

It's a perfect draw for old Blues boy Busby

BY NICK SHRIMPTON



IN contrast to Wycombe Wanderers' disappointment at drawing York City away in the FA Cup third round, former Blues striker Viv Busby could not be happier.

Viv, 36, now coach at the Third Division club, explained: "I'm very pleased on two counts.

It's a home tie for us which is nice, and it's against my home town and my old club so there's a bit of nostalgia attached to it for me."

In charge

He added: "It's stirred up a few memories for me and I'm looking forward to seeing some old friends again."

Before joining Luton Town, Viv spent four years at Loakes Park in the late sixties when Barry Darville and then Brian Lee were in charge.

"There were so many good players at the club at the time. I think they could have all turned professional," he recalled.

Viv and York manager — former Stoke City hardman Dennis Smith — plan to watch Wycombe before the big game on January 4.

Viv last saw his old club when Wanderers beat

in North Yorkshire who's heard of Wycombe Wanderers!

"People up here don't know anywhere south of Barnsley," he quipped.

"But there's plenty of cup fever and we'll get a good gate of about 8,000."

York earned the giant killers tag themselves last season by knocking out Arsenal and holding mighty Liverpool to a draw before going down at Anfield.

And this term they're riding high in Division 3 behind Reading.

"We've lost only one of our last 11 matches so we're looking to put a good run together," said Viv.

Hitchin 2-0 at home in the Isthmian League.

"They looked quite a useful outfit," said Viv, who is married with two young daughters.

But the southerner reckons he is the only person

"Our main priority is the league of course, but it's always nice to do well in the cup — it's super for the club and great for the city.

Viv, who also played for Fulham, Norwich, Newcastle, Stoke, Tulsa Roughnecks in America and Blackburn, has been Smith's assistant at York for the past three years.

"It's a little bit different on the other side of the fence, but I'm thoroughly enjoying it," he disclosed.

"It's nice to put a little back of what the game has given me.

To add further spice to the tie, Viv's parents — Viv (senior) and Kath — run the Le De Spencer Arms pub on Downley Common.

But there's no question of divided loyalties — they will be rooting for York.

Kath, whose younger son Martyn, 32, played for QPR and Notts County, said: "We've always supported the boys wherever they've been and whoever they've played for. We're Wycombe born and bred but that's beside the point."

Not surprisingly, most of the bar banter has been centred on next month's cup clash and regulars plan to organise a coach for the game.

"Running a pub we can't just pop out when we like," added Kath. "We'll just have to wait and see. We'd like to go of course."