

New look Wanderers can last the distance



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PARKLIFE

IT WAS great to be there at Northampton on Saturday to see my two former clubs go head-to-head and a draw was probably the right result.

Wycombe started really well and the only surprise was that it took them so long to open the scoring when Ian Stonebridge put them ahead just before half time.

Unfortunately the second half was a different story and Northampton, who had looked frightened of Wycombe in the first half, came back strongly to earn a draw.

I've seen Northampton twice now and Wycombe once this season and I think both have got what it takes to get promoted.

The signing of Ian Stonebridge is a fantastic coup and him and Nathan Tyson should score a lot of goals in this division.

Tyson looks a real threat but he is going to have to be ready to take an awful lot of heavy-handed treatment off defenders as word gets out about just how quick he is.

I see no reason why Wycombe can't last the pace this year. They have made some good signings and there is a big difference between the second and third division or League One and League Two as we have to call it now so they should find the going easier.

You may or may not know that I am back at Wycombe now in a coaching capacity and loving every minute of it.

I am the assistant manager of the U16 side working alongside the former West Ham player Alan Parris.

I am really enjoying my new role and it is nice to be putting something back into a game that has been so good to me. I'm glad to have been given the opportunity to help the kids out because it would have been such a waste if I didn't put anything back.

We got off to a good start in our first game at West Ham. The boys were a bit overawed to start with and went a goal down.

But we changed things around at half time and got the balance right and came back to earn a 1-1 draw in the second half.

It is good to have the involvement of coaching the kids on Monday and Thursday nights and we've got another match away at Fulham to look forward to tomorrow morning.

The job at Wycombe is perfect for me because I can combine it with my new career in computers, putting in systems and networks.

All the work I did in my spare afternoons as a footballer is really paying off now and that is something I will be telling the kids I am coaching.

When I was a professional I used to fill my spare time doing computer and other courses and that has really helped me now as I start life outside the game and that is something I will be telling the youngsters.

Of course I haven't retired completely from playing. I do still have one big football match to play.

My much-postponed testimonial match now looks as though it will take place at the end of the season, so I will keep you posted on that one.