

Emblen calls for trenches spirit

Blues' last survival hero hopes for repeat

FORMER Wanderers survival hero Paul Emblen this week begged the current team Please don't let my goal be in vain.

Emblen scored the goal which kept Wanderers up five seasons ago and he is saddened to see the side on the brink of relegation again.

The midfielder's goal seven minutes from the end of the 1998/99 season secured a 1-0 win at Lincoln to send York City down instead of Wanderers.

He said: "I'm gutted to see the club in the same position again and I really hope they can get out of it, but it is not looking good.

"I see their results every week and it hurts to see them not doing well I just wish I could come back and help them out again."

Emblen has retired from the game with a bad knee injury and is now working as a carpet fitter and he is calling on the current crop of players to rediscover the trenches spirit that kept them up last time around.

He said: "We were in an awful position. We were as good as down but then we got a couple of good wins and the confidence really took off.

"We were going out into matches knowing that we would win. We had a real feeling that we could do it.

"Everyone really worked for each other. We just dug deep and got ourselves out of trouble."

Emblen's dramatic goal in front of more than 2,000 travelling fans at Lincoln was calculated to have saved the Blues from a £500,000 relegation catastrophe and that was four seasons ago.

And the ramifications are still going on for York, who were relegated in Wycombe's place.



Fighting spirit: Paul Emblen battles hard in the Blues colours

They have been in administration and are still trying to fight their way back from the basement division.

Emblen is now hoping Wycombe can find another survival hero like him.

He said: "It is great to be remembered as the man who scored the goal that saved Wycombe but I hope someone else can be the hero now.

"If the club could survive in Division Two I would be more than happy to give away my place in the history of the club to someone else because the club really don't want to go down to Division Three.

"I played in that division for Brighton and it is not a good place to be. There is not a lot of football played down there and the ball spends a lot of time in the air."

And Emblen has a word of advice for manager Tony Adams as he battles to avoid the drop - bring back the boom box.

Wanderers' great escape last time around coincided with the introduction of loud music in the dressing room before matches and Emblen says it's time to play it again loud and proud.

He said: "It really worked for us. We always had loud music on and it got the players really up for

matches. It put us into an aggressive mood before matches and also helped to take a lot of the nerves away."

Emblen, who also scored a vital winner against Wigan Athletic in the penultimate game of that 1998/99 season, had his Wycombe career cut short for the sake of £10,000.

He is still bitter that his career in the Blues colours was cut short because Wycombe knew they would have to pay his former club Charlton another £10,000 if he played one more game.

He said: "It hurts the way it ended and I still wonder what might have been sometimes."