

Blues boss chews on taking
a 'risk' in transfer market

CRUNCH TIME BECKONS

MARTIN O'Neill believes he has little alternative except to make a splash in the transfer market to replace players of Steve Guppy's calibre at Wycombe Wanderers.

The manager points to the success of former free transfer full backs Jason Cousins and David Titterton as a vindication of his careful spending in the past.

But he has declared, with a crunch season in Division Two just days away: "We need to take a few risks."

Blues are set to go into Saturday's Division Two curtain-raiser against Cambridge on a low ebb following Guppy's departure to Newcastle last week. Gloom was compounded last Saturday when Wycombe lost 1-0 at Diadora League neighbours

By **CLAIRE NASH**

Chesham.

Triallists Peter Baah (mid-field), Brian Horseman (left back) and John Bagnall (goal-keeper) made their debuts. But even if O'Neill signs any of his assorted pre-season recruits, he has declared his team can no longer survive on free transfers alone.

"We are looking for quality players. We keep losing quality players. You cannot replace them with free transfers," said the Blues boss.

Wycombe's pre-season preparations, which have been closely watched by Cambridge, continue with a home match against Chelsea tomorrow night (ko 7pm).

Glenn Hoddle is expected to bring a strong side to

Adams Park. There are special admission prices. Terrace tickets are £5 adults (concessions £3). Main stand seats are adults £6 (children £3).

■ Steve Guppy made a rip-roaring debut for Newcastle in a tournament at Ibrox. The winger, snapped up by Kevin Keegan for £150,000, nearly opened the scoring against Manchester United when he forced Peter Schmeichel into an acrobatic save to turn a 20-yard shot over the bar. The match ended in a 1-1 draw.

■ Wycombe are providing around 1,000 extra parking spaces for supporters on land beside the car park at Adams Park for the next six home matches. The charge per car is 50p. The service is available between Wednesday, August 10 and September 13.