

Tough start for Wycombe

WYCOMBE Wanderers have a tough start to the season as they look to win promotion.

Tony Adams' men entertain Cambridge United in their first match of the season on August 7 in the newly-named Coca Cola Football League Two - formerly Division Three.

But then, in the space of four days, they have to travel to Chester and Northampton, who are the joint pre-season favourites to win the league.

Wanderers' media manager Alan Hutchinson said: "I think the opening fixtures are very tough.

"Chester have just come up having stormed through the Conference and it is never easy

JOE SLADE

WANDERERS

playing Northampton at Sixfields."

Blues will be hoping for another opening-day victory after they beat Stockport last season to register a win on the first day for the first time in ten years.

Hutchinson said: "We started brilliantly against Stockport, did even better to beat Wimbledon and then were 2-0 up against Blackpool before it all went wrong and our season finished then.

"But it is important if we can win on the opening day this season."

Blues will be playing in the lowest league division for only the second time in their history.

They last played in the division in 1994 when, after promotion from the Conference, they earned a second promotion in two years when they beat Preston North End in the play-offs.

Blues have been given better fixtures over the Christmas period when they face Southend at home on Boxing Day and then visit Oxford on New Year's Day.

Hutchinson said: "Fans will want to go to the Southend game, expecting a win, and what a fantastic game on New Year's Day. That's a hell of a game.

"By then we'll know whether we'll be in the mid-table, at the bottom or at the top so it will be very interesting."

Over Easter, Wycombe entertain Northampton and then visit Rochdale on Easter Monday, with the Lancashire club coming to Wycombe on August 21.

Hutchinson said: "They'll be delighted that we play them in August because the last time we played them, it took three games to get the game on.

"There was a deluge of snow for the first game and the pitch was flooded for the second game. We finally got the game on and we played out a cracking 2-2 draw."

The run-in sees Blues take on

Bury at home, Yeovil away, Leyton Orient at home and then Bristol Rovers away.

Hutchinson said: "Yeovil is a very very difficult game but that's placed between Bury and Leyton Orient, which we should win.

"By the time we go to Bristol, we should hopefully have enough points to be out of trouble."

The run-in is made even tastier by the fact that former Blues skipper Michael Simpson has signed for Leyton Orient and he will be desperate to show the Blues boss that he was wrong to release him this summer.

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