

Stallard's double gives Gregory a timely reminder

MARK Stallard hopes his two goals in Friday's 3-2 win against QPR will earn him a place for the big kick off at Wigan on August 9.

Stallard was left out of the starting team for the Aston Villa game but made his point with Friday's double.

He said: "Hopefully my two goals have given the manager a nudge."

Up front is the one area of John Gregory's threadbare squad where competition is hot with Keith Scott, Paul Read and Stallard chasing two positions.

But Stallard is not worried.

He said: "I signed for the club because they had ambition and they showed that in the summer when they signed Keith Scott. I know three into two doesn't go and that one of us is going to be disappointed and I don't want it to be me."

Stallard was in a hurry to get noticed against QPR. He would have had a hat-trick had his second-minute cross-come-shot not bounced

back off the crossbar.

Wanderers took the lead in the 12th minute as Mick Forsyth barged through the bodies to head home Dave Carroll's corner.

One minute later it should have been two but Scott's control just let him down and Matthew Rose made a saving tackle.

Wanderers, with Michael Simpson and McGavin pulling the strings, played as though they were the first division side, although the Londoners looked capable of finding joy down the flanks as wingbacks Jason Van Blerk and Carroll's positional sense was exposed.

But the game changed at half time. Brian Parkin replaced Martin Taylor in goal and gifted QPR an equaliser. After making one incredible touchline dash to sliding tackle John Spencer, Parkin went awol again with disastrous consequences, as Spencer, three yards out, turned in Kevin Gallen's low cross for a 52nd minute equaliser.

Four minutes later, Rangers were ahead. Parkin, who struggled with crosses last season, did not collect, and Spencer headed home.

Wanderers levelled four minutes later as the unmarked Stallard turned in Steve Brown's wayward shot. Stallard hit the winner with six minutes left, slotting home after Keith Scott did the hard work.

QPR twice almost levelled at the death. Parkin's reflex stop kept out Simon Barker's volley, but from the resulting corner Parkin punched the ball against Alan Beeton and the ball was scrambled off the line.

Gregory said: "The result was good but I'm more pleased about the content. We moved the ball well and created a lot of chances."

Wycombe: Taylor (Parkin 45), Simpson, Van Blerk (Beeton 88), Kavanagh, McCarthy, Forsyth, Carroll (Quincey 75), Scott, McGavin (Wright 79), Brown (Harkin 79).

QPR: Harper, Graham, Brazier, Rose, Thomas (Perry 62), Morrow, Spencer, Peacock, Gallen (Mahoney-Johnson), Barker, Murray (Bruce).

Attendance: 3,628 (1,326 Rangers fans).