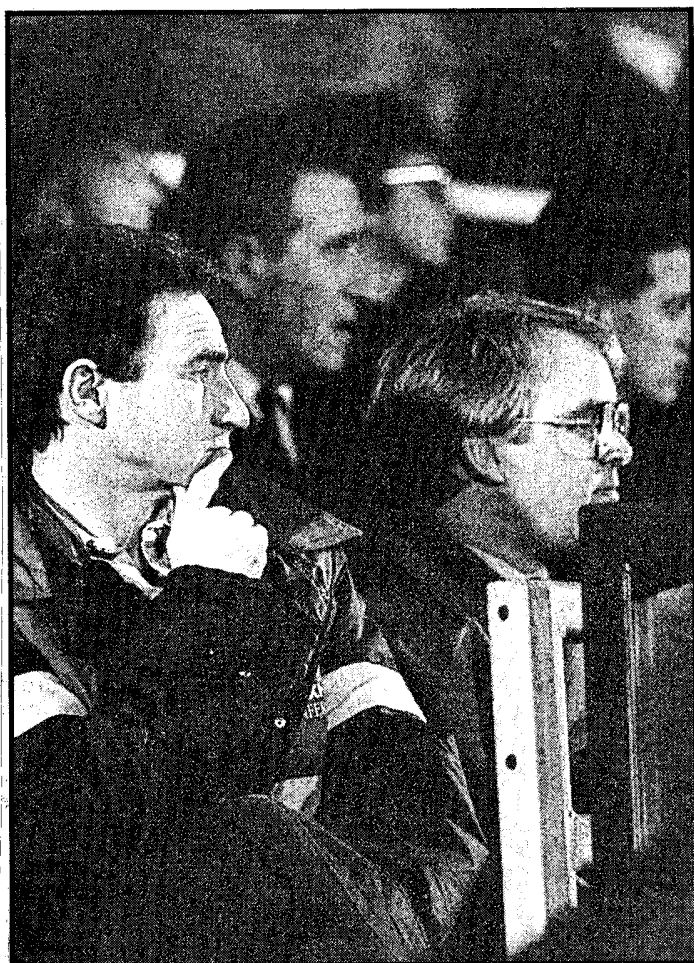


# Referee banishes Blues boss to the stand



View from the stand: Martin O'Neill on Tuesday night

WANDERERS boss Martin O'Neill, dismissed from the dugout on Tuesday night, has denied he used "foul and abusive language."

Referee Eddie Green, from Slough, sent O'Neill off with ten minutes left of Wycombe's victory over Northwich on Tuesday.

But Green added 'O'Neill' isn't the name he will be reporting to the Football Association.

"I'll have to report the name he gave me," said Green, who would not specify further.

The official, who was sending off a manager for the first time, added that the Wycombe boss was dismissed for: "foul and abusive language directed at the referee."

But O'Neill, whose dismissal was his first as a manager, retorted: "If the report's for foul and abusive language, then it's simply and utterly untrue."

O'Neill was fined £200 by the FA only a fortnight ago for his last run-in with a referee and now faces further disciplinary action.

Green also recorded four bookings during the game. One was for a foul, and none were for bad language. Northwich striker Tony Hemmings was cautioned for "feigning injury" when he tried

to win a penalty by diving, while Mark Jones and Blues' Steve Guppy received yellow cards for kicking the ball away after the whistle had blown.

O'Neill quipped: "If he'd booked Steve Guppy for the bad shot, I could have understood it! But not when the player hadn't even seen the linesman's flag."

Green said that the game was played in a superb spirit. "There were just isolated incidents. We applied the laws of the game."

Wanderers officials' hot-water hit-list:

● September 21

Wycombe crowd and director Alan Parry incensed by Royston Osborne's refereeing of home defeat by Macclesfield when two Blues players are sent off. Osborne reports Parry to the FA, and he is charged as in breach of FA rule 26a (10) and eventually fined £100. Parry also sends formal apology to the FA and £100 for charity.

● February 4

Simon Hutchinson sent off by Royston Osborne as Blues go on to lose 2-1 at Cheltenham. The FA charge O'Neill with bringing the game into disrepute after his after-match confrontation with the official. He is fined £200 at a personal hearing.

● March 24

O'Neill finishes Blues' victory over Northwich sitting in the stand after being dismissed for alleged use of foul and abusive language to referee Eddie Green.



Eddie Green