

Burnell joins the big Adams Park exodus

JOE Burnell has become the fifth high-profile player to leave Adams Park this summer.

The 25-year-old battling midfielder has teamed up with former boss John Gorman again at higher-league Northampton Town.

He signed a two-year deal at Sixfields after our sister paper the Bucks Free Press exclusively revealed they were chasing him.

Burnell was out of contract at Adams Park and decided to jump ship rather than wait for incoming Wanderers boss Paul Lambert to make a decision on him.

He is the fifth big name to leave Wycombe this summer following skipper Roger Johnson, ex-England international Rob Lee and defenders Clint Easton and Danny Senda out of the door.

Gorman was delighted to have raided his old club to snap up Burnell on a Bosman.

Gorman said: "Joe is a player I know well. I liked him at Wycombe. He is a winner who sets the place alight with his tackling and he is a decent passer as well.

"He played very well at this level for Bristol City and I was impressed with his attitude when he was at Wycombe.

"I think he is the sort of player who can help us get the best out of other midfielders and he will give us a good balance."

Burnell played 131 league

matches for Bristol City before moving to Wycombe on a free transfer in 2004 and made a further 57 league appearances for the Chairboys and he admits he is looking forward to linking up with his old gaffer again.

He said: "I am quite happy and excited. Sometimes it can be difficult moving clubs, but it's so far so good and I have really liked the feel of the place.

"I think we should fare quite well this season, but I don't think you ever really know until the season gets going."

But his Cobblers career began inauspiciously as he limped out with a foot injury just 27 minutes into their friendly at Kettering on Saturday which finished 0-0.

But early reports from Sixfields suggest it is not serious and Burnell, who was troubled by injury during his Wycombe career, is looking forward to jetting off with his new team-mates on Thursday for their pre-season trip to Austria.

● Wycombe's youth team flew to Norway at the weekend to take part in the Jet-06 pre-season tournament.

Ian Culverhouse's youngsters will come up against home opposition from Norway as well as teams from Sweden, Denmark, Zambia and France and their Thames Valley rivals Reading.



Pastures new: Joe Burnell has taken a promotion and moved on