

Philo insists he is not worthy

YOUTH team star Mark Philo insisted he's not worthy of the praise lavished on him by Blues boss Tony Adams.

The youngster, who signed his first professional contract last week, drew rave reviews from Adams before and after making his first team debut in last Saturday's 1-0 defeat at Bournemouth.

The former England and Arsenal defender rates Philo as the most gifted player at the club and says that if he is going to be the manager for the next two years he wants to be entertained and that means Philo.

Adams added: "Mark Philo had a fantastic debut. The kid is a baby but he showed the crowd he is quite exciting and he certainly excites me."

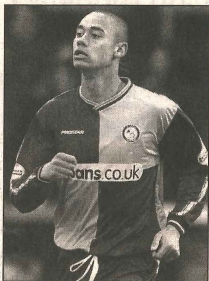
But the 19-year-old says his head won't be turned by the praise.

He said: "I can't believe he is saying that. To have someone like Tony Adams talking about me like that is amazing."

"At the moment I am still a nobody and I don't deserve such praise. Who am I? I haven't done anything yet. I have played one game and hopefully that is just the start."

"I learned an awful lot on Saturday. The centre halves are a lot cleverer from what I am used to in the reserves or the youth team."

"I was a bit disappointed. I felt I faded in the second half. I know I can do a lot better than that. I



Mark Philo

have got a lot more to give."

Philo hasn't looked back since Adams switched him from midfield to attack during a reserve team game.

Philo said: "I was a bit surprised but he knows a lot more about the game than I do and if he sees something there then I am very happy but I know I have got a lot of work to do in that position."

And Philo is hoping that it will be third time lucky for him.

He was on West Ham's books as a schoolboy but had his dreams shattered when their school of excellence closed down.

Philo then went to Crystal Palace and was picked up by Wycombe when he was released.