

Blues to face Gillingham but Ma

TOUGH TIES IN FA CUP

WYCOMBE Wanderers and Marlow both face demanding ties in the FA Cup first round after Sunday's draw.

Wycombe will play Division Three leaders Gillingham while Marlow have to beat Gravesend in tonight's fourth qualifying round replay at Oak Tree Road (ko 7.45pm) to make it through to the main competition.

But the FA Cup is one of the last things on Wycombe boss Alan Smith's mind, however, after his side stretched their unbeaten League record to ten games with Saturday's 4-1 win over derby rivals Oxford United.

"We have four very important league games coming up, I think at the moment that is as far as my mind is going," he said.

"It's going to be a tough game against Hull this Saturday and all I am looking for at the moment is to get three points. The FA Cup is not even in my mind at the moment."

By **CLAIRE NASH and SHARON WALTER**

Blues' youth team manager Neil Smillie, who was Gillingham's caretaker manager until joining Wycombe in the close season, is looking forward to his former club's visit.

Optimistic

"The way we played on Saturday we have every reason to be optimistic, the first team is now looking to be taking very good shape."

Smillie believes that a home draw is better for Wycombe, even though their away form is superior.

"I'm sure we would rather play at home than away, it's a good draw for us.

"They have brought in a lot of new players and I think it will be a good but hard game. They are doing very well and playing with a lot of confidence, they will be playing very direct and are a very strong side."

Meanwhile, the now traditional FA Cup buzz is fuelling Marlow's exploits in the competition. Manager Peter Rhoades-Brown said: "There's an air of expectancy here. We have got a great chance of getting through. We know what we need to know about Gravesend. I was delighted with getting a draw up there and bringing them back to our place.

"I hope the FA Cup brings the fans out of the woodwork for the replay."

FA CUP FIRST ROUND

Wycombe
Wanderers v
Gillingham
Gravesend & o
Marlow v
Colchester
United

● To be played on
either November
11, 12 or 13 Nov

