

Rampant Wanderers on course for treble honours

Class of 93 relish Wembley meeting

WYCOMBE Wanderers sustained their three-pronged push for honours by clinching an FA Trophy Final meeting against Runcorn at Wembley on Sunday, May 9.

Their 4-0 second-leg semi-final win at Sutton on Saturday means Blues revisit Wembley, the scene of their FA Trophy Final win over Kidderminster in 1991.

Matt Crossley (2), Keith Scott, and Dave Carroll were Wycombe's goalscorers at Sutton as the Blues magnificently overturned a 3-2 first-leg deficit.

Besides gunning for title glory, Wanderers also face a Drinkwise Cup Final first-leg match at Northwich next Tuesday.

For the Wycombe players who didn't play at Wembley in the '91 final, Saturday's semi-final triumph was particularly exhilarating.

Steve Thompson said: "It's one hell of an experience — I'm absolutely thrilled, especially after playing non-League football for ten years. To reach two pinnacles — winning the league and reaching the Trophy final — in one week would be fantastic. The boys were excellent today."

Thompson added: "Jason and Matty were unbelievable, Aky (Hakan Hayrettin) was superb in midfield and Scotty played well. If I was to pick four, it would be them."

For Paul Hyde, the fat lady was singing — and the lyrics included Wycombe going to Wembley.

The Blues keeper pointed out in last week's Midweek that the semi final was not over until the

By PETE LANSLEY
fat lady sang. After he was proved right, Hyde said: "I got a lot of grief about that — but what a quote it was. And it stands, doesn't it!"

Hyde's only previous trip to Wembley was to watch Rod Stewart. As he prepared for next month's visit, he said: "I've never felt emotion like it — I don't know whether to laugh or cry."

The keeper pointed out that his defence protected him from too much of the action and added: "Scotty coming back — we needed him. He's been tremendous all season, and what a difference he made for us."

"I think Matt Crossley's been outstanding this year too. But the whole team performance today was outstanding. This afternoon's league results have gone perfectly, and what a week of

celebration this is going to be."

While Crossley's absence, with a virus, has refreshed him — and evidently sharpened his goalscoring appetite — he admitted to feeling "knackered" after Saturday's game.

But thoughts of scoring were in his mind before Saturday. "Jim (Melvin) said before the game 'Have a go' and I replied 'I'll have a goal.'"

"And Martin had said to me

at Dagenham when we played there in the Drinkwise that I'd never get him a goal. I told him I'd get him an important one."

Crossley's previous goal came on January 1 of last year — against Slough.

Crossley's performance at centre half has helped make up for the loss of suspended Andy Kerr, who said: "Matty was unbelievable. He saved his goals up until the semi final."