

Insipid report lacks originality

I AM writing to express my disappointment at the attitude and tone of your sports report on the recent Wycombe v Watford match.

Football is, of course, a game of opinions and your reporter is as entitled to his as I am to mine, but the report in question was little more than a rather negative, weak and insipid attack on the Watford manager Graham Taylor, based

entirely on regurgitated Fleet Street copy from a few years ago when Mr Taylor was England manager.

Whilst I would agree that Taylor's England period was not the most glorious or exciting imaginable, his record as a club manager is excellent and to suggest that he has now found his level in the second division is ludicrous. Taylor enjoyed promotion success at Lincoln who still hold

the all-time points record, possibly to be beaten this year by Watford. In his first spell at Watford he took the club from the old fourth division to the first, to an FA Cup Final and into Europe when Watford finished second in the first division behind Liverpool in 1983. Taylor also revived Aston Villa, achieving promotion to and runners-up in the first division and was poised for greater

things when the England opportunity arose. In fact, Taylor's only "unsuccessful" club role was at Wolves where he still achieved their highest league position for years.

Finally, if your report had been original, relevant and based on fact, the reporter's opinions would be worth noting. It is clear that he has "found his own level" at The Star by being allowed to submit a "report"

which could virtually have been written without attending the game. I feel sorry for Wycombe fans who do not have a more knowledgeable and supportive reporter who concentrates on their club and its issues rather than trying to make cheap capital at the expense of others.

Michael S Day
Chalfont St Peter

Taylor is no turnip

I ATTENDED the football match between Wycombe and Watford on Boxing Day. The purpose of this letter is to make some observation as to the way you have reported the match in your paper.

Football is all about opinion. Who should have won or scored is now a matter of debate and your reporter can write his or her opinions as they see fit.

However, opinion as to Graham Taylor's England team selection bears no relevance to who he can select from the Watford squad. His record at Watford, not only this season but in the past, has been excellent.

Much was noted in 1997 about the way the press reported on public figures.

In previous years, a national newspaper ran a hate campaign against Mr Taylor using the term "Turnip". You have used this term in your report. This was totally unnecessary and shows your paper in a poor light. Please do not allow the quality of your reporting to reach the poor standards some of the tabloids have set in the past.

Name and address supplied.