

Wycombe earn possible derby against Reading

BLUES GET CUP TREAT

By **CLAIRE NASH**

A TITANIC derby tussle beckons for Wycombe Wanderers in the FA Cup second round after being drawn to play Reading at home if the Berkshire side overturn Cambridge United in a first-round replay.

"It's a great draw for us," said Blues boss Martin O'Neill. "Obviously the added spice would be a local derby against Reading, plus the fact that they are a good footballing side."

"We are still considering ourselves giantkillers. There is no pressure on us if we play either of these two sides."

Blues secured their place in yesterday's draw by dumping Bristol Rovers out of the competition with a 2-1 victory at Twerton Park on Sunday.



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They gritted it out against the Second Division club which tried to lure O'Neill away two years ago, courtesy of goals by Tim Langford and Dave Carroll, and stout defending throughout.

But who they will play on Saturday, December 4 (ko 3pm) depends on the outcome of the Division Two sides' replay at Elm Park in eight days' time, Wednesday, November 24.

Reading failed to convert pressure into goals at Cambridge on Saturday, while Wanderers have negotiated one hurdle, only to face another stiff test to reach the third round and the possibility of a crack at a Premiership giant.

Reading have broken out of their mid-table rut to challenge Stockport for top spot in Division Two thanks in large part to Jimmy Quinn, currently the League's highest scorer with 21 goals, and a former Northern Ireland teammate of O'Neill's.

Wycombe have not hosted a match against Reading since 1976 when they lost 2-1 at Loakes Park.

Mid-table Cambridge have a rich tradition in the FA Cup, reaching the sixth round two seasons running in 1990 and 1991.

The attendance at Adams Park could threaten the 7,230 record for last season's Conference clash against Slough. It has not yet been decided whether it will be all-ticket.

Wanderers secretary John Goldsworthy said: "If it was Reading, it would be likely. I am not so sure for Cambridge."

The mouthwatering clash could also be a contender for live coverage by Sky Sports.