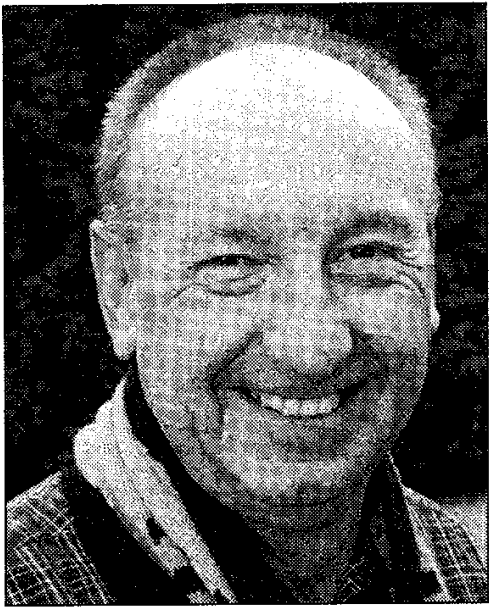


It's second time lucky



RON BARNETT

VIEW FROM THE STAND

SO last year's unlucky loser is Wanderers new manager.

Just over a year ago John Gorman narrowly lost out to Tony Adams, for being too honest about his possible future management partnerships with Glenn Hoddle. We can only speculate where Wanderers would be now if the Board had selected Jolly John instead of Big Tony.

Since Major Adams went AWOL, Private Ryan has been leading the Blues on a victory march. He has managed to get his new recruits marching in unison and looking like a well-regimented team again. Where there was chaos and obvious lack of confidence, suddenly there is team spirit, skill and self-belief.

With back-to-back league victories over Orient and Bristol Rovers, both of whom were above Wanderers in the table, Rhino has certainly added a big tick to his future club management CV. However his time will have to wait, Wanderers have quite rightly gone for Gorman's proven track record to bring some stability and experience to Adams Park.

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Talking of legends, it was good to see Steve Guppy displaying his old magic down the left wing on Saturday. Not only did Gups provide a much better balance to the team, his arrival also produced a positive bit of public relations between the club and the fans.

Whilst it was disappointing to go out of the LDV Trophy on Tuesday, there is a much bigger cup-tie to look forward to with the arrival of Luton tomorrow.

Unfortunately, we do not have a very good record against them and they are also currently the leaders in Division One. However looking back to this stage of the FA Cup in December 2000, we came up against Millwall who were at that time also top of the same division. We then went all the way to the semi-final. Could this be an omen?