

Wanderers must win to go up

Victory plus Preston loss equals bliss

By **CLAIRE NASH**

IT'S do or die for Wycombe at Crewe tomorrow. Automatic promotion can be clinched if they win and rivals Preston lose.

If they draw, the battleground moves on to Adams Park for next Saturday's game against Preston. If they lose at Gresty Road they have to beat Preston, and hope Chester beat Crewe next week.

Such are the permutations. Wanderers manager Martin O'Neill underlines their task: "It will be a very hard game. If we win, it leaves us in a good position. But we could still not go up."

Frustration from last Saturday's 2-2 draw against Scunthorpe has been consigned to history. "We are pretty buoyant," said O'Neill.

The manager has, for one of the few times this season, an injury-free squad to select from.

It is likely O'Neill will stick with the side which put up a superb all-round performance against Scunthorpe. But he believes stunning play is not a top priority tomorrow. "Playing well gets you nowhere sometimes. On Sunday West Brom played brilliantly against



**O'Neill:
Buoyant**

Nottingham Forest. They lost again last night and are now in the quagmire.

"Personally speaking we need to try and eke out a result," he said, adding it is no good if Wycombe play well and do not win. "If we do not play so cleverly and sneak away with the points I think it will be justified," he observed.

Around 1,500 Wycombe supporters are travelling up for the promotion thriller. Crewe are expecting a crowd of 6,000 plus.

Crewe midfielder Stewart Evans is reportedly confident of his team's chances. "We can play our best football against the best teams and I fancy us to beat the lot of them including Wycombe on Saturday," he said this week.

Blues goalkeeper Paul Hyde said: "We have got to win basically. It would be not good enough if we did not get promoted automatically. The gaffer would think that as well."

●Midfielder Steve Brown has caught the eye of a Division One club, revealed Martin O'Neill this week, although he could not say which one.