

Blues end goal drought to revive play-off bid

'We're back'

WYCOMBE Wanderers' revival is now well and truly on after Tuesday's 3-1 win over Peterborough United moved them to within two places of the play-off zone.

No one was more happy than Martin O'Neill that Blues were back in business in seventh place with 61 points. "The win was a long time in coming. But we are right back in contention again," said Wycombe's manager.

England and Newcastle midfielder Peter Beardsley joined the chorus of praise after Blues won their first match in eight starts. They now have a crunch game against Hull, just one point behind them, at Boothferry Park tomorrow.

"It's nice from our point of view to see that they try to play good football," said Beardsley, who took time out from England training at Bisham Abbey with club-mate Robert Lee.

He complimented the performance of Steve McGavin who had a hand in three of Blues' goals, scored by Simon Garner (2) and Steve Brown. "Steve McGavin looks very sharp up front and they are playing the ball on the floor which is good to see," added the England star.

Wycombe moved up from tenth to seventh position as a result of their win, and now trail fifth-placed

team Bristol Rovers by three points. O'Neill is confident they can snatch a play-off place in what will be a very close-run finish to the season.

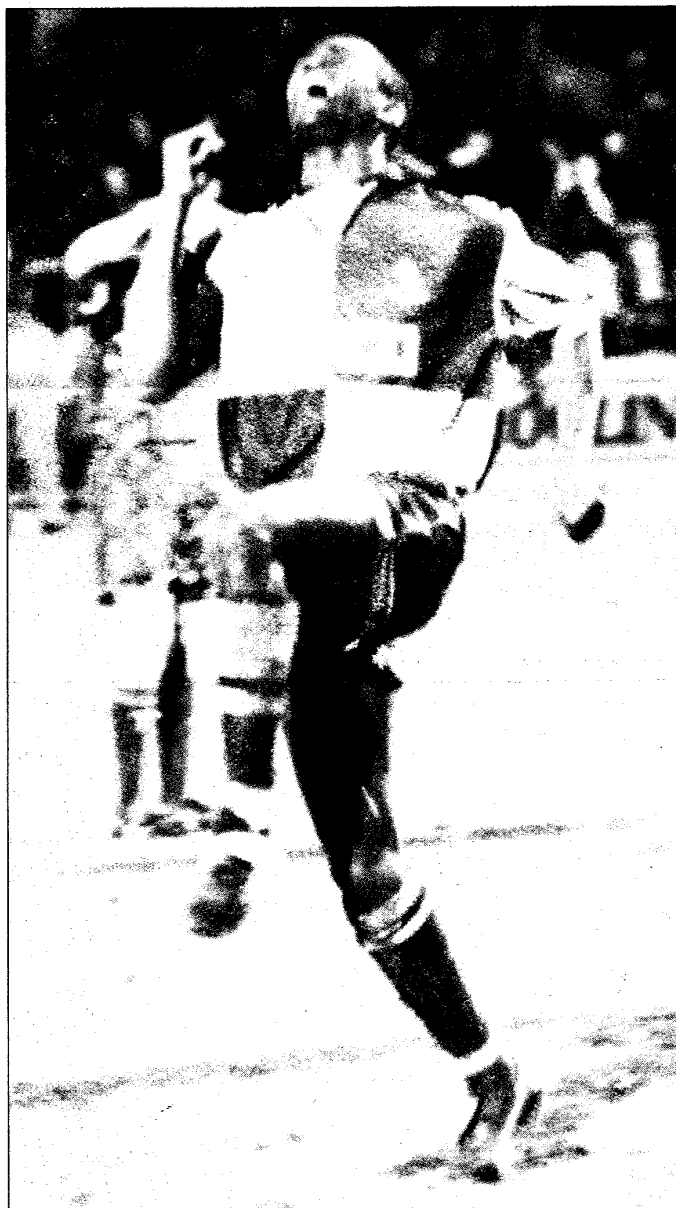
Despite their pace almost grinding to a halt with just five points from a possible 24 before Tuesday, the manager believes the re-acquired momentum can garner 21 points from the remaining 30.

O'Neill said of tomorrow's test at Hull, who won their first game in four against Chester on Tuesday: "They will be cock-a-hoop with that. This is an important game for us to win, with it being such a vital game for both sides."

Wycombe have an injury doubt, after Jason Cousins suffered a knee injury from a Peterborough tackle on Tuesday night. He was replaced by Terry Skiverton, who is set to play tomorrow if Cousins has not recovered.

Wanderers continue their play-off push against Bradford at Adams Park on Tuesday (ko 7.45pm).

■ Tickets for Wycombe's all-ticket match against play-off rivals Oxford United on Saturday, April 15 (ko 3pm) can be bought from Wanderers In Town, the commercial office at Adams Park and the credit card hotline (01494) 441118. They cost £6.50 adults (£4 concessions).



That scoring feeling: Steve Brown celebrates his contribution to Blues' 3-1 win over Peterborough Pictures by MICHELLE O'CONNOR

O'Neill still has a dream

MARTIN O'Neill told the nation this week of his Wycombe Wanderers dream, as well as reissuing his pledge to stay at the club – for the time being, at least.

O'Neill, in conversation with presenter Sybil Ruscoe on Radio Five Live on Wednesday afternoon, fielded questions about his footballing future and Wycombe's immediate and long-term prospects.

"I think the very fact of turning down other jobs, you are showing a commitment to the football club," he said, referring

to his turning down offers from Leicester City and Nottingham Forest.

But he added: "I feel I want to manage with the big boys. I think if you are worth your salt, then that is where you want to be."

■ The Wycombe Wanderers Independent Supporters Club are running coach trips to Hull. Prices are £9 (£7.50 children), but £2 extra for non members. A trip to Bournemouth depends on numbers going. Telephone (01494) 523843 or (0378) 144171.



Happiness is seeing your team score after a rather long time