

# The men who could make the difference

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**REPORTS**  
By Dave Peters

JOHN Gregory believes Martin Taylor's top flight experience could be the key to Wanderers second division survival bid.

The 30-year-old keeper has come straight out of Premiership Derby's team into Wanderers basement battle after the shock loan deal.

And after his magnificent debut against Shrewsbury, fans are seeing him as the man to keep the Blues up - even though he conceded two at Bury on Monday.

Taylor said: "I'm no saviour. I can't win matches but I can try not to lose them. I'm confident in my ability. I still think I'm good enough to play in the Premier League. When I go onto the pitch I don't think I'm going to concede goals."

"I'm here to help keep Wycombe up and if I keep four clean sheets in the next seven games I'll be pleased with that."

The keeper, who spent three years as understudy to Peter Shilton in his early years at Derby played in The Rams' last three Premier games and was as shocked as anyone when he joined Wycombe on deadline day after Derby signed Estonian international Mart Poom to replace him.

Gregory said: "It is brilliant for us to have someone out of the Premiership. He'll improve our chances of staying up."

And Gregory was even more impressed after the Shrewsbury game.

He said: "Martin has a real presence about him. He made three excellent saves and the one he made in the last minute was just incredible. It was Peter Shilton all over."

Assistant boss Richard Hill said: "Martin looked every inch a Premiership keeper. John and I were bouncing around like two year-olds when we signed him and Keith Scott."

Taylor, who had battled back into Derby's first team after 29 months out with a triple broken leg, is one of those unusual footballers who can kick with both feet.

He said: "It was an advantage to me when the back pass law came in because I'm not frightened if the ball comes to me on either foot. I kick out



**Top class: Martin Taylor's Premiership experience will be vital**

of my hands with my left and on the floor with my right."

Fans will already have noticed that his accurate and long kicking to Scott has given the Blues a new attacking dimension.

Taylor, who has got his Derby testimonial against Everton on May 14, says he is 100 per cent Wycombe until then. He has been relegated before, losing 2-0 at Manchester City with Derby to drop out of the Old First Division and doesn't want to experience it again.

He said: "It was so depressing. I'm here to help Wycombe stay up and

hopefully me being there will pass on a bit of extra confidence to the defence."

"I think four wins should be enough, maybe we won't even need that. It's still in our own hands. It's when there's four games left and you're relying on other teams that you've got to worry but we're not there yet. There's still seven games to play, that's 21 points and we've got to aim to get 21. The game at Notts will be the big one."

"No-one is too good to go down. Wycombe are there because they haven't been good enough all season but we can get out."



**Golden boots: Keith Scott has been brought back to Adams Park to score the goals to keep Wanderers in the Second Division**

**RETURNING hero Keith Scott's partnership with Mark Stallard looks to have plenty of goals in it.**

Against Shrewsbury last Saturday Scott took just 14 minutes to get off the mark and Stallard followed him onto the scoresheet as they gave Shrewsbury a torrid time.

On Monday they both drew a blank against Bury's miserly defence which has only conceded six home goals all season, although Scott came close with a header.

Stallard believes it is a partnership with plenty of potential.

He said: "On Saturday it just

seemed to click. We are a contrasting partnership and you have got to have contrast in a good partnership."

"Scotty's a big strong target man who makes life uncomfortable for defenders and I like to play alongside someone like that. He's a real handful for defenders and as a striker you have got to look at being a nuisance like he is. We want to make defenders feel uncomfortable and I don't think too many defenders will feel comfortable against Scott."

Scott was also pleased with his new partner.

He said: "The nice thing is that

we both scored. We've not particularly worked at it because there hasn't been the time. It was off the cuff and we linked really well, so things are looking good."

Blues boss John Gregory said after the Shrewsbury game: "They were a real handful. Keith works extremely hard and sets the example for others to follow."

Scott has the experience, aggression and knowledge that panics defenders. Shrewsbury's Peter Whiston was sent off after bringing him down and Scott admitted: "I went down in stages. It was like Coronation Street I went down on Monday, Wednesday and Friday."

If I could have got the ball I'd have possibly stayed up, but the guy did catch me and I'd lost my momentum."

Scott feels passionately about the cause.

He said: "I've got a great affection for Wycombe. The club gave me my start in football and I want to help them stay up by scoring but if the defenders do all the scoring I won't be complaining as long as we stay up."

Scott believes he has improved since leaving Adams Park four years ago.

He said: "I'd say I'm better now. My overall game has improved and I've learned a lot."