

Blues win striker race

Boss signs McSporran and beats Premiership rivals

WYCOMBE Wanderers have beaten a host of Premiership clubs to snap up one of the fastest strikers in non league football.

Oxford City hot-shot Jermaine McSporran yesterday signed a three-and-a-half year contract at Adams Park for an undisclosed fee, ending the interest of West Ham, who were the favourites to sign him.

Blues boss Neil Smillie is thrilled to get him and must now decide

REPORT By Dave Peters

whether to throw him straight into tomorrow's clash at Northampton.

Smillie was among 18 scouts who saw McSporran score twice in Oxford City's win over Bognor ten days ago. The impressed Wanderers chief moved quickly to sign him as Wanderers underlined their commitment to staying in the second division this season.

Smillie said: "I'm delighted to

get him. He's a local boy who has created an incredible amount of interest. He's lightning fast and we think he's got the raw material to be a bit special.

"He's an investment for the future and for Wycombe Wanderers to get him when there was so much other interest says something about what we've got here."

Arsenal, Derby County, Aston Villa, Blackburn and Swindon were also interested in the 21-year-old who has blasted seven goals in his last eight appearances

in the Ryman first division.

Arsenal had him on a week's trial at Highbury and he scored twice for their reserves in a 3-1 win over Charlton.

But Smillie nipped in ahead of them all to bring him to Wycombe and the former Abingdon Town player is pleased he did.

The striker said: "I'm very excited. I'm really looking forward to it. I've been in the non league for three or four years and this is my first chance and I'm glosing to give it a real go."