

Wycombe wobbling

GM CONFERENCE

WYCOMBE'S challenge for the GM Conference title — and Football League status — took a nasty jolt at Yeovil.

Micky Spencer's 21st goal of the season settled matters to leave Wycombe 11 points adrift of Conference leaders Colchester.

Glyn Creaser came closest to saving a point, but his close-range header was superbly saved by David Coles.

Colchester kept up their charge back into Division Four with a 2-0 win over Gateshead in front of nearly 3,000 fans.

NON-LEAGUE SOCCER

Crowd abuse just a spur to Masters

By Peter Ernest

MIKE MASTERS, Colchester's import from the United States, silenced his critics at Layer Road with a late goal which consolidated his team's grip on the GM Vauxhall Conference leadership.

Colchester's 2-0 victory over relegation-threatened Gateshead restored their 11-point lead over Wycombe, who have four games in hand.

A plea in the programme to "give Masters a break" after some recent crowd abuse acted as a spur to the giant striker who slid home a left-foot shot with the last kick.

Masters, in his second spell at the club, had come on as a 64th-minute substitute for his player-manager, Roy McDonough.

Colchester had also finished the first half in similar fashion when Paul Roberts rose unmarked to head home.

Wycombe attracted a near 3,000 crowd to Huish Park, but were thwarted by a 22nd-minute goal from Mick Spencer that took Yeovil six points clear of bottom clubs Stafford and Barrow.

GM CONFERENCE

Wycombe challenge for Yeovil

By Peter Ernest

YEOVIL TOWN, bottom of the table in mid-January but now four points and three places clear after only one defeat in nine games, will need to hit top form today if their revival is to continue.

Huish Park is expected to house a 3,000-plus crowd for the visit of Wycombe Wanderers, who are second in the table, eight points behind Colchester.

Yeovil are likely to be without player-manager Steve Rutter, who has developed a heavy cold after suffering muscle spasms during last week's 2-1 win at Macclesfield. Also doubtful is Paul Wilson, who is still recovering from a hernia operation.

Wycombe, with four games in hand on Colchester, are still on course for the Conference-Vauxhall FA Trophy-Bob Lord Trophy treble. But manager Martin O'Neill has fitness doubts over Dave Carroll and Kim Casey.

Colchester, who have won 12 of their last 15 home league and cup games, have Shaun Elliott fit again and back in the squad for the visit of injury-hit Gateshead.

"We have eight home games left and three away," said Roy McDonough, Colchester's player-manager. "I am telling the lads to be patient and have a go at landing the league and FA Trophy double."

Slough Town, now owned by Mayfair Communications, have parted company with assistant manager Mick Walsh for economic reasons. They visit relegation-threatened Barrow today.

VAUXHALL CONFERENCE

BARROW (1) 3	SLOUGH (4) 4
Doherty 41	McKinnon 1, 19, Stanley 12,
Rowlands 59	Pluckrose 44
Brady 75	1,035
BOSTON (1) 1	BATH (0) 0
Jones 21	1,008
COLCHESTER ... (1) 2	GATESHEAD (0) 0
Roberts 45, Masters 90	2,897
KIDD'MNSTR ... (0) 0	WITTON (0) 1
MERTHYR T (1) 3	ALTRINCHAM ... (1) 1
Webley 26, 52, 86	McKenna 43
REDBRIDGE (2) 4	NORTHWICH (2) 3
Walsh 9, Cavell 33,	Hemmings 3, Easter 38,
Ebdon 63 (pen), 74	Locke 58
RUNCORN (0) 0	MACCLESFLD (0) 0
STAFFORD (1) 2	CHELT'NHAM (2) 2
Simpson 25 (pen),	Smith 26, Owen 45
Wood 60	667
TELFORD (0) 2	WELLING (1) 1
Myers 67, Ferguson 87	Abbott 5
YEOVIL (1) 1	WYCOMBE (0) 0
Spencer 22	2,901

FRIDAY GAME — Kettering 1 Farnborough 2.

	Home					Away				
	P	W	D	L	F	P	W	D	L	F
Colchester	32	12	1	1	37	10	8	7	3	33
Wycombe	28	10	1	2	30	11	8	2	5	18
Redbridge	30	9	2	2	33	14	5	4	8	21
Farnboro	27	4	4	4	18	16	9	4	2	22
Telford	30	9	2	6	26	25	5	3	5	21
Boston	28	7	3	5	29	24	6	3	4	21
Welling	32	7	6	3	35	26	4	5	7	22
Slough	28	7	2	6	25	24	6	1	6	23
Kettering	26	6	4	3	26	19	5	4	4	17
Merthyr T	28	9	4	3	31	21	2	4	6	10
Northwich	30	9	3	5	35	21	3	1	9	18
Macclesfld	29	5	5	5	16	13	5	5	4	16
Bath	30	5	4	5	19	16	5	6	5	19
Altrincham	31	4	8	3	27	25	5	4	7	24
Witton	30	8	4	3	30	18	2	4	9	17
Kidd'mnstr	31	6	4	4	23	18	3	11	17	35
Yeovil	29	6	4	6	16	14	2	5	6	11
Cheltenham	32	5	4	7	18	26	2	7	7	23
Gateshead	29	5	2	6	14	14	3	5	8	21
Runcorn	31	4	8	4	21	21	3	2	10	14
Barrow	31	3	7	6	21	19	2	5	8	19
Stafford	32	3	7	6	18	23	2	5	9	11

● JOHN STILL, of Redbridge Forest, won the £250 Mail on Sunday manager of the month award for February after steering his side into the top four of the Conference and the quarter-finals of the Vauxhall FA Trophy. Redbridge striker Paul Cavell won the £250 goalscorer's prize with eight goals.