

# KELMAN BIDS FOR STUDENT!

## New boss in race for Loughborough ace

By Rolf Niven

**NEW WYCOMBE Wanderers boss Jim Kelman is hoping to beat Leicester City in the race for Loughborough University's talented forward Tim Barry.**

Kelman travelled up on Wednesday night to watch the 20-year-old striker in action and is eager to make his first major signing.

"He played for me briefly while I was at Maidenhead United and is a very quick and dangerous forward," revealed Kelman. "Leicester are aware of him and have been so impressed that they have invited him to play for their reserve team on February 1."

Barry, who hopes to become a physical education teacher, is a qualified coach and not on contract. He has been selected to tour Europe with the Great Britain Universities squad later this year.

"He is due to finish at Loughborough in about seven weeks time and return to his home in Chalfont St Peter," added Kelman. "Basically he has a choice - playing Combination football for Leicester or playing Conference football for Wycombe."

Meanwhile assistant manager John Reardon was dispatched to Portsmouth on the same evening to watch two Pompey reserve players who are known to be unhappy playing Combination soccer.

But Kelman is more concerned about completing negotiations with former Millwall goalkeeper John Granville following the 31-year-old's excellent performance in Wycombe's 2-1 Capital League success over Wealdstone on Tuesday night.

"We are still negotiating with John and hopefully we can come to an agreement," stated the Wanderers chief. "He did things I've never expected to see keeper do and is a real extrovert. He is a larger than life character and would be a real hit with the fans. He dominates his area, is very quick off his line and his throwing is extraordinary."

But Granville, inactive for the last 18 months before being approached by Wycombe, is holding out for a better deal before committing himself to a comeback in the semi-professional game.

Kelman is also involved in talks with Martin Woodall who is very keen to play in Australia after an offer from a leading Melbourne club.

"He is considering going but I will talk to him and see if we can persuade him to stay. He is playing well at the moment and if he moves into the area, settles down and enjoys his football he may well stick around."

### Spirit

Chalfont St Peter boss Laurie Craker has moved in to try and get former Chelsea man Alan Mayes and ex-Feltham player Alan Myers on loan at The Playing Fields.

Myers impressed Kelman with a solid display at left midfield on Tuesday night but the Blues boss added "I haven't had a chance to speak to them yet."

Striker Graham Westley underwent a scan on his knee on Tuesday and could be ruled out for some time.

"There is a cyst on the back of his knee and although it is not as bad as first thought we cannot bank on him playing at all at the moment. He has been referred back to John Williams at Farnham Park and until we are sure it is safe for him to play on it he is being ruled out."

Kelman has organised extra training starting next week in a bid to raise the overall level of fitness.

"I think the training has been a little hit and hit this season which is why we will be working Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday nights starting next week. On Saturdays fringe players should be training - not standing around watching the first team. If they don't train it means they will only be half-fit when they are called into the first team. It will also increase the competitive spirit within the club."

Kelman, who took charge of Wanderers before Saturday's magnificent 5-3 GM Vauxhall Conference victory over Cheltenham Town, is set to make changes for tomorrow's Berks and Bucks Senior Cup second round clash at tiny Didcot Town.

"There will be one or two changes because I was unhappy with the way the defence operated against Wealdstone and Cheltenham," he said. Although Kelman will use tomorrow's match as an exercise in getting to know his squad further he denied Wycombe will be treating the county cup lightly.

"It is the only competition we can win this season and I believe it is a slight on the Chalfonts and Flackwells if we don't treat the Berks and Bucks with respect," he pointed out. "It is a great chance for the players to perform without pressure and it will be a real test of their attitude."

Shaun Norman has a slight hamstring twinge and both Mark Boyland and Brian Greenaway took thigh knocks against Cheltenham, but Kelman expects all three to be fully fit for Didcot.

Wanderers will be hot favourites although to make matters confusing, the clash will take place deep in the heart of Oxfordshire. Because of boundary changes, the next obstacle to their successful defence of the title comes from unexpected quarters.

Didcot Town were promoted from the first to the premier division of the Hellenic League at the end of last season, but have suffered mixed fortunes since.

Under the management of much-travelled local boss Larry Hill, they have won just eight of their eighteen matches this term, losing five and drawing five, to leave them in mid-table.

Wycombe were the attraction which brought the biggest ever crowd into the Station Road ground 31 years ago - 3000 for a 1957 Berks and Bucks Cup tie - and Hill has appealed to the Didcot public to turn out in force once more for the club's biggest game in a long time.

The official capacity at Didcot is just 100, and Blues fans making the trip up the M40 are advised to take along their wellies and be prepared to stand.

The home line-up, devoid of any famous names, will be chosen from: Hyatt, Wood, O'Brien, Rolls, Brittain, Cox-Rogers, Ingram, P. Thomas, Daley, Flanagan, A. Thomas, Burke, Ricketts, Strange.