

Violence mars start to game

HUNDREDS of football supporters including young children had to scatter from the terraces at Adams Park on Saturday to escape a violent scuffle.

A fight between two men broke out in the home fans' enclosure during the first minute of Wycombe's match against Colchester after visiting fans, who posed as Blues supporters, sneaked in.

A number of supporters nearly ended up on the pitch in a bid to stay out of the way of the disturbance and one trouble maker ran on to the field, but the match continued.

by Claire Nash

Within five minutes police moved in to quell the fighting youths. High Wycombe police had concentrated their presence at the opposite end of the ground when violence erupted.

Two men were arrested and charged with public order offences and a group of 50 Colchester supporters were escorted back to the visiting fans' enclosure.

Inspector Martin Bolton of High Wycombe police said: "There was no trouble from

Wycombe supporters which we are used to now."

Police presence at Adams Park, overseen by Acting Chief Inspector Roger Young, was strengthened in anticipation of the record crowd attendance of 5,186.

Mounted police accompanied Colchester fans to and from the venue in Sands, High Wycombe.

But Blues fans were unhappy when they were asked to wait for ten minutes at the end of the match for Colchester supporters to leave the stadium first.

● Alan Parry apologises to Blues fans - see page 13.

Landlord throws out the Colchester rowdies

LOUTISH behaviour by visiting football fans led to tables being overturned and glasses smashed at the Hour Glass pub in Sands before Wycombe's match against Colchester.

Landlady Marilyn Nevin told The Star: "It was reckless behaviour

really. The pub was packed and many fans were getting noisy and excited. A table was up-ended and glasses and plates were broken."

Marilyn's husband Patrick escorted the troublemakers off the pub premises.

"This is the first in-

stance of trouble we've had here," said Marilyn. "We didn't have any trouble between Wycombe fans and Colchester supporters."

She added: "Wycombe fans are well behaved in here and other Colchester fans apologised for the troublemakers."

Praise for fans' behaviour

POLICE have praised Wycombe's football fans after they turned their backs on visiting thugs trying to start trouble at the weekend's football match.

Fighting broke out after 50 Colchester United fans bluffed their way into the Wycombe Wanderers' enclosure during Saturday's Vauxhall Conference match.

By STAFF REPORTER

Two Colchester fans were later arrested for their part in the brawling which broke out just minutes after the game started.

Mounted police later escorted the mass of Colchester fans to Wycombe rail station.

A police spokesman said: "All the trouble came from the visiting fans, there was no trouble at all from the Wycombe supporters who were very well behaved."

A heavy police presence at

the match helped snuff out the trouble in the record 5,186 crowd and the group of visiting fans were escorted to the Colchester enclosure before the game re-started.

The police spokesman added: "A group of visiting fans posed as Wycombe supporters in order to get among the home fans. Scuffling broke out and we moved in to escort them to their own end, there was no more trouble after that and no injuries."

League leaders Wycombe went on to lose the match 1-2 thanks to an amazing winning goal by the Colchester goalkeeper Scott Barrett whose 89th minute punt fooled Wycombe's keeper Paul Hyde and bounced into the back of the net.