

Trophy hopes finished for another season

VIEW FROM THE STAND

By Ron Barnett

JUST when we thought we had a chance of finishing the season with some silverware, Reading mugged us with four late goals. Having gone 2-0 up, the Blues team, like the small but vociferous crowd, appeared to think their place in the Berks & Bucks Cup final was booked. On reflection, the chanting of "Que sera sera, whatever will be will be, we're going to Aylesbury" was a little premature.

To be honest, I think my pre-match selection may have had a part to play in our defeat. As it was not a league match, I decided to give my Inter Milan scarf an outing. Well it is very similar to Wycombe colours!

Unfortunately it has never been a lucky omen, the last time I wore it Stoke put four past us and Inter lost the Milan derby when I bought it last October. Its record now reads – played four, won none, drawn one, lost three. Blues fans will be pleased to hear it has now been relegated to the back of the coats cupboard.

On a more serious note, Tuesday evening's defeat proved the Big Chief's point that we don't have enough strength in depth. Our younger squad players look quite promising but most are still some way off from holding down a regular place in Division Two football.

Thanks to the three points picked up at Chesterfield, despite two dodgy penalty decisions and a red card for Jesus swearing, we have reached Lawrie's 52-point safety target with five games to go. This time last season we only had 41 points and were preparing for our unforgettable trip to Maine Road, and planning the final stages of our great escape.

We can now look forward to the remaining matches in comfort and see if we can cause some discomfort for Notts County as they try to win a play off place. We can also have a say in the relegation battle when we play Cambridge. Even better, a victory over Colchester on Saturday could put them back in trouble. Now that would be double bubble!

The club will tomorrow release details of season ticket prices for next season and there appear to be some attractive savings if you buy before May 6. Another interesting development is the opportunity to buy a three year season ticket which guarantees you the current price until May 2003. Who knows, we could be in Division One or even the Premiership by then – now that would be a good investment!

Getting season ticket money in early will hopefully help the club plan their finances and make funds available for the Big Chief to sign new players.

HOW THEY STAND

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pt
Preston	41	13	4	4	33	21	11	7	2	33	12	83
Wigan	40	14	3	4	36	13	7	12	0	30	17	78
Bristol R	41	12	6	2	30	15	10	4	7	34	23	76
Millwall	41	13	6	2	38	16	8	6	6	27	24	75
Burnley	40	14	3	3	36	17	6	10	4	20	20	73
Stoke	41	10	7	3	31	17	9	6	6	29	23	70
Gillingham	39	12	3	4	36	19	8	6	6	28	24	69
Notts Co	41	9	5	6	29	22	9	5	7	28	24	64
Bristol C	41	7	13	1	29	14	6	5	9	22	33	57
Luton	41	10	5	5	38	31	6	3	12	19	28	56
Bour'm'th	41	11	4	6	34	16	5	2	13	20	39	54
Wycombe	41	9	4	7	27	23	4	9	8	21	26	52
Oldham	40	7	4	8	22	22	7	6	8	21	26	52
Reading	41	8	9	4	25	17	5	4	11	26	42	52
Brentford	41	8	5	7	24	25	5	6	10	19	27	50
Bury	40	7	8	5	33	29	4	7	9	19	26	48
Colchester	41	8	4	9	30	35	5	5	10	23	38	48
Wrexham	41	6	6	8	20	24	6	5	10	25	37	47
Camb Utd	41	7	6	8	35	31	3	6	11	21	27	42
Oxford	41	5	4	11	20	35	6	3	12	17	32	40
Cardiff	40	4	10	6	22	28	3	7	10	18	26	38
Blackpool	41	3	9	8	22	32	4	6	11	20	36	36
Scunthrpe	41	4	6	11	15	30	4	6	10	22	37	36
Chesterfld	40	4	7	10	15	21	1	5	13	11	33	27