

Wanderer Whitby joins Slough

FLUSH Rebel manager Alan Davies was eagerly prepared to account for his taste when he signed full-back Steve Whitby from Wycombe Wanderers on Wednesday night.

"This must be the easiest signing I have ever made," crowed Davies.

"I put it to him last Friday night at Slough and within 15 minutes I had a positive reply.

"He is a very good player bought at a good price — he will be a real asset to the side."

Whitby, a 21-year-old trainee accountant, is an attacking right back and comes to Wexham Park for £8,000 on a three-year contract.

He arrives hot on the heels of wheeler-dealer Davies' other finds — keeper Phil Burns and striker Francis Joseph.

Both clubs have done well out of the deal. The Rebels get a quality player with a taste for success while Wycombe make a fine killing on a player who cost them nothing but came up through the Capital league ranks.

Whitby was a vital part of the Blues side which lifted the FA Trophy at Wembley in

● By Bryce Martin

May. But he suffered a cruel ligament injury when warming-up a week before the final and had to miss out on the medals.

The fearless red-head lost his place in the side at the start of this season when manager Martin O'Neill picked up Jason Cousins from Brentford on a free transfer.

Cousins has proved hard to dislodge — Wycombe went seven Conference games without defeat before Cousins was sent off as they crashed to their first defeat against Macclesfield. Whitby has long been the subject of Davies's attentions, but Wycombe refused to play ball — until last week.

The return from injury of former Arsenal defender Steve Walford means that O'Neill will be able to shuffle Matt Crossley into the right back slot while Cousins is sidelined.

"Steve did not want to leave Adams Park, but realises that his best route for continued success will now be with another club," said O'Neill.

Davies is keen to further beef up his squad after signing midfielder Colin Fielder from Farnborough at the beginning of the season for £18,000. "We have a fairly good side here now, but we could still do better.

"If I had the cash there are four more players I would want to bring in."

Davies is anxious to get on with his job despite the lengthy legal process over the setting up of the club as a private company.

"I shall be glad when it's all done and dusted and we can get on with the business."

• Rebel Chairman Tom Dean has issued an apology to fans using the club's out-of-date 'Rebel Line' news facility.

"I thought we had sorted out a news commentator at the start of the season, but the arrangement appears not to be working.

"If we cannot man the line properly in future we will pull the plug on it rather than continue with a poor service."

Former club secretary Richard 'Olly' Hayward this week agreed to take it over and promised to scrub out the 2-2 Croydon report which has been on the air since September 14.

SLOUGH have signed Steve Whitby. The deal was concluded on Wednesday evening in time for the Capital League match.

The 21 year old Wycombe full back comes to Wexham Park for £8,000, the club's second big signing after money has been made available this season.

Slough boss Alan Davies said: Steve will be a good asset to the club. He played 30-35 games for Wycombe last season and was very unlucky to get injured in a warm up and miss out on the FA Trophy final.

"Everyone thinks he is a good player at Wycombe and he is unlucky not to be in the side at the moment."



STEVE Whitby signs on.

Steve joins neighbours Slough Town

BLUES' full back Steve Whitby joined neighbours Slough Town this week for £8,000.

Steve has not figured in Wycombe's first team this season and he told the Bucks Free Press: "I'm not happy to leave the club, but I wasn't getting a game and I need to play Conference football."

The 21-year-old made his debut

PETE LANSLEY reports

in Wycombe's first team when he came on in the farewell game at Loakes Park in May 1990.

His Conference debut followed at Runcorn at the start of last season.

Oxford United had Steve watched this time last year as he made an

impressive start to the season and the former accountant went on to make 40 appearances in total.

Wycombe will receive a certain percentage of any fee should Steve move on from Slough.

Steve hopes to make his debut in Slough's home game against Barrow tomorrow.