

Blues hit out at dirty jibe

TERRY Gibson blew his top as Wanderers' FA Cup heroes were accused of playing dirty when they bowed out of the competition at Craven Cottage.

Fulham's French assistant boss Christian Damiano blasted Wycombe's tactics and accused them of playing the game in the wrong spirit.

He stormed: "Wycombe were too physical. It was a bad game. When a team has four players booked and one red-carded, you have to question their tactics. It was very difficult for us out there."

Fulham's Louis Saha broke his nose in an accidental clash with Chris Vinnicombe and

DAVE PETERS

FOOTBALL

Jason Cousins was sent off for two fouls on Fulham's matchwinner Barry Hayles, while Blues Jermaine McSparran was left in agony after a foul by Steve Finnan.

But Gibson said: "I was proud of my players. When you play teams from a higher division it is all about stopping them playing and we did that so well.

"If they're upset good. We weren't going to come here and roll over. That might be the way in France but it isn't here."

Damiano and Tigana both refused to shake hands with

Gibson and Wanderers boss Lawrie Sanchez after the game.

Gibson said: "They just walked off. I was annoyed because I thought Tigana was a brilliant player.

"We got under their skin. They expected us to come and roll over but we didn't.

"It was English football. Lower league footballers fight for everything. I resent those comments.

"I don't think we're a physical team. I could see them getting irate on the bench and I know why that was. It was because they have spent £34 million this year, they were expecting to beat us but we made it hard for them.

"I've got a lot of respect for Fulham. But they obviously

haven't seen too much lower division football in England.

"That was FA Cup football. Wait till they go up to York in the next round. It will be a lot worse.

"That's the FA Cup. You're not going to play Man United or Liverpool every week and if Fulham want to win the Cup they've got to beat teams like us."

Gibson added that he felt Wycombe, last season's semi-finalists, had been served the competition well.

He said: "I think we've been good for the cup. I think one or two lower division teams have seen what we did last year and decided they want a bit of that.

"There's no need for Fulham to be like that. We fought hard

and I would have thought they would have appreciated some of the passing football we played. Some of our touches, particularly from Darren Currie, were as good as anyone else on the field."

Wycombe boss Lawrie Sanchez didn't attend the post match press conference but told the BFP yesterday: "I was very pleased with the performance. It was everything I could have asked for. I was just disappointed because we should have beaten them in the first game.

"I didn't want to say anything because it sounds like sour grapes but over the two games you could hardly see the gap between their £30 million team and ours."