

## Players' views

# Disappointed stars praise efforts of impressive Blue Army of fans

By **CLAIRE NASH** and **MICHELLE DAVIES**

WYCOMBE'S players acclaimed their fervent fans after missing out on promotion last weekend.

Wycombe's Blue Army, who travelled to provide Gateshead and Redbridge with their best attendances of the season in the final run-in, broke the Adams Park attendance record as Wycombe beat Witton 4-0 last Saturday.

A noisy fraction of the 6,035 remained to sing 'We're proud of you' to the players in the Vere Suite bar after the game.

Andy Kerr said: "It's a shame we didn't win it for them.

"At the end of the day we wanted promotion but more than that we wanted to win the league," he said.

"It's a shame that this is the only league where only one team gets promoted, especially when the two top

teams are so far in front of the rest of the league," he added.

Striker Mark West agreed: "They are the best supporters in the country, adding: "It would be nice to have play-offs — I am sure we would have gone up."

John Deakin said: "This was a desperate way to lose out. The team needs to go full time. With the team we have got we would hold our own. The club is geared for success."

Midfielder Deakin is among the players whose contract is up and he said: "I would like to stay. If you don't want to stay a part of this club you must be mad.

"When I was out through injury it was frustrating. As a player you have

got to want to get out there and play."

Looking forward to next season, West said: "My aim is to get back in the team. I think we will win the league next year. We have got 20 or so good players here and I want to get back in the team and score a few goals."

The players were conscious of the speculation concerning Martin O'Neill's possible move to a League club, and West said: "I would be sorry to see him go. He is a god manager and has done a very good job."

Kerr added: "After this kind of reaction nobody would want to leave but, well, he is his own man.

"Obviously it is going to take a couple of weeks for this to sink in."