

O'Neill leaves cup squad door ajar

**Report by
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THE door onto Wanderers' Wembley team bus is still open for all of Wycombe's 20-strong squad.

Manager Martin O'Neill has no idea which 13 Blues players will have the honour of walking out onto the Wembley turf for the FA Trophy final against Kidderminster on May 11.

And as Blues chase a couple of records in their three remaining league games, everyone in the squad will have had their chance to stake a claim for a Wembley place.

Wanderers are within one point of their best ever Conference total, reached two years ago, while Mark West, with 23 league goals, is one behind Barnet's Gary Bull in the leading scorers' chart.

There were six changes for Tuesday night's victory over Merthyr Tydfil from the team which won at Boston, and now keeper Chuck Moussaddik and centre forward Mickey Nuttall are in line for recalls.

"There are a lot of players not knowing what the side will be — and I've no idea," admitted O'Neill, who also has Martin Blackler, Blues' player of the month for December before a pelvis injury ruled him out, in with a chance of being fit within the fortnight.

Blackler came through part of Monday night's reserve team match with no ill effects.

Against Merthyr, a number of returning players did their Wembley chances no harm with impressive displays.

Of Gary Smith, O'Neill said: "He's in with a chance, as they all are, seriously. I said to them after we beat Altrincham that A: people were playing for places, places are up for grabs, and I think they've

responded to that.

"And secondly, I didn't want a losing streak before we got to the final."

Blues travel to Drill Field tomorrow for their Conference game with Northwich Victoria (ko 3pm) having won five games out of their last six and the chase for Wembley places should motivate the players.

"I want the best number of points we've had and I want boys in 'the right frame of mind,'" said O'Neill. "Everyone will have a chance to play — Chuck Moussaddik, Mickey Nuttall at centre forward. But I'd like Westy to become leading scorer. I'd dearly love him to get a couple of goals and do it."

Kidderminster, meanwhile, lost 2-1 at Gateshead on Wednesday after an impressive goalless draw with Colchester on Monday.

"We're in decent form," added O'Neill, "but Kidderminster, as I saw against Colchester, have a lot of talented footballers. There is a grave danger here of feeling that we only have to perform adequately to win this match which is utter nonsense."

As Adams Park continued to throb with commercial activity this week, O'Neill said: "I'd rather have it than not but the football can get lost."