

PROFILE: Mark West

You ain't seen nothing yet, says star striker

By
Dean Jones

GOALS are soccer star Mark West's trademark.

His goal-scoring record with Wycombe Wanderers is legendary; he has scored over 170 goals in his nine years at the club.

And that is why his proposed link-up with striker Cliff Hercules at Aylesbury United could be the dream ticket for the Ducks as manager Alan Davies attempts to build a championship-winning team.

Said Davies: "I've known Mark as a player for a long time. He is a quality player renowned for scoring goals and when players of that calibre become available, we as a club have got to be interested."

But talk of a Hercules-West axis is still a little premature.

West has only joined Aylesbury United on a month's loan and nothing beyond that has been agreed.

Alan Davies is keen on extending the loan period to the end of the season. A permanent move is not out of the question.

West has so far played four games for United but has yet to play alongside Hercules.

United's record goalscorer has been out of action since he picked up a knee injury in a friendly against Kettering last month. But West is confident that a partnership up front with Hercules would be a winning one should they play together.

"I think we would work well together," said West. "I think Jon Blencowe is a good player and with a bit more experience, he would be a very good player."

West, now aged 27, will be hoping to recapture his goal-scoring form with United after, to use journalistic licence, two years in the wilderness at Wycombe.

Having inspired Wycombe to their FA Trophy win in 1991, West was in and out of the Wycombe team which did the non-league double last season.

This season has not gone as well as he would have hoped either. Still to make his debut for Wycombe in the Football League, West broke his leg in his first loan appearance for GM Vauxhall Conference leaders Kidderminster Harriers in September.

He has been fighting to regain his match fitness since then and he feels a month at Aylesbury could help him



□ Mark West — the best is yet to come

back to his best form. After notching three goals in four starts, he says his best is still to come.

"Aylesbury have not seen the best of me because I'm not match fit," West said. "A few more games and they might see a bit more."

West likens the situation at United to the time when Martin O'Neill joined Wycombe a few years ago. Then Wycombe had a lot of young players and the Blues struggled to retain their GM Vauxhall Conference status.

He feels Davies has recruited a similar

crop of promising young players and, given time, they could go places.

He said: "Alan has got a lot of young players and it may take couple of seasons to get a bit more experience together and if they get a couple more faces, they could go places."

West confirmed that joining Aylesbury on a permanent basis was one possibility if things did not work out for him at Wycombe. Asked whether he would like to be a part of the Aylesbury United set-up, West said: "I wouldn't mind being a part of it."