

Wycombe emphasise their stature

WYCOMBE'S players sniffed and coughed their way through their post cup-upset interviews as the full force of a viral infection running rife among the squad became apparent.

But nothing could disguise their satisfaction at a result which should not raise that many eyebrows.

Victories over Premiership Coventry and Division Two club Leyton Orient in the Coca-Cola Cup, and just last week a win at another Second Division side Brentford in the Autoglass Trophy, underlined how

Blues can lift their game against supposedly superior opposition.

Dave Carroll described his winning goal: "I do not normally chase it down. He hit the ball more or less straight at me. I was waiting for someone to tackle me."

Skipper Terry Evans, who played Liverpool in the FA Cup fifth round three years ago with Brentford, said: "Bristol Rovers were a tough side. We knew we would have to defend hard. I think in the second half we always had a chance, and Dave played a blinder."

"I think his pace took him there. It's one of the best finishes I have

seen."

Croaky-voiced Paul Hyde said: "I was pleased I had a bit to do. I think we gave as good as we got and took our chances. I was disappointed with their goal. They took it quick. I sort of crumbled on the line."

Goalscorer Tim Langford said: "I think we have nothing to fear in the next round. I don't think anyone will relish being drawn against us."

Martin O'Neill put expectations in perspective when he said: "I thought we played very well, but I am beginning to think now that expectation of Wycombe is so high that even if we go on to play Manchester United

and get a draw, then people would be disappointed."

Of the result, he said: "I am delighted. We might have been a wee bit fortunate to score. But there was an awful lot of natural pressure on us. They are a very good side."

He added that his side still has untapped potential with injuries constantly interrupting settled selection. "We are far from the finished article."

And he praised Carroll's winner. "I think Dave Carroll was the only one who could score that goal. I think Keith Scott would have ballooned it into Bristol and Tim Langford would have died on it."

Ward lets his keeper off the hook

DISAPPOINTED Bristol Rovers boss John Ward is not blaming his keeper Brian Parkin for allowing Wycombe to steal a 2-1 victory.

"It would be nice and easy to blame Brian Parkin, but that can happen to anyone in any game. He has played extremely well for me throughout the season, and there's no way I am going to point the finger."

"I am disappointed obviously with the result because we did not get the break we needed and coupled with that we did not get enough balls into the box," he added.