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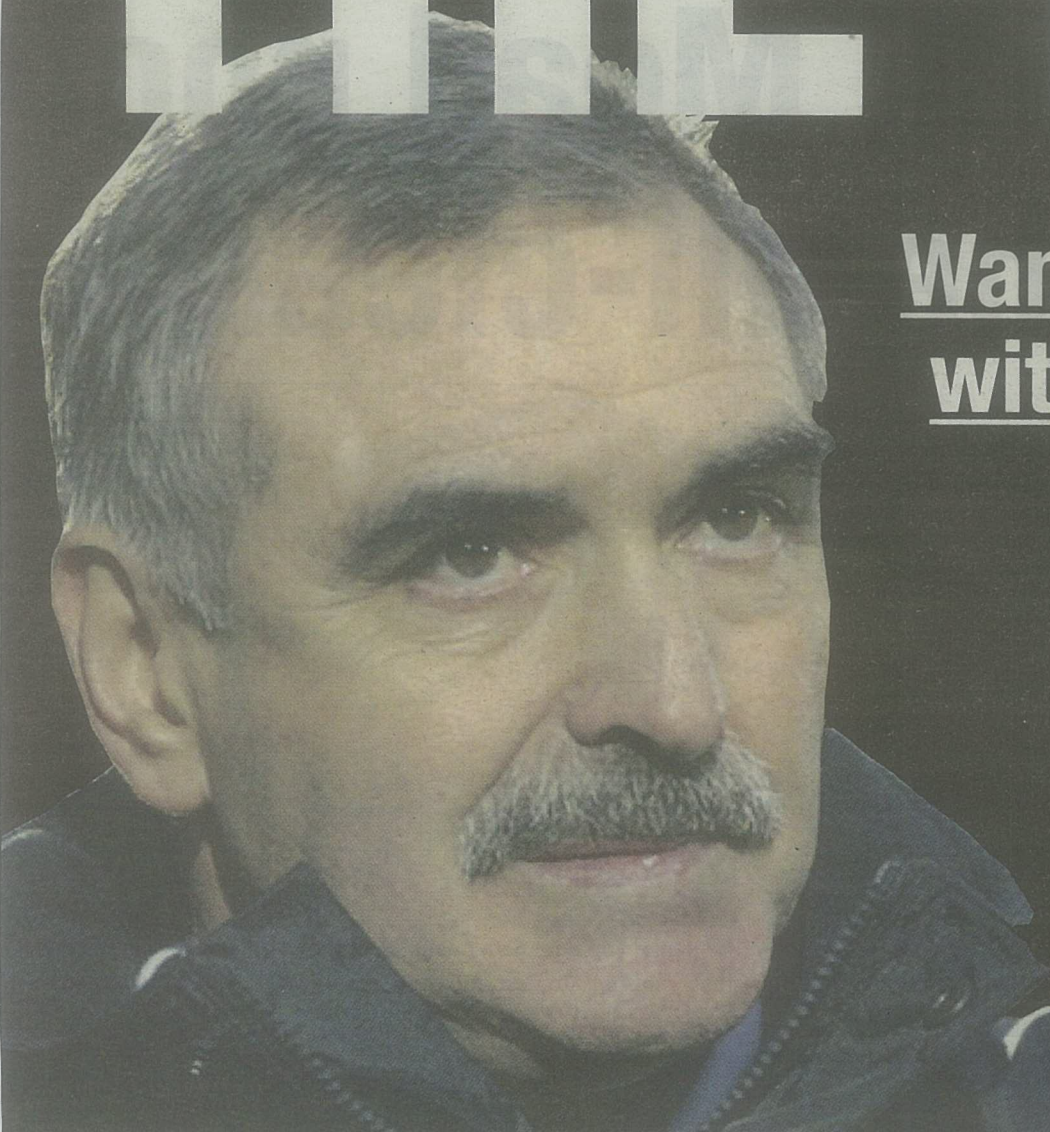
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THE END

Wanderers part company with boss John Gorman

‘The board believe John needs a great deal more time and professional help to deal with the tragic loss of his wife’

‘I was sacked’, back page



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First with the results

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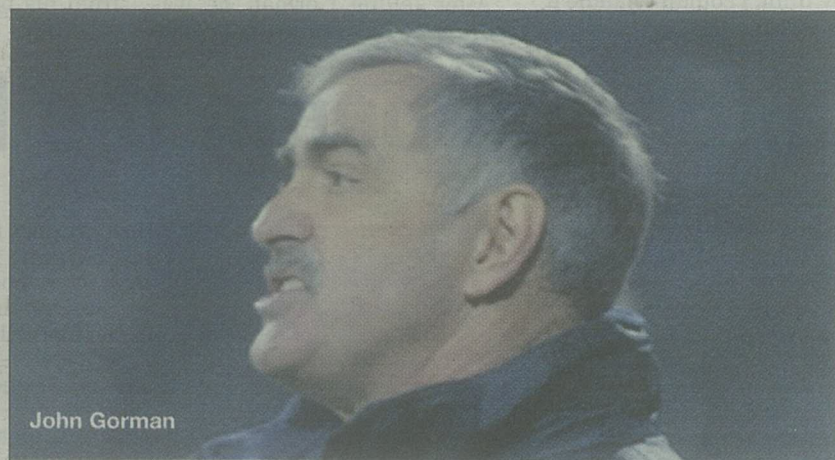


Tuesday, May 30, 2006

Sports Desk: 01494 755098 or dpeters@london.newsquest.co.uk

THEY SACKED ME. FOOTBALL IS HORRIBLE

**Grieving boss says he
did not want to go but
says there was no
point fighting
Exclusive interview,
Page 31**



John Gorman

Grieving Gorman is sacked by Blues

**Wanderers
by Dave Peters**

dpeters@london.newsquest.co.uk

JOHN Gorman last night insisted he had been sacked as Wycombe Wanderers manager.

