

Magic Johnson finishes runner-up to Hawley

.....But he plans to reverse the roles in May

WANDERERS skipper Roger Johnson was runner-up in the League Two Player of the Year Awards while clubmates Stefan Oakes won goal of the year for a strike while he was a Notts County player and Ikechi Anya was crowned Apprentice of the Year.

Johnson was pipped to the top award by Carlisle United striker Karl Hawley at London's Hilton Hotel on Sunday with Cheltenham's Grant McCann third.

But the 22-year-old Blues skipper – who was also voted the 36th best player outside of the Premiership by Four Four Two magazine – has promised to reverse the roles when the real trophies are dished out at the end of the season.

Johnson said: "He beat me to the Player Award but it would be nice to beat him to the league title. That's what we all want and we think we can do it."

Hawley's Carlisle are currently top of the table on goal difference from second placed Wycombe but Johnson is confident Wycombe can overhaul the Cumbrrians over the final ten games of the season.

He said: "There's 30 points still to play for and we are confident we can do it."

And Johnson fancies adding a title medal to his runners up spot in the Player of the Year Awards.

He said: "I was well chuffed to come second. It means a lot to me to get recognised like that and it is a real honour."

But he conceded Hawley was fully deserving of winning the top award.

He said: "He's scored 20 goals this season and he would have felt hard done by if he didn't get it but he hasn't scored against me."

Wanderers by Dave Peters

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Johnson became the youngest player to play for Wanderers in the Football League when he made his debut at Cambridge United and was handed the captain's armband by Lawrie Sanchez.

The centre half found himself out of favour under the management of Tony Adams but has flourished under the management of Gorman, scoring seven goals so far this term.

Gorman said: "I'm delighted for him. He's been brilliant for me and is still very young. He's a winner and he fully deserves the recognition."

Oakes won his award for his strike from the halfway line for Notts against Yeovil. He beat Blues striker Tommy Mooney – who was one of five other players nominated for the League Two Goal of the Year.

Anya was crowned Apprentice of the Year after a season in which he made his debut away at Scunthorpe United aged just 16 and 279 days.

● Roger Johnson will appear on television's Poor Little Rich Girls series on ITV on March 16.

The programme, which was exclusively revealed in the Free Press last November, sees Johnson having to swap his model fiancée Melissa Baxter for a girl from a poor background.

He had to take his 'new girl' out on a couple of dates and she lived the footballer's girlfriend role at a Blues match.

Johnson, who took part in the series to help his fiancée's modelling career said: "I know I'm going to get loads of stick off the lads."



Roger Johnson: The second best in League Two and 36th best player outside the Premiership