

Manager Kelman hits out at Bath

CHEATED FOR THE WINNER!



Jim Kelman

WYCOMBE Wanderers boss Jim Kelman had some harsh words to say about Bath City's underhand tactics after his side had fallen to a late sucker punch at Twerton Park - but he vowed that Wanderers would never be taught to cheat while he was in charge.

Kelman claimed that Bath's winner was the result of a well-rehearsed foul on keeper John Granville: "I don't blame the referee, but if a ball is pumped 50 yards into the box and the keeper has his eye on it, there must be something wrong if he doesn't get to it.

"Bath's John Freegard held Granville back on the ref's blind side and then let him go just before the ball arrived so that he lurched forward and missed it.

"It was cleverly done and some people asked why our players don't learn to cheat like that.

If you start teaching players to do that kind of thing then

you are condoning cheating as a way of winning. You get on a slippery slope - and where does it end.

"I'm not saying that incident cost us the game - we lost the game because of our own poor finishing. Keith Barrett must take a lot of the blame - he should have had a hat trick. But Scott Young, Mark West and others all missed good chances.

"Only Kidderminster have actually administered a beating to us since I arrived at Loakes Park. We have been the better side in our other games, but our attacking style tends to leave us open. If our finishing is off, as it was against Bath, we are vulnerable to the sucker punch.

"We outplayed Bath for most of the game and created good chances. They humped the ball into our penalty area twice and beat us."

Kelman must have been satisfied with Blues' goal touch on Monday, however, as they snatched a thrilling 4-3 extra-time victory over Wimbledon to earn themselves a place in the semi-finals of the Presidents Cup against Barnet.

Brian Greenaway opened the scoring for Wycombe and Mark Boyland struck three times before setting up Adrian Mann for the winner.

Wycombe led three times in the first 90 minutes and allowed Wimbledon back on terms on each occasions. The south-

west Londoners went a goal up in extra time, but couldn't hang on.

Kelman was particularly impressed with Laurence Osborne, recently recovered from gastric flu, who must be in with a chance of a first team place on Saturday against Macclesfield if Monday's exertions haven't laid him low again.

Osborne is seen by the manager as a replacement for Martin Woodall, a strong midfielder who seems to attract the ball.

Kelman said: "I intend to play a slightly more defensive game at Macclesfield, especially since we didn't get the points we wanted at Bath. I will put three men in midfield, unlike recent weeks when I've relied on two with an attacker dropping back to help.

"Laurence has to be in the running for one of those places."

Sean Norman suffered a back injury on Saturday and is joined on the sick list by Kevin Day who damaged a knee and Barrett who aggravated a recurring back problem. All are expected to be fit for Saturday.

Scott Young signed for the club for a fee of £5000 recently, but his former Colchester team-mate, John Ray, is still on loan till the end of the March and a decision has yet to be made on whether he will sign on a more permanent basis.