
O'Neill believes he was targeted by fan for rebuffing Rovers

MARTIN O'Neill believes the fan who accused him of being a poor loser was motivated by sour grapes because the Wycombe manager turned down the Bristol Rovers job nearly four years ago.

O'Neill grabbed the supporter by the shirt collar after the latter commented on the Blues bosses' behaviour during Wycombe's 1-0 defeat at Bristol Rovers on Saturday. O'Neill said sorry and shook

the fan's hand after regaining his composure.

"I apologised to him after it happened. I then got on to the coach and actually got off to apologise again. He accepted it and said to me, 'it takes a man to be able to say that,' he said.

The Wanderers manager believes the whole incident, which happened after he made his way from the dressing room to the team coach at Twerton Park has been blown out of proportion. He said

both of them squared up to each other. "Everything got a bit heated. There was a bit of handbags at ten paces, as if we were about to get embroiled in a situation. I grabbed hold of him and he grabbed hold of me."

But he added that he is fair-minded enough to accept a defeat. "We've been beaten before, and I've accepted it before. I asked him why he accused me of being a poor loser. He said it was because I was jumping up and down during the

game. I didn't really think that was reason enough for him to say what he did."

O'Neill added: "It was rather stupid and naive of me to think this was not worthy of comment. I was spat at as I left the pitch, but the incident seems to have gone unnoticed." The Football Association said it is unlikely it will take any action. "We only act if we have had a complaint and that has not happened in this case," a spokesman commented.
