

The only fire will be out on the pitch

STEVE BROWN

PARK LIFE

I'M BACK from suspension and raring to go in the FA Cup against Harrow Borough tomorrow.

I've missed three games because of my sending off at Reading and I don't want to miss any more matches through suspension this season.

I'm obviously hoping to play tomorrow but I'm not taking anything for granted just like we can't take anything for granted on the pitch just because Harrow are in the Ryman League.

They've got a few people with Football League experience and those ex-pros will still have it upstairs and, if they go a goal up, they will find the extra energy from somewhere.

As the League club we're on a hiding to nothing and we've got to treat it as a league game because we can't afford to underestimate them.

The defeat against Basingstoke is still too fresh in the memory and so is last year's episode against non league Oxford City when we took three games to beat them.

I'll never forget that Oxford saga. We were just about to start a penalty shootout to decide the replay when smoke was spotted coming from the away stand and the match was abandoned.

Oxford were furious because they knew that their best chance to knock us out was on penalties and of course we won the replay.

But I can tell our fans they won't need to bring their matches this time. The only fire on Saturday will be coming from us during the 90 minutes.

All the lads had Monday off as a reward for their win over Bury on Saturday but me and Jermaine McSporran, who was also suspended last Saturday, were in for training.

We joined the injured lads and had a bit of a workout to make sure that we're fit for the weekend.

I know the boss won't let us underestimate them and he will be as thorough and professional as ever.

Every Friday after training we all sit down and have a meal together, some pasta or something like that, which is good because the whole team is together.

I've certainly missed not playing but I must say that Martyn Lee has come in and done a tremendous job in the midfield.

He's done brilliantly and really taken his chance. It must have really hurt him when he was released by his favourite team West Ham but he's shown his character and is doing really well.

Around the world but no cap

MARK Rogers missed the opportunity to add to his three minutes of international experience when he was kept on the bench by Canada in their World Cup qualifier against Mexico on Wednesday.

The Wycombe defender was an unused substitute as the Canadians held Mexico, who are ranked 11th in the world, to a 0-0 draw in front of 6,564 fans in Toronto.

It was a big disappointment for Rogers. He expected to play some part after manager Holger Osieck promoted him from the standby squad into his final 16 last week.

And there could be further disappointment tomorrow. Blues boss Lawrie Sanchez will decide when he arrives back in England today whether Rogers is right physically and mentally to play in the cup.

Sanchez said: "The last time he came back his form was all over the place."

Rogers is now likely to have to wait until next spring for his next international opportunity when the Canadians will be playing a friendly in Europe.

HOW THEY STAND

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pt
Wigan	18	8	1	0	14	5	2	6	1	10	8	37
Walsall	18	6	3	0	20	8	4	2	3	12	10	35
Rotherham	18	4	2	3	17	13	6	2	1	13	9	34
Millwall	17	6	1	2	18	5	4	2	2	15	10	33
Reading	18	7	1	1	29	9	3	1	5	8	13	32
Wycombe	18	6	1	2	16	8	2	4	3	4	7	29
Northampton	17	3	3	2	10	10	5	1	3	11	7	28
Bristol City	17	3	2	3	15	9	4	4	1	11	5	27
Stoke	17	4	2	2	13	6	3	4	2	13	14	27
Peterborough	18	5	2	2	15	10	2	1	6	8	13	24
Bury	18	4	2	3	10	12	3	1	5	7	11	24
Bristol R	16	0	5	2	5	8	5	2	2	18	9	22
Camb Utd	17	4	2	3	16	10	2	2	4	9	13	22
Wrexham	17	2	1	5	7	12	4	3	2	20	18	22
Brentford	16	4	3	2	10	13	1	4	2	7	12	22
Notts Co	17	2	3	3	12	13	4	0	5	6	14	21
Colchester	18	3	2	4	9	10	2	3	4	7	11	20

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He's got a lot of skill and he's not a bad golfer or cricketer as well.

I can't let another week go by without mentioning England. I think Peter Taylor did the right thing in selecting such a young side to face Italy. It was funny in the build-up to that game because only last season he was manager of Gillingham when we played them in the league.

Football is like that. City meet United in the Manchester derby in the Premiership tomorrow just two seasons after we did the double over City in the league.