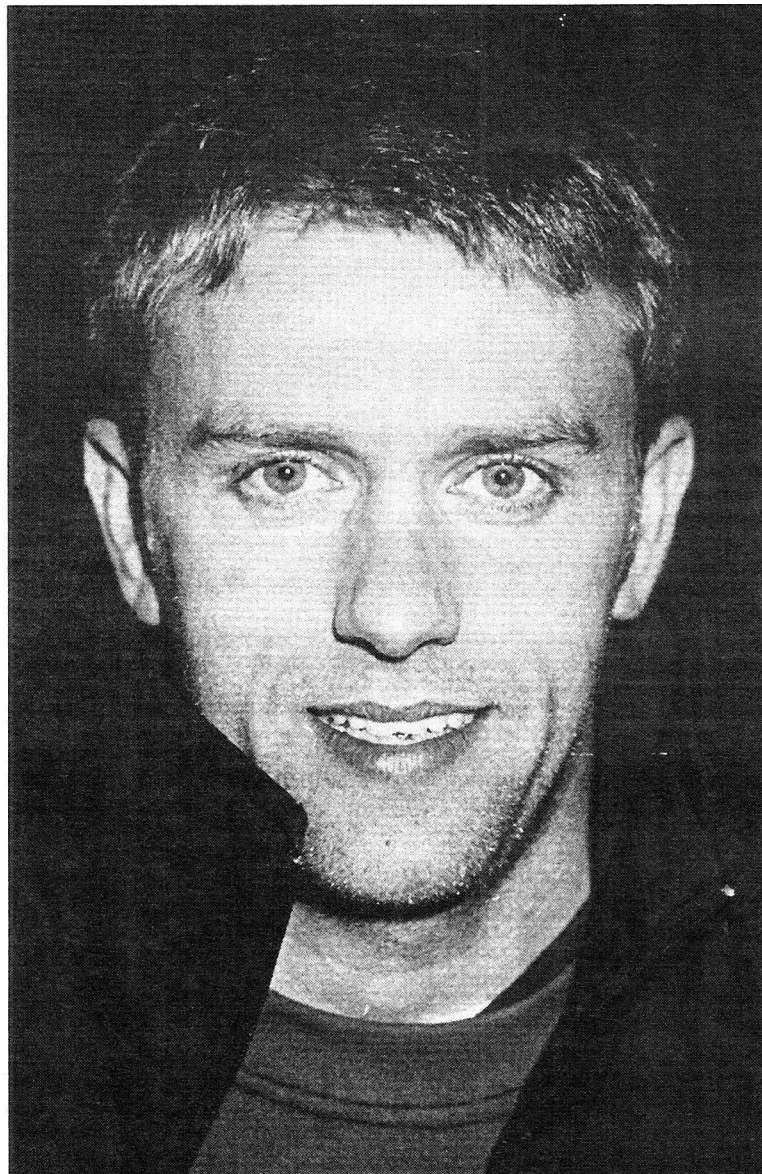


Robson is ready to make his mark

Smillie asks his loanee to repay a debt with interest



Mark Robson: Should start tomorrow

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what a good player he was. He had seen him play in reserve sides and promised himself that when he got a managers job he would try and sign him – and he did that when he came to Wycombe.”

But a string of inconsistent performances saw both Gregory and Smillie drop him.

Smillie said: “At times Michael does not do himself justice by

passing negatively. He’s such a talented man and needs to look more positively and play more balls forward and he’s doing that now. He’s got a focus to his game and is doing very well.

“He’s been a credit to himself. He’s was out of the side and to all intents and purposes he was on his way out of the club but he’s trained very well, worked very hard, and

won me over. I would like him to come off the list.”

● Wanderers have been drawn away to third division Shrewsbury in the first round of the Auto Windscreen Shield on Tuesday, December 8 (ko 7.45pm).

● Paul McCarthy looks set to miss the Reading derby a week tomorrow after collecting his fifth booking against Macclesfield last week.

Macca’s booking came on top of yellow cards collected in the matches against Luton, Swindon, York and Gillingham.

● Teenage striker Andy Baird has hit back at criticism from Neil Smillie that transfer speculation had affected his game.

Baird said: “I just want to play football and that’s all I’ve been concentrating on.”

Meanwhile, the 19-year-old faces an injury problem. Baird put himself up to play on Tuesday despite leaving the ground on crutches four days earlier after his clash with the Macclesfield keeper but Smillie was not criticising him for that.

He said: “I admire him for that. He may have taken another knock on it but he’s a brave boy and he wanted to play.”

● Norwegian midfielder Sander Soldberb continues to interest Blues. But nothing is likely to happen yet because the Tromsodset star is under contract until the end of the year.

● Blues are looking for matchday 50/50 draw tickets sellers. Sellers get ten per cent commission and free entry to matches. Contact Mike Phillips on (01494) 472100 for more details.

● Nicky Mohan is the latest player having to face a kangaroo court over his choice of trendy matchday trousers following Steve Brown who went before the players’ jury for his mustard strides last Saturday.

The players are meant to wear suit trousers to home games but Blues’ fashion conscious footballers are bending the rules like a Michael Simpson free kick.

Smillie said: “Some of them are turning up wearing moleskin trousers which look like jeans to me. The players that own these trousers say they are fine, but the ones who don’t say they are jeans. Mind you they probaly cost more than what the other boys are wearing.”

For the record, Brownie’s case was dismissed while the jury is still out on Mohan’s moles.

LOAN signing Mark Robson is set to make his first start for Wanderers tomorrow with the words of boss Neil Smillie ringing in his ears.

Smillie says the 29-year-old Notts County player owes him, because it was Robson’s cross for Gary Storder which denied Wanderers their first win when the sides clashed at Adams Park two weeks ago. Smillie described that as the lowest point in his football life.

But Robson, unhappy at Notts, is desperate to make amends. He wants to impress Smillie enough to persuade the Wycombe boss to buy him from County where he has been frozen out despite having two years left on his contract.

Robson said: “Hopefully this loan will lead to something permanent at Wycombe, I’d certainly be interested in that. I’ll be trying to do for Wycombe what I did to them a couple of weeks ago.”

The former West Ham, Charlton and Tottenham winger, who learned his trade alongside Wanderers’ Chris Vinnicombe at Exeter City, where he was put on a three month diet of Guinness and steak to fatten him up, signed on loan last Saturday and has seen enough in his first week to want to stay.

He said: “I was a bit concerned about joining a club at the bottom of the table and I thought morale would be low but it isn’t. They’re a good bunch and the two wins this week have done the world of good. I’m pretty confident Wycombe will get out of trouble.”

And Robson wants to be part of the club’s escape bid.

He said: “I’m not playing at County and I need to be playing. I don’t think they’ll be asking a large fee for me. I’ve still got another five or six good years in me. I know I can play and I still think I could play Division One standard.”

Robbo will get his chance tomorrow coming into a side which has Paul Emblen and Michael Simpson suspended.

● Neil Smillie would like nothing more than Michael Simpson to withdraw his transfer-request.

The 24-year-old asked to go on the list when he was not being picked but he has since won his place back and has been the star of Wycombe’s return to form.

Smillie said: “I’m delighted with the way he’s playing. John Gregory signed him for a reason. John knew