

Durham and West in transfer riddle

**Report by Nick Goodman
and Richard Dryden**

THE FUTURE of Wanderers stars Mark West and Kevin Durham has been thrown into doubt by behind-the-scenes transfer activity involving big-spending Chesham United.

Neither player looks likely to make the move to The Meadow at the moment, but Chesham officials said this week they were told that both were up for grabs.

Blues boss Jim Kelman confirmed that Chesham inquired about Durham, and Chesham manager John Clements told the Free Press he was advised the midfielder, valued earlier this year at £25,000, was definitely available.

Chesham had Durham watched in the recent home match against Yeovil, and Clements said: "Wycombe were willing to release him. We might still be interested in him but at the moment we are quite happy with the players we have got."

West is reported to be unhappy at the way his season is going at Wycombe, and Chesham chairman Tony Aplin told the Free Press on Wednesday: "We have been made aware that Mark West is available, but no approach has been made."

"It is unlikely that we would make an approach for him because he would not fit in with our side's system."

Gossip

But Wanderers chairman Ivor Beeks was quick to deny the rumours. He said: "One of our directors came into the boardroom on Saturday saying that the terraces were alight with gossip of bids from Chesham United for players such as Steve Abbey, Glyn Creaser and Kevin Durham."

"But if you take those players away, we've lost the nucleus of our squad."

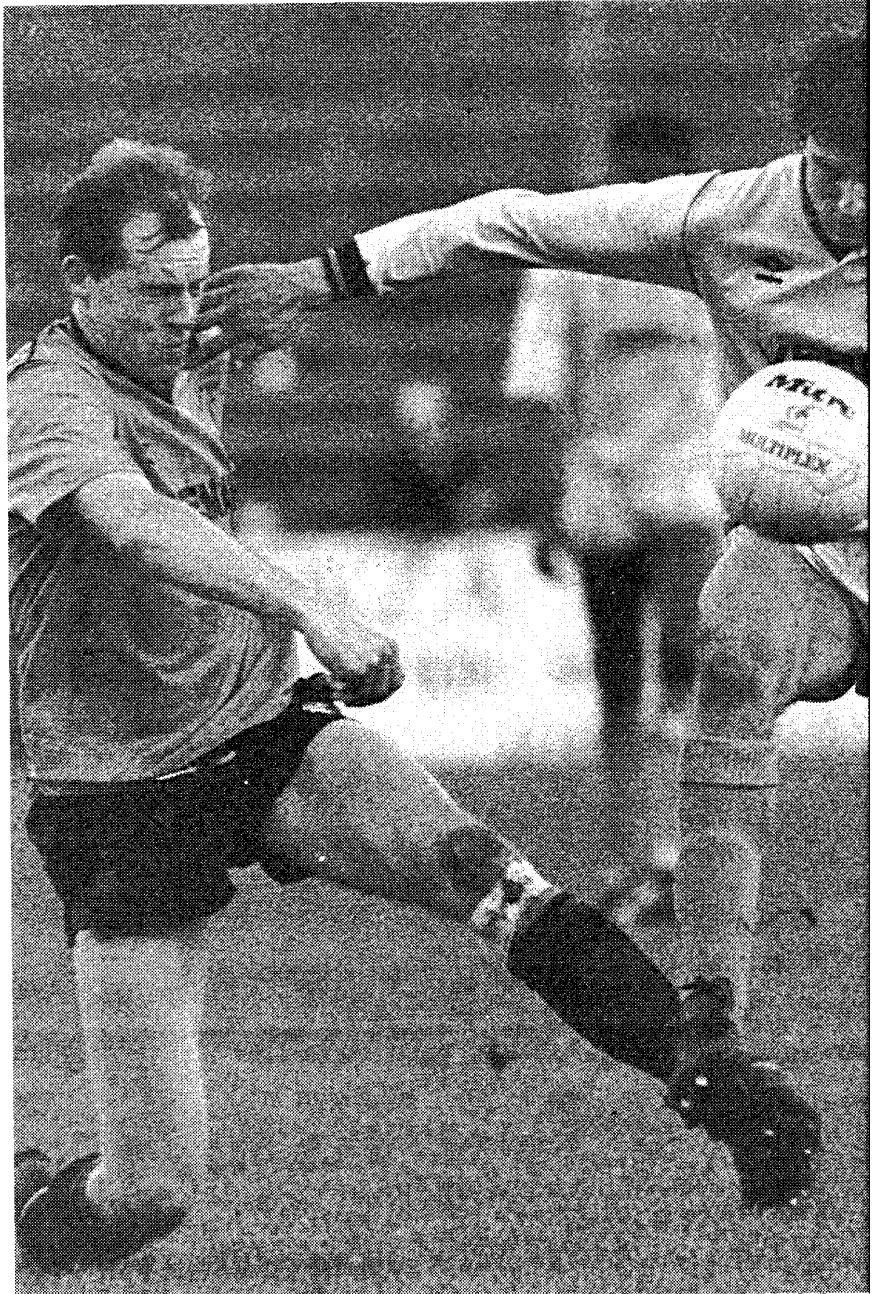
"No, certainly the rumours are not true and hopefully we'll pick up like we did last year and be there or thereabouts at the end of the season. We have a good squad, although we are desperately looking to recruit a few more players."

With Wycombe still languishing in the lower reaches of the Conference table, there is also talk on the terraces of boardroom rows after the Yeovil match and Kelman facing the sack unless results quickly improve.

But his chairman was quick to offer a vote of confidence: "In no uncertain terms, I can say that there has never been more harmony within the club."

"Perhaps some of the reasons for these rumours came after the Yeovil game. Alan Parry was furious at the decision for their second goal, but honestly, there is no unrest whatsoever."

"The rumours are just not true. Jim Kelman has done a great job at the club. We had the same amount of points at this stage last season and we recovered."



■ Kevin Durham in action against Boston on Saturday (report on page 83)