

NEIL WARNOCK was sacked as manager of Notts County yesterday and responded by cracking open a bottle of champagne.

Warnock drank to his future and said: "Why should I be glum? I think I've done a cracking job here."

"Here's to my next job and I would love to think I won't have to wait very long to get it. I am going to bounce back."

Warnock, 44, supplied County with two promotions in his four years at Meadow Lane but paid the price for bad results since his side ventured into the old First Division from which they were relegated last season. They

are currently bottom of the new Division One and Warnock said: "It's funny. On the way up 'we' were getting results. When things turned for the worse the results were just mine."

Disappointed

County have targetted Grimsby's Alan Buckley as a possible replacement, with former Nottingham Forest winger Martin O'Neill, currently cutting managerial teeth with Wycombe Wanderers, as a fall-back. Ivan Golac, the ex-Southampton defender, would also like to be in the frame.

Warnock, wanted by Sunderland last season,

Freak accident at work ruins Creaser's season

GLYN Creaser, the Wycombe Wanderers central defender and captain, has been ruled out for the rest of the season with a broken heel, sustained when he was flung six feet into the air after being hit by a forklift truck at his job at a warehouse in Milton Keynes (Walter Gammie writes).

"I have got to be realistic and get myself fit for next season. Obviously I am devastated," Creaser, 33, said.

Martin O'Neill, the Wycombe manager, said: "I feel desperately sorry for him. The last year or two he has had the time of his life: it's the best he's played and he's an inspiration to the club."

Wycombe continue their hunt for the GM Vauxhall Conference title today with a

home match against Northwich Victoria, the form team of the competition.

Sittingbourne head the Beazer Homes League challenge in the fourth round of the FA Vase when they take their expensively assembled side to play at the cliff-top home of Peacehaven and Telscombe, of the Sussex County League.

Their Kent rivals, Gravesend and Northfleet, head the Beazer southern division mainly because of the scoring exploits of Steve Portway, who has 35 goals in 24 matches. Six of them came last Saturday at Bury Town, where, after he had levelled the scores at 2-2, he added another five in the last 12 minutes.

NON-LEAGUE SOCCER

O'Neill fills the gap

WYCOMBE yesterday signed central defender Robert Dewhurst on loan from Premier Division club Blackburn to replace captain Glyn Creaser, whose injury in an accident at work this week has put him out of action for the rest of the season, writes *Peter Ernest*.

Creaser, 30, a warehouseman, who has helped Wycombe to a 13-point lead over Slough, fractured a bone in his right heel when he was flung six feet in the air after being hit by a forklift truck and misses his team's run-in for the GM Vauxhall Conference title.

"Glyn's mishap is a great loss to us and just proves how things can suddenly go against you," said Martin O'Neill, Wycombe's manager. He clinched the deal for Dewhurst, 22 and previously on loan with Huddersfield Town, in time for today's home game against Northwich. Midfielder Simon Stapleton and Matt Crossley have declared themselves fit, but Steve Thompson is out because he is starting a three-match suspension.

Yeovil Town yesterday called off today's home game against Stalybridge because of a waterlogged pitch.