

WONDERFUL WANDERERS

Conference clincher cheers Blues

CHAMPAGNE flowed as Wycombe Wanderers celebrated the certainty of life in the Conference after a goal-less draw at Telford on Saturday.

"Everybody went absolutely potty," said delighted boss Jim Kelman afterwards.

"Everyone joined in. There were doctors and committee members on the coach joining in the singing

and celebrations.

"It was the best trip in football I've had in a long time."

And the Blues faithful had even more to cheer as the jubilation turned into a flood of goals on Monday night as Wycombe beat Barnet 12-11 in the President's Cup semi-final after a penalty shoot-out.

Old boy Alan Myers, recalled

from Kingstonian out of desperation, was faced with the terrifying prospect of the last kick of the game with the score at 11-11.

Jim Kelman said: "Their goalie had got his fingers to the last four attempts and he touched Alan's ... but he couldn't stop it. We're just pleased the 600 in the crowd saw so many goals and another win."

With a whole posse of players unavailable through injury, suspension and business commitments, Kelman was forced to pick a "bare bones" side for Monday's clash with top of the table Barnet.

The visitors snatched a goal either side of half-time before Mark West struck from the edge of the box to drag his side back into the hunt.

Then Roderick made it 2-2 from close range. In the first period of extra time Barnet looked to have buried their old adversaries with two more goals.

With Greenaway unavailable, Kelman had patched up his team with a batch of forwards and he brought on Alan Myers and Mark Boyland for the second period of extra time. Boyland promptly scored to make it 4-3 but Barnet again stretched their lead with a goal that put them 5-3 up.

Lively

As the seconds ticked away Durham fired a lifeline and West added to a fever pitch of excitement when he slotted a penalty to level the score at five-all.

Barnet took the initiative and went 2-0 up on penalties after skipper Keith Barret missed the Wanderers' first attempt, but they later obliged with their own squandered chance and the sides were inseparable at 4-4 after 10 strikes.

As the competition went into sudden death Roderick, Young and Myers were left and when Barnet missed again Myers stepped up and made no mistake.

It had been a different story on Saturday when Wycombe held a lively Telford side to a 0-0 draw.