

Link's exit offers Mark more scope

THE departure of star striker Declan Link will give Mark West the chance to show his true potential at Wycombe.

That is the view of Blue's boss Paul Bence who broke his silence on the Link affair over the weekend.

"We've not seen the best of Mark since he arrived at Wycombe but maybe now we'll give him a shot in the main striking role which I know he prefers," revealed the manager.

Bence was adamant that Link leaving Loakes Park may not be the savage blow many believe.

"Declan goes with my blessing and I'm confident that he will be back playing for Wycombe in a year," insisted Bence.

Nothing

"Of course it's a very sad loss to be without a natural goalscorer like Link.

"But we signed him from Staines for nothing and now he is leaving for nothing.

"I can't really blame him because if I was his age and in his position I might well do the same.

"But, looking on the bright side, Mark might now blossom."

Bence rejected the suggestion that Link's departure might make sparring partner Simon Read unsettled.

"Simon is happy here and there's no question of him leaving," said Bence.

The Wycombe boss praised his side despite their defeat in controversial circumstances at Wealdstone.

"I thought that most of the

football played came from us," said Bence.

Andy Harman goes into hospital this week for an operation on his broken cheekbone.

But Simon Read may be back for the Berks & Bucks Senior Cup second round tie with Hungerford at Loakes Park tonight (Tuesday).

Bence watched F.A. Cup opponents Colchester lose

their fourth consecutive match on Friday night.

But, despite their 1-0 home defeat by Rochdale, Bence was quite impressed.

"They played well and if they had got the rub of the green they would have beaten Rochdale easily," commented the Blues' boss.

"They have some injury problems at the moment but they will still be major opposition to overcome."