

Robert Mendick's

Backchat



Blues triumph at off-pitch scoring

WYCOMBE Wanderers players have found themselves fighting for the top place in another league – for teams boasting the best breeding success.

Blues are making a sharp ascent to the top of the Baby Boom League after Paul Hyde, Dave Carroll, Mickey Bell and Gary Patterson became dads recently.

Wycombe have some way to go before they top the league – Swansea

City leads with seven births. Yet why are Wycombe relatively successful when it comes to breeding?

Could it be that the recent run of cancelled games has left players with time on their hands? Or is it that they are just naturally productive?

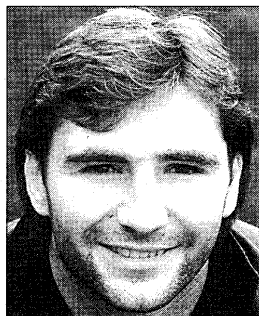
Press officer Alan Hutchinson has his own theory, which he revealed after pointing out the conceptions appeared to coincide. He said: "It could be because it coincided with

Wembley. It shows they are pretty fit and lively."

Babies now monopolise Adams Park. Our mole says talk on the merits of 4-4-2 play and Cantona's karate kick has been replaced by the merits of disposable nappies and feeding patterns.

Goalkeeper Hyde was even overheard remarking: "It's really hard to get them to sleep."

It's enough to make Gazza weep.



Who's who? Terry and Liam

Footballer and star's double act



FOOTBALLER Terry Evans is the latest nominee in my look-alike competition.

The Wycombe Wanderers centre-half was suggested by Blues season ticketholder Paul Jarvis, of Newfield Gardens, Marlow, for his resemblance to Schindler's List star Liam Neeson.

"Me and some friends dreamt it up

in the Dolphin pub after a game," Paul said.

Backchat decided that this was not the drink talking. We think he has a point.

☎ If you reckon someone looks uncannily like someone else, ring me on (01494) 521212 extn 2263.

Terry will pick Wyc

TERRY HOWARD is today expected to snub Sheffield United and sign for Second Division Wycombe Wanderers.

The defender, 28, sacked by Leyton Orient during half-time of a match, is close to agreeing terms on a 16-month deal with Wycombe boss Martin O'Neill.

NIGEL JEMSON is set to escape his nightmare at Notts County with a £250,000 move to Burnley or Charlton.

Head man Guppy

TRICKY winger Steve Guppy repaid a slice of his £250,000 transfer fee by grabbing victory with a rare header.

Guppy ghosted in unmarked at the far post to nod home Kevin Kent's pinpoint centre. Vale have now won ten out of the last 12 points to ease their relegation plight, but Albion's third successive League defeat pushed them further into trouble.

Guppy, who joined from Newcastle in November, said: "I redeemed myself with a goal, but I was far from happy with my overall performance. My crossing, which is usually my strength, was very poor."

Port Vale 1 West Brom 0

"The heavy conditions made it impossible to play at times and we are just very happy to take the three points."

Albion had their chances, mostly in the first half, with Andy Hunt firing wide of an open goal and Lee Ashcroft also going close.

Albion manager Alan Buckley moaned: "We have lost our last three games by 1-0 and have been punished for just about the only mistake we made in each match."

"Paul Edwards' poor clearance led to Vale's goal and the defeat was very disappointing. We should have been 2-0 up and coasting by half-time."