

Colchester crash out

COLCHESTER, favourites to reach Wembley, were beaten 2-0 in the quarter-finals by runaway HFS Loans League leaders Witton Albion. Joe Connor scored both goals in the closing minutes.

Wycombe won 3-2 at Northwich thanks to two goals in three minutes from Keith Scott. Mark West put them in front but Malcolm O'Connor made it 1-1 before Scott's double. O'Connor struck again to set up a frantic finale.

Altrincham crushed Horwich 5-0 despite being without suspended top scorer Ken McKenna and Kidderminster beat Emley 3-0.

FA TROPHY — Quarter-Finals

ALTRINCHAM ... (2) 5	HORWICH (0) 0
Shaw 12, Hughes 18,	3,240
Showler 61, Brady 71,	
Daws 77.	
COLCHESTER ... (0) 0	WITTON (0) 2
	O'Connor 88, 90.
	3,079
KIDDERMINSTER ... (1) 3	EMLEY (0) 0
Hadley 30, 60,	2,408
Barnett 68	
NORTHWICH (1) 2	WYCOMBE (1) 3
O'Connor 25, 83	West 4, Scott 75, 78
	1,968

NON-LEAGUE SOCCER

Connor rebounds to land first semi-final

By Peter Ernest

JOE CONNOR, a £10,000 close-season signing from Hyde United, regained his scoring touch for Witton Albion on Saturday to send joint favourites Colchester crashing out of the FA Trophy.

His two goals in the last two minutes put Witton, the HFS Loans League leaders, in today's semi-final draw for the first time and ended Colchester's unbeaten home run.

Connor, 25, a supervisor with the Post Office, who hopes to be playing GM Vauxhall Conference football with Witton next season — they are 12 points clear with three games in hand — had not scored for six matches.

"Until this game I'd scored only eight goals all season, which is a poor rate for me," he said. "So I'm happy to have got two important goals against a side as strong as Colchester."

Colchester have 12 Conference games remaining, in which they have the chance of clinching an immediate return to the Fourth Division.

Witton's fellow Premier Division club, **Horwich**, found the task of playing another promotion-chasing Conference side, **Altrincham**, too difficult and lost 5-0 at Moss Lane.

Altrincham, the only team left with the chance of a Trophy-Conference double, took a 2-0 interval lead through Shaw and Hughes, and Showler, Brady and Daws applied the finishing touches.

Yorkshire side **Emley**, of the HFS Loans First Division, finally met their match at **Kidderminster**.

The Conference side, hit by illness and injuries, moved a step nearer to Wembley through Hadley (2) and Barnett. **Wycombe** won 3-2 at **Northwich** with goals by West and Scott (2). O'Connor scored twice for the home side.

● In the Conference promotion chase, **Kettering** regained the top spot from **Barnet**, who lost 3-2 at home to managerless **Merthyr**. Kettering won 2-1 at **Macclesfield** thanks to a last-gasp goal by Walwyn.

Dover close the gap on Cambridge

By Ben Findon

DOVER moved to within four points of Beazer Homes League leaders Cambridge City after two goals in three minutes secured a 2-1 victory at second-placed Bromsgrove.

Tony Dixon and Leroy Ambrose gave the champions the upper hand in the second half and though Igoe swiftly reduced the deficit, Bromsgrove could not complete a salvage operation.

Dover are now third, but have two games in hand over Cambridge, who could only draw 1-1 at lowly **Atherstone**. Wilkin gave them a share of the spoils after Gorrie had put the home side ahead.

Farnborough slipped to fourth after losing 3-2 at home to **Wealdstone** with all the scoring compressed into the second half. Despite twice equalising, Farnborough had no answer to Goodison's 88th-minute winner for the visitors.

Redbridge Forest consolidated their position at the top of the Vauxhall League with Hull and Davidson on target in the 2-0 defeat of visiting **Staines**. **Kingstonian** won by the same score against **Harrow** to remain two points behind the leaders, who have played two games fewer.

Aylesbury overcame **Hendon** 2-0 to move into third place ahead of **Enfield**, who were held at **Barking**, and **Woking**, who suffered a 2-0 reverse at **Bishop's Stortford**.