

WESTY REVIVES CAREER HOPES

MARK West's match-winning performance at Dagenham and Redbridge last Thursday could prove the saving of his Wycombe Wanderers career.

West's current contract expires in five weeks' time after a wretched season of limited outings and even fewer goals. Now the striker will be itching to get another slice of the action in tonight's league game at home to relegation-strugglers Boston United (ko 7.45pm).

The 1991 Vauxhall Conference player of the year scored twice at Victoria Road to double his season's goal tally as Wanderers celebrated their second league win in just over two days.

Wanderers boss Martin O'Neill, who has four strikers vying for a place alongside Keith Scott when all are fit, said he had not yet considered matters of contract renewals, but would say: "West has pushed himself gloriously to within sight of a decent place in the pecking order. It's up to him."

But while West hits the spotlight, the season is over for Simon Stapleton, who broke a foot in last Tuesday's blood-curdling derby victory against Slough.

O'Neill, who added four short-term signings to his depleted squad before last Thursday's deadline, told Midweek: "That 48 hours last week was as important as any in the club's history. To come out with six points was a phenomenal performance. Now we don't want to waste that achievement — let's steamroller on."

O'Neill is likely to give a debut tonight to former Barnsley striker Trevor Aylott, on loan from Gillingham, while top scorer Scott (ankle) stands a chance of being fit for Saturday's first FA Trophy semi final at home to Sutton United.

Wanderers also have keeper Jurgen Sommer (from Luton) and the Barnet duo of Hakan Hayrettin (midfield) and old friend Geoff Cooper (left back) available.

"Not only are they cover," said O'Neill who is without Matt Crossley (virus) and Dave Carroll (ankle) tonight, "but they will take their turn in playing with bundles of games coming up for us."

The absence of Stapleton, who will be a leading contender for the supporters' player of the year award due to be launched in this Friday's BFP, is a sad loss. O'Neill said: "We're starting to get used to massive blows, after losing Creaser and Carroll. It's tragic for

Report by PETE LANSLEY

GM VAUXHALL CONFERENCE

(Up to and including March 28, 1993)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Wycombe	33	20	8	5	70	27	68
Slough Town	35	17	8	10	52	41	59
Dagenham/Redbridge	36	15	10	11	61	42	54
Yeovil	34	15	9	10	44	36	54
Bromsgrove	34	13	11	10	51	41	50
Northwich	35	14	7	14	57	42	49
Telford Utd	33	13	10	10	42	39	49
Woking	36	14	7	15	48	52	49
Stafford	32	13	9	10	41	35	48
Stalybridge	34	11	15	8	42	47	48
Bath	32	12	10	10	41	36	46
Merthyr	32	13	7	12	41	52	46
Kettering	35	11	10	14	54	59	43
Gateshead	33	11	9	13	40	44	42
Farnboro	34	11	9	14	58	66	42
Kidderminster	35	9	14	12	42	51	41
Altrincham	34	10	10	14	32	43	40
Runcorn	34	11	7	16	45	61	40
Welling	37	9	11	17	51	69	38
Macclesfield	33	9	9	15	34	44	36
Boston	34	8	11	15	42	57	35
Witton	31	7	13	11	45	48	34

● Dagenham deducted one point for fielding illegible player

Simon: he's been with us all the way this season and given everything you could ask for.

"I don't think there was a better player in the Vauxhall Conference than Stapes for three months. And he didn't complain when he was moved to full back for the sake of the team."

Stapleton said: "Technically, I've wiped out my season. It's horrible, but I'd prefer to try and put on a brave face."

He added: "I scored a few goals and hit a bit of a purple patch early in the season which got me in the England squad. It's just a shame I couldn't see it through to the end."

Keith Ryan, rejuvenated, should figure in Stapleton's midfield role, while West is in tonight's 13.

O'Neill said: "There were quite a few around this football club who doubted whether West really wanted it enough any more."

"Seeing him launch himself onto diving headers at Dagenham was a sight to behold. And it was the Westy of old for the second goal."