

UNSTOPPABLE WYCOMBE

But there's
a shadow
as Newport
fight to live

BLUES players continued their gutsy, high-class performances with a 2-0 win over Merthyr Tydfil to reach the FA Trophy quarter finals.

Another enormous crowd, this one nearly 3,500, left Loakes Park on Saturday with the twin dreams of a Wembley final and a place in the Fourth Division very much alive.

Mark West and Glyn Creaser goals had put the icing on a fine Blues' performance which included a John Granville penalty save.

Wycombe will meet Hyde on their plastic pitch in the quarter finals.

But the Blues' hopes of winning the GM Vauxhall Conference and earning a place in the Football League could be hit if troubled Newport County fold up.

County went into liquidation this week and the results of all their matches will be wiped from the slate if they go under.

Blues have beaten them twice — and scored 10 goals against them.

To add insult to injury, higher-placed Barnet would escape any penalty because they have yet to play Newport.

On Wednesday evening Maidstone went above Wyc-

By PAUL HUDSON

ombe thanks to a 1-0 win over Fisher and there was more bad news when Andy Kerr was put in plaster following an injury in Saturday's game.

He has damaged ligaments and is expected to be out for a month.

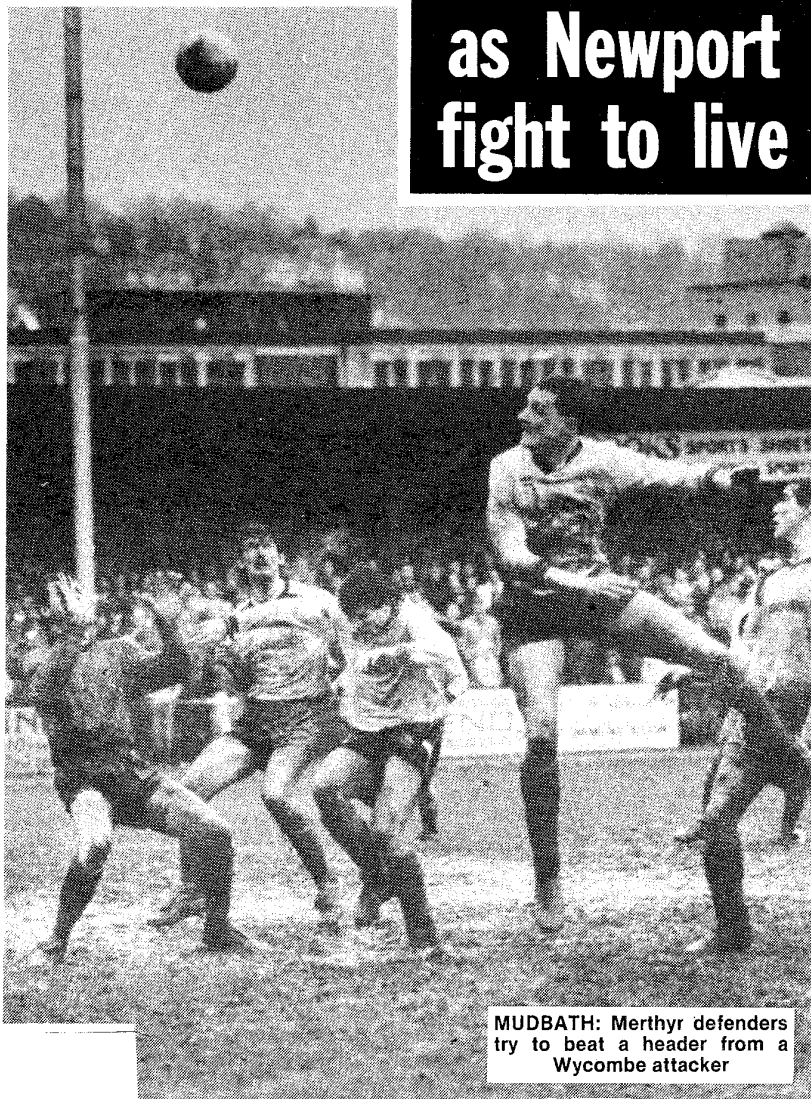
One ray of sunshine did pierce Blues' gloom when Wycombe Hockey Club generously offered to forego their booking at Bisham Abbey so Blues could practise on a plastic surface in preparation for the Hyde game.

In addition boss Jim Kelman has secured the services of striker Mark Butler from Egham and 6ft 2in Andy Ruffle from Bracknell Town.

Pouring rain turned Loakes Park into a porridge bowl of a pitch on Saturday but Blues made light of the conditions.

Mark West added the 26th goal to his season's tally and Glyn Creaser put the game beyond doubt when he slotted home.

Tomorrow Wycombe are home to Yeovil.



MUDBATH: Merthyr defenders try to beat a header from a Wycombe attacker