

ANTON IS SOLD OFF



ANTON VIRCAVS . . . wrangle is over.

Blochel also on the move but Collins stays

THE bitter transfer wrangle surrounding Wycombe Wanderers' skipper Anton Vircavs ended this week when the big central defender was finally sold to Cheltenham Town.

Blues had turned down the Gola League club's original bid for Vircavs because it fell short of their £5,000 asking price.

Cheltenham manager John Murphy had accused Wycombe of holding Vircavs to ransom.

And he claimed that the big defender was prepared to call a tribunal if Wanderers held on to his registration.

But at the weekend Blues' boss Alan Gane admitted: "We came to an agreement over Vircavs and he has been sold.

"Their first offer was not good enough but they eventually met our terms."

Wanderers have also lost midfield man Joe Blochel.

Blochel, who made his debut for Blues in last December's FA Cup clash with Chelmsford, has rejoined Swedish club Karlstad.

"Blochel will be back in Britain in December but he could be moving to Southampton in which case it would be difficult for us to keep him," said Gane.

"We are sorry to see him go."

Simon Read has joined Farnborough Town as expected.

Decision

"It would have been very difficult for Simon to play for Wycombe now that he has moved house to Farnborough," explained Gane.

There was one piece of good news for Wycombe when utility player Kevin Collins decided against a planned move to the United States last week.

But Collins is now considering flying back to Australia towards the end of the season.

Wanderers could be without three of their close season signings for their opening pre-season friendly against Gola League Enfield tonight (Tuesday) at Loakes Park.

Andy Graham, a forward signed from Wealdstone last week, is still abroad on vacation and will miss the first league match of the season.

Graham scored in the 1985 FA Trophy final and is a proven marksman at Gola League level.

Also missing will be ex-Aylesbury midfielder Paul Hackett.

"It is a shame that both players will miss this friendly," said Blues manager Alan Gane.

"But I expect Paul Hackett to be back in time for Saturday's warm-up match against Wealdstone."

Also absent tonight will be Kevin Durham, Gane's first close season signing.

Durham, a midfielder snapped up from Oxford City, is struggling with damaged ankle ligaments.

"I hope he will be fit for Saturday," said Gane.

Key central defender Dave Burgess will be out for at least a month following an operation on his ankle.

"The operation was successful but he will be absent for four to five weeks," said Gane.

"You may have trouble in recognising the team tonight."

ROLF NIVEN