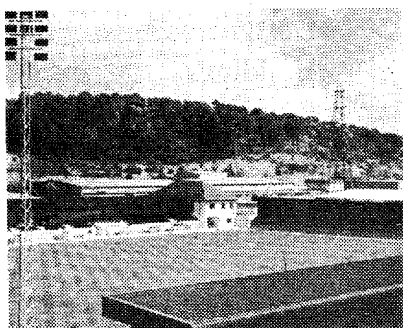


O'Neill sings praises of the Blues singers



Adams Park round-up

WYCOMBE'S manager Martin O'Neill was full of praise for the supporters who sang Blues towards victory on Saturday.

If Andy Kerr's goal was not quite as late as Nicky Evans' match-saving brace against Trowbridge back in October, it was another rousing cup win which had O'Neill applauding the support of those Wycombe fans behind the goal.

Cheltenham's second-half pressure brought some derisory responses from sections of the Wycombe spectators, and O'Neill said: "We were playing against a very strong breeze with a few moans from the crowd — except, let me tell you, the crowd from behind the goal, who kept us going. They have done a job for us."

● **HOPES** of Mark West replacing Wimbledon-bound Andy Clarke in the England semi-professional squad which plays at Kettering next week have been dashed. Kidderminster's Del Humphries, impressive in his displays against Wycombe this season, has received the nod after rejecting advances from the Welsh team.

● **BEFORE** Blues' match against Cheltenham, Steve Guppy was the deserved winner of Wycombe's Player of the Month for January, but it was the return of Dave Carroll on the other flank which provided the inspiration on Saturday.

O'Neill praised the winger's contribution, which included the crosses for both goals. "It was not just his dead-ball kicks. He's done absolutely superb, working back. For a fellow who hasn't really worked for three weeks I think he played 50 minutes against Wokingham (in the Capital League) — he's done magnificent: from dead-ball situations, and from ordinary play, picking it up, keeping it, he's given us a lot of heart."

From the usual list of representatives from attending League clubs, Bournemouth and Cambridge United were present on Saturday.

Wycombe's manager dropped Simon Hutchinson, and also birthday boy Chuck Moussaddik, to make way for Carroll and John Granville. O'Neill said Hutchinson was unlucky after playing as well as anyone in the defeat at Stafford, while he felt Moussaddik's confidence had dipped in the last couple of games.

"Davie Carroll's come in today to give us a lift because I think he's a very intelligent and clever player, although Hutchinson is unlucky. John's physical presence and experience in a game like today has won the day for him."

● **MICKEY** Nuttall was as pleased as anyone to see off Cheltenham Town on Saturday.

Nuttall, out of favour when he left Cheltenham for £6,000 last month, has scored four goals in eight games at Wycombe.

Although he has played better, his close control and dominance in the air were again valuable against Cheltenham. "I'm very disappointed not to score, and wasn't that pleased with my overall performance but at the end of the day it was a team performance. As long as we win and we're in the next round, that's all that matters."

The centre forward also admitted the first goal against Barrow in his second game was not his. "As a forward, I should claim everything, but I'm too honest. Anyone nearby could see I went in with the player and it hit his shoulder."

Nuttall is pleased with his first month: "I'm just getting into my stride. I just hope the goals keep coming, and I stay in the side. My main asset is providing knock downs for Westy or whoever and I just hope it goes from strength to strength."