

LETTER

Dropping Evans is the answer

NO doubt there will be calls for the sacking of Alan Smith following Wanderers' defeat at the hands of Brentford.

For the time being, at least, I would suggest an alternative course of action: drop Terry Evans.

Evans' dedication to the Wycombe cause cannot be questioned. But I believe that he, more than any other, is responsible for the long-ball culture that seems to be prevalent.

When the team came out for the second half it was obvious that they had been instructed to play the ball along the ground, to feet.

This they did for some time, building out of defence, and playing attractive football. But time was running out and desperation set in.

Wycombe reverted to the long ball and to the questionable tactic of sending Evans forward to bolster the attack, which, as I see it, only ever leads to congestion and confusion.

Between September 2 and 19, 1995 Wycombe played five games, of which two were won and three drawn, with only two goals conceded. What would we give now for a string of results like that?

The Wycombe centre-backs for those five games were Howard and Crossley, and the last game of the five was the home leg against Manchester City, when Quinn and Rossler were dealt with very competently.

I don't wish to re-open the debate about the dropping of Terry Howard, and Paul McCarthy seems an adequate, if costly, replacement. But I do think it is time to bring back Matt Crossley, who I believe would form a successful partnership with McCarthy, as he did with Howard a year ago.

And the captain's armband? I would give it to Dave Carroll, who would lead by example.

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