

Baird out for the season as Blues victory comes at a price

STRIKER Andy Baird is out for the season while 'goal'den boots Andy Rammell is struggling to be fit for Blues quarter-final clash against Leicester City.

Both players went off within six

minutes of each other at Selhurst Park on Tuesday on a night when playmaker Dave Carroll also pulled his hamstring to put his participation in the Filbert Street clash on March 10 in doubt.

Canadian international Mark Rogers will also miss the biggest match in Wanderers' FA Cup career after injuring his ankle ligaments in Saturday's drawn first game against Wimbledon at Adams Park.

by HENRY BROWNE Ref: 01-460CF9

... and this is how the penalty drama unfolded

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| ● Brown scores first for Wycombe | ● Wimbledon's Cunningham hits post |
| ● Cousins scores | ● Euell scores |
| ● Ryan fires over | ● Gayle scores |
| ● Bulman scores | ● Hunt scores |
| ● Parkin scores | ● Ardley scores |
| ● Vinnicombe scores | ● Holloway scores |
| ● Townsend scores | ● Gray scores |
| ● Bates penalty saved | ● Hawkins penalty saved |
| ● McCarthy scores | ● Davis scores |
| ● Taylor scores | ● Williams misses |

Ryan admits: 'This beats my Wembley hat-trick'

SKIPPER Keith Ryan says Tuesday's cup triumph was better than his hat-trick of Wembley wins under Martin O'Neill.

Ryan, a veteran of the twin Trophy triumph and the play-off win at Wembley, said: "I've played in a lot of big games for this club but this has surpassed everything. This is uncharted territory. If you'd told me we would have been playing in the quarter-finals of the FA Cup I'd have thought you were absolutely mad. It's fantastic, all the media attention, the drama, the excitement. It's got everything."

But the midfielder had to go through the full range of emotions before he could enjoy the ecstasy.

Rhino missed Wanderers' third penalty in the shoot-out as he lent back and



Top men: Keith Ryan with Paul McCarthy

ballooned his shot over the crossbar.

Ryan's miss was capitalised on by Dons kicker Marcus Gayle who made no mistake to level things up at 2-2 to leave Ryan devastated.

He said: "I scored all five when we were practising in training but I got it wrong when it mattered. I felt

awful when I missed but it doesn't worry me now. It's a team game, we're all in it together and the boys dug me and Jamie Bates [penalty saved] out of a hole and I'm just going to revel in all the glory of it."

But even before then, Rhino didn't think it was going to be Wycombe's night. He thought Blues' epic cup run was doomed when Wayne Gray put the Dons 2-1 in front just 34 seconds into extra time.

He said: "I didn't think we had a goal in us to be honest. But the gaffer was brave and put Paul McCarthy up front for the last ten minutes and he got us another equaliser."

Ryan is now looking forward to the clash with his best pal and ex-Blues winger Steve Guppy, now at Leicester.