

Only wins will do for Wycombe

MARTIN O'Neill believes Wycombe Wanderers have to win at least five of their remaining seven games to guarantee a place in the Division Two play-offs.

Blues' 3-1 win over Bradford City, combined with other results going their way on Tuesday night, put them firmly back into contention in sixth place, just two points behind Oxford United with a game in hand.

"We have given ourselves another chance," said O'Neill after his players blew Bradford away with three first-half goals.

"We have got to turn draws into wins. There is no alternative," he continued, in reference to Saturday's goalless draw at Hull.

Wycombe's present positioning just behind Oxford, who occupy the final play-off position, already perfectly tees up the forthcoming clash between the two clubs at Adams Park on Easter Saturday.

Both teams need at least 80 points, O'Neill believes, to make the play-offs. Burnley made it last season with just 73 points, but had the luxury of finishing in sixth place.

If Wycombe overcome Bournemouth at Dean Court tomorrow and Wrexham at Adams Park next Tuesday (ko 7.45pm) they will go into the match in the best shape possible.

Both of Blues' next two opponents will pose stern tests, however. Bournemouth will move out of the bottom five for the first time this season if they win tomorrow.

Mel Machin's side's good run

By Claire Nash

began at Adams Park on New Year's Eve. Wycombe were fortunate when Dave Carroll's last minute goal from a free kick salvaged a 1-1 draw.

"The lads here know how difficult the game is. Bournemouth away is a very different prospect from Bradford at home," commented O'Neill.

He added that the players will be buoyant after Tuesday's emphatic victory. "Tonight was absolutely scintillating," he said.

Dave Carroll, one of Tuesday night's goalscorers along with Jason Solomon and Tony Hemmings, said: "It's come to the stage where we cannot afford to keep drawing or losing."

Blues fan power made Bournemouth change a 12.30pm kick-off time, due to the Grand National, back to 3pm.

■ Tickets for the all-ticket clash between Wycombe Wanderers and Oxford United on Saturday, April 15, will be on sale up to 5pm on Good Friday. They can be bought from Wanderers In Town, the commercial office or the credit card hotline on (01494) 441118. But on Good Friday they will only be available between 10am and 2pm in Wanderers In Town and between 2pm and 5pm at the Cornerflag clubshop at Adams Park.

■ Wycombe are holding a fashion show for their new away kit on Monday, April 24, starting at 6.45pm, to help Glyn Creaser's Benefit Fund. Admission is £1.

Countdown for play-off place chasers



WITH Brentford, Huddersfield and Birmingham pretty much there or thereabouts where either automatic promotion or a play-off place are concerned, the above look likely to contest the remaining two places.