

Chocks away for Bomber

RICHARD 'Bomber' Harris has been dreaming of his first goal for three years – but his dream moment nearly turned into a nightmare.

The burly frontman hit a 20-yard screamer at Oldham to open his professional account – just eight minutes after he had almost scored an own goal with a back header which keeper Frank Talia flicked onto the crossbar.

Relieved Harris said: "I thought my first goal was going to be an own goal. It was a nightmare.

"When the ball left my head it looked like it was going in slow motion. As the ball was going towards the goal I was talking to myself saying no, no no no. Frank saved me.

"I gave him a big hug in the dressing rooms. He saved me because my first league goal could have been an own goal and that would have killed me."

But Harris was all smiles soon afterwards as he scored his first goal in the pro-game muscling his way past the defender before burying a 20-yard blockbuster deep into the rigging.

And his 86th minute stunner, which wrapped up a 2-0 win for the Blues, left Harris a happy daze.

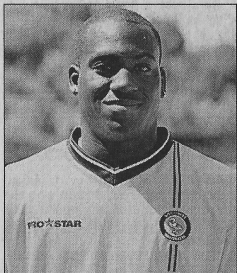
He said: "I'm over the moon. I would have been happy with any goal but to get one like that was something else.

"I've been dreaming of my first goal for three years now. I'd planned my celebration for such a long time but when it happened it all went out of the window. The buzz was so great I just went crazy. I didn't know what to do."

Now the strapping 21-year-old with a boxer's 14-stone physique wants more.

He said: "I'm not going to wait another three years for my next goal. I'm feeling confident. I played a few games for Palace and never scored, then went on loan at Mansfield and didn't score and of course I hadn't scored for Wycombe until now.

"I want lots more now. I've got the



Richard Harris

first goal, now I want to push on and get more. This goal has done me the world of good. I'd been worrying a bit, I'd had a good pre-season then I got the knee injury and my confidence dropped but this has put my confidence sky high."

But Mr Nice Guy has got to turn into Mr Nasty first according to boss Lawrie Sanchez who signed him after watching Harris hit a hat-trick for Palace reserves against Wycombe last season

He said: "He's a big lad but he doesn't always make the most of his strength. When you're as big as he is, you've got to learn to bully people. When he puts himself about he frightens the life out of defenders and we need him to do that.

"We've got a team of very nice people. I wouldn't mind one or two Roy Keane types. You need a few people who can spit venom out."

Harris said: "They have been telling me I don't use my size enough. They want me to get a bit more aggressive, get a bit hard and get a bit nasty.

"Now I know what it feels like, I will be as nasty because I want more goals."