

BAD BOYS

Kelman cracks down

By Rolf Niven

JIM KELMAN will crack down on his troops this week following the club's second sending off inside a week.

Defender Andy Kerr was given his marching orders in Saturday's 2-2 draw at Altrincham, seven days after skipper Keith Barrett was dismissed at Kidderminster.

"It has got to stop," warned the Blues manager. "We now have two defenders facing three match bans and we cannot afford it. I dislike this sort of behaviour which is why there is a system of heavy fines at Wycombe."

Unlike Barrett, who still protests his innocence, Kerr was clearly involved in a flare-up with Robins striker Gary Stewart and is likely to be dealt with more severely than his captain.

Kelman, who refuses to run down his players publicly, added: "A sending off is a sending off and every player will be fined. But the severity of the punishment is down to me."

The manager has in the past tried to shake his team out of their 'nice-boy' image. But he is also eager to preserve the club's disciplinary record - something both officials and players have been proud of over the years.

Conduct

Despite Kerr's conduct and the fact that Altrincham clawed back a two-goal deficit, Kelman declared himself "very pleased" with Saturday's performance.

"Altrincham are one of the hottest teams in the Conference at the moment and have had only

one defeat in 12 matches," he said. "We were good value for money in the first half and deserved our half-time lead. We completely paralysed them for 25 minutes after the break and played some great stuff; unfortunately we allowed them to come back at us.

"It was nice when their director came up and said we were the best team they've played this season. Our confidence is showing at the moment. We have the pace and ability to trouble almost any side."

"Lawrence Osborne was tremendous in mid-field but everyone played their part."

Matt Crossley made his first League appearance of the season when he replaced Mark West towards the end. Crossley is likely to be given a run-out in either tonight's (Tuesday) Berks and Bucks Senior Cup encounter with struggling Chesham United at Loakes Park or tomorrow night's Capital League visit to Wokingham.

Scott Sidley is likely to be rewarded for a series of encouraging youth and capital league performances by being included in tonight's line-up. The 19-year-old Wycombe lad will slot into either a defensive or midfield role.

Meanwhile Kelman is still waiting to hear from Gloucester City following his offer for striker Lance Morrison and Woking have enquired about having goalkeeper Steve Crompton on a month's loan.

■ Chesham United manager Pat Morrissey has only one injury worry for tonight's Senior County Cup game...himself!

"I have a hamstring injury and at the moment and it is 50-50 whether I'll play," he said.

Blues fans have unhappy memories of Morrissey at Loakes Park. He once scored twice in the last 20 minutes as Hayes turned a 1-0 deficit into a 3-1 FA Trophy victory.

"I haven't watched Wycombe because I didn't want to myself anything to worry about," he joked. "We'll just go along and enjoy ourselves."