

Norman stands by for Wanderers call-up

SCHOOLBOY Alec Norman could cap a dramatic rise from Wycombe's youth team by landing a place in the Wanderers' line-up at Bath on Sunday.

The John Hampden centre forward will again put his school books to one side to travel with the first-team squad for the Vauxhall FA Trophy third round tie at Twerton Park (ko 3pm).

Manager Martin O'Neill has also been lifted by news Jason Cousins played 90 minutes in the

reserves' 3-1 defeat by Brentford on Wednesday. Kim Casey, cup tied against Yeovil, scored Wycombe's goal.

Tough-tackling Cousins has missed the last three games after being rushed to hospital with suspected appendicitis. But after losing half a stone last week, the full back has received the all clear and is eating his way to recovery.

"He was feeling very tired," said O'Neill after Wednesday's

game. "But he obviously comes into contention for Sunday. If he's fit, he'll play."

Norman, just 17, has scored over 20 goals for the youth team this season and travelled with the first team to Northwich. Said O'Neill: "He nearly came into contention last week, although he'll believe it when he sees it. He'll be travelling with us again, and could be in the 13."

New boys Steve Thompson and Dennis Greene are Trophy

tied, Andy Kerr (two games) and Simon Hutchinson (missing his second of three games) are suspended, while several players are battling against injury.

Gary Smith (ankle) and Cousins are most likely to play, while Matt Crossley, Dave Carroll (both groin) and Gavin Covington (knee) were to receive treatment last night. On-loan Jon Mutton is unlikely to be involved.

"We'll be a wee bit makeshift

for the game," said O'Neill. "We've got a reasonable record down there. They've drawn a lot and I've always thought they were difficult to beat."

Wycombe drew 1-1 at Bath in January, and Tony Ricketts' side are unbeaten for 11 games excluding the county cup. Ricketts scored a spectacular own goal as Bath lost 1-0 to Radstock Town on Tuesday night.



Colchester have benefit of home games to come

WITH around a third of the football season remaining, Colchester still hold the upper hand over Wycombe in the battle for the one promotion place to the Football League currently on offer.

While Blues have four games in hand over Colchester, the leaders, eight points clear, only have four away games left in the league.

Colchester extended their run of away games without a win to four when they were thrashed 4-1 at Welling last Saturday. However, they have won their last eight league games at Layer Road.

Wycombe also have to fit in their two Bob Lord Final games with Runcorn. The projected dates are March 31 and April 7, but these could be changed if Wycombe make the FA Trophy semi finals. Whatever the dates, Wycombe will travel to Runcorn first.

Wycombe Wanderers		Colchester United	
February	Kettering Town	February	Altrincham
25	BARROW	28	
29		March	
March		7	GATESHEAD
7	Yeovil Town	14	Bath City
10	BOSTON UNITED	21	NORTHWICH
14	Altrincham	28	KIDDERMINSTER
17	Redbridge Forest		
21	STAFFORD RANGERS	to be arranged	
24	NORTHWICH	KETTERING TOWN	
27	KETTERING	Home fixtures in capitals	