

Beaten but not unbowed



Watch it: Norwich sweeper Ian Culverhouse keeps a close eye on Blues striker Tim Langford

"I would rather have gambled and got beaten 6-0, rather than not take any risks at all," said Martin O'Neill after Wycombe's 2-0 defeat.

Wanderers' manager was satisfied every avenue had been explored to get back on level terms with his former club.

"We gambled everything and put Terry Evans up front as centre forward for the last 20 minutes of the game. We had to gamble.

"I thought our performance had been exceptional. We were playing a very, very good side. We did fantastically.

"I thought Steve Thompson ran the show for 15 minutes in either half.

"We had a chance when Dave Carroll hit a fantastic shot and Gunn pulled off a save right out of the blue. We would have been right back in it with that."

Skipper Terry Evans said his switch could not have been made any earlier. "We had to keep four at the back until it was desperado time. I wish we had had a bit more delivery.

"We tried to get around the back of them, but when we were in deep positions perhaps we should just have slung it in and hoped for the best."

Goalkeeper Paul Hyde believed the margin of defeat did not do Wycombe's performance justice.

"I did think we were unlucky. We definitely didn't deserve a two-nil defeat."

The on-form keeper said both Norwich goals were well-created and taken. He said of the first:

"Ekoku was about 18 yards out, not too wide. He whipped in a good early ball, Sutton came in on the far post, although I didn't really know who it was at the time. I just spread myself as far as possible, hoping it would hit me. It did hit me, on the chest, I think, but unfortunately rebounded in."

He was pleased with the saves he made in the second half to keep Wycombe in the game. "I had a busy day," he admitted.

The difference between the two teams was the quality of finishing, he concluded, but stressed: "I think the lads have done themselves credit."

Winger Steve Guppy agreed he personally had had the proverbial game of two halves.

"I came off at half time disappointed," he admitted. But

things improved after the break. "I got the right sort of balls to me. I had the chance to take on Rob Newman, one-to-one."



O'Neill: Gamble

He said of the team performance: "First half, I thought we were a bit edgy — things weren't quite coming off. The second half, we settled down and had a right go at them."

Forward Tony Hemmings, who only trained two days last week because of a knee problem, said of Norwich: "They are a good side. I thought considering the pitch was really heavy they knocked the ball about well, especially Chris Sutton. I thought he was really good."