

Kerr's happy ending

WHEN Wycombe Wanderers supporters this week chose John Kerr as their Player of the Month. It provided a happy ending to the tragic story which the 23 year old striker has kept hidden from the fans.

Kerr is the first to admit that he was hardly an instant hit when he arrived at Loakes Park in October - but he refused to make excuses for his disappointing early form. Says manager Jim Kelman "John would not say so, but his life was in turmoil. His mother up in Scotland was being treated for cancer and John was dividing his time between looking after her and playing football for Wycombe".

Tragically, Mrs. Kerr lost her battle for life - and then John suffered another stunning piece of news when many of his friends from the Syracuse University in America were killed in the Pan-Am disaster at Lockerbie. "Obviously, this was a terrible time for John", said Kelman.

He showed terrific character to keep playing through it. Now that his personal life is settling down again, we are seeing the real John Kerr on the field - and what a great little player he is".

John's goalscoring talents recently earned him a £250 award from a national newspaper and he had no hesitation in donating the money to Cancer Research. A typical gesture from the quiet, modest young man who is now such a key member of the Blues title chasing team.

Wycombe's successful season has been recognised by the selection of left-back Sean Norman for the England Semi-Professional squad for their international match against

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Wales next month. The former Colchester United player becomes the first Wycombe star to be picked for England since Noel Ashford.

"It is a well-deserved honour and reflects the hard work Sean has put in since I left him out of the team a few weeks back" says Jim Kelman, the Manager, along with the Blues fans is mystified that Sean's full back partner Steve Abbley has not also gained selection. "I have not seen a better right back this season". said Jim.

Happiest man in the Wycombe dressing room right now is midfielder, Martin Blackler, who was just hours away from leaving the club to join Bath City. "I never wanted to go", said Martin, "and I was absolutely delighted when I was taken off the transfer list. Now I am back in the team and everything is going so well. The spirit in the dressing room is tremendous".

Happy times for the ex-Swindon Town man off the field too - Martin's wife has just given birth to a baby daughter.

The sparkling form this season of Kevin Durham owes much to his new found ability to stay awake during the pre-match team talk! No relection on manager Kelman's words of wisdom but Durham used to arrive for games feeling very sleepy.

He explains: "I used to have a job as a post-man in my home town Oxford, and that obviously involved some very early starts. Every day of the week, including Saturdays when I was playing I had to be up at four o'clock in the morning. Some days I would arrive at the ground feeling ready for bed"!

Now Kevin has changed his job and is benefitting enormously .