

O'Neill raps clubs' apathy towards Guppy

MARTIN O'Neill has criticised illustrious Football League clubs' scouting systems for not recognising the prodigious talent of Wycombe's wing wizard Steve Guppy.

"If managers up and down the country do not know what Steve Guppy can do, or any other of my players

By **CLAIRE NASH**

can do for that matter, they must have some of the lousiest scouting systems in Britain," said O'Neill this week.

His outburst followed news of Guppy's prowess earning the accolade of Matchman of the Month for Division Three.

But O'Neill says he has still not received any enquiries about Guppy, whose form continues to attract plaudits.

The 24-year-old player's ratings in Match magazine, awarded by journalists up and down the country, have him topping the table with an average of 8.5. He earned two back-to-back

nines out of ten.

Guppy's tally recognises his consistent service from the left wing and goals scored at Carlisle and Wigan.

He narrowly edged out Rochdale's veteran keeper Martin Hodge who had 8.25.

Colchester United's Mark Kinsella was in third place on 8.

Titterton injury suggests left back hex test

WYCOMBE'S number three shirt is beginning to exude a jinxed air with David Titterton being put out of action with an injury to his left knee.

The former Hereford player had his sterling progress cut short at left back, where he replaced injured Duncan Horton, during Saturday's hard-fought win at Bury.

Titterton underwent an exploratory

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operation on Wednesday to find out what further treatment is required.

But Martin O'Neill is prepared for him to be absent for up to six weeks.

"It is very disappointing for him. He is one of four injuries we have had so far. But we have just got to get on with it," said Wycombe's boss this week.

Horton, who impressed during the

pre-season programme, is still a couple of weeks away from a return, after injuring his ankle in Wycombe's first game of the season against Carlisle.

The left back spot has become the team's most unsettled position, with O'Neill commenting at the end of last season that he has used at least 14 players there.

Whoever replaces Titterton, whether it is Kenny Sansom, Matt Crossley, or even possibly Keith Ryan,

will be the ninth player at left back since the beginning of last season.

Gavin Covington, Crossley, Lee Thompson (on-loan), Simon Stapleton, Keith Ryan, Geoff Cooper (on-loan), have all worn the number three shirt until they either left or were moved to other positions.

Stapleton also underwent surgery on Wednesday on twisted ligaments in his ankle and is expected to be out until Christmas.