

Gane mystified by poor cup displays

WYCOMBE manager Alan Gane gave his players a private post-match dressing down for their poor performance against Worthing on Tuesday night.

But afterwards he tried to explain the mysterious syndrome which is afflicting his men in cup competitions this season.

Blues are producing their best form in league games — a fact borne out by their position at the top of the table.

But on Tuesday they came so close to going out of a cup for the third time in less than a month.

"We just can't seem to raise our game in cups the way we do in the league," admitted the Blues boss.

"We're certainly not 'throwing' cup games and no matter what anyone says they are important to us.

"But it's rare to see a side so keyed up for every league game and that's what my lads are like.

"They want to win the league more than anything so obviously they do suffer some reaction in cup matches.

"To a certain extent games are won even before players enter the ground.

"It's their attitude that counts and a manager can only do so much.

"You just can't fool players that an AC Delco Cup match is as important as a league game.

"On Saturday we produced one of our best performances of the season in beating Hendon.

"But tonight we went to the other end of the scale.

"In the Hendon game the likes of Andy Graham and Graham Bressington were superb but tonight they were never in it.

Heaped praise

"But they are the same players. The league just counts for more".

Gane also heaped praise on lowly Worthing.

"You could talk all night about our display but you must give them credit. They played really well and almost snatched it."

Noel Ashford, who missed the Worthing clash, could win his fitness battle in time to face Bishop's Stortford tomorrow (Saturday).

The word is that he has an 80 per cent chance of making the trip.

Gane's assistant John Reardon is expecting a real battle at Stortford and in the next two away games at Barking and Hendon.

"It's a crucial time for us and a real test with three tough away trips in a row," he said.

"You've got to earn anything you get at places like Stortford. They lost in the FA Cup this week so it could work two ways.

"Either we will catch them on the hop or they will be even more determined to get a result."

Stortford went out of the FA Cup on Tuesday night in a replay at Colchester — one of the sides Blues defeated last season during their glorious run.