

FANS LIFT THE BLUES

Crowds have helped them get over defeat

FOOTBALL
By Dave Peters

Steve Redgrave after all he has achieved. We are in very good company."

The last time Sanchez did an open top bus ride was 13 years ago when he scored the winning goal for Wimbledon against Liverpool in the 1988 FA Cup Final and he was given a hero's reception by the Wanderers fans last Thursday.

But the biggest cheer of the lot was reserved for Wanderers keeper Martin Taylor who was the man of the match in the

semi-final with Liverpool.

He said: "When I first signed for Wycombe I didn't even know where it was. But everyone knows about High Wycombe now."

"None of us were expecting any of this when we started in November against Harrow Borough. That was a potential banana skin and we just wanted to make sure we didn't slip up on it. No-one imagined then that we would get to the semi-final."

"It's been great for the club and for the fans and it is a massive achievement. The club is going forward in the right direction and hopefully in 12 months time we will be doing this again because we've been promoted."

Wanderers' chairman Ivor Beeks said: "What these players have achieved is greater than anything achieved before. The support we got was unbelievable really and the players would like to say thank you to all the people who made it up there."

And one excited female fan in the crowd went so far as to showed her appreciation of the club's cup run by lifting her top to reveal a bra in Wycombe Wanderers blue as the players passed on the open top bus.

WANDERERS star Steve Brown thanked the fans who turned out in their numbers to cheer the Blues on their open top bus parade through Wycombe and said they have helped him get over his semi-final depression.

He said: "Since losing the match we have been in a state of traumatic depression but coming here tonight I have overcome that, thanks to the fans."

Around 2,000 flag-waving fans turned out to salute Wanderers' heroes at Thursday evening's hastily arranged civic reception.

Now the Wanderers want to do it again next year - this time with a trophy on board.

Manager Lawrie Sanchez said: "It's nice that the council has done this for us but the bus would look a whole lot better with a trophy on it. Hopefully we will be sitting on the top of a few more buses next year when we have won something."

The last sporting civic reception thrown by Wycombe District Council was for Sir Steve Redgrave when he clinched his fifth Olympic gold medal.

Sanchez said: "It's good to be following in the footsteps of Sir



Driving force: The Wycombe team travel up the High Street to meet the fans who turned out in their hundreds

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Face in the crowd: Keith Ryan signs autographs

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Talk of the town: Goal-keeper Martin Taylor

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