



RON BARNETT

VIEW FROM THE STAND

WHEN the final whistle sounded on Tuesday evening there was a sinking feeling in the air all around Adams Park.

Since being the high flying league leaders in early September, Wanderers have slowly sunk to mid-table mediocrity. Meanwhile the fans early season hopes and aspirations have also been sinking match by match.

After starting the season with a magnificent 17 points from the first eight games, Wanderers form has since sunk without trace. We have now gone six games without a win, picking up just three points from a possible 18. This dramatic change in fortunes is certainly relegation rather than promotion form.

No wonder both players and fans were so anxious throughout the disappointing draw with Rushden & Diamonds. Mind you, the scoreline was hardly a surprise given that this was our fifth 1-1 draw in just 14 league games.

Still, looking on the bright side, at least we didn't go behind in this game. Although, we were not able to enjoy being in front for very long either.

Everything looked very promising at the start with Nathan Tyson getting two or three half chances in the opening ten minutes. Then Danny Senda set up Adam Birchall for a very well taken goal. But we soon fell asleep at the back once again, to concede a sloppy goal less than five minutes later.

From then on we struggled to make any impact on a robust Rushden side, despite playing against ten men for the last twenty minutes.

Having now gone six games without a goal, Nathan Tyson once again looked almost too desperate to score. It looks like opposition defences have now recognised the danger of his pace and have worked out how to limit his goalscoring opportunities, by fair means or foul. Maybe it's time to find a more subtle way of playing the ball behind the opposition back line for him to run on to, rather than continually thumping a high ball over the top for him to chase.

Whilst things are hardly too rosy at the moment we shouldn't get too depressed. No league promotions or relegations are decided in October and, after all, we are still only six points behind the league leaders.

The Nationwide Conference top-of-the-table clash between Carlisle and Barnet last Saturday almost took away Wanderers place in the Conference record books for match attendances. Last week's crowd of 9,215 was just 216 fewer than record breaking 9,431 who watched Wanderers lose to Lincoln at Sincil Bank in May 1988. Strangely enough, that victory ensured Lincoln pipped Barnet for the league title that year.