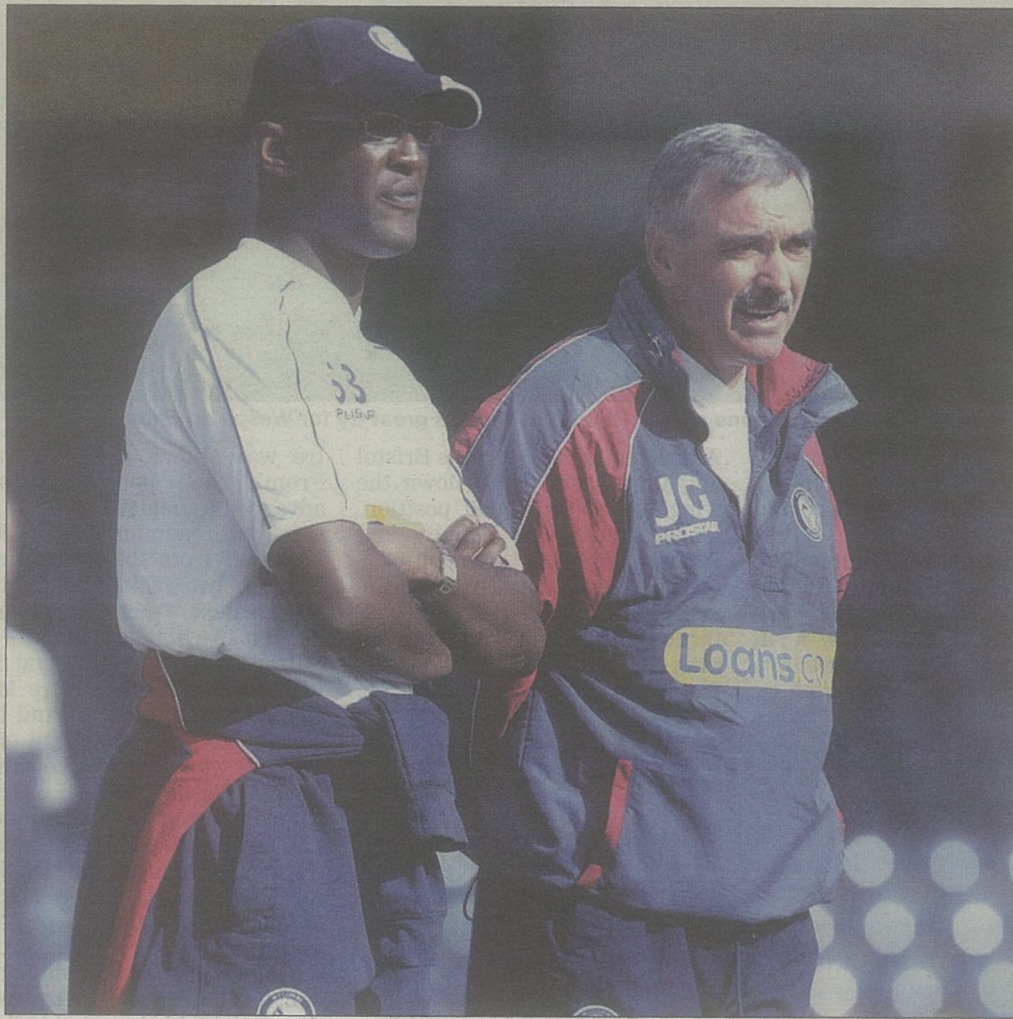


BOSSSES LOOK TO BOLSTER DEFENCE



Brownie and Gorman go scouting for new player

WYCOMBE Wanderers were last night hoping to sign a centre half on loan as cover for the injured Mike Williamson.

Gorman would not reveal who his target but the Midweek can reveal that the Blues team of scouts have been looking at Bristol City's Clayton Fortune, Luton's Russell Perrett and Hull City's Marc Joseph.

They have also been tracking two youngsters from Premiership Newcastle United.

Gorman is determined to get a new face on board in time for Saturday's League Two clash at Darlington as he looks to plug the gap left by a knee injury to Williamson.

The former Southampton youngster missed Saturday's FA Cup first round clash at home to Northampton Town and his absence coincided with Wanderers' first defeat of the season against Football League opposition as the Cobblers emerged from Adams Park with a 3-1 victory.

Gorman reacted to the defeat by trying to bolster his defensive options with a loan signing.

He said: "We don't know how long Mike is going to be out and I don't want to take a gamble."

Full back Russell Martin deputised at centre half on Saturday but Gorman wants a specialist as he puts all his eggs into the promotion basket following Saturday's cup exit.

Two seasons ago Fortune, 22, a former Tottenham trainee, turned down a £400,000 move to Championship side Preston in favour of staying at Ashton Gate.

But the lanky 6ft 3ins defender has struggled to hold down a regular place in a City side that has been leaking goals this season and has only featured six times this term.

Joseph joined Hull for £40,000 in 2002 from Peterborough United but the 28 year-old has only made six appearances for Hull following their promotion to the Championship and his last game was last Tuesday for the Tigers in their 3-0 defeat at Preston.

Perrett, 32, has also found first team opportunities hard to come by following Luton's promotion to the Championship. The former Portsmouth man has made 83 appearances in four years at Kenilworth Road but only five of those have come this season.

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