

BLOCHTEL MAY BE SURPRISE CHOICE

JOE Blochel could make a sensational FA Cup debut for Wycombe against Chelmsford.

The virtually unknown Blochel, who has only 29 minutes of first team action behind him, is in the Blues 15-man squad for the 2nd round showdown at Loakes Park tomorrow (Saturday).

And, although manager Paul Bence will not announce his line-up until an hour before kick-off, the 23-year-old Beaconsfield lad must have an even money chance of a striking role.

It would be a remarkable transition for the forward who spent two years at Southampton without making the grade.

He arrived back in Britain only three weeks ago after two years with Swedish club Karlstad.

Blues are still sizing up Blochel, who came on as a second half substitute on Saturday in the 1-1 Gola League draw with Northwich — Declan Link's farewell game.

But now, although he is not sure of a permanent future at Loakes Park, Blochel could be part of the Blues' bid to reach the third round for only the second time in their history.

Boss Bence was being very coy this week when pressed on his big match plans. He already knows the men who will face Chelmsford but their names are top secret.

"Blochel will be part of the squad," said Bence. "But it would be unfair to make my team public before the players are told and that won't be until an hour before the game."

One certainty is that the Blues brigade will come from the heroes who disposed of Colchester in the last round — minus Link who is now in America — plus Sean Price, Billy Hubbick, Gary Boyle and Blochel.

Bence certainly has alternatives. He could push Kevin Collins into midfield and draft in either Boyle or Price at full back.

By Jim McCann

That would give Mark West a striker's role as partner to Simon Read. This duo were the goal heroes in the last round.

Whatever the line-up, Bence is positive that Blues will face a battle royale if they are to earn a possible shot at one of the Football League big guns.

"Chelmsford are a damn good side who play some splendid football," said the Loakes Park boss.

"I watched them beat Bognor last weekend and they could have had eight or nine goals. We will have to be at our very best to beat them."

Bence freely admits that he would rather be facing another League club at this stage.

"I suppose in many people's eyes we are favourites and that is always a difficult position to be in," he admitted.

"It puts pressure on the lads and there is enough of that already."

Former Wycombe goal hero Terry Glynn will be in the Chelmsford team — but it is ex-Spurs and England star Peter Taylor who may come in for special treatment.

Taylor's influence on the Southern League side impressed the Wycombe boss and assistant Alan Gane during their spying missions.

And, after he hears the Chelmsford line-up, Bence may be forced to formulate defensive tactics to combat the elegant old master.

"It depends on where Taylor plays," confided Bence. "If he plays up front in a floating position we will obviously have to close him down all the time."

"But if he plays in a regular midfield role he may not require specific attention."

Bence is positive the pressure-pot Cup-tie is going to be a cracker.

But he would not be drawn into talking about the possible mouth-watering prospects of a big draw awaiting the winners in the 3rd round.

"The draw is made at 5.30pm on Saturday," he stated. "If we are in it I will talk all about what that means to a club like ours."

"But in the meantime we have to get Chelmsford out of the way and that is certainly not a hypothetical challenge."

Declan Link (left) just had to pass on his good wishes before leaving Loakes Park after his last gam And who better to say a quick hello and goodbye to than Joe Blochel — the man who may tal over his striking role for the Blues on Saturday against Chelmsford.

