



A precious talent who lived for his football

FRIENDS and family described Mark Philo as a precious talent who lived for his football.

Our picture shows him and some of his teammates on a visit to Chelsea where he met Stamford Bridge skipper John Terry.

Philo's family described their son as a football fanatic and he was excited about reclaiming his place in the Wanderers side after recovering from his second broken ankle.

He was also looking forward to going to the World Cup in Germany with his father Pas this summer after Pas had bought him

Football fanatic: Mark Philo right on a visit to Chelsea with Chelsea captain John Terry, some of his Wanderers teammates and a friend

tickets for his 21st birthday. But he also found time for the other things in life.

Just a week before his death, he and teammate Russell Martin took advantage of a weekend off to take their girlfriends to Paris.

Martin said: "We couldn't have been happier."

"He had just got into the team again a few weeks earlier against Walsall and I had just scored my first goal.

"When I heard the news he had gone, I just broke down in tears. I feel so numb.

"If you were with Mark you couldn't help but feel upbeat. It is so unfair and so cruel.

"We just want to get promotion now and dedicate it to him. If Mark had not had those injuries I am sure he could have played at a higher level."