

Billy the Kid hangs up his shooting boots

YOUTH team striker Billy Harding has walked out on Wycombe Wanderers, six months after scoring against Tottenham on his first team debut.

The 18-year-old son of former Birmingham City, Notts County and Barnet professional Paul asked to leave after becoming disillusioned with the game.

Youth development officer Colin Barnes said: "He came in and said he didn't want to play football any more.

"He said he wasn't enjoying it and that he had got to a stage where he hated it and said that it was making him aggressive at home.

"We tried to talk him out of it but he wasn't having any of it. It's very disappointing when any young footballer says he doesn't want to play any more.

"I asked him if he wanted us to fit him up with a non-league club but he said he didn't want to play at all."

DAVE PETERS

WANDERERS

Harding had looked set for big things after netting against Spurs in pre-season. He was then included on the substitutes' bench for the first two league games against Stockport and Blackpool as well as the Carling Cup victory over Wimbledon.

But his year turned sour after that.

He was sent off in the reserves and was also suspended from the club for a week for an internal matter.

Meanwhile third year scholar John-Paul Kelly has also left the club. He has returned to his native Scotland to sign for Cowdenbeath on a free until the end of this season.

The 18 year-old joined Wycombe when he was 11 and during his time in Bucks he was picked to play for Scotland U16s.

Second year scholar James Rogers

has also left the club by mutual consent.

Meanwhile Wanderers have already started recruiting fresh blood for next year.

They have beaten Nottingham Forest and Premiership Leicester City to snap up 16-year-old promising centre half Wesley Douglas on a modern apprenticeship.

He is one of six promising kids to sign up for the scheme which replaces the former three-year scholarships.

The others are; strikers James Faulkner and Andy Savage, goalkeeper Dean Thornton and wide right player Sean Carricks.

Happier Days: Billy Harding in typical hurly burly action against the mighty Tottenham Hotspur in a pre-season friendly before it all went sour for him and he decided to quit the club

