

HOPE FADES ON READ

Blues resigned to losing star striker

By Jim McCann

WYCOMBE manager Alan Gane flies out with his squad to Greece on Sunday almost resigned to losing star striker Simon Read.

And Read could be followed out of Loakes Park by utility man Kevin Collins.

The departure of both ex-Staines men would be a savage blow to Gane who saw winger Roy Fairchild fly off to Australia last week to build a new life.

Read is awaiting news of a new job which would make travelling to Wycombe three times a week impracticable.

And my information is that next season the striker will be a Farnborough Town player.

Losing

There is speculation that a deal has already been signed and sealed with the Hampshire club although Gane denies this.

"There's nothing agreed yet but we look like losing Simon," admitted the Blues boss.

"He should hear about his new job soon but I'd have to say our hopes of holding him are slim."

Farnborough have been on Read's trail since Christmas and the striker, who is getting married in the summer, has bought a house in the area.

The departure of Collins is less cut and dried.

He is contemplating going to college in America and is expected to make up his mind in the next few weeks.

Fairchild flew 'Down Under' last week. "I knew Roy was thinking about such a move but he only made up his mind recently," said Gane.

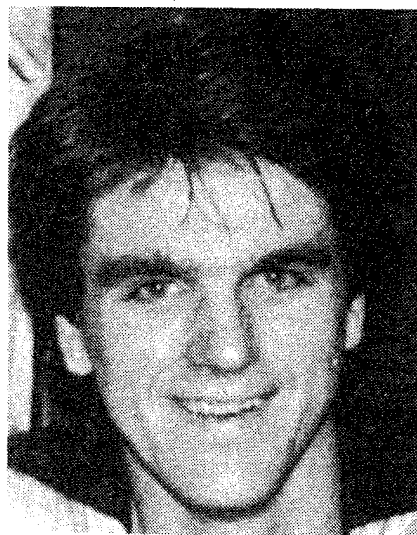
The Wycombe boss also stressed that his own future at Loakes Park was not in doubt.

There has been speculation that Gane was heading for Walton and Hersham as boss.

Walton have recently parted company with their previous manager.

"I've heard the whispers as well," confirmed the Wycombe boss.

"My best mate is a director at Walton and Hersham but that's as far as it goes."



SIMON READ ... on the verge of leaving.

"Rumours always fly around when a team is relegated but I'm staying put."

"I certainly wouldn't leave a club of Wycombe's standing for Walton and Hersham."

"I'm glad to have the opportunity to clear this up."

Gane flies to Athens on Sunday with a touring party of 15.

Blues have only one game scheduled, against Greek Second Division opposition, although they may try to fix up another work out.

The tour party: Gary Lester, Trevor Bunting, Anthony Riley, Dave Burgess, Anton Vircavs, Neil Price, Richard Blue, Graham Bressington, Bob Dell, Kevin Collins, Mark West, Neal Stanley, Billy Hubbick, Andy Harman and Dave Bradley.