

Wycombe inspired for historic League debut Guppy joins up in time for baptism

WYCOMBE Wanderers have been boosted by the news that influential winger Steve Guppy has pledged his loyalty to the club as they prepare for their first ever Football League match in 109 years tomorrow.

The 24-year-old non-League player of the year, valued at £500,000 by one national newspaper this week, delayed signing terms with O'Neill in the hope that a major League club would come in for him.

But he agreed on a one-year deal with his manager this week.

"He is a big asset to the football club," said O'Neill.

But he added: "I won't stand in his way if someone big comes in for him — if it's in the best overall interests of this football club."

Defender Andy Kerr's position at the club was set to weaken dramatically if he had not signed a contract by last night.

He would be ineligible to play in tomorrow's game at Brunton Park if he had not, confirmed O'Neill, who added: "It won't help him."

Kerr has admitted he is not happy with what he has been offered.

The future is set to look bleak for part-timers Mark West, Kim Casey and Anton Vircavs, after O'Neill this week underlined his intention to have a wholly full-time set up at Adams Park, even saying: "I do not foresee Mark West becoming a full-

By CLAIRE NASH

time player with us. Two years ago, maybe.

"If we are going to go further West might find it more difficult."

O'Neill added that he has received enquiries about 27-year-old West, who was honoured with his testimonial last Saturday, from clubs including Aylesbury and Woking.

He went on to reveal: "Perhaps three or four players will go."

West, who has struggled for a first-team place during the past two seasons, did not want to comment.

Midfielder Hakan Hayrettin has continued physiotherapy treatment on his injured knee ligament to ensure he makes tomorrow's game.

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