



Talia - Missile thugs are mindless morons

KEEPER Frank Talia has branded the Scunthorpe fans who pelted him with missiles as morons after he came under attack during Wanderers' 2-0 defeat at Glandford Park.

The Aussie glovesman was singled out by home fans who accused him of feigning injury after he was kicked in the head by United striker Paul Hayes during the second half of last Friday's bitter top-of-the-table clash.

He said: "Their fans thought I was putting it on and started launching ten pence pieces, 20 pence pieces, 50 pence pieces and whatever they could hit me with.

"I was struck on a couple of occasions. They got me on the back, and a

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couple on the back of the legs."

The referee, Gary Lewis from Cambridgeshire was seen handing some of the ammunition back to the stewards behind the goal.

But Talia, who was defending the goal in front of the terrace where the bulk of the home fans were congregated, came under fire again at the end of the match as he went to retrieve his kit bag from the back of the net.

He said: "You don't expect that anywhere these days.

They are just mindless morons in

my opinion. They come to watch a football match and they turn to thuggery.

"No one wants to see that. We are all professionals out there trying to do a job.

"I don't go into their office and start throwing coins or pens at them, so there is no reason why they should do the same."

The missile row was a sad post-script on a night when Wanderers lost their unbeaten away record. They were outclassed in the first half and fell behind to a stunning 27th minute Hayes' strike before a controversial Andy Crosby penalty compounded their first half misery.

Talia said: "It was not a good night all round. We didn't start well and we didn't offer enough.

"We were playing against a better team and once we gave them a two-goal start we could not bridge the gap.

"We are slowly dropping down the table and we need to go up to Boston this week and get a result."

A spokesperson for the Football Association confirmed yesterday that the missile incidents had been included in the referee's report and that the FA are investigating.

Both clubs have been asked for their comments and observations on the incident.