

Field Mill banquet was no picnic



RON BARNETT

VIEW FROM THE STAND

LIKE most Wanderers fans, I travelled to Mansfield relishing a feast of goals. Instead, we were fed a diet of resolute defending and poor finishing.

Having missed the 5-0 thrashing of the Cobblers, I was looking forward to seeing Wanderers add to their goal tally against the most leaky defence in the division.

After all, Mansfield's previous 25 league games had served up a magnificent banquet of 99 goals including a very tasty 3-3 draw at Adams Park in August.

I should have known better, all these ingredients provided the perfect recipe for a goalless draw.

Mind you, it was a useful hard fought point against a much improved side and it continues this year's unbeaten record. It also maintains our position as a mid-table team, whether judged by league position, current form based on the last six matches or crowd attendances at Adams Park.

The Big Chief put a new perspective on being a mid-table team. He was quoted in the Sunday papers as saying "With us being a top side in the bottom half of the table, it was important to keep the nine point gap between us and Mansfield."

Now that's positive thinking for you. With spin like that Lawrie could soon be getting a call from the spin doctors in Downing Street.

Wanderers are, however, currently top of the table in the Fouls Conceded charts. Our total of 385 keeps us just ahead of Barnsley and Tranmere. We are also amongst the front runners in the Card Count, our record of 48 yellows and three reds puts us in fifth place.

With Sean gone and Rambo and Jonny Dixon out for some time, our striking options are beginning to look pretty scarce. Let's hope we don't pick up any more injuries before these two, as well as Jocky and Gavin Holligan, are fit again.

Whilst it was sad to see Sean leave, I think we had seen the best of him. He was beginning to look close to his "sell by" date, unless Uri Geller can magically bend his knee back into shape.

Rambo now seems to be picking up injuries all too frequently and has only started around half of our league matches. He could also be on his way at the end of the season as The Big Chief clears the decks to give the youngsters their chance.

Second placed Oldham roll into town on Saturday looking to avenge our 2-0 victory back in August. It won't be easy though, they are the only side in the division not to have lost an away match so far this season. Hopefully this will be their unlucky day.