

Esso and Co go in Sanchez cull

FA CUP hero Roy Essandoh has been released just eight weeks after netting Wanderers a £1 million jackpot.

The striker who scored Wycombe's quarter-final winner against Leicester made his farewell appearance in Saturday's 1-1 draw against Colchester and could now be in line for a move to Division Two rivals Cambridge United.

United sent their spies to watch him last Saturday and Essandoh would jump at a switch to the Abbey Stadium and the chance to stay in the Football League.

The 25-year-old, who joined Wanderers after answering an advert on teletext, heads a list of seven players released by boss Lawrie Sanchez in his summer clearout.

Mo Harkin, Mark Westhead, Matt Brady, Guy Whittingham, John Nutter and George Clegg were also sacrificed in the cull.

But there was relief for Andy Baird, Paul Emblen, Dave Carroll and Mark Osborn who were all kept on.

Sanchez said: "It was tough telling them they weren't being kept on. It is the worst part of my job. But they were peripheral in a season when we have had horrendous injuries."

Essandoh's departure

comes at the end of a season in which he went from zero to hero and wrote his name indelibly in FA Cup folklore.

The striker, who had had undistinguished spells in Scotland, Finland and Austria, had just been rejected as not good enough by Conference leaders Rushden and Diamonds when he arrived at under-strength Wycombe.

He made an undistinguished debut in the reserves but because Blues had six strikers injured Sanchez signed him for another week and Essandoh responded by coming off the bench to score his only goal in English football at Leicester.

Essandoh said: "I'm disappointed with the way it has ended but I wouldn't swap my time at Wycombe for anything. It has been great fun and an experience I will never forget."

"The FA Cup was a fairytale. I've had a great time and I will remember it for the rest of my life. When I joined Wycombe no-one had heard of me but ever since that goal people know who I am and hopefully that will help me get another club."

Sanchez said: "It's never easy letting players go and Roy will never be forgotten by this club."



Out: Roy Essandoh

Ref: 01-1161DF23

Harkin: 'I'll be back'

NORTHERN Ireland Under-21 star Mo Harkin has promised to do a 'Martin Rowlands' and bounce back into the big time after being let go by manager Lawrie Sanchez.

The twinkle-toed midfielder was tipped as the player most likely to be Wycombe's first million pound footballer when he burst onto the scene as a 17-year-old but he was released for nothing this week.

He now plans to show Sanchez he was wrong by following in the footsteps of Rowlands.

Rowlands was shown the Adams Park door by former boss John Gregory but then came back to haunt Wycombe by

emerging as a star with Brentford and breaking into the Republic of Ireland set-up.

Harkin said: "That's my aim. Other players have been released by clubs and come back, and I will come back from this."

"I'm feeling very hurt at the moment but life moves on and I've got to pick myself up. I've done it before and I'll do it again."

"I was released when I was 15 at Watford and two years later I was at Wycombe playing in the first team."

Harkin's form took a dip when he suffered a nasty ankle injury and his confidence suffered as he struggled to win back his place.