

Welsh winger Roberts aims to prove his critics wrong

STUART Roberts took just 45 minutes to start paying back his £100,000 transfer fee as he laid on Wycombe's equaliser against Swindon in last Saturday's 1-1 draw.

The 21-year-old winger won round one of his battle to show doubting Welsh hacks that he's worth the money by a knockout with a super show at Adams Park.

Welsh scribes, who eulogised about him when the was plying his trade with Swansea, have been quick to sharpen their pencils since he left, doubting his ability to cut it and settle this side of The Severn Bridge.

Roberts said: "There's a lot of pressure on me back home with this £100,000 sign on my head.

"I've read a lot in the press back home saying I won't make it here. My aim is to prove them wrong and I'm sure I will."

The Welsh media have been quick to tag the 21-year-old a home boy and have questioned his ability to adjust away from the family home in Llanelli.

But Robbo, who enjoyed a sparkling home debut, has no doubts.

He said: "I've settled in really well at Wycombe. I've got superb digs in Flackwell Heath and everyone has really looked after me.

"I thought moving would be a culture shock but it hasn't been. I've settled in superbly and I love it here.

"It doesn't hurt when I hear people call me a home boy it just makes me more motivated. I know the people who are saying it, but I'll prove them all wrong."

Roberts' pace and ability to whip in tantalising crosses frightened the life out of Roy Evans' Swindon side and made him an instant hit with the home fans.

The Welsh winger set up Richard Walker's equaliser in first half injury time and then looked the most likely to create a winner in the second half.

His ability to run at players before sending in dangerous crosses endeared him to the home fans, while his knack of winning free kicks incurred the wrath of Swindon's supporters during last weekend's match.

Blues boss Lawrie Sanchez was delighted with the promise of his starlet's home debut.

He said: "He showed us what he can offer and made a good start in front of the fans."

Roberts, nicknamed Boyo by his less than imaginative new team-mates, almost got off to a goalscoring start.

He had a first half shot saved by Swindon keeper Bart Griemink, then felt he should have had a penalty in the 51st minute when his ankles were tapped by David Duke but referee Frazer Stretton, who bemused both managers with his decisions, waved it away.

He also saw Danny Senda smash another one of his crosses straight at keeper Griemink as Wycombe turned the screw.

But earlier on it had looked as though his debut might end in tears as Wayne Carlisle fired Swindon in front.

And if Roberts does get in trouble at the eastern end of the M4 he has got plenty of pals looking out for him.

His team-mates were quick to protect him when Swindon's players accused him of diving and Walker's anxiety to stand up for Roberts led to him being sent off.