
Sky Blues cup windfall

REPORT

By Dave Peters

SKY television's decision to show Wanderers' FA Cup replay against Barnet live on Tuesday will net hard-up Wycombe £30,000.

Sky made their decision to come to Adams Park after pressure from their own commentator and Blues director, Alan Parry. He persuaded them to pick Wycombe instead of showing the Walsall/Burnley replay.

But the Blues director is urging fans not to watch the television coverage. He said: "Don't bother watching it at home, be there and be part of the occasion. We will record Sky's coverage and show it in the bars and hospitality boxes later."

Wanderers are now hoping for a bumper replay crowd on Tuesday with fans fuelled by the novelty of being at a live match.

The cash bonus is a welcome windfall for Wanderers who splashed out £75,000 last week signing Welsh midfielder John Cornforth and rugged Notts County defender Michael Forsyth.

And it also goes some way towards making up for the financially disappointing third round draw which will give Wanderers a home tie with first division strugglers Bradford City, if they beat Barnet.

Parry added: "Let's prove to Sky that they made the right decision to show our game. We need a large crowd on the night to show the nation what we have got going here at Wycombe – a new stand and a team playing attractive football and hopefully a great atmosphere."

Blues boss John Gregory said: "It is fantastic news for us that Sky are coming. The money is very important to us and it's all good publicity for the club."

But Alan Parry will not be commentating on the game.

Gregory said: "He does tend to get quite excited watching our games, they would have needed to put a ten second time delay on his commentary, so they could edit in a few bleeps."

It is the second time Wanderers have been selected for live television coverage, and they will be hoping for better fortune than they enjoyed last time they were on the box – when 1.2 million viewers watched them draw against Gillingham, before going out of the FA Cup in the replay.

Gary Patterson has particular reason to remember that match as his goal celebration, where he took his shirt off and ran bare chested in celebration, formed part of Sky's opening shots for future televised games.

As part of their build-up, Sky cameras will follow the Blues to the Childrens Ward at Wycombe General Hospital on Monday to record the players handing over presents.

Continued from back page

After last week's action-packed 3-3 draw at Underhill the odds are now firmly stacked in the Blues favour for the replay (ko 7.45pm). They have midfielder Steve Brown and defender Matt Crossley back in contention following their suspensions while Jason Kavanagh who also missed the trip to North London through injury should return.

But new signing John Cornforth is not available because he was not signed in time.

Meanwhile, Barnet will be without their 16-goal dangerman Sean Devine, who almost won them the game last week. He is suspended.