

Captain colossus

EVERY successful side has a stalwart or two. At Wycombe they don't come any sturdier than skipper Terry Evans.

The affable giant has proved to be a shrewd and popular £20,000-acquisition by Martin O'Neill. The former Brentford captain has fuelled Wycombe's success with inspirational leadership and defensive performances since joining three months ago.

He was made captain in his first match after signing and scored in the same game at Chesterfield.

The supporters' player of the month could not be a more appropriate general to marshal their efforts in the second-round breach tomorrow, with Blues on the brink of clinching a possible encounter with a Premiership big gun.

The 6ft 5in tall central defender enjoyed a successful FA Cup run while at Brentford, reaching the quarter finals in 1989 after beating Manchester City and Blackburn, only to be knocked out by Liverpool.

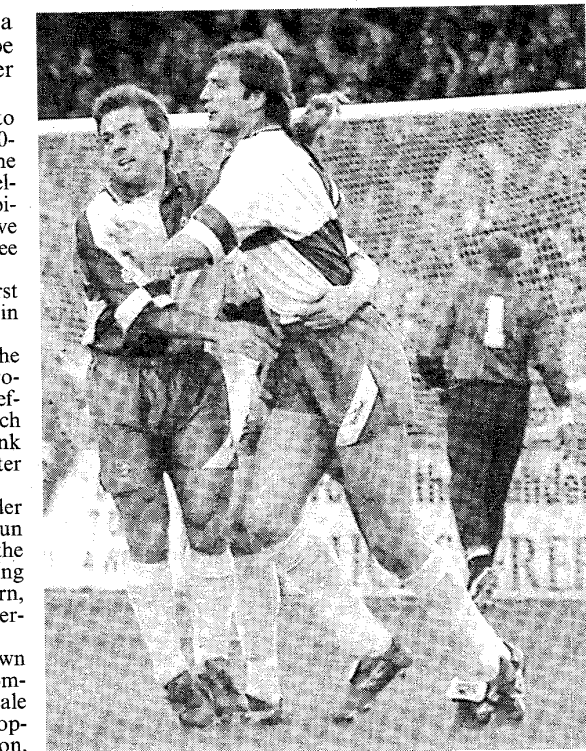
Such efforts are still unknown territory for Wycombe in this competition for now. They did scale giant-killing heights after walloping Coventry earlier this season, although they did not leave the Sky Blues for dead in the Coca-Cola Cup.

But Evans is modestly unconvinced that his experience is that crucial a factor. "Maybe overall it helps. If we are 2-1 down, I will basically tell the players to calm down.

"I think you just get experience over the years. But I still get just as nervous before each match," says the 28-year-old.

But he is certain tomorrow's match will be a real gruelling cup duel. "Cambridge will want to pull out a big team in the next round, just as we will.

"It's going to be a real battle," says Evans, who believes the scoreline, if a win-



That'll do nicely: Evans is congratulated after setting Blues on their way to victory over Crewe

By CLAIRE NASH

ning one for either side will be in the region of 1-0, or 2-1.

He adds that Wycombe's current barnstorming exploits in the League, back-to-back victories over Crewe and Preston, and their five wins already over Second Division opposition this season, clearly bode well for their chances.

He puts that down to the tremendous spirit binding the players together.

"It was a big reason in my staying. The togetherness in

the squad has strengthened with each match. Obviously that does help.

"Players back each other up on the pitch, shutting people down in tackles and things like that.

"I have seen how back biting and bitching about, undermines performances. But here the spirit is really strong."

Evans attributes the players' strong motivation to his boss. "The gaffer does well. Before a match he never talks about the other side and how good they are. He just tells us to get on with our own jobs."