

PLAYERS MOURN THEIR TEAMMATE

WYCOMBE Wanderers dedicated their 2-0 win over Notts County to teammate Mark Philo who died after a road accident in the early hours of Saturday morning.

The 21-year-old's life support machine was turned off during the second half of the league leaders' victory, 15 hours after the two-car smash in Finchampstead.

Manager John Gorman had spent the morning at his bedside at the Royal Berkshire Hospital in Reading following the two-car accident which happened in the early hours.

The game only went ahead after pleas from Philo's family and the players were only told about the tragedy afterwards.

Gorman gathered them together in a huddle on the pitch after the final whistle and told them he had some bad news to tell them in the dressing room.

Afterwards Gorman said: "It has been the most emotional day of my life. We won that game for Mark, no-one else.

"The lads didn't know about it until afterwards but there must have been a spirit to guide them.

"I'm so proud of Mark but so devastated because it should never have happened. He's been taken away from us. He was a fantastic kid who lived for his football.

"It is an unbelievable tragedy. He was our player and we loved him. The team is distraught. He's got his best friends in that dressing room. They loved him."

● News and reaction: P1, 4, 5, 30 and 31.
● Comment: P8



Testing time: Manager John Gorman gathered his players in a huddle immediately after their 2-0 win over Notts County to tell them he had some terrible news to give them in the dressing room. He then informed them of the death of Mark Philo (inset)