

Taylor hangs up his gloves

WYCOMBE Wanderers' goalkeeper Martin Taylor has decided to hang up his gloves and call it a day, despite having a year of his contract still to run.

Taylor joined Wycombe six years ago and made 284 appearances, before losing his place to Frank Talia last season. He then picked up a back injury while on loan to Barnsley, prompting the veteran keeper to take early retirement.

He said: "It's a sad day. Last season was very disappointing – because of all the injuries I had – and didn't want it to turn sour. My body was telling me it was time to go. I've got some new challenges ahead of me and I'm looking forward to it."

Having started his full-time professional career with Derby County in 1989, Taylor suffered a serious setback in 1994, when his leg was shattered during a Division One game at Southend.

A long convalescence followed but Taylor eventually made his comeback in 1997, shortly followed by his first outing in a Wycombe shirt, albeit on loan.

On his subsequent release from Derby, Taylor made the move to Adams Park, where he earned three consecutive player of the season awards and a lasting place in Chair-boys' hearts.

Famous for his talents as a shot stopper, the undoubted highlight of Taylor's career at Adams Park came in the FA Cup fifth round replay against Wimbledon, when he scored the winning goal in a famous penalty shoot-out, to take Wanderers into the quarter-finals.

No doubt about it, he will be sadly missed.