

WYCOMBE STARS FACE D-DAY

Terrace to close for final fixtures

BUILDING work on the new South Stand at Wycombe Wanderers will entail the closure of the Woodlands Terrace for the club's last two games of the season.

Wycombe are offering home supporters alternative accommodation in either the northern end of the Amersham and Wycombe College Stand (entrance two) or in the AXA Equity & Law stand (entrance five) for the matches against Swansea this Saturday and Carlisle on April 27.

The stand roof will not be removed until after tonight's match against Rotherham United (ko 7.45pm) and the terracing will then be converted to seating.

Existing season ticket holders can use their tickets at either end of the ground.

A club spokesman said: "We apologise for the alteration in arrangements but it is essential to maintain the progress on the new stand to ensure completion by the commencement of next season."

■ Rotherham travel to Adams Park tonight on the back of winning the Auto Windscreens Shield with a 2-1 victory over fellow Division Two side Shrewsbury Town at Wembley on Sunday.

Blues may get their chance to stop a three-game losing run as Rotherham's post-Wembley celebrations were due to be held yesterday, leaving the visitors feeling a little worse for wear. Their key threat will be former Sheffield Wednesday striker Nigel Jemson.

■ Blues' youth team enjoyed a spectacular 2-0 win over Tottenham in the South East Counties League on Sunday.

WYCOMBE Wanderers boss Alan Smith has laid down the gauntlet to half of his squad to stake their claims for new contracts.

There were dramatic changes to Blues' starting line-up on Saturday when Wycombe lost 2-1 at a resurgent York City.

The reason was not the preceding defeats against Oxford United and Hull over Easter - a losing run which Blues extended at the weekend.

Smith said afterwards that he wants to give 12 players whose contracts expire in June a chance to impress.

He added that his priority, now that the play-offs are out of the question, is that he sees what they can do.

"I need to look at the whole squad before the end of the season. I want to be fair to everybody.

"While I want to win our

By **CLAIRE NASH**

remaining games, it is more important to see the players," said Smith.

The players who will be out of contract at the end of the season are: Steve Brown, Dave Carroll, Matt Crossley, Simon Garner, Paul Hardyman, Terry Howard, Matt Lawrence, Keith Ryan, Jason Soloman, Simon Stapleton, Shaun Stevens and Terry Skiverton.

Players whose contracts run to 1997 are: Mickey Bell, Anthony Clark, Jason Cousins, Miquel Desouza, Terry Evans, David Farrell, Steve McGavin, Brian McGorry, Gary Patterson, Jason Rowbotham and John Williams.

Stapleton replaced Cousins at right back on Saturday, his first appearance for the first team for more than 18

months. Skiverton played alongside Crossley in central defence, in place of Evans and Howard.

Ryan was made captain in place of Evans.

Smith said that he had not made up his mind about the fate of any of the out-of-contract players.

In regard to Howard, who has not played since being dropped at half time at Hull, Smith said: "I don't really need to see what Howard can do. He's played for most of the season."

Some of the players are clearly on edge, with glum expressions all round as they got on the team bus after Saturday's disappointing defeat.

But Carroll said: "We shouldn't be distracted by anything else. Once out on the pitch, players should just get on with it."

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