

Blues flop as money talks

A VIEW FROM THE STAND

By Ron Barnett



WHAT a cruel game football can be! All that bright, sparkling pre-season confidence is suddenly looking severely tarnished – and the season is only 180 minutes old.

This is the first time since we entered the League that we've lost our first two matches. Even last year, under the Bald Eagle, we managed to scrape a draw in our first two fixtures.

Despite the first half fiasco at Wigan and the cruel reality of the score in print on Sunday morning, we went on Tuesday full of enthusiasm to see the boys in the smart new quarters for the first time in a competitive match.

Unfortunately it was the famous green and gold of Har- rods, owned by Fulham's new benefactor, that were the predominant colours by the end. Mike Conroy scored a golden goal for Fulham and we all went home green with envy!

After losing to two of the upstarts from Division Three we now play a third tomorrow. Wigan and Fulham have certainly benefited from the massive investment – let's hope Northampton don't get into bed with a rich sugar daddy before then.

With both new strips kicking off with a defeat JG may soon be digging out that all-red cup kit again.

Question time for Wanderers boss?

FOOTBALL: Blues supporters have a chance to quiz manager John Gregory about his team's disappointing start to the season with a fans' forum organised by the Independent Supporters Club at the Trades and Social Club in Queen's Road, High Wycombe on Thursday at 8pm.

Admission is free to members of the independent and official supporters clubs and £1 for all others.

● Wanderers have apologised to fans who missed their early day discounted tickets for last week's Coca Cola Cup tie against Fulham because of a computer failure at the Wanderers in Town shop.

Shop staff did give discounted tickets to fans who called back the following day but the offer could not be extended to fans turning up at the ground on the night, as ticket office staff there had no way of telling whether they had applied before.

Mohan fills gap at back

Wycombe v Northampton A preview of tomorrow's Division Two clash

NICKY Mohan makes his Blues debut tomorrow against Northampton at Adams Park (ko 3pm).

He will play at centre back and it is expected that either Jason Kavanagh or Michael Forsyth will shuffle along to fill one of the problematical wingback positions, as the Blues bid to end their early-season jinx against the sides promoted from Division Three last season.

The Blues have already lost to Fulham and Wigan and manager John Gregory, who was at Wembley with his assistant Richard Hill cheering Northampton on in the play-offs, expects it to be tough again.

He said: "It is an amazing achievement to win at Wembley and the enthusiasm and momentum will carry them on for the first three or four months of the season."

"They will be like Fulham and Wigan, they will play with enthusiasm for 90 minutes and they will not know when to stop. We will have to match them for enthusiasm and endeavour."

Gregory will leave it up to striker Keith Scott to decide whether he has recovered from the badly bruised ankle which kept him out of the Fulham game.

LETTER

Don't ignore international

A RECENT piece of very important sports news was announced which is one of the most significant events to be staged in Bucks for the last 20 years – unfortunately, so far it has received little attention.

I refer to the decision to stage the under-21 international between England and Moldova at Adams Park on Tuesday, September 9 (the night before the World Cup match at Wembley).

This really is a coup for local football fans and Wycombe Wanderers as a club.

Recent matches have been staged at much bigger grounds such as Wolves, Charlton and Bristol City and for the second youngest club in the football league to be granted such a game shows the remarkable

progress made by the Blues in recent years.

It's a far cry from the day I skipped school to watch an England amateur international on a Wednesday afternoon at Loakes Park.

With most of the recent full internationals at Wembley attracting over 50,000, there has been a knock-on effect with the under 21 games. I particularly hope that schools in Bucks, Berks and Oxon will organise trips for children to see tomorrow's stars.

With the full international squad staying just down the road, I'm sure many of the top names in football will also be in attendance. The game unquestionably deserves to be a sell-out. I hope local fans of all clubs make it a night to remember.

Andrew Worboys
Poles Hill
Chesham

Posh Too Strong

Wednesday, 13th August vs PETERBOROUGH UNITED (Away) Lost 0-2 The reserves first Capital League match of the season was nearly postponed due to a deluge before the game. Only start work by the ground staff saved the day, even so the pitch was very heavy and surface water on the main stand side often stopped the ball dead. Our small squad meant that Richard Hill was forced to use a number of youth team players along with three trialists. From the start of the



game we were always under pressure, but our defence with both Keith Ryan (left) and Alan Beeton having good games, held up well. In fact, we were able to cause Peterborough a few problems in an even first half. In the 36th minute we created our best chance when Beeton's quick free-kick found Lee Quincey, who in turn crossed hard and low only for Barry McCoy to be inches away from turning the ball in. In the second half our chances were few as The Posh upped the tempo and took the lead in the 53rd minute when Beeton was unable to get distance on a clearance allowing MATERAZZI to seize the opportunity to score. They added a second in the 84th minute when Koogi sent the ball back for NORFOLK to finish. Reflecting on the game, Richard Hill said that we had done OK until they scored after which we were chasing the game. He added that we must look at the fact that only two senior players were available and that one, Keith Ryan, had to play at the back when further forward would have been his preferred position. Line-Up:- B.Parkin, A.Forbes, A.Patton (G.Smith), K.Ryan, A.Beeton, J.Lamb (L.Crocker), G.Wright (J.Sheffield), L.Quincey, B.McCoy, M.Harkin, D.Carter.