

O'Neill promises his players will keep battling away

CONFERENCE title contestants Wycombe and Colchester enter the final fortnight of the season neck and neck in the race for promotion to the Fourth Division.

And Blues boss Martin O'Neill has vowed: "We'll still be well in contention at the end of Easter time."

Wanderers, toppled from top spot after just three days in pole position, are still level on points but now trail Colchester on goal difference.

But with six games to play, O'Neill believes goal difference need not come into the equation.

Blues have home games against Welling (this Saturday) and Bath (on Easter Monday, both 3pm), and O'Neill told the Bucks Free Press: "Goal difference is going to be hard for us to overhaul at this stage — but we can still win it on points."

Long

"They (Colchester) still have to come up here to Macclesfield — there's an awfully long way to go yet."

"Six games is a seventh of the season, and there's 18 points to play for. There's an awful long way to go."

While the ending of Wycombe's

PETE LANSLEY reports

brilliant run of seven straight league wins could be seen to relieve the players of some pressure, O'Neill said: "There's no reason why we couldn't have come up here and won," adding: "We were capable of winning and at half time we most certainly had the upper hand."

The turning point in Tuesday night's eighth league defeat was Macclesfield's second goal early in the second half, and O'Neill did not shy from pointing the finger.

"We've conceded what I call a really, really daft goal — a nothing goal. The boy's able to stick the ball in the net from a terrible mistake by Creaser."

O'Neill continued: "We've conceded a very sloppy goal just into the second half when we most certainly had the better of it. Long before we had equalised we were playing the better football — we looked the better side, the more cultured side, with perhaps not enough cutting edge at the end of the day. We paid for our mistakes."

O'Neill pointed to chances that got away from Steve Thompson, Dave Carroll and Kim Casey but paid credit to the players' character in keeping up with Colchester's professionals.

TABLE

Up to and including April 14

Positions	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1 Colchester	36	23	9	4	78	35	78
2 Wycombe	36	25	3	8	66	32	78
3 Kettering	37	18	11	8	61	43	65
4 Telford	37	18	7	12	58	56	61

"I've said this to you before and I'm unashamedly saying it again: Colchester have a massive advantage in that they are full time. They can rest up, while we have had to get days off work for this — and that is going to kill us at the end of the day."

"Colchester are most certainly not a better side than us."

"We have got five games in ten days now and while Colchester have just about the same, our lads have to take time to do this, that and the other. At the end of the day, it's a massive thing to ask them to come and do it."

He added: "We've won seven on the bounce before tonight in terms of the league, and the lads were full of it tonight. It didn't go in our direction."

O'Neill was not ready to start contemplating team changes, but said: "Whatever side we put out Saturday will give their very best."

Wycombe Wanderers		Colchester United	
Remaining Fixtures 1992			
WELLING	April 18	TELFORD	
BATH	20	MERTHYR	
Kettering	22	Boston United	
Gateshead	25	Macclesfield	
Redbridge	28	KETTERING	
WILTON	30	BARROW	
	May 2		
(Home fixtures capitalised)			

Dearsley secures draw

HIGH Wycombe Sunday Football Combination drew 1-1 with their Wycombe and District Football League counterparts on Tuesday.

Hopes of holding the game at Beaconsfield United Football Club had been dampened by the awful weather.

But staff at the club worked doggedly to ensure the game went ahead.

HWSFC 1, WDFL 1

Wycombe and District took the lead ten minutes from time when Michael Hackshaw turned in a right-wing cross.

The Sunday side equalised three minutes from time.

Neil Wiles played a short pass to Wayne Dearsley and he made no mistake.