

VAUXHALL CONFERENCE

BROMSGROVE ... (0) 1	WYCOMBE (0) 0
Whitehouse 85	3,675
FARNBORO (1) 3	KETTERING (1) 2
Leworthy 45, 54	Bancroft 37
Coney 71	Brown 90
WELLING (1) 2	BOSTON (1) 2
Robbins 43, 90	Graham 39, Jones 56
WITTON (1) 1	YEOVIL (0) 2
Kilner 42	Spencer 57, Dang 84

	Home					Away					
	P	W	D	L	F	P	W	D	L	F	A Pts
Wycombe	13	6	0	0	22	2	4	1	2	14	5 31
Witton	10	3	2	1	11	6	2	2	0	6	2 19
Dag-Redbge	9	3	1	0	15	4	2	2	1	4	3 18
Bromsgrove	10	4	1	1	10	5	1	2	1	5	7 18
Farnboro	12	3	2	1	14	9	2	1	3	13	17 18
Telford	11	3	1	1	13	10	2	1	3	8	13 17
Stafford	8	2	2	0	9	7	2	1	1	4	2 15
Slough	8	3	0	2	9	7	2	0	1	3	2 15
Altrincham	9	0	1	2	1	3	4	1	1	10	5 14
Stalybridge	9	1	3	0	9	6	2	1	2	7	8 13
Gateshead	9	2	1	1	7	3	2	0	3	8	13 13
Yeovil	11	2	1	2	8	6	2	0	4	6	9 13
Merthyr T	11	0	3	3	4	10	3	1	1	8	5 13
Kidd'mnstr	9	1	1	3	3	6	2	2	0	6	2 12
Bath	10	3	1	2	5	6	0	2	5	8	17 12
Kettering	13	3	1	2	5	4	1	2	2	6	7 12
Northwich	10	0	1	4	4	9	3	1	1	7	7 11
Runcom	12	3	1	3	10	10	0	1	4	3	15 11
Macclesfd	8	1	1	2	4	5	2	0	2	4	6 10
Woking	10	1	0	3	5	7	2	1	3	8	14 10
Welling	11	2	1	3	9	15	0	2	3	7	12 9
Boston	9	0	1	4	1	9	0	2	2	4	7 3

■ BROMSGROVE ROVERS beat runaway leaders Wycombe 1-0 in front of a post-war record crowd of 3,675. Mark Whitehouse scored from close range after 84 minutes.

With three minutes left, Wycombe's Glyn Creaser was dismissed for a foul on Brian Gray. Four players had earlier been booked.

A keeping error by David Coles gave Witton Albion the interval lead they deserved against Yeovil — only for the west country side to hit back and win 2-1. Coles handled a back-pass, and Kilner scored from the free-kick.

In the 57th minute Witton's keeper, Mason, tried to dribble out of his box but lost possession to Sanderson, who set up Spencer for a tap-in equaliser. With six minutes left, Mason dropped the ball, allowing Hung Dang to capitalise.

Kettering, who are £280,000 in debt and face being wound up, took the lead against Farnborough through Paul Bancroft, but then went down 3-2. Kettering were stung by two goals from leading Conference scorer David Leworthy and a cracking 25-yard volley from Dean Coney. Phil Brown pulled a goal back in injury time.

Bromsgrove prowess confirmed

DESPITE their second defeat in three league games, Wycombe Wanderers still hold a 12-point lead at the top of the GM Vauxhall Conference, and remain on course for promotion to the Football League they so nearly reached last season. They can afford the odd off-day — but Saturday's 1-0 reversal at Bromsgrove Rovers will have shown them that the fourth-placed Worcestershire team are capable of mounting a challenge for the solitary promotion place.

Even though they lost 4-0 at Wycombe last month, Bromsgrove, the Beazer Homes League champions, were hailed as the best team to visit Adams Park — where the home side have a 100 per cent record — this term. In front of a post-war record league crowd of 3,675 at their Victoria Ground, Rovers enhanced their reputation with a display that matched for-

VAUXHALL CONFERENCE

Rupert Metcalf watches the league leaders stay on top despite their fall from grace

midable defensive determination with sharp opportunism in attack.

After an even first period, in which Bromsgrove came closest to scoring when Steve Cooper, a lively winger, saw his shot kicked off the line by Matt Crossley, the men in green and white took control in the second. They were rewarded five minutes from the end when their outstanding sweeper, Kevin Richardson, delivered a left-flank free-kick to the far side of a crowded penalty area, where Steve Stott won a decisive header to set up Mark Whitehouse for a side-footed goal from five yards.

The goal was the signal for an already volatile game to reach the brink of lawlessness. Wycombe's captain, Glyn Creaser, was sent off three minutes from time for what Martin O'Neill, his manager, called "an arm-throwing incident — it was a very harsh decision". Their aggressive right-back, Jason Cousins, who had been fortunate not to depart before Creaser, had to be pulled away from the referee after the final whistle. O'Neill felt the need to visit the home dressing-room afterwards to apologise for his players' conduct.

Before feuds replaced football, Wycombe played well in spells but did not create many chances. Last season they piled up 94 points but were pipped for the title on goal difference by Colchester. Despite Saturday's setback, O'Neill, the former Nottingham Forest and Northern Ireland midfielder player,

remains confident. "It's still a good start," he said. "We've gained 31 out of 39 points. But, week in, week out, teams are raising their game when they meet us. It looked like they [Bromsgrove] had won a European Cup final at the end."

Wycombe certainly have the support to sustain a League club — their last home crowd was over 4,000 — and they have a thoughtful, capable manager they can be proud of. O'Neill turned down an offer from Bristol Rovers last year — "there is more potential at Wycombe," he said — and, so far, he has no regrets.

Goal: Whitehouse (85) 1-0.

Bromsgrove Rovers: Cooksey; Skelding, Brighton, Richardson, Wardle, Shilcock, Cooper, Stott, Whitehouse, Webb, Gray. Substitutes not used: O'Meara, Crisp.

Wycombe Wanderers: Hyde; Cousins, Crossley, Kerr, Creaser, Hutchinson, Carroll, Casey, Stapleton, Scott, Guppy. Substitutes not used: Greene, Ryan.

Referee: J Holbrook (Shropshire).