

BEAM US UP SCOTTY!

Keith breathes new life into Wanderers

WEMBLEY BOUND

Wycombe Wanderers used a rugby club's oxygen machine to rush top goalkeeper Keith Scott back to fitness in time to play a leading role in Saturday's FA Trophy triumph at Sutton.

Scott, a scorer in Wycombe's Wembley success two years ago, missed the semi-final first leg ten days ago with an ankle injury.

But physiotherapist Dave Jones guided Scott, a key character in the Wanderers dressing room, back to fitness, sending him to use the facilities at London Scottish in Richmond last week.

Wycombe scored a remarkable 4-0 victory at Sutton, to go through to the Trophy Final 6-3 on aggregate.

The inclusion of Scott was not announced until half an hour before kick off, when he ran out to a roar of cheers from Wycombe's supporters.

Scott scored once and helped terrorise the Sutton defence all afternoon. Defender Matt Crossley scored his first ever

By PETE LANSLEY

brace of goals at senior level, while Dave Carroll's goal completed the rout.

Scott told Midweek: "Jonah said on Thursday that I would be fit. If it wasn't for him, I wouldn't have been fit to play today."

Jones explained: "We gave him a fitness test on Thursday night but even last Saturday we were quietly confident he was making progress."

"He used the oxygen machine at London Scottish for a couple of days and that improved matters considerably, if only mentally."

Manager Martin O'Neill plotted Wycombe's recovery from their first-leg deficit by making several key team changes. The reintroduction of Scott gave the morale of the Blues side and supporters a great lift.

"Keith Scott coming back was psychologically a major boost here in the dressing room," said O'Neill. "If he was able to put his boots on

in his fitness test, he would have played."

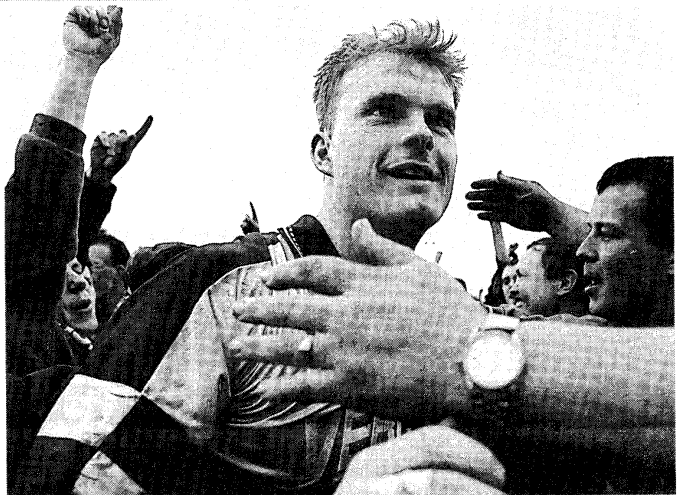
"If Alan Gane had read that Scott was playing when the team sheets arrived in the dressing room at half past two, he would have been deflated."

Scenes every bit as emotional as Wycombe's semi-final success at Altrincham in 1991 followed Saturday's resounding victory. The Wycombe players took to the stand to receive the plaudits from their 2,500 fans singing on the pitch.

Jones pointed out that before the first leg, there was an air of expectancy throughout Wycombe that the team would reach Wembley. "Everyone realised today it wasn't inevitable — we had to turn it around."

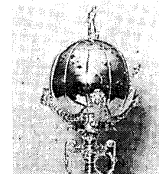
O'Neill added: "Obviously it was do or die. But not many teams, even up to a couple of divisions ahead of us, will beat us over two matches."

"There was a great resilience about the team and a ferocious desire to win."



Dreaming of Wembley: Keith Scott celebrates with Blues fans as Wanderers are cheered off the Gander Green Lane pitch on Saturday

Picture by CHRIS BERRY



Wembley joy can spill into title party

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