

DEAN JONES reports on Wycombe Wanderers' progress

DON'T be surprised to see Wycombe Wanderers' name in the FA Cup second round draw next Monday.

With an away record like Wycombe's, it is well within the bounds of possibility that the Blues will nick at least a draw when they travel to Division 2 high-fliers Bristol Rovers in the first round proper on Sunday. If they do, it could lead to another great night at Adams Park.

Wycombe have already shown this season that they are no respecter of reputations. FA Carling Premiership side Coventry City and Endsleigh Division 2 Leyton Orient can certainly vouch for that.

That is why Blues will not feel over-awed when they play in front of a big crowd at Bath's Twerton Park, home of the Bristol club. In fact they will probably relish the occasion as they did when they took Midlands giants West Bromwich Albion all the way at The Hawthorns last season.

A run in the FA Cup this season can only enhance Wycombe's burgeoning reputation as a Football League club.

Out of the last seven Football League newcomers, only Barnet have begun the season with more points than Wycombe.

The Wanderers are presently fifth in the league with 25 points from 15 games in the Endsleigh Division 3. Their high league position is predominantly on the back of some fine results away from home.

The Blues are unbeaten in all eight away games in the Football League — the only unbeaten record in the division.

Their latest point came in the 0-0 draw with sixth-placed Scunthorpe United last Saturday, a game where FA chief executive Graham Kelly was among the 3,604 spectators.

Again the Blues kept a clean sheet. And the Wycombe defence is almost becoming as difficult to breach as the Maginot Line was intended to be in World War II.

Blues goalkeeper Paul Hyde has only conceded one goal in the last 360 minutes of football (not including the Autoglass Trophy at Brentford).

Hyde told the Blues club-call line on Tuesday that he was pleased with his performance against Scunthorpe in which he made one fine save towards the end.

"It's nice for a goalkeeper and the back four or five to come away with a clean sheet," Hyde said. "It's just a shame we did not do anything at the other end."