
BELL BACKS THE BLUES

WYCOMBE Wanderers defender Mickey Bell has pledged his support to the club after extending his contract by another year.

The agreement means that Blues favourite, Bell, will be tied to the club until 1998.

Bell's decision is another coup for Wanderers boss Alan Smith, who last week persuaded Keith Ryan to sign new terms that will also keep him with the club for another two years.

Ryan had held out on whether to stay at Wycombe or not as he waited to see what other offers came his way.

With last week's signings of goal-keeper Brian Parkin from Bristol Rovers and defender Paul McCarthy from Brighton, Smith now sees his plans for the new season coming together.

"I feel things are building up nicely," Smith said this week.

"The re-signing of Keith Ryan gives us a new player. Him committing himself is a terrific boost for us. I think he sees we are really trying to achieve something at Wycombe.

But the Blues boss is adamant he will not stop there. Smith believes it will be necessary to keep assessing the team to make sure Wanderers keep their chances of promotion alive.

"All the time I will be looking to strengthen the side," he said. "We have got to look to the future. If I can improve or change things for the better I will do so."

Smith said that finding another striker to complement Miquel Desouza and John Williams is one of his aims.

■ Wycombe Wanderers will begin their pre-season training programme on Friday, but it will not be at their usual Bisham Abbey venue.

The session will take place at Adams Park, giving the players a chance to see the ground's new stand.