

Magic Johnson takes the plaudits

ROGER Johnson became Wanderers' youngest Player of the Year when he walked off with the trophy on Saturday aged just 21 years and five days.

He became the youngest ever recipient of the Lanson Champagne Bucks Free Press Trophy when he was presented with the silverware by Free Press reader Simon Page before Saturday's 1-1 draw at home to Wrexham.

Page was among the many fans who voted for the centre back and he won the right to present it to him on the pitch in a lucky draw between all the fans who voted for Johnson.

And Johnson, who also holds the record of being Wanderers' youngest player in the Football League aged just 17 years and eight days old when he played at Cambridge United on May 6, 2000, was delighted to get his hands on the famous old trophy.

He said: "I'm really proud to win it. There are some legends on there and to be 21 and get on there is a great privilege and something I will remember for a long time.

"It is good to be on there with them."

But Johnson would have swapped it all for second division survival.

"It's been a disappointing season for the team. We've got to put it all behind us and try and come back next season."

Johnson celebrated winning the Player of the Year title by scoring Wanderers' opener, and his seventh career goal, against the Welshman.

But he should have known his 79th minute opener wasn't going to be enough and sure enough Wrexham equalised within 50 seconds.

Johnson moaned: "I've never scored a winning goal. Whenever I've scored, a team has always managed to pull one back.

"I'd love to know what it



Ace in the pack: Roger Johnson receives Wanderers' Player of the Year trophy from BFP reader Simon Page who was among the many who voted for him Ref: 04-1165 P09

feels like to score a winning goal."

Johnson beat Darren Currie into second place in the awards which are voted for by the fans. Striker Nathan Tyson, who played less than half a season, was third.

Andy Reilly won the Young Player of the Year at the end of a season in which he went from youth teamer to an Under 21 Scottish international.

The Youth Team Player of the Season award was

presented to Matt Fox.

Elsewhere, the Independent Supporters club voted Nathan Tyson as their player of the year while the Official Supporters Club gave their award to Jermaine McSporran, who is now plying his trade at Walsall.

He joined the Division One strugglers in a shock free transfer on Deadline Day in March and is now battling to avoid what could be his second relegation of the season.