

WANDERERS REDUCED TO 14 MEN

CONFERENCE LEAGUE TABLE
(Up to and including November 1)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Wycombe	16	13	1	2	44	9	40
Slough	11	8	0	3	21	9	24
Bromsgrove	12	7	3	2	18	12	24
Telford	14	6	4	4	26	27	22
Dagenham	11	6	3	2	25	10	21
Witton	14	5	6	3	21	15	21
Stalybridge	13	5	4	4	21	19	19
Macclesfield	11	6	1	4	14	13	19
Farnborough	14	5	4	5	30	30	19
Merthyr	13	5	4	4	17	17	19
Yeovil	14	6	1	7	17	18	19
Bath	13	4	4	5	16	14	16
Gateshead	12	5	1	6	19	23	16
Altrincham	11	4	3	4	14	12	15
Stafford	10	4	3	3	13	12	15
Kidderminster	12	3	5	4	11	13	14
Welling	14	3	5	6	21	31	14
Runcorn	15	4	2	9	16	34	14
Woking	12	4	1	7	14	23	13
Kettering	15	3	3	9	14	27	12
Northwich	13	3	2	8	13	22	11
Boston	12	0	4	8	8	23	4

WYCOMBE'S walking wounded maintained Blues' 16-point lead in the Conference on Saturday — but Martin O'Neill is distressed at the dwindling strength of his squad.

Midfielder Paul Barrowcliff pulled out of playing for Uxbridge on Saturday to make up the numbers travelling to Kidderminster.

And centre forward Mark West was almost thrown in at right back.

But Jason Cousins managed to play with strained ankle ligaments to boost numbers up to 14 as Wycombe came through without Glyn Creaser (suspended), Keith Ryan, Ty Gooden (both have damaged ankle ligaments) and Gavin Covington.

O'Neill has signed former Woking man Barrowcliff, 23, up until Christmas, but has otherwise been unsuccessful in strengthening his squad. The Wycombe boss said: "We're

Report by PETE LANSLEY

down to Paul Barrowcliff being the 14th player fit and it's not good enough to be trying to involve ourselves in a championship and with the FA Cup coming up."

Cousins, also suffering from a virus, damaged his ankle in training at Cressex last Thursday night.

O'Neill said: "David (Jones, Blues' physio) did great to get him going. Jason wants to play matches, but he was certainly nowhere near right. He was treading water for the last half hour, but the lad stuck at it and he did great."

If Cousins had not played, O'Neill said: "God knows what we'd have done. Mark West has played right back and it might have been a case of trying to do something like that."

Covington might have provided a more conventional alternative, but the non-contract player played his

first game back with Hitchin — and scored in a 2-1 win over Tooting.

The full back should play for Hitchin against Lewes tonight. Hitchin secretary Alan Sexton said: "If Wycombe contact us, we'd obviously listen sympathetically but it's probably down to the player now."

O'Neill continued: "At the minute we don't have any other bodies. I've been saying it for weeks but it's getting the right people. We've got a good camaraderie here and I think the nice thing about it is we've been able to shift people around."

And he added: "I want people who have a good chance of breaking into the side and staying in there."

"It's pointless bringing people in for the sake of it."

O'Neill confirmed that he will follow up his conversation with Chesham chairman Tony Aplin about left back Sean Norman. "We'll see if we can get him a game in the reserves — that's all. No promises."