

GREGORY'S TRUE BLUE

Blues boss says he's staying put

WANDERERS boss John Gregory this week gave worried Blues fans the news they all wanted to hear when he said he is not interested in the vacant manager's job at First Division Reading.

He said yesterday: "I wouldn't apply for it. I'm not the slightest bit interested. I'm very happy at Wycombe and Reading hasn't even crossed my mind."

Gregory, who celebrated his 43rd birthday on Sunday, or as he prefers to call it, the third anniversary of his 40th birthday, was named in the Reading Evening Post's list of possible successors for the Elm Park post which was vacated by joint managers Jimmy Quinn and Mick Gooding last week.

Gregory's job of keeping Wanderers up this season will not have gone unnoticed in Berkshire.

The Blues boss lives in Windsor and his assistant Richard Hill was coach at the First Division club last season until Gregory poached him



Staying put: Gregory

for Wanderers.

But Gregory is not interested. He has spent the first week of the close season working towards challenging for promotion at Adams Park next term.

He has already fixed up two glamour pre-season friendlies

against two of his former clubs, as well as releasing eight players.

Aston Villa will be the first visitors to Adams Park on Friday, July 18 and Queens Park Rangers follow a week later on July 25.

He said: "The Villa game is a big test very early on and it is a nice one for the fans. They are top quality opposition, they've just qualified for Europe. I'm not too concerned about the outcome but we want to come out of it with a bit of dignity."

"It's nice to get results but they aren't that important in pre-season. I've been at clubs where we've spanked everyone in pre-season and then lost the next four league matches."

Gregory is also hoping to finalise more pre-season games against league and local non-league opposition.

He said: "You'd be surprised at the amount of clubs that want to come here and play. They know that the pitch will be very well prepared and that there will be a good surface for them."