

Jolly Roger's a good bet

ROGER Johnson opened his Wycombe Wanderers goalscoring account and netted his brother £1,200 in the process.

The 18-year-old defender made a mockery of the 40-1 odds against him scoring the first goal, when he set Wanderers on their way to a 3-0 win over Notts County.

He said: "My brother Stuart put £28 on me to score the first goal and won nearly £1,200. That's more than I earn in a month."

Johnson's landlord Gary Collier also backed his tenant and raked in a couple of hundred as Johnson marked his third senior game with his first goal.

He swept the ball in with his left foot after keeper Steve Mildenhall had dropped Darren Currie's inswinging corner.

And the lanky centre back, who shares the same digs as Wanderers winger Stuart Roberts, almost had a second as well, but defender Paul Riley blocked his header on the line.

But Johnson, who has been given his first team chance because of Paul McCarthy's knee injury and Mark Rogers' international call-up, knows he has got plenty more growing up to do yet.

Wanderers have put him on a special fitness routine to try and fill out his 6ft 3in frame.

He said: "The physios are trying to build me up in the gym. They've worked me out a special circuit which I do after training and it's helping. I'm almost 12 stone and that's a bit light for my height. I could do with another stone."

Johnson, who became the youngest player to turn out for Wycombe in the Football League when he made his debut at Cambridge in May 2000 aged 17 years and eight days, is prepared to do the graft and persuade manager Lawrie Sanchez to give him a new contract this summer.

He said: "I just hope I can keep going and get in the gaffer's mind for the future."

Sanchez said: "I was pleased Roger got the goal. It's a learning process for him."

Jermaine McSparran, with a brilliant piece of improvisation, and Dannie Bulman with an injury-time third wrapped up Wanderers first win since December 22.