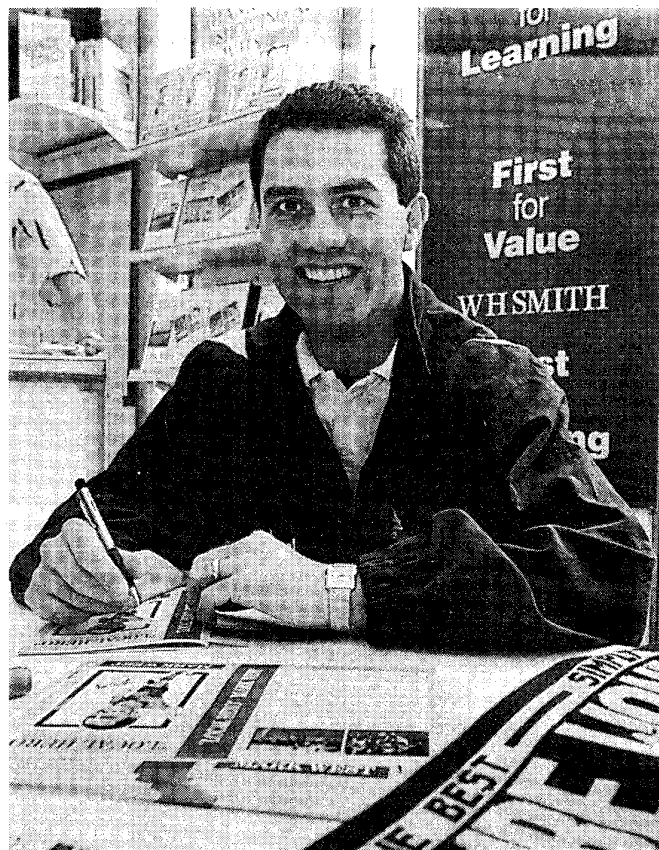


Video brimming with vintage West



Goal-scoring legend Mark West pictured at WH Smith in Wycombe this week, signing copies of his testimonial video

FEW Blues fans will have missed the element of cruel irony which sees Mark West enduring the worst spell of his Wanderers career during his testimonial year.

This professionally-produced video (Trans Video Productions, £11.99) diplomatically stops 12 months ago, following the birth of Mark's son and his 1991 Wembley winner.

But there is enough evidence in the preceding 50 minutes to convince any video-watching scout that here is a dynamic goalscorer.

After one or two plodding interviews with the right people early on, the video takes off with some vintage nostalgia which will fascinate Blues fans.

It was a Wembley strike in 1981 that brought West's first televised goal, live on ITV with Brian Moore commentating, no less. Westy's cracker for England schoolboys is just as entertaining as his Keegan afro, while former Wanderers Andy Robinson and Martin Lambert, man-of-the-match, also catch the eye.

West articulately narrates most of his story. The action picks up again in the mid-80s at Loakes Park, including his FA Cup goal which helped knock League boys Colchester United out of the Second Round proper.

Westy's hair gets shorter as we move nearer to the present day, but he keeps finishing top scorer. The 1990/91 season shows West, as Martin O'Neill says, "right on top of his game," smashing in goals left, right and centre, culminating in the FA Trophy clincher.

ITV's European Championship music, "You are the Number One," provides a snappy, up-to-date soundtrack of a reminder of what Westy can do. For a man still aged only 26, let's hope it's not his Wanderers swansong.

Mark West, the only Wycombe-born player in the current squad, is the greatest Wanderers goalscorer of modern times.

His testimonial video "Local Hero" celebrates ten years of Wycombe goals, and traces his career to the 1991 FA Trophy winner at Wembley. PETE LANSLEY takes a glimpse at the best of West

