

Adams hails new youth coach

WANDERERS boss Tony Adams has hailed new youth team coach Gary Smith as a tremendous new signing.

Smith, a former Blues player, was unveiled as Michael Forsyth's successor yesterday.

And Adams reckons his capture is a major boost to the club.

He said: "He is a fantastic coach. I knew his father Roger who was an Arsenal scout and he knows the game inside out.

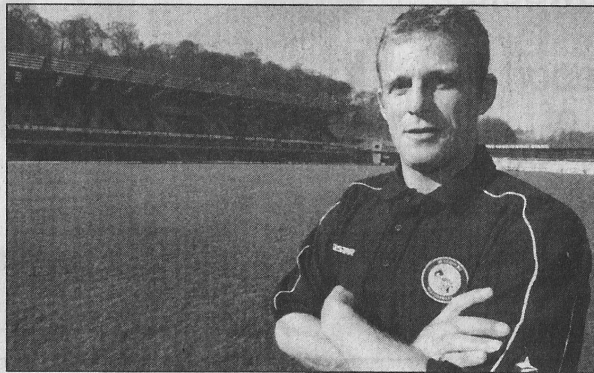
"Gary is going to be phenomenal. He is in the mould of Terry Burton when I was a kid and he was the reason I joined Arsenal.

"I didn't join Arsenal because of The Arsenal. I went for one reason alone and that was Terry Burton. He was a fantastic coach and I went there and learned so much from him and that's why I signed for Arsenal when I was 15. I was a West Ham fan at the time.

"But now we've got our own Terry Burton."

And he added: "Gary is going to be excellent for this football club. He's got a way of communicating with the kids and he knows my style and how I want to play and he's going to emulate that throughout the club."

Smith, who made 87 first team appearances for Wanderers between January 1990 and May 1992 had been coaching with first division Wimbledon.



Ready to go: New Blues youth coach Gary Smith Ref: 04-865 P04