

Gorman sets out his Blues manifesto

JOHN Gorman has laid down his Wanderers manifesto and told the board if they want someone to kick-and-rush them up the league they should look elsewhere.

The 52-year-old former England and Spurs assistant manager racked up his first league win as Blues caretaker boss with a stylish 3-0 victory over promotion-seeking Bristol City on Tuesday and he says he won't abandon his principles for panic football.

He said: "I like to play the game on the ground. With plenty of balls in to feet. Lots of movement and quality crosses.

"It's the only way I can play. I can't just play the ball long. I hate to see the ball being hit from back to front.

"If they want a manager to get them out of trouble by playing the long ball game then it will have to be someone else."

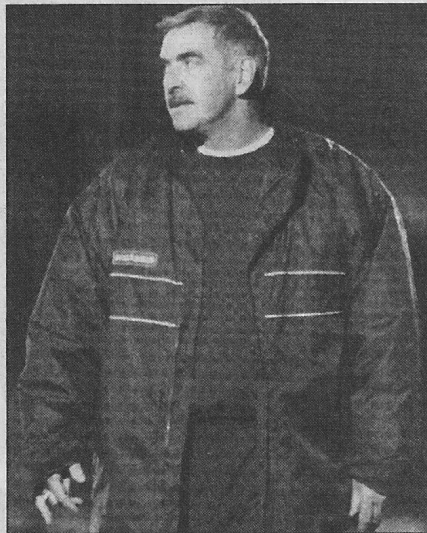
And he reckons football rather than hoofball is Wanderers' best tactic to escape the drop.

He said: "I've inherited some good players. We've got full backs who like to get forward and some skilful creative players."

Gorman is facing stiff competition from more than 50 other out of work managers to get the Wanderers hotseat.

He has been described as a breath of fresh air by the players but until Tuesday's win he had a mixed bag of results as caretaker boss.

He began with an encouraging 0-0 draw against the division's new



Style guru: John Gorman

goal-crazy leaders Plymouth and that looked as though it was going to be followed by the club's first away win at Luton until a dreadful collapse in the final 15 minutes turned a 1-0 lead into a 3-1 defeat.

Blues bit back with a 1-0 win over Cambridge in the LDV Vans Trophy but slumped to the bottom of Division Two four days later losing 2-1 at home to Barnsley in a game of two halves, where Wanderers were dreadful in the first but almost pulled it out of the fire in the second.

Gorman said: "I hated Saturday. I've got a lot of pride and I didn't like

having this team bottom of the league.

"My pride was hurt because I've come here to help and you think I've not been able to help when you're bottom of the league."

But Wycombe bounced back to demolish Bristol in midweek and Gorman now has two games left, starting at Hartlepool tomorrow and finishing at his old club Swindon seven days later, to prove that his way is best.

He said: "We're off the bottom of the table and that's a psychological boost for the club.

"We caught two teams up in one night and now we're looking at it and think we can catch the next two easy. We're only two points behind them and one win takes us above them.

"We've got to look very positively and I can't wait for Saturday to come. It will be a hard game but I just think the way we are playing and with the spirit we've got that we can keep it going.

"We've got confidence now. We know where the net is, we've got three goals in open play and that gives the lads a lot of confidence.

"The midweek win has got to be a turning point because if it is not we can't keep waiting for turning points.

"Whatever happens I just want this team to get out of trouble.

"If I help get this club away from the foot of the table and they decide to go for someone else I will be delighted. I just want at the end of the season to see Wycombe Wanderers in this league and that's the only thing that matters to me."

Gaffer's pep-talk did the trick

AN inspired pitchside pep-talk from caretaker boss John Gorman helped Gavin Holligan go from zero to hero in 90 minutes flat.

Holligan looked set to be the villain when he missed a first minute sitter against Bristol City until Gorman took matters into his own hands.

Gorman called his striker over to the bench and gave him a well-timed gee-up - and the striker responded by knocking in his first two goals of the season as Wanderers won a league match for the first time since the opening day of the season.

Holligan said: "It was good management. He told me not to worry about it and to keep going and that I would get

another chance and told me that I would score.

"It was really liberating and good advice because when you play with no fear that's when you do your best.

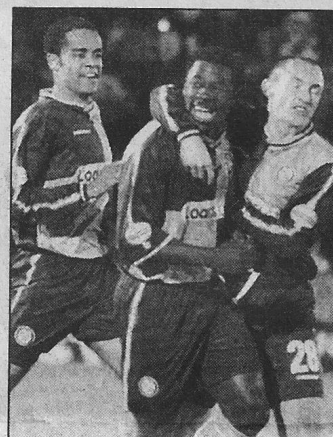
"I have never had this sort of relationship with a manager before and it really opened my eyes. It was a breath of fresh air."

Now Holligan is hoping to push Gorman closer to the job full time by scoring in back to back league games for the first time in his career when Wanderers make the long trip north to Hartlepool tomorrow.

He said: "We're in the relegation zone at the moment but he's given us a lot of confidence and there's nothing to say we can't go up to Hartlepool and get another

result.

"We're really looking forward to it and we'll be blazing by the time we get there."



Hero: Gavin Holligan