

Blues' bid for West, Mark II

Son of star striker interests Wycombe

DAVE PETERS

FOOTBALL

TEN YEARS after Mark West scored Wanderers' Wembley winner in the FA Trophy Final, the Adams Park club want to sign his eight-year-old son.

Daniel West has blasted 110 goals in two seasons for Thame United under-eights to bring him to the attention of Wycombe Wanderers, West Ham United and Oxford United who all want to sign him.

But dad Mark, who led the Blues scoring charts for four successive seasons in the late eighties and early nineties, won't let his son sign for any of them.

He said: "He is too young. If he's good enough his time will come but it is a bit too early for him now. At the moment I just want him to enjoy playing."

West senior scored 171 goals in 381 appearances for Wanderers. And the former England schoolboy international, who is still banging in the goals as the 35-year-old assistant manager of Ryman first division Thame, would love to see either of his two sons follow in his footsteps.

His eldest, ten-year-old Matthew, has already played at Adams Park this season in the final of the Wycombe Wanderers six-a-side cup but it is Daniel

who has got the scouts drooling.

Dad Mark's one big regret is that he never played a game in the Football League for Wanderers after having played such a big part in getting them there. He was loaned to Kidderminster, only to break his leg in his first game for them.

He said: "I never managed to play for them in the League. It would have been nice to have had the opportunity but it didn't happen and that's the way it goes. Hopefully my little lad might play for them one day."

It was ten years to the day last Friday that West was the toast of Wycombe as he dived to meet Keith Scott's left wing cross to win the FA Trophy at Wembley.

He scored Wanderers' second goal in a match that signalled the start of Blues glory era under Martin O'Neill and sent 25,000 Blues fans at Wembley into ecstasy.

Two years later they achieved a Trophy and promotion double and then in their first season in the Football League they were promoted again, via the third division play-offs.



Like father like sons: Mark West with sons Matthew and Daniel