has already carved a big reputation for himself in the Gola League.

*Savage blow
for Blues*



THE ULTIMATE IRONY . . . Link is all smiles last week after collecting his Player of the Month award. Now, very soon, his goalscoring talents will be lost.