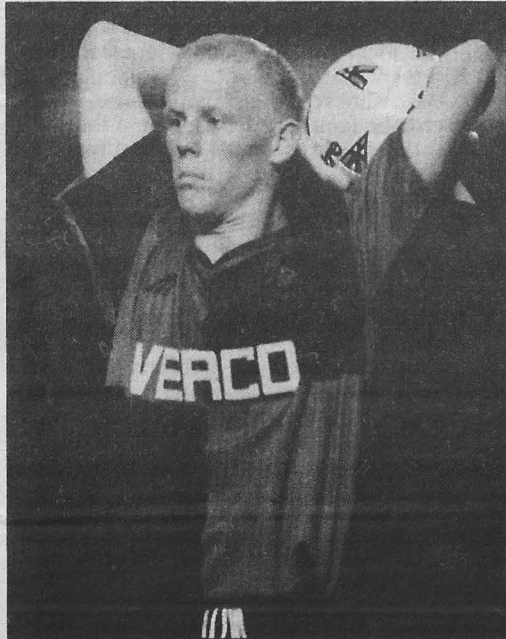




Alan Beeton: Sad day



Paul Emblen: Decision was harsh



Keith Ryan: Players carry blame too

With no time and no cash – players say it was so unfair

THE decision may have been applauded by many supporters, but Wanderers players were not so happy about the dismissal of their boss.

Several believe that Neil Smillie was just not given enough time, or money, at the helm.

Goalkeeper Mark Westhead said: "I'm gutted he's gone. I think they should have given him a bit longer.

"We had players coming back from injury and I thought once everyone was fit he'd get us out of trouble."

Alan Beeton also criticised the board's decision.

He said: "To me he didn't seem to have any backing from anyone and they were always going to shoot him down.

"He had no money to spend and a lot of injuries and it has been hard

for him. He had to do it with virtually nothing. I think they should have kept him until the end of the season.

"The players were behind him and I think he would have kept us up. He did wonders with the youth team and I think he could have done it with the first team."

And Beeton, more than most, was particularly upset.

"It's very sad from my point of view. I worked with him as an

apprentice and in the youth team and then he gave me a contract. I have been down a long road with him."

Paul Emblen, who was Smillie's first major signing, thought the decision was hard on the boss.

He said: "We had done quite well up until the New Year and then we lost three games and that was it. I thought it was a bit harsh. He didn't really have the money to change things."

Keith Ryan, who along with Paul McCarthy was sent off at Luton and now faces being suspended for what looks like being the new manager's first game in charge at Chesterfield on January 30, also feels Smillie has been hard done by.

He said: "I thought he would get it right in the end. I feel quite sorry for him. He didn't have much money to spend."

And he added: "We have to take some responsibility because we are

the ones that go out and perform on the pitch."

The 4-1 defeat against Brentford in the Auto Windscreen Shield was one of the things that did Smillie so much damage.

Brentford manager Ron Noades said: "It's a shame Neil has left because he's a nice guy but that's Wycombe's business and they obviously feel it's in the best interest of the club to have a change."

Noades added: "I think he was experimenting against us with the way he was looking to play the remaining league games.

"We played well but Wycombe were not at full strength in terms of their league side.

"Although they were interested in the competition it was not something they were treating before their league campaign."

Big Tel is just the man to fill in for Blues

TERRY Evans knows he has only got the manager's job on a temporary basis but has promised to give it 110 per cent.

The 6ft 5in former club skipper, who was brought back to Wycombe by Neil Smillie as youth team physio,

is proud that the chairman chose him to do the patching up job.

He takes charge of the side for the first time tomorrow when unbeaten-in-eight Millwall visit Adams Park.

Midfielder Michael Simpson is unavailable for Evans' first team

selection through suspension.

Evans would appear to be just the right man to take charge in a crisis.

Chairman Ivor Beeks said: "He will be very different. He will be very strong, like he was as a player and will not accept second best."