

Burnell and Easton are off to Swansea after starring in 5-0 demolition of Palace

WANDERERS hammered an inexperienced Crystal Palace side 5-0 in Tuesday's friendly with Steve Guppy, Roger Johnson, Matt Bloomfield, Sonny Ball and Gus Uhlenbeek all scoring.

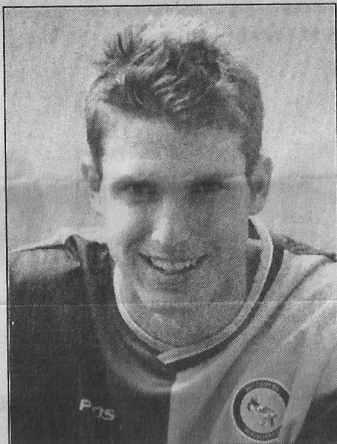
The Blues who have only scored 11 home league goals this season ran riot against the Premiership club's scratch side to leave boss John Gorman purring.

And the victory would have been even more emphatic if Wanderers' woodwork jinx had not struck again. Six times over their four festive games Wycombe were denied by the woodwork and twice more the bar came to Palace's rescue denying Clint Easton and Johnson headed goals in a match that was split into three 30-minute segments.

But Wycombe – playing a new formation of three centre halves and advanced wing backs – only needed the first third to effectively settle the game as they began with their first team on show.

The back three of Johnson, Mike Williamson and Stuart Nethercott strolled majestically through the exercise while Tony Craig and Danny Senda advanced from the wide positions with Joe Burnell and Keith Ryan, just inside them.

Up front Nathan Tyson and Ian



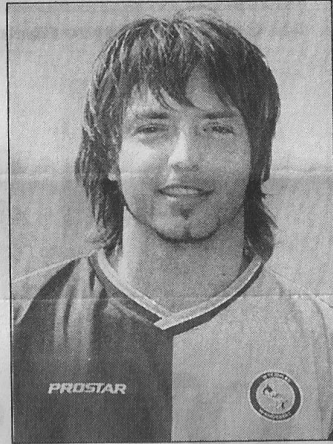
Joe Burnell

Stonebridge were re-united with Steve Guppy playing a roving role just behind them.

And the team took just three minutes to make their mark when Guppy drilled home after Senda and Johnson combined down the right.

Stonebridge went close to a second with a clever backheel before Johnson doubled the lead when he rose above his marker to head Guppy's free kick home.

Only Nethercott, Burnell and Stonebridge stayed on for the sec-



Clint Easton

ond period as Gorman made eight changes, including the introduction of trialist left back Jamie Collins from Watford.

But the rash of changes didn't affect Wanderers' superiority although they had to wait until the 51st minute to score again.

The impressive Bloomfield got it when he fired home through a ruck of players after Stonebridge's headed knockdown.

Three goals hardly reflected's Wycombe's superiority and they put that right in the final third.

Youngster Sonny Ball capped his impressive showing with an ice-cool finish after Clint Easton's reverse ball played him in.

Easton was involved again in setting up Wanderers fifth combining with Bloomfield to set up Gus Uhlenbeek who made no mistake with the finish.

Afterwards Gorman admitted he was delighted with what he saw and he could now stick with the formation in the league.

He said: "The lads have worked hard on a couple of new ideas in training and it was good to see them put it into practice.

"If we can get our game plan right we can still do well this season. I know we were only playing Palace's youngsters but the standard of our play impressed me and I want to be able to put that on for our fans and still get results."

He was also pleased to see mid-field scrapper Joe Burnell get another 85 minutes under his belt following his lengthy injury lay-off. Gorman confirmed that he and Easton did more than enough to earn their places in the squad for tomorrow's trip to Swansea City.

And he added that if Ball continues to play like he did against Palace in midweek he could also force his way into the reckoning before the season is out.