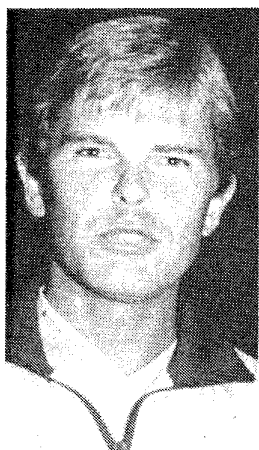


GA NE SNAPS UP DAWBER!



Alan Gane . . . signed up Dawber from his old club

By **ROLF NIVEN**

MARK DAWBER has been snapped up by former Wycombe Wanderers manager Alan Gane at Staines in a surprise midweek deal.

New boss Peter Suddaby offloaded the 24-year-old winger for an undisclosed fee and must now be stepping up his search for fresh talent.

Suddaby, like the fans, must be increasingly concerned at his side's failure to deliver the killing blow during GM Conference matches.

They threw away the chance of victory at Loakes park on Tuesday when they allowed Bath City to snatch two goals in the last four minutes for a 2-2 draw.

More professional sides would never have allowed Bath another look-in after going 2-0 ahead.

"If you go 2-0 up in this League then it should be all over," said Suddaby. "If we are not sure we can win even when ahead then we've had it in this League.

"Once the word gets around that we leak goals when in front

Winger goes for undisclosed fee

then other teams will still come at us even when they are trailing. "This is a man's League and they've got to learn quickly. They still need time to play together and get to know one another at this level but John Reardon and I are always on the lookout for the right sort of players.

"On Tuesday night every department did everything wrong for the last five minutes — it was heart attack football."

But Suddaby refused to blame an individual — despite Mark West's appalling last minute lob back to keeper Gary Lester which led to the equalising penalty.

"I don't blame the lad — he had to make a decision and it didn't come off," stated the Wycombe manager. "I think we got what we deserved. We looked embarrassed being 2-0 up because we didn't play that well."

West's suicide pass in the final minute capped a nightmare match for the young striker.

He has come back from criticism before but since hammering six in pre-season friendlies he has managed only three in 10 matches — all from the penalty spot.

Dawber's departure meanwhile, comes after weeks of negotiations between Gane and the club he left before the start of the season.

After some sparkling performances last season injuries have prevented Dawber from commanding a regular first team slot.

The former Woking player, brought to Wycombe by Gane in December 1986 for between £2-£3,000, played in three warm-up games and the Vauxhall Charity Shield match.

"He has not been match fit and as I don't have a reserve side I was willing to let him develop elsewhere," pointed out Suddaby.

Tomorrow Blues tackle Runcorn who lie fifth in the Conference — despite a 2-0 midweek defeat by Altrincham.

Manager John King has strengthened his side by signing former Crewe teenage midfielder Andy Rooney. Striker Don Page, meanwhile is recovering well after a recent cartilage operation and is back scoring goals.

Blues lost to Bromsgrove of the Southern Premier Division in a friendly last Saturday.

Wycombe's GMAC Cup first round clash with Bognor Regis has been switched from next Tuesday to Tuesday, October 27.

Instead Blues have arranged a Capital League match against Brentford at Loakes Park this Tuesday (October 6).