

Players ease mascot's pain



EXCLUSIVE

By MICHELLE DAVIES

WYCOMBE Wanderers are helping mend the heartbreak of six-year-old Danny Graham, whose father died in a road accident, by making him their Wembley mascot.

Danny, of The Greenway, Tylers Green, will walk up the tunnel with his heroes before the FA Trophy Final on Sunday, his seventh birthday.

The club asked Danny, a pupil at Tylers Green First School, to be their mascot after his grandmother Sheena Thompson told them about his father's death.

"I would obviously like to thank the club for letting him be mascot," said his mother Christina. "It is something his father would have loved to have seen."

Danny's father George, 41, died on January 13 after his car was hit by a tree that had been uprooted by gale-force winds.

The Bucks Free Press sponsored Danny's kit. His favourite players Steve Guppy and Andy Kerr presented it to him on Tuesday.

Mark Austin, Wycombe Wanderers' sales and marketing direc-

Wanderers



at Wembley

tor, played down the club's gesture: "Under the circumstances, it was the least we could do."

Mrs Graham said Danny, who plays for Hazlemere Juniors, was only told about being mascot when Wycombe secured their place in the final. "When we told him, he was jumping up and down, he was so excited."

More than 30,000 Blues fans are expected to converge on Wembley. The club has sold out its ticket allocation and has asked for more.

In the crowd will be Ron Randall, grandson of the Blues' first goalkeeper John Randall.

Win, lose or draw, the team will parade the Vauxhall Conference Trophy around the town from 6.15pm on Monday evening.

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Caring pair: Andy Kerr (left) and Steve Guppy present the kit to their mascot Danny Graham