

Sam the man makes instant impression

... but he was disappointed

WANDERERS new boy Sam Parkin has admitted he was disappointed not to have scored with his first touch of the ball against Colchester in last Saturday's 0-0 draw at Layer Road.

The striker, who has joined Wycombe on-loan from Premiership Chelsea, came on after 60 minutes against Blues' bitter rivals and came close to making a difference straight away.

Parkin said: "I went on and tried to win them the game. I thought I could have scored with my first touch, I thought I could have done a bit more with it. But he did then bring me down."

That tackle made Wanderers boss Lawrie Sanchez see red. He accused referee Roger Furnandiz of missing a blatant penalty when Parkin was sent tumbling in the six yard box by a clumsy mistimed challenge by Colchester's goalkeeper Andy Woodman.

Sanchez said: "It was a definite penalty but I'm not surprised he didn't give it. The referee was all over the place today."

The Yorkshire official did make the right decision 18 minutes later, though, when he sent off Colchester substitute Tony Lock for a career-threatening challenge on Alan Beeton. That sparked a furious 20-man brawl and sent Beeton clattering into the advertising hoardings.

United boss Steve Whitton, who had only put Lock on eight minutes earlier as a replacement for former Wanderer Steve McGavin, didn't attempt to defend his substitute afterwards.

He said: "He was never going to win the ball and he deserved to go. I've got no qualms about it. It was a bad tackle."

Sanchez was forced to reshuffle his pack again at Colchester.

Steve Brown ruled himself out when he injured his calf in training on Friday and Dannie Bulman came in to take his place, despite having only played one reserve match last Wednesday, after eight games out with a toe injury.

Up front, Sanchez went for Niall Thompson ahead of Parkin while Jermaine McSporryan returned to inject some pace into the side as Martyn Lee was relegated to the bench.

But it was Colchester who opened the brighter. McGavin set up Barry Conlon, who shot wide, and then the former Wycombe man wasted an even better opportunity when he snatched at a right-footed shot and skewed it off target.

At the other end McSporryan's pace was causing Colchester problems and when he crossed low into the danger area Andy Rammell flashed his shot the wrong side of the post.

McGavin, though, looked in the mood to put one over his former employers and thought he'd scored when he unloaded a fierce drive which Taylor flung himself across his goal to save.

Taylor was at it again to deny Karl Duguid just after half time and then produced the save of the match to tip Micky Stockwell's shot over the bar.

In attack, Parkin who had come on for the industrious, but largely ineffective Thompson, looked lively and flashed a 25-yard shot just wide while McSporryan weaved past five players before being cynically fouled by last man Alan White, who was only booked.

Afterwards the Wanderers boss said: "I fancied McSporryan to score when he was stopped and we should have had a penalty. But Martin made some fantastic saves and on reflection a draw was a fair result."