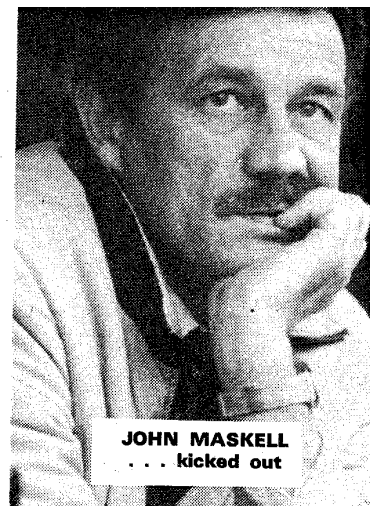


DOUBLE TROUBLE



JOHN MASKELL
... kicked out

Reardon returns as Maskell is sacked

By Jim McCann

ASSISTANT manager John Maskell has been sacked after a close season summit meeting with Wycombe boss Alan Gane.

And he has been replaced by former boss John Reardon.

The men who were at the helm of Blues' sinking ship last season stressed that there was no animosity between them.

But it is clear that major policy differences eventually produced the split.

Boss Gane would not be drawn far on the subject this week.

He denied that Maskell had been made a scapegoat for Wycombe's relegation from the Gola League last season.

"I have simply decided to replace John Maskell with John Reardon to benefit the club," stated the Blues boss.

Opinion

"It is my decision alone and is based on what is right for Wycombe in the long term.

"Of course there were differences of opinion but that happens everywhere."

But former club goalkeeper Maskell, who teamed up with Gane after Paul Bence resigned last season, claimed the writing was on the wall for him after only a month!

"I recommended a player who I felt would have kept us in the Gola League," he revealed.

"I fixed up the deal only for Alan to step in and call it off.

"I struggled to understand what I was supposed to be doing.

"I would recommend a few players but most of these would be ignored.

"No one can accuse me of not being able to spot good players because I discovered Vircavs, Burgess and new boy Kevin Durham."

Maskell claimed that

Wycombe's managerial duo had not been working well together at the club's most crucial time — in the run-in to last season.

And the reason seems to centre around a differing view on the quality of the Blues' playing staff.

"One of the criticisms levelled at me was I was not doing enough to lift the players when their spirits were low," explained Maskell.

"That may be quite true but that's because I'm honest.

"I could not stand at the bar drinking with them and telling them how good they were when it was clear to me that many of them needed replacing."

Maskell, who has now ended a 20-year association with the club, is convinced that Blues will struggle next season.

"It is a great club and I have enjoyed my time there



ALAN GANE

and I wish them all the best of luck," he said.

"But I am convinced that with the players they have — including the new signings — they are not good enough to win the Vauxhall Opel League," he said.

New look Blues next season

WYCOMBE will have a new look side next season. Despite manager Alan Gane's refusal to accept it officially, Blues have lost striker Simon Read to Farnborough.

And Kevin Collins will be leaving Loakes Park for college in the United States. Gane admitted this week that he is resigned to losing the utility man.

"He is in the States at the moment and will decide when he comes back but he will go I'm sure," said the Blues boss.

With the departure of Anton Vircavs on the cards and the recent exit of Bob Dell, Gane is stretched to the limit at the moment trying to attract new blood.

He has already recruited Kevin Durham and Paul Hackett but a striker to replace Read is the priority.

"It's a very busy period and I hope to have some more new players soon," said Gane.

"I like to talk about these things when they become facts and not just mere speculation."

Blues defender Dave Burgess is recovering well from an achilles operation last week and could be back in training within a fortnight.