

Preston gets the thumbs down verdict

OFFICIAL LINES

By Elaine Butler

Wycombe Wanderers Official Supporters Club

LEAVING Adams Park at 9am, our regular driver Steve Warwick, a Chelsea supporter, had already set up the highlights of their fourth round FA Cup win over Liverpool on the video as we sat back for the long journey north.

After more than four hours we got our first sight of Preston's crane-like floodlight pylons which look more at home on a building site, forming part of the new Tom Finney Stand.

The gleaming white stand really contrasts with the rest of Deepdale which is stuck in a 1920s time warp!

Away fans were accommodated on a small open paddock in front of the old main stand with a Second World War air raid shelter masquerading as a toilet and a flooded Portacabin.

The state-of-the-art refreshment kiosk comprised of a table with a tea urn and a picnic cooler box with surprisingly good pies.

Wanderers were pushed back by Preston and their efforts to attack were hampered by the Willy Thorne clone of a referee, who, was aided and abetted by his assistant on the near side.

Even after Preston's late winner there was still time for a blatant penalty to be waved away by Willy.

Never mind it's Watford and Scotty tomorrow.

■ Fans who booked travel to the postponed games at Brentford and Luton should contact Rena on (01494) 882916 to confirm they still want them for the new dates on March 4 and April 8.

COUNTY CUP FOCUS

David's reminder for City

BIRMINGHAM SENIOR CUP

One-time apprentice professional David Titterton will be aiming to remind Coventry City of what they missed — by turning Burton Albion's cup double bid into Sky Blues heaven.

Former England youth international Titterton played just twice for Coventry in three years as a pro before moving to Hereford, then Wycombe, Hednesford and finally to Burton last season.

But Brewers boss John Barton picks out the 25-year-old as one of their stars of the season — and he will relish Monday's head-to-head with old his club in Monday's Birmingham Senior Cup semi-final at Eton Park (7.30).

"After a poor end to last season when he joined us, we left David out of the first game this season," said Barton.

"It was a major decision for us and he was obviously disappointed. But he has responded superbly well."

Williams landed

HEREFORD

Graham Turner finally landed "Flying Postman" John Williams yesterday and the Wycombe Wanderers' striker makes his debut in tomorrow's High Noon showdown with Cardiff City at Edgar Street.

Turner, United's director of football, believed he had lost out in the race to sign Brummie-born Williams last week.

But he refused to take 'no' for an answer and the 30-year-old striker eventually agreed to the free transfer move.

Turner was delighted to have eventually got his man and he is convinced Williams will help solve his goalscoring problems.

"John is the target man we have been seeking for most of the season to provide the assistance we have obviously needed in that area," he said.

IMPACT

"He had been frozen out in the cold at Wycombe and I know he is very happy to be moving back to the Midlands."

"He has not played much first team football recently. But he is a naturally fit lad and he will soon make a big impact."

The big striker, who progressed from Cradley Town to Swansea, Coventry City and then Wycombe, will certainly be a tremendous asset for the Bulls as they endeavour to climb even further away from the Third Division relegation zone.

Their recent revival was maintained with a fine 3-2 win at Barnet last Saturday with Norwegian striker Mika Kottila finally breaking his goalscoring duck.

They have now taken ten points from their last four games and will need to keep up the ratio against Cardiff before they set off to face Rochdale at Spotland on Tuesday and Lincoln at Sincil Bank next Saturday.

Record signing flies off for nothing

JOHN Williams, Wycombe Wanderers record £150,000 signing from Coventry 17 months ago, has joined Third Division strugglers Hereford on a free transfer.

Wanderers got rid of the out-of-favour forward, who has been stuck in the reserves, to cut their wage bill.

Blues boss John Gregory said: "He

wasn't involved at first team level and was earning a very good salary here and we no longer have to pay that salary. By letting him go we are saving ourselves a lot of money between now and July 1 when his contract was up."

Orient were also interested in Willo, who once cost Coventry £250,000, but neither they nor Hereford would

pay a fee for the 28-year-old.

Williams, dubbed the Flying Postman because of his former job and his pace, never started a league game under Gregory but scored four in the three games in cup matches against Colchester and Barnet.

Gregory said: "He only played in my cup side because I couldn't play Neil Davis."