

Boston tea party for Wycombe's American duo ?

NEW WYCOMBE signing Mike Brady made his debut for the club on Tuesday night and is set to become the second United States international in the Wycombe line up to face Boston United on Saturday.

The 22-year-old centre forward received his international clearance in time to make him eligible for the Capital league game against Barnet and, although Blues were on the wrong end of a 2-1 scoreline, manager Jim Kelman was impressed enough to admit that he was in the running for a first team spot.

Brady comes to Loakes Park hot on the heels of compatriot John Kerr, who has already made his mark up front in a handful of games.

The pair won their US honours while playing together in North American Soccer League side the Boston All Stars and Wanderers' fans will be interested to see how the partnership works at Conference level.

Negative

Kelman said: "This was an excellent test for Mike because Barnet were fielding seven or eight of their regular first team - so he will know roughly what to expect in the Conference.

"He has got a lovely touch and he did well to set up our goal for Matt Elworthy. He is not fully fit yet, but up front is where I am looking for a different dimension and he may be the one to provide it."

"I see his ideal role as sitting in just behind the front line."

Kelman believes that the Boston fixture will be an entertaining one, judging by Boston's reputation as an enterprising footballing side.

He is keen to avoid a repetition of Saturday's FA Cup defeat at Barnet, in which Blues were dragged in to a tight, negative type of game which gave front runners Mark West and Kerr little chance to shine.

"In that kind of game, it all boils down to who gets the rub of the green inside the box and that is no way to go about things in the Conference.

"Sometimes the luck is with you and some-

times it deserts you. I want our game to be more about skill than chance.

"Kettering played that kind of game well and they had one very sharp man in the box who was on form and won it for them.

"The lads don't believe we can play as badly as that again and I will be looking for a different outcome on Saturday."

Also in action on Tuesday night were injured pair Lawrence Osborne and Matt Crossley, both working their way back to full fitness after long term injuries.

Fitter

Crossley has been looking to build up muscle on his leg following a knee operation and, judging by his display against Barnet, is close to his best again.

Kelman was pleased with what he saw: "Matt did very well in a tight marking role, keeping one of their dangermen out of the game and he will soon be in the running for a return to the Conference.

"Lawrence is getting fitter and stronger all the time and it is nice to be able to say that our injury problems are now at a minimum.

"Once Dave Carroll recovers from his collar bone injury we will be almost back at full strength.

"Dave is in rehabilitation at the moment but he is still allowed no contact in his training and it will be a while before he is ready.

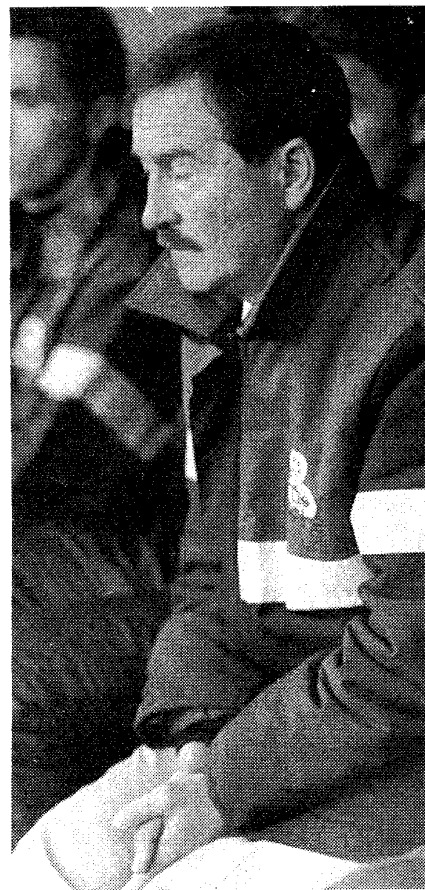
"John Ray was also in the team on Tuesday, but it was more or less his first game of the season and he was nowhere near fit. he had to come off at half time.

"There is a big gap between the youth team and the Conference, but there are one or two of the lads who are very promising.

"Scott Sidley in particular has impressed me. He can play almost anywhere in midfield or defence, he is a very decisive tackler and he reads the game extremely well."

One familiar face lining up against Barnet was full back Darren Britnell, who has parted company with Marlow after spending time on loan there.

He is now available for Wycombe's Capital



■ Jim Kelman prays for a Cup win

League matches and will continue to represent the club while looking for pastures new.

Favourites to snap him up at the moment are Harrow Borough, whose new boss Alan Mayes knows plenty about Britnell's ability, having been a Wycombe player himself up until last year.