

Wanderers put Middlesbrough into the shadows

WYCOMBE Wanderers have beaten Worthington Cup opponents Middlesbrough, and mighty Liverpool and Leeds in a league table of the best football grounds.

The Adams Park experience scored 77 out of 100 while Boro's Riverside scored 68 points and Liverpool's Anfield 71 according to the new ABC Guide to Football Grounds book.

Author John Ladd who visited every ground, said of Adams Park: "It is an away trip where you are likely to meet nothing but friendly fans and helpful club officials."

Ladd wasn't so complimentary about Blues rivals Colchester who scored 61 points.

- A staggering one seventh of all the people who live in Burnley were at Turf Moor on Saturday watching their town's team draw 1-1 with Wanderers.

Burnley has a population of just 70,000 people but that did not stop them attracting 10,120 for last Saturday's match.

- Saturday's goalscorer Mark Stallard praised

the small band of supporters who stuck by the team and saw them pick up their first away point of the season.

He said: "The supporters that came up to Burnley were brilliant. After the start to the season we've had they've had every reason to have a go at us and not bother travelling to away games.

"They gave us a lift and we responded by giving them a performance which was ten times better than anything we've put up in the league so far."

Meanwhile Stallard, who struck 17 times in the league last season, was delighted to get off the mark.

He said: "It's taken me a long time to get my first league goal. It's been preying on my mind not scoring but it has been a strange situation because we have not really been creating chances. The performance was much better and it just shows that when we try and play football we create more."

- They say football management ages you, but

spare a thought for Blues player Dannie Bulman. He was 19 when he joined Wanderers from non-league Ashford Town in the summer, but last Saturday's Burnley programme, The Claret Review, had him down as 98 years old.

- Ian Moat has just finished his first week as Wycombe Wanderers' new secretary. He joined the club from Division Two rivals Notts County and replaces John Reardon who retired in the summer.

- The grudge away game against bitter rivals Colchester United on September 26 has been made all-ticket for Wycombe supporters.

Tickets are now on sale at Adams Park priced £7 standing, or £4 concessions, and £9 or £6 concessions for the seats.

- Mark Westhead was lucky that his surprise first team debut last Saturday was a northern affair. He telephoned his father from Turf Moor just after being told he was in and his dad was able to rush from his Blackpool home to Burnley and see him make his league bow.

Wanderers step up their pace with £60,000 Emblen signing

WANDERERS have bought midfielder Paul Emblen for £60,000 from Premier League Charlton.

Manager Neil Smillie splashed the cash on Wednesday in time for the tenacious midfielder to play in the Worthington Cup at Middlesbrough's Riverside Stadium.

Smillie snapped him up after the 22-year-old impressed during his month's loan at Adams Park.

Smillie said: "I'm very happy about it. Signing Paul is a step in the right direction for the club. It's enormous money for us. Paul came in on loan and everyone has seen how well he's played. He's a joy to have in the team, he's got

enthusiasm and he's got a lot of ability.

"He chases lost causes, he gets stuck in and wants the ball, he's the sort of player I want."

Free Blues tickets

THE BFP has teamed up with Nationwide to offer a pair of tickets to Wycombe's clash with Notts County on October 3.

Simply tell us who played in goal for Wycombe at Burnley last Saturday.

Send your answers to the Sports Editor, BFP, Gomm Road, High Wycombe, Bucks HP13 7DW by Tuesday, September 22.

Emblen's presence in the side has helped Blues accommodate the one-paced John Cornforth, whose passing skills are vital, but whose lack of pace, until Emblen's arrival has always been a handicap.

- Smillie wants Gazza to play in the Worthington Cup second round, second leg game at Wycombe on Tuesday (ko 7.45pm) after seeing his first leg show.

He said: "Gazza was fantastic. If he's finished I'd like to have a few players who are finished. He loves the game, he wants the ball all the time, takes people on and does his fair share of defensive work. If he plays it will be a real treat for our fans."