

COMMENT

There's grit in that there team

WYCOMBE Wanderers show more grit than a slag heap of coal dust. Their second half performance against West Bromwich Albion in the FA Cup on Sunday was one to savour.

How they clawed their way back into the cup against Ossie Ardiles' second division side will go down in the annals of Wycombe's footballing history.

It was the archetypal game of two halves. Most would have written off the Blues at the interval, and to come back from a two-goal deficit was almost too much to hope.

But come back they did, and in glorious fashion thanks to manager Martin O'Neill's change of tactics with half an hour still to play.

It's now off to The Hawthorns for the replay on December 15. So if anyone has any fingernails left, they had better hope they grow back in time because you can bet your last 5p piece it will go all the way to the wire.

And if Ossie thinks of Wembley, and his knees have gone all trembly, you can understand why — the Blues are coming.

The reward is a third round home tie against Billy Bonds' West Ham Utd.

Meanwhile, down the road at Marlow they are anticipating a third round clash with the kings of the FA Cup — Spurs.

All Marlow have to do is give VS Rugby of the Beazer Homes League a good stuffing and the match of their lives goes on the fixtures card.

There is nothing like a good run in the FA Cup to lift people's spirits in a recession-hit year which has brought nothing but gloom and doom to the area.

We wish both teams every success, and they can rest assured everyone is behind them 110 per cent.

WHAT THEY SAID

Ossie Ardiles

"We paid the price for missing too many chances. When we were winning 2-0, if we'd got the next one it was easy. But out of nothing they score from a corner and we're under a lot of pressure.

"Naylor (keeper with broken finger) put his hand up to all the boys after, but I don't blame any one player. If you'd said will you take a draw before the game, I'd have said yes. Now we have them at home."

Martin O'Neill

"From when we got the first goal, we actually ran the rest of the game from then on. I felt we deserved our equaliser, and if we could have got a half-decent ball into the box in the final six minutes we might have nicked it. The directors were pretty pleased — they were shouting for offside against us in the final minutes!

Steve Thompson

"Simon Stapleton's probably been our best player this season and he's a colossus to play alongside.

"I'd been suffering from cramp when Dave Carroll passed it to me. I usually run up my own backside from there, but I was so tired I thought I'll just hit it. Then I went crackers!"

Glyn Creaser

"It's my first goal of the season and I don't think I've scored a better one.

"They could have won it in the first half — they had their chances. But they sat back. If they'd been really professional, we wouldn't have scored our two goals. We worked blinking hard. Our chances are as good as theirs in the replay.

"I'm delighted for Kerry — he deserved to play today."

Matt Crossley

"I'm very happy with the draw, although I'd have preferred you know who (Manchester United). All we've got to do is beat West Brom. I think it got to the lads today — we were almost expected to win. We'll be more relaxed up at West Brom and I think we would be against West Ham."

Keith Scott

"We miss chances, but then think we'll score the next one. If you ponder on one missed chance, you'll miss the next.

"We honestly believed we could win it. It made a lot of difference when Stapes moved into midfield.

"It's got to be important that we came back from 2-0 down against a side who should be in the First Division next season. We're quite happy to go and play up there. It'll be a very good game."

Simon Stapleton

"The team comes first. I do prefer midfield."