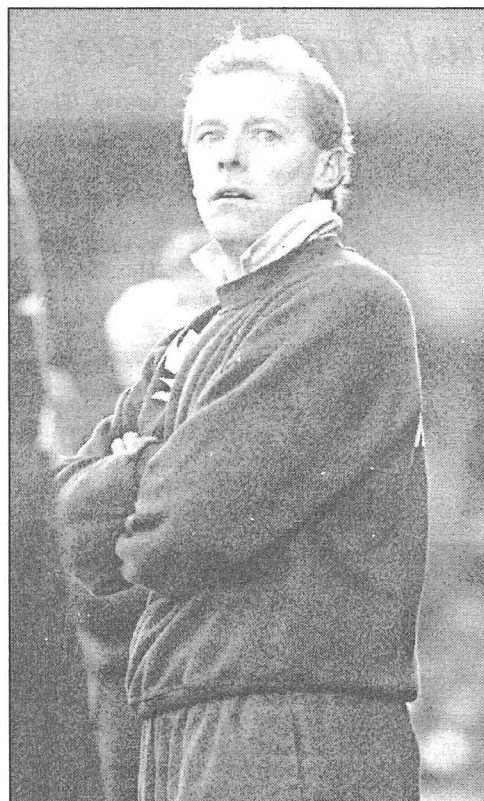
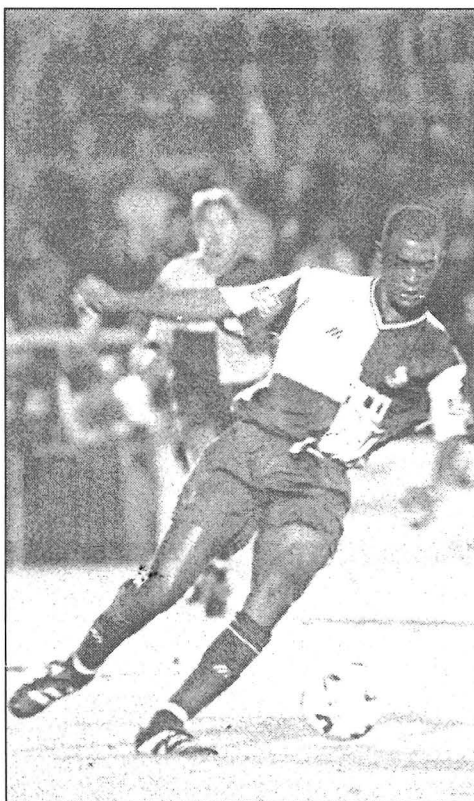


## SPORT 2

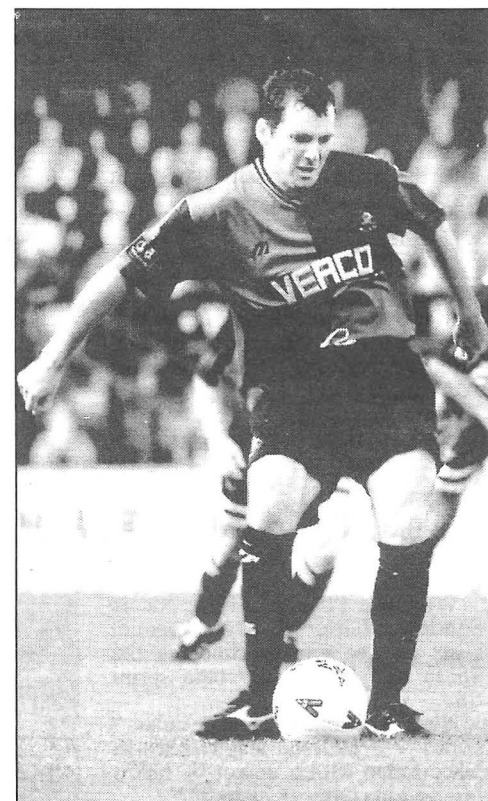


Smillie: Kissing frogs

It's been quite an eventful 12 months for Wycombe Wanderers and here the BFP looks back on them, as told from the horse's mouth ...



Brown: Memento from Gazza



Cornforth: Punch from Tyson

# A year of cliches? No, there were surprises

IT'S been a year of coming and goings at Adams Park, but at the end of the day, there were moments when we were over the moon and others when we were as sick as a parrot.

The Bucks Free Press was there covering it all from the moment the team crossed that white line.

We took every game as it came and cut through all the jargon because it's all about 11 against 11 and what happens at a-quarter-to-five.

We reported back when the boy done good and also when the lad made a ricket. If he shanked it, it was down in print and if they didn't get it in the channels we told you.

From John Gregory's made-for-media quotes to

Neil Smillie's more cautious contributions we recorded them all.

Here's just a few of the things that were said in the heat of the moment.

**John Gregory on getting the Villa job:** "I'm still in a dizz. I got a phone call as I finished my pre-match meal from Aston Villa. I didn't even know Brian Little had left that day but they offered me his job there and then."

**Gregory on the players he left behind:** "They're a great bunch, but there are a number of them that under-achieve. They need that little bit more desire and if they had that they could walk this division."

**Steve Brown on his Worthington Cup duel with Paul Gascoigne:** "Gazza's given

me three souvenirs, two fat lips and his shirt, which was a nice gesture."

**Smillie on his search for players:** "You have to kiss a lot of frogs before you find your prince."

**Reserve keeper Mark Westhead on the new yellow balls:** "I don't know what all the fuss is about. They look silly to me and are harder to pick out than the white one when the sun shines."

**Neil Smillie after Jermaine McSparran's debut at Wigan:** "I'd be lying if I said I wasn't excited about him."

**Jason Cousins after Blues beat Manchester City:** "It's a brilliant result for us. A few years ago we were playing Runcorn while they were playing Manchester United and challenging for Europe."

**Chairman Ivor Beeks after the same game:** "We're going to stay up."

**Secretary Ian Moat on a hotel Blues were offered before their game at Oldham:** "It was a dump. I walked into one bedroom and all I could smell was stale cigarettes."

**Neil Smillie on re-signing Matt Lawrence for £70,000 more than Blues sold him for:** "When we sold him he wasn't a footballer but he's been coached by people like Kevin Keegan and Ray Wilkins and he's a footballer now."

**Jason Cousins on the mounting pressure on Smillie following defeat at Colchester:** "If the players don't put out for him that's not his fault. The players have got to take the

responsibility themselves."

**Adams Family fanzine writer Andy Dickinson on the hostile reception planned for former Wanderer Mickey Bell on his return with Bristol City:** "Bell deserves everything he gets. He stood there last year taking all those trophies while planning his move."

**Gregory on Blues' moaning fans:** "If I said what I really felt about some of these critics I'd need a police escort the next time I came to the ground."

**John Cornforth on how he got food poisoning:** "My wife was away and there was nothing in the fridge except this tagliatelle. I think it must have been there for some time. I stuck it in the microwave and ate it and then felt

like I'd been punched in the stomach by Mike Tyson for the next three days."

**Smillie on the collapse of his partnership with assistant boss Wayne Turner:** "It just wasn't clicking. I have been feeling it for some time that the relationship wasn't right."

**Dannie Bulman on scoring a debut goal when the ball cannoned in off his backside:** "I don't need a tattoo now because I've got Mitre imprinted on the top of my leg. It was worth the pain."

**Smillie after a home defeat by Preston:** "Perhaps if some of the players had the passion the fans are showing we wouldn't be in this position."

**John Sadler writing in the Sun:** "John Gregory will be boss of England before he's finished."