



Chuck has ball as he throws up a surprise

by KEN DYER

HIS name may sound like a Greek dish — in fact it would be true to say that not many of the sell-out crowd at the Evening Standard Five-a-Sides would have heard of Chuck Moussadik before the tournament began.

But the Championships have a habit of throwing up an unlikely hero — and last night was no exception. Morocco-born Wycombe goalkeeper Moussadik only found out he was playing a few hours before the tournament when Paul Hyde dropped out with a groin injury.

But the 23-year-old former Tottenham and Wimbledon player made the most of his opportunity, keeping a clean sheet throughout to thoroughly deserve his award as 'Player of the Tournament'.

It was Moussadik who was the centre of attention in an ecstatic Wycombe dressing-room — after a rare chance to demonstrate his worth this season.

"I've spent the whole season on the bench but I've no complaints. Paul Hyde has been brilliant," said the Moroccan-Under 21 international.

"I must admit we didn't think we would go too far in the Championships. Talking before our first game against Chelsea, we reckoned we would be showered and changed by 8.30pm.

"But things didn't turn out that way. The boys were great in front of me and I didn't have a great deal to do.

"It's perhaps not so surprising we did well though because five-a-sides are all we play at Wycombe. We don't do much else in training.

"It was the first time the club have been in it and, at 40-1, even the bookies didn't give us much chance.

"But it turned into a great night for us — and a memorable one for me personally.

"I will be back on the bench on Sunday, when we are at Carlisle for the play-offs, but I don't mind. Tonight makes up for a lot, believe me."



Chuck Moussadik saves from Gary Elkins in the shoot-out that decided the final and his Wycombe team-mates rush to mob the hero of the night

Enter the new Dons on a high

NO-ONE could have scripted the unlikeliest triumph of Wycombe's remarkable season — except perhaps Wimbledon.

A Southern League side just 17 years ago, Wimbledon last night became the giants slain by the newest members of the Endslough Football League.

Promoted as GM Vauxhall Conference champions last season, 40-1 outsiders Wycombe Wanderers beat Wimbledon in a shoot-out at Wembley Arena to become The Evening Standard Five-a-Side Champions.

Wycombe, who claimed a play-off place by finishing fourth in their first season in Division Three, dropped a very broad hint in front of a capacity Wembley Arena crowd of 9,000 that they intend to follow Wimbledon's example and climb to the very pinnacle of the game.

"For some reason my lads have always loved five-a-side football and they used to say to me 'Do you think we might get invited to Wembley if we get into the League,'" recalled manager Martin O'Neill.

"We simply set ourselves the target of getting through the first round."

They did far more than that. The Wycombe squad — Chuck Moussadik, Jason Cousins, Dave Carroll, Mark West, Steve Brown, Dave Titterton and Tim Langford — survived a first round onslaught from Chelsea.

They held the FA Cup Finalists — ex-Arsenal star Graham Rix, now youth coach at Chelsea, looked one of the classic players of the night — to a goalless draw and then beat them in the shoot-out.

This innovation, replacing penalties, pits a single outfield player against the goalkeeper. The outfield player has five seconds to run with the ball from the centre spot and beat the goalkeeper.

In the quarter-final, Wycombe beat QPR 1-0 with a goal from Brown and earned themselves a semi-final tilt at a strong West Ham team.

The West Ham line-up included Trevor Morley, Mike Marsh, Ian Bishop and Steve Potts. It was a goal from Morley that gave them a 1-0 victory over Arsenal in a thrilling and tense quarter-final.

But in the semi-final, West

MICHAEL HART
on the little club who upstaged the big names on their big night out at Wembley

Ham could find no way past Wycombe goalkeeper Moussadik, whose heroics earned him the player of the night award.

In the end West, on West Ham's books as a youngster, scored the only goal, earning Wycombe a place in the final against Wimbledon. The Dons, who lost in last year's final to Watford, had beaten Millwall 1-0 in their semi-final with a goal from Robbie Earle.

Once again Moussadik denied Wimbledon, making fine saves from Gary Elkins, Stewart Castledine and Earle. The match ended goalless and went to a shoot-out. The goalkeepers saved the first shot from both teams and then Cousins scored for Wycombe.

Elkins had to score to equalise — but Moussadik saved and was immediately mobbed by his team-mates.

"I was delighted for him," said O'Neill, the former Nottingham Forest and Northern Ireland midfielder player. He's our reserve goalkeeper and hasn't been in the first team this season."

O'Neill's next goal, of course, in Wycombe's meteoric rise, is promotion to Division Two. They face Carlisle in the play-offs on Sunday.



The triumphant Wycombe squad with Standard sports editor Brian Alexander

Pictures: FRANK TEWKESBURY

THE FIVE-A-SIDE FACTFILE

FIRST ROUND			
Barnet 1 Charlton 2	C Palace 0 Wimbledon 0	Spurs 1 Luton 0	Millwall 2 Fulham 1
(Wimbledon won shoot-out)			
L Orient 0 West Ham 1	QPR 1 Brentford 0	Wycombe 1 Chelsea 0	Watford 1 Arsenal 2
SECOND ROUND			
Charlton 0 Millwall 3	West Ham 1 Arsenal 0	Spurs 0 Wimbledon 0	Wycombe 1 QPR 0
(Wimbledon won shoot-out)			
SEMI-FINALS			
Millwall 0 Wimbledon 1	West Ham 0 Wycombe 1		
FINAL			
WIMBLEDON 0 WYCOMBE 0			
(Wycombe won shoot-out)			

THE WINNERS

1954: Charlton	1967: West Ham	1974: QPR	1981: Arsenal
1955: Fulham	1968: Charlton	1975: Charlton	1982: Fulham
1956: Tottenham	1969: C Palace	1976: L Orient	1983: Millwall
1957: Fulham	1970: West Ham	1977: Arsenal	1984: West Ham
1958: L Orient	1971: QPR	1978: Arsenal	1985: QPR
1959: C Palace	1972: QPR	1979: Millwall	1986: Watford
1960: Tottenham	1973: Chelsea	1980: QPR	1994: Wycombe