Big game fear

WYCOMBE'S sell-out FA Cup third round tie at home to Norwich this Saturday could fall victim to the weather.

Groundsman Jim Gardner has been working all week to dry out the waterlogged Adams Park pitch. He was hoping to arrange for a drying machine and covers to be used yesterday.

A decision is not likely to be made about whether the match will go ahead until the day itself.

If you are not one of the record 8,000 plus Adams Park crowd with a ticket for the big game, highlights will be shown on BBC1's Match Of The Day at 10.20pm on Saturday night.

There will also be commentary on Chiltern Radio, as well as half-time and full-time reports on elevenSEVENTY Radio.

BBC Radio Five may feature live second half commentary of the game, depending on how close the game is at half-time.

Other radio stations covering the game include Slough's Star Radio, Radio 210 in Reading and BBC Radio Berkshire.

You can also be sure that next week's Star will also carry all the news surrounding the big game.

● See further report on page 2 of The Star.

Musicians to help Wanderers

by Stephen Deal

WYCOMBE Wanderers are set to unveil their secret weapon as they try to cause an FA Cup shock this Saturday - a drummer and trumpeter!

The club want to make homely Adams Park more intimidating for opposing teams - and have nicked a Third Division rival's musical idea in an effort to do so.

Wycombe's 3-2 win at Preston North End in November was memorable not only for Hakan Hayrettin's injury time winner, but the rhythmic noise made by the home supporters.

Their manager John Beck pays two musicians to help create a hostile European atmosphere for visiting teams.

And with one of the country's best sides, Norwich City, meeting the Blues in one of the biggest games in their history, Wycombe are determined to make it as difficult as possible for their illustrious opponents.

Manager Martin O'Neill, who has questioned the lack of noise made by supporters at Adams Park in the past, said: "We were up at Preston where the fans made more noise than at any other ground we've been to this season.

"I am not saying it is a novel idea. There is probably a bit of plagiarism taking place, but I don't think that's a bad thing.

"If someone is willing to have a go at it, then good luck to them."

Musicians who would like to help Wycombe out in their battle to cause the FA Cup Third Round shock of the day should apply to the club as soon as possible.

The idea was born after a chat between Blues director and TV commentator Alan Parry, Martin and other directors. If it works, the musicians may become a regular feature at Adams Park.

Club strikes up the band

WYCOMBE Wanderers are literally trying to drum up supporters for their FA Cup clash tomorrow against Norwich City.

The club want to install a drummer and trumpeter at Adams Park's Bucks Free Press 'Kop' End to accompany Wycombe fans' rallying cries and want to hear from interested musicians.

● **Full story: Sport Fourth Section**

■ **Wycombe Wanderers have signed the highly rated young Tottenham striker Lee Hodges on loan.**

Twenty-year-old Hodges made four appearances as a sub for Spurs towards the end of last season who have high hopes for his future and see the speil with Wycombe as an ideal opportunity for him to gain experience.

Wycombe, who are still trying to replace Keith Scott who joined Swindon in November, are on the trail of West Ham United striker Mike Small.

Small, who had a spell on loan with Wolves earlier this season, is right out of contention at Upton Park and available for transfer.

The fee could be the only stumbling block to ambitious Wycombe who recently failed in their attempts to sign Southend forward Andy Sussex.

■ **Former AC Milan and England striker Luther Blissett has joined Mansfield Town on loan from Bury - a world apart from the San Siro and Wembley.**

New Mansfield boss Andy King has also obtained the services for a month of Luton Town's Welsh B international midfielder Ceri Hughes.

■ **Finally for this week a brief round-up of some**

WYCOMBE Wanderers secretary John Goldsworthy attracts a few stern words after commenting that he could not understand why parents took very young children to matches.

I AM very disappointed in remarks made by John Goldsworthy about two-year-olds going to football matches.

My husband and I have supported Wycombe Wanderers for 25 years and our children, aged five and seven, have been attending home matches since they were babies.

Of course two-year-olds aren't interested in football but if our children were not allowed to go to matches, then neither would their parents.

Mr Goldsworthy ought to take a look at other clubs and see how they encourage children to watch their teams. One club in particular even runs a creche for babies and toddlers, with a TV screen to watch the match.

Mrs J Hayward
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