

FLIPPED OVER COYNE!

Kelman unhappy as Macari pulls out of deal

WYCOMBE manager Jim Kelman was incensed after his plans to sign Swindon striker Peter Coyne on a month's loan collapsed unexpectedly on Friday.

Kelman had already finalised details with The Robins boss Lou Macari when the ex-Scotland international suddenly scuppered the deal on Friday morning.

"Everything was agreed," said Kelman. "I had worked very hard on this but then their manager turned round and suddenly said he wants Coyne to play in Combination games.

"Coyne could not play in both the Conference and the Combination so Macari said the deal was off.

"It is a big body blow because I've seen Peter Coyne play and he would have added a lot to our squad. The player wanted to come so it is very disappointing."

But Kelman's search for a top notch forward will continue this week with an approach to Runcorn for their star marksman Mark Carter who bagged a hat-trick at Loakes Park on Saturday.

"I will be ringing the Runcorn manager about Carter this week," added the Blues chief who is also

Rolf Niven reports

due to talk to both Barnet and Kettering. "We are looking all the time."

Kelman was also unhappy on Saturday as he watched his side allow Runcorn to snatch an undeserved 3-3 draw in their Conference clash.

Upset

"John let us down with the third goal and he was extremely upset about it afterwards. It was not the sort of mistake you expect from an experienced player with just six minutes to go."

But it was his side's lack of professionalism over Runcorn's second that really touched a raw nerve.

"Steve Abley got a finger in the eye and went down in the six yard box. Granville had the ball and tried to throw it into touch but it was picked up on the half-way line. The referee saw Abley was injured and waved play on with our defence waiting for the whistle. The ball was knocked in to Carter who was left totally free.

"The ref should have blown when the ball was at the half-way line but then we should never have allowed the situation to develop."

Despite Wycombe's failure to kill off Runcorn, Kelman remained optimistic.

"We gave them more than enough problems," he stated. "They are supposedly one of the best sides

in the league. If that is the case then who do we have to fear?

"The 13 players named on Saturday are the only 13 I've got available," added Kelman "I've no choice but to name the same 13 for Newport County on Tuesday."

There is little doubt Kelman is anxious for the return of big defensive trio Glyn Creaser (suspension) Matt Crossley (injury) and Andy Kerr (injury).

He also revealed that midfielder Martin Blackler has been playing with a painful groin injury for almost a month.

"It is painful and is affecting his performance but I need him in the side until Lawrence Osborn is fit again and then Martin can get a rest."

Newport, bottom of the Conference with three points from 10 games, may not be the pushovers many supporters think.

They managed a surprise 1-1 draw at high flying Kidderminster on Saturday.

The Welsh Club, who dropped out of the Fourth Division last season, have recently strengthened their side. Manager John Mahoney has bought 21-year-old midfielder Phil Williams from League neighbours Swansea City and 21-year-old striker Paul Sanderson from Walsall. Another key arrival is 27-year-old centre-back Phil Brignell from Merthyr Tydfil.

"It won't be easy but we'll have a go at them," added Kelman.