

Highbury has best changing rooms – paved with marble

IN THIS week's ON THE SPOT the focus is on midfield dynamo Naseem Bashir who has only recently joined Maidenhead United and is battling hard to secure a permanent place in the starting line-up.

Full name: Naseem Bashir

Birthdate: September 12, 1969

Birthplace: Amersham

Marital status/children: Married to Louise, and we have a little boy Frankie, 19 months old

Position: Midfielder

Nickname: Bash

Former clubs: Reading, Slough, Chesham, Aylesbury, St. Albans, Hendon, Hampton.

Club debut: December 4, 1999

Occupation: Football in the Community officer for Wycombe Wanderers FC.

Best ground played on: Highbury. I played there for Reading. It's a little bit special. The changing-rooms have marble floors and it's a lovely compact ground.

Worst ground played on: Grays. The pitch is terrible and the surroundings are not very nice either.

Best match ever seen: The 1979 FA Cup Final between Arsenal and Man United when Alan Sunderland scored a late winner to make the final score 3-2.

Best match ever been involved in: When I scored on my debut for Reading against Chester City.

Favourite pro club: Tottenham Hotspur.

Least favourite pro club: I would say Chelsea, because they have too many foreigners.

What is the funniest thing you have seen on a football pitch: It was in match against Wycombe Wanderers at Adams Park when I was playing for Aylesbury. One of my team-mates, Kevin Davies, crossed the ball from wide on the left high up into the air, and actually ran into the box and headed his own cross at goal. He just missed, but we were all in stitches.

Who were your sporting heroes when you were a kid: Peter Taylor and Glenn Hoddle, who had superb ability.

What is the best goal you have ever seen scored: It has to be Diego Maradona's solo goal against England in Mexico 86. It was out of this world.

What is the best goal you have ever scored: Although it wasn't that spectacular, the goal I remember most is when I scored for Aylesbury in our victory over Kingstonian in the FA Cup which gave us an away tie at QPR in the next round.

What has been your greatest achievement so far: Getting my full coaching badge, and being involved with a pro club as part of my job. I want to go into coaching when I finish playing.

What has been your biggest disappointment in football: Not making it consistently as a pro. I had four years at Reading and it was devastating when they released me. You need a little bit of luck to make it as a pro.

Apart from football, if you could achieve anything in sport what would it be: To be the snooker world champion, or the best golfer in the world.

What if you could change anything in football: I would like to see a capping on the number of foreigners in the English game. The national team has started to suffer in the past couple of years because of it.

What is the best football team ever: Brazil's 1970 World Cup winning side. They played total football, and every player on the pitch was exciting to watch.

Who is the best player you have played with at Maidenhead: To be

fair all the lads have impressed me, but Barry Rake is a very good player and he's been performing well recently.

Who are the best players you have ever played against: Graham Rix and Liam Brady, when I played for Reading against Arsenal. They stood out a mile and were in a different class.

What honours have you won with your clubs (team and personal): I have won the Berks and Bucks Cup twice with Chesham and Aylesbury, and the league cup with Chesham and Hendon.

Who is the greatest ever footballer and why: Maradona. He had a gift no-one else has ever had, not even Pele.

Who has had the greatest influence on your footballing career: When I was younger it was my mum and dad. The person who really influenced me was Mike Keen, who I trained with at Marlow at 15 or 16. He taught me a lot about the game.