The board issued a statement on Friday saying they had reluctantly agreed to release him but Gorman insists that he was dismissed.

He said: "I wanted my job back. I didn't want to go. I've definitely been sacked."

"It's got to be known that I didn't want to leave."

Gorman stood down on compassionate leave on April 17 following the death of his wife Myra from cancer but had always intended to return.

When he stepped aside the club stressed that it was a temporary measure and stressed that he would return to his desk at the end of the season.

But on Friday, as the 56-year-old Scot prepared to return to work, he was told he was being let go with a year still remaining on his contract.

He said: "I wanted to come back. I never once said I wanted to quit. They have made the decision that I'm not up to the job but I will prove them wrong."

"What was the point in fighting it. They had made their minds up."

"They think I couldn't handle it but I disagree."



Changing fortunes: Manager of the Month in September shown the door by May

"That's football. It is horrible."

The decision to sack him came just 24 hours after our sister paper, the Bucks Free Press exclusively, revealed that his position was under review.

After telling Gorman he was surplus to requirements the club

swiftly issued a statement on its website.

It read: "The board of directors of Wycombe Wanderers Football Club have today reluctantly agreed to release John Gorman from his position as manager of this club."

"The board believe John needs a great deal more time and professional help to deal with the tragic loss of his wife."

"In the meantime, we need to continue with the operation of the football club and a financial package has been agreed with

John which he is satisfied with.

"The directors and staff would like to thank John for his excellent contribution to the football club over the last 18 months and trust the next period of his life with what we have agreed today will enable him to stabilise and become stronger."

But Gorman, who praised managing director Steve Hayes and the rest of the board for the help they gave him when his wife died, says the only part of the statement he agrees with is the part which states the two parties have agreed on a settlement package.

The news that Gorman was being released came as a shock to the players.

Many were away on holiday at and have since contacted Gorman to express their sorrow.

Gorman said: "I have had so many calls from the players and some of them are quite upset about it."

Meanwhile Wanderers have invited Gorman back to the club to say his goodbyes to the team.

Gorman said: "I am really going to miss the club. They say they are looking after my health but I know I would have been fine."

"I want another job straight away."

"I am mentally and physically very strong and looking forward to getting back into management at the earliest opportunity."

What do you think? Contact the sports desk: dpeters@london.newsquest.co.uk

Wanderers begin the hunt for a new manager

BLUES have already started the search for a new manager.

Less than 24 hours after dispensing of John Gorman, they placed an advert in Saturday's Daily Mail looking for his successor.

In the meantime, Steve Brown will continue as caretaker manager assisted by former players Keith Ryan and Terry Evans.

A freeze has been put on signing new players until the new manager is appointed.

Managing director Steve Hayes will be responsible for contract talks including today's meeting with Danny Senda.

Brown said: "I'm holding the reins until someone is appointed and while I am still here I will give it my best shot."

He added: "I am disappointed to see John go because it was great working for him."

But he refused to join some of the supporters who have slammed the board for getting



Caretaker boss Steve Brown

rid of a manager who led them to the top of the table earlier this season and for whom things only went wrong when his wife died and when player Mark Philo died in a car crash.

Brown said: "The directors have got all the information laid out in front of them. They are

the only ones that have."

"They will have looked at it from every possible angle. They are working in the best interests of the football club."

"They will have looked at it and made their decision with John's health in mind and they will have looked at it from the club's position."

"I'm not saying they made the right or wrong decision. There were two separate issues that needed addressing and they have addressed it how they saw fit. It's a tough one to call. John is saying he's ready and good but other people may think differently."

Gorman, the former England assistant manager, took over the hotseat from Tony Adams 18 months ago.

He led the club on a record-breaking 21-match unbeaten run from the start of the season taking them top of the table.

But their promotion bid was

derailed by the twin tragedies.

First Philo died in a car crash and then Gorman's wife Myra died of cancer.

Gorman returned to the dugout just two days after her funeral but then admitted he came back too soon and asked to be placed on compassionate leave following a 3-0 home defeat against Lincoln City - Blues' sixth straight defeat.

Blues won their next two away games under the stewardship of Brown, Keith Ryan and Terry Evans and even though they suffered defeat against Darlington they qualified for the play-offs.

Gorman wanted to come back for those games against Cheltenham but had his ambitions blocked by the board who said it was too soon. Cheltenham went on to beat Wanderers and win the play-offs.

Comment, Page 8
Philo inquest reaction, Page 5



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