

STAY COOL, BOSS

Battling Blues keep O'Neill smiling

WYCOMBE Wanderers' players have shown boss Martin O'Neill they can keep their Division Two campaign ticking over nicely while he continues to scour the transfer market for new blood.

Blues returned to convincing winning ways with a superb all-round team performance at Crewe Alexandra on Saturday. A 2-1 victory saw them leap-frog over Dario Gradi's men who had had a storming start to the season with five straight wins.

Wycombe moved up into fourth place in Division Two as a result, just 24 hours after a £75,000 deal to buy midfielder Louie Donowa from Birmingham City fell through.

Wanderers' inconsistent form before the game had heightened O'Neill's quest to bring in new players. He agreed a fee for Donowa with Birmingham boss Barry Fry on Friday, but O'Neill pulled out of the transfer before Wycombe travelled up to Crewe because he couldn't agree personal terms with the winger.

Donowa wanted more money than O'Neill was prepared to give.

"I had made a bid for Louie which was accepted by Birmingham. I spoke to him, but we could not agree personal terms," said the Wycombe manager.

"He came back to me to say he wanted a little bit more money. I do not want people to play for the club



Man with a mission: Veteran striker Simon Garner shows his class in Wycombe's win at Crewe on Saturday

for nothing. But playing football has to be reasonably high on a player's priorities."

O'Neill's £75,000-bid would have broken Wycombe's transfer record which stands at £40,000 for Steve Brown. The search for new players to bolster Wycombe's squad continues,

despite Saturday's improved performance.

Simon Stapleton and Keith Ryan returned to action with supreme performances. Stapleton, who was voted man of the match, and Ryan silenced their critics by ensuring Wycombe acquired and attained a

firm grip in midfield.

Cyrille Regis scored his fourth league goal of the season after 12 minutes at Gresty Road, and Dave Carroll scored his first with a deft free kick on the stroke of half time.

"It was fantastic. For 85 minutes we were in total command,"

enthused O'Neill.

"Crewe are a lovely footballing side. With our wins against Huddersfield and Birmingham as well, you have to say our away record is sensational.

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